Mrs. Rollin C. Cooper

Emma Hutchin was born on July 18, 1851 in West Elkton, Ohio. Rollin and Emma met around 1866 or 1867 but were not married until September 14, 1870 in Fountain, Colorado. Emma's father was Henry Hutchin. He and his brother-in-law Amos Terrell platted the town of Fountain in 1871 and are considered the town founders.

Rollin and Emma had two children that died in infancy during the next few years. R. C. was involved in various mining and other projects in Colorado. His brother T. J. had made a small fortune in 1879. The 1880 census finds R.C. and Emma living in T. J.'s house in Chicago. They were about to embark for Griggs County within a few months.

Emma Cooper was never as popular as her husband for a variety of reasons. She was one of the founders and the first president of the WCTU, the Women's Christian Temperance Union, which sought the complete elimination of alcohol. She also called the "Mother of the Congregational Church" at Cooperstown that she helped to found.

Mrs. Porterville has several references to her, but that's about the only information I can find. The next paragraphs are taken directly from the February 7, 1957 Courier.

When they were alone Mr. and Mrs. Cooper ate on an oilcloth covered table in the kitchen at the end of a long hall.

Whenever possible Mrs. Cooper kept a "maid." This is not to be considered the same as a "hired girl," who was treated as one of the family, sat at the table with them, and often did milking and outside chores beside her household duties.

Mrs. Cooper's "maid" did no milking or outside chores. Her room was small— only large enough for the bed and her trunk. It was next to the kitchen. The kitchen was placed at the end of the long hall purposely, so that the odors of cooking might not reach the front of the house. The "maid", served the meals in the dining room. Here the table was set with good linen, china, and silver. The "maid" carried all food, etc., the length of the hall from the kitchen. During the meal she would be in the kitchen, on call of Mrs. Cooper's table bell. After the meal, all was returned to the kitchen. The "maid" and the homestead "hired man" ate in the kitchen.

Mrs. Cooper kept a separate bedroom for Mr. Cooper's use when he was doing field work, and got so very dirty.

Mr. and Mrs. Cooper each had a driving team and buggy. Mr. Cooper also had his favorite riding horse he brought with him. It grew "sway-backed" from carrying him and the heavy saddle. Mrs. Cooper drove off somewhere nearly every day. She had a fast driving team, but she was a "hard driver." Mr. Cooper was often quite upset when she would come home with her team all "lathered up." Mrs. Cooper would give a ride to such of Cooper's men as she might overtake walking to town. Also, in the first years, she often came to see what she could do when some of the men were sick at the ranch, (Sam Langford, source) but by 1890 she never came to the ranch-house. (Mrs. Oscar Nierenberg source.)

Mrs. Cooper made no effort to know the homesteaders among the Scandinavian and the German groups.

Mrs. Porterville always put the quotation marks around the word "maid" as if having a maid was out of place in this area. I'd look a little more favorably on Mrs. Mrs. Cooper. There were lots of social pressures in all the ethnic groups and each group wanted to preserve and promote their own customs. Having a bell at the dinner table to summon the maid was probably the "correct" way to do it.

Anyway it only took about one generation for that to change. The younger generation would attend school together and soon speak the same language. Many lasting friendships were formed between different individuals from all the different ethnic groups. The schools were a great melting pot and we soon became the unified community that we are today.