

## SARAH COOPER VAN WINKLE AVEY

Written by her daughter, Sue Cooper Van Winkle Neubert  
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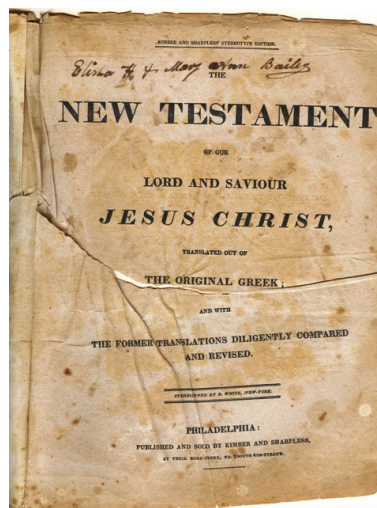


A good "listener" as a little girl and one who eagerly enjoyed family tales of bygone days was the beginning of a love of genealogy for **Sarah Cooper Van Winkle Avey**. Always possessing an orderly mind for record keeping, she delved into her favorite "hobby" with unequaled zeal--peaking her interest in the late 1930s and early 1940s when a local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution was organized in her hometown of New Kensington, Pennsylvania. Membership in this patriotic organization required documented proof of lineage back to one who had fought in the Revolutionary War--resulting in the founding of this nation--and Sarah immediately began her "search."

Knowing full well that both her father's and mother's families were "rich" in history of this period, as well as the Civil War era and continuing through the years, she chose to find out documentation from both groups. Through the paternal recordings, she traced her heritage back to **Colonel Christopher Truby**, who served the entire duration of the war with the First, Second and Eighth Battalions of Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania. From her mother's "side" she found a route back to **Captain Archibald McCallister** of Company A, First Regiment of PA, and **Jacob Blakeley**, who died in the battle of Brandywine.

Sarah gathered innumerable facts, documented all and chose to write a book about her families. Included in her journal are well tabulated dates and happenings, woven together with a series of family stories that have been a delight to many. She was an octogenarian before she finally chose to "wrap it up" and paid for a printing of 600 issues of her book entitled, ***My Pennsylvania Ancestors***. That astounding number of books was a frightening total in the eyes of her two daughters, but advertisements put forth by the printer in papers across the country soon found contacts from many and, shortly after her death in 1992, there wasn't a book left to be had.

*Among the treasures preserved for the family by Sarah Cooper Avey was the Bailey Family Bible.*



Although Sarah's book was a bit "jumbled," repetitious and not written in the best grammatical style, it provided facts and yarns that evidently touched many. In the words of one of her cousins, "It's written like she's talking to you." Sarah's opening statement, "Yea, I have a goodly heritage," personifies her pride and love of family history.

Sarah was born June 5, 1904, to **Kenneth and Henrietta Morrow Cooper**. Kenneth's maternal grandmother was **Mary Ann Marshall Bailey**--hence the family ties. At age eighteen, she married her high school sweetheart, **William H. (Rip) Van Winkle**, who died from injuries suffered in an automobile accident in 1935. They had two daughters, **Sue and Gretchen**. Her second marriage to **William P. Avey** in 1937 lasted until his death in 1971. At the time of her death, her extended family included eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.



**Sue Neubert**, the author of this article about her mother, holds a beautiful pitcher which came from County Wicklow, Ireland, with Sue's *Cooper ancestors* **Charles Cooper** and **Margaret Morgan** in 1841. The Coopers in time settled in Butler County, near present-day Parker, Pennsylvania. Their son **John Thomas Cooper** married **Sarah Isabella Bailey**, a daughter of **Mary Ann Marshall Bailey** and a granddaughter of **John Marshall** and **Catharina Truby**.



*Right to left:* **Sue Neubert** with grandson **Patrick Martinelli** (son of Jeffrey Martinelli and Betsy Neubert); daughter **Polly Neubert McCracken**; and granddaughter **Lauren Neubert** (daughter of Dan and Cathy Neubert). Patrick and Lauren are great-grandchildren **Sarah Cooper Avey**.