

CANAWLERS AT REST

**HENRY J.
COOK**
b. 1822
d. September 24, 1899
By Carolyn I. Schmidt

Henry J. Cook was born in Hessen-Kassel, Germany in 1822. At age nine his father brought him to America. Following many of their countrymen, they settled in Cincinnati, Ohio. They, like many other immigrants, had little goods or money. Because of this Henry was forced to seek a job to assist in securing his own livelihood. Before his fifteenth birthday in 1837, he "hired out" as a canal-boat driver.* He drove on the Miami & Erie Canal between Dayton and Cincinnati, Ohio. In those days this canal was used as a means of both travel and transportation. It was heavily traveled. This was a vigorous occupation and this early training imparted to Henry a large amount of self-reliance that served him well later in his life. He often referred to it with great pride as having been honorable labor.

Mary, whose surname we do not know, became Henry's wife. They were both members of the Catholic church. The young couple soon moved to Dearborn county, Indiana. The first of their thirteen children, Charles, was born there in 1842. He was followed by George in 1845, Isabella in 1849, Anna in 1852, Catharine M. in 1855, Louis in 1856, Jacob E. in 1858, and Mary in 1860.

Henry J. was drafted for service in the Civil War. Because he had a physical disability, he was later excused.

The rest of Henry J. and Mary's children were born as follows: John H in 1862, Elizabeth in 1864, Edward J. Sr. in 1866, Caroline in 1868, and William Sr. in 1870. They were educated in the common schools. At that time schools were few and far between. School terms did not extend to more than two or three months of the year.

Henry and his family at some time settled on a farm where he passed the remainder of his days. He died at the age of seventy-six. He had done everything in his power to advance the welfare of the community in which he had so long resided and was highly respected throughout it.

Mary Cook, Henry J.'s wife, lived to be eighty-four years of age. She died in 1908.

CHILDREN OF HENRY J. & MARY COOK

Name	Born	Died	1915 Lived In
Charles Cook	1842	2-06-1919	Miami, OH
George Cook	1845	12-10-1934	Cincinnati, OH
Isabella Cook	1849	7-13-1901	
Anna Cook	1852	12-15-1945	Ottawa, IL
Catharine M. Cook	1855	8-14-1929	Rushville, IN
Louis Cook	1856	1-31-1935	Lawrenceburg, IN
Jacob E. Cook	8-12-1858	12-23-1930	
Mary Cook	1860	2-18-1933	
John H. Cook	5-05-1862	8-06-1931	
Elizabeth Cook	1864	4-16-1918	
Edward Cook Sr.	1866	3-01-1946	
Caroline Cook	1868	4-15-1936	
William Cook Sr.	1870	1-21-1930	Portland, OR

*At this time many boys followed that occupation. Probably the most famous for driving a canal-boat was James Garfield, also about fifteen years of age, who drove a boat from Cleveland, Ohio to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on the Pennsylvania and Ohio Canal around 1846. Garfield eventually became President of the United States.

Sources:

Ancestry.com, Public Member Trees,

<http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/20806548/person/18150384572>

<http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/21012371/person/1014396471?1?src>

Reifel, August Jacob. *Franklin County, Indiana; Her People, Industries and Institutions. Indianapolis, IN: B. F. Bowen & Company, Inc., 1915.*

U.S. Federal Census 1870, 1880

