

John Samuel Cooke Clerk of Court 1870-1887



John Samuel Cooke was the son of Thomas Buckner Cooke and Catherine Clayton Cary. He served as deputy clerk to his uncle, John Cary, and succeeded him as clerk, serving from 1870 to 1887. His father died in 1851 when John was still in his teens, and his uncle John Cary assisted his family. The 1850 and 1860 censuses show that John Cooke lived in his uncle's household at Kenwood; and apparently, John had an affinity for keeping records and was tutored by his uncle from an early age.

John Cooke married Robinette V. Yates, daughter of Robert Yates and Mary Ann Booth Wood on November 6, 1862. Two months later on January 1863, he enlisted in the 40th Cavalry, which became part of the 24th Virginia Cavalry under the command of Col. William Todd Robins, son of Augustine W. Robins. John Cooke was in Company D under the command of Capt. Thomas C. Clopton, who was also a medical doctor. John was given a certificate of disability for heart disease, elsewhere noted as "valvular disease of the heart," with an 18 month discharge. John's occupation at enlistment was given as Deputy Clerk of Gloucester County, and he was assigned as clerk in the Quarter Master Department. One statement on a report of a Capt. Holiday was "The services of Pvt. Cooke have always been indispensable to me, and at this time more especially so, as...the cavalry of Gen. Hampton being stationed near this post...22 Jan 65."

The John and Robinette Cooke family was listed in the 1870 census with their first two children and older relatives of Robinette. She died in 1879 and John was listed in the 1880 census with his older children, John and Elizabeth, and his wife's cousins. The date of John's death and the location of his grave are not known.