T. J. Cooper left for Colorado in 1860 when he was 29 years old. He went to the area around Alma and Fairplay and started to engage in various mining activities.

R. C. Cooper left for Colorado a few years later in the early 1860's while he was still a teenager. R. C. moved to Colorado and engaged in farming with his brother Henry. Mrs. Porterville says that he lived on corn meal, moldy salt bacon and an occasional potato on rare occasions. I've located some parcels of land that they owned which are now inside the city of Colorado Springs.

He got involved in a mining venture after that and quickly made a $10,000 profit. He seemed to get out of the mining business after that and he used this money to get into other business ventures. He started a hardware store with his brother Henry and placed many advertisements such as the one below in the Pueblo, Colorado newspaper between 1874 and 1877. He also was in the cattle buying and selling business and as well as the mule freighting business.

His brother T. J. stayed in the mining business between 1860 and 1880 and made a lot more money, some of it by engaging skillfully in lawsuits, but I think R. C. enjoyed a less stressful life and socializing more than making money.

An article in the 1873 Pueblo newspaper says that "On New Year's Day, Mr. R. C. Cooper, the hardware merchant with the generosity for which he is proverbial, drew up a subscription list for the relief of Mr. Brumbly, headed the list with $50, and during the day received cash contributions to the amount of $700. This generous act will set Mr. Brumbly on his feet again, and relieves a worthy family". The article went on with a plea for organizing a hook and ladder firefighting company to prevent the kind of tragedy that had befallen Mr. Brumbly.

He was active in the Pueblo Masonic Lodge, quite often volunteering to help set up the entertainment for various social events. An article in the 1877 Pueblo newspaper goes into quite a bit of detail on one of these balls and how the Pueblo Orchestra was hired and the ball started with a Grand Promenade. This articles went on to describe the first 12 program of dances, the banquet, the remaining dances and how good the food was and how everyone had enjoyed themselves tremendously.

Later he would provide a substantial amount of money for the Masonic Lodge in Cooperstown and he went on to enjoy these types of social events for the rest of his life.

