

Joseph Cooper



Cooper Family

1830- 1835

Joseph Cooper arrived in Fremantle aboard the *Warrior* in March 1830 with his wife Elizabeth (35 years old) and their children, Elizabeth (7), Rebecca (5), Joseph (3) and Mary Ann (6 months).

He was a wheelwright and blacksmith by trade, but planned on farming.

He came with half a ton of corn, a mill, blacksmith's tools, farming and building tools, garden seed, and food supplies including, beef, sugar, rice, peas and tea.

A granddaughter recalls that her mother was given gold dust by a fellow passenger on the *Warrior* in gratitude for being nursed with an illness. He also obtained some gold coins when chasing away burglars (the story is on page 122 of *The Murray District of Western Australia*).

He was allocated 840 acres based on 40 acres for each 3 pounds he had.

He obtained some town blocks in Fremantle, applied for land below Point Walter, but couldn't get as much as he wanted so he applied for land in the Murray district where Peel was establishing. He was allocated 675 acres south of Pinjarra, one or two miles upstream of Coolup Bridge.



Joseph Cooper cont'd

Joseph feared working his grant due to the presence of Aborigines, so he remained in Fremantle and built carts and wagons.

His wife Elizabeth had three more children. Thomas in 1833, Maria in 1834 and James in 1838.

1835

1835 acquired a licence for an eating house in Fremantle called, 'The Plough'.

1836

1836 he requested a reallocation of a land grant downstream from Pinjarra. He obtained Location 13 and called it Redcliffe. According to relatives, he then walked from Fremantle with his son, Joseph (9) to take possession. They led a cow with their baggage and stayed at Browne's property, Jim Jam overnight.

Joseph Cooper became the main wheat grower in the district for many years. He ground wheat in his hand mill and sold it to the other settlers who were not self-sufficient.

1843

1843 Joseph Cooper started building a windmill for grinding wheat at the mouth of the Murray where it entered Peel inlet. Stone was brought across from the other side of the estuary by boat.

1847

1847 Joseph Cooper was thrown under his bullock cart near Clarence, on the way to Fremantle, and died four miles from Fremantle. He was able to go through his financial affairs before he died. His son, Joseph Cooper got the farm, *Redcliffe*. Elizabeth, his wife was to get 15 pounds every year, from the profits of the farm. Thomas and James were to have the mill on their 'coming of age'. James and Thomas completed the mill with help from Dan Myerick and Josiah Stinton. Stinton taught the boys how to operate the mill.

1850

1850 Mill was operating initially powered by sails and converted to steam in 1860.

1865

1865 the steam engine and machinery were sold to Capt. Fawcett who used them in Pinjarra where most of the wheat was being grown.

1880s

1880s Cooper boys were leasing land elsewhere.

