

CHAPTER XVI

EARLY COPE HISTORY

The surname COPE appears in the U.S. Census and in South Carolina records as COPE, KOPE, and COPEN. The three variations in spelling appear in this chapter as they were found in the records.

JOHANNES COPE, the earliest COPE to settle in South Carolina, arrived at Charleston with a group of immigrants in 1756. He was granted 100 acres of land in the lower part of Orangeburg Township on August 15, 1756. The deed for this land was recorded in the Council Journal on May 4, 1761.

On March 19, 1779 and March 31, 1779, JACOB COPE received pay for service in the Revolutionary War. In March of 1787, GEORGE KOPE received a State Land Grant of 158 acres in the Orangeburg District. On December 14, 1791, JACOB KOPE received a State Land Grant of 195 acres in the Orangeburg District on the west side of the Big Salt Ketcher. GEORGE and JACOB are believed to have been sons of JOHANNES COPE, the first COPE to settle in S.C. In the 1790 U.S. Census GEORGE COPE was listed as head of a household with ^{two} ~~one~~ male over sixteen and three males under sixteen, ¹ female.

In the 1800 Census JONATHON COPE was shown to be living alone in the Beaufort District. Also in the Beaufort District was JACOB COPEN (b. 1755-74), who had two sons born between 1790 and 1800. GEORGE KOPE (b. a. 1760) was listed in the same census as a resident of the Barnwell District, with two sons born between 1774 and 1784, two sons born between 1784 and 1790, and two sons born between 1790 and 1800.

The 1810 Census listed only one COPE in South Carolina, GEORGE COPE (b. a. 1760). He was living in the Barnwell District near John Priester, Sr. who is believed to have been the father of John, Jr., George, Andrew, and Jacob Priester. GEORGE COPE had one son born between 1800 and 1810, one son born between 1794 and 1806, and two sons born between 1784 and 1794.

In the 1820 Census JACOB KOPE (b. 1775-94) was shown to be living in the Barnwell District with one son born between 1810 and 1820. This JACOB KOPE was probably the son of GEORGE COPE (b. a. 1760), who is believed to have been the son of JOHANNES COPE (b. a. 1730).

Listed in the 1830 Census, along with JACOB COPE (b. 1780-90), were HENRY COPE (b. 1790-1800) and GEORGE COPE (b. a. 1790-1800). These three were living near one another in the Barnwell District and are believed to have been brothers, sons of GEORGE COPE (b. a. 1760).

On December 15, 1839, JACOB COPE (ba. 1787) received a State Land Grant of 160 acres on the Great Salt Ketcher in the Barnwell District.

The 1840 Census showed HENRY (b. 1790-1800), GEORGE (b. 1790-1800), and JACOB COPE (b. 1780-90) to be residing in the Barnwell District. JACOB had two sons living at home, one son born between 1820 and 1825, and one born between 1830 and 1835.

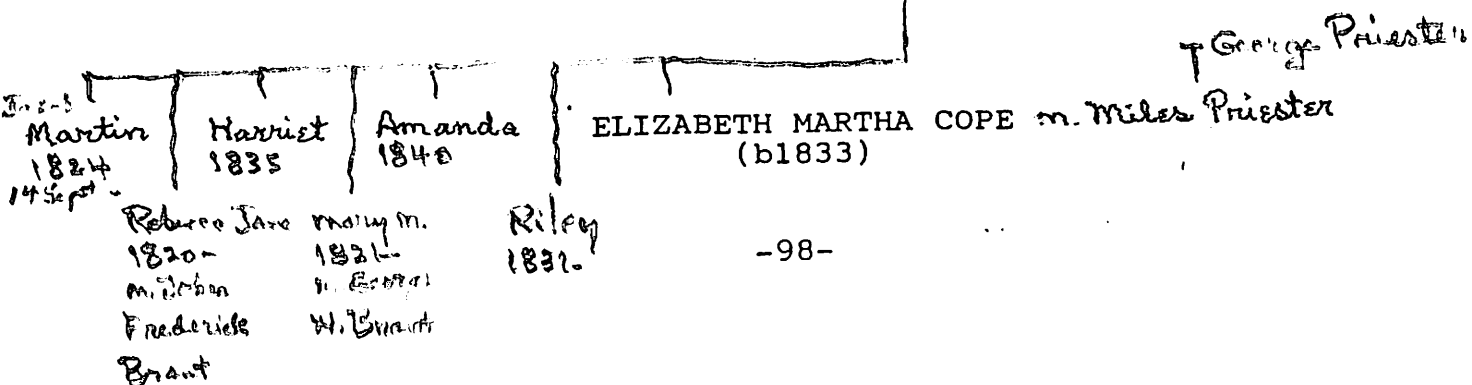
In the 1850 Census JACOB COPE was shown to be living near George Priester in the Barnwell District. JACOB's wife was Rachael. His daughter, Elizabeth Martha (b. 1833), married Miles Priester, a son of George Priester. JACOB's other children living at home in 1850 were MARTIN (b. 1824), credited with founding the town of Cope, S.C., Harriett (b. 1835), and Amanda (b. 1840). Living nearby was RILEY COPE (b. 1831), believed to have been JACOB's son. Elizabeth Martha and Miles Priester named their second son Riley, probably in honor of Elizabeth Martha's brother, RILEY.

According to records of the Brant family, two other daughters of JACOB COPE were Rebecca Jane (b. 1820), who married John Frederick Brant, and Mary M. (b. 1821), who married George W. Brant.

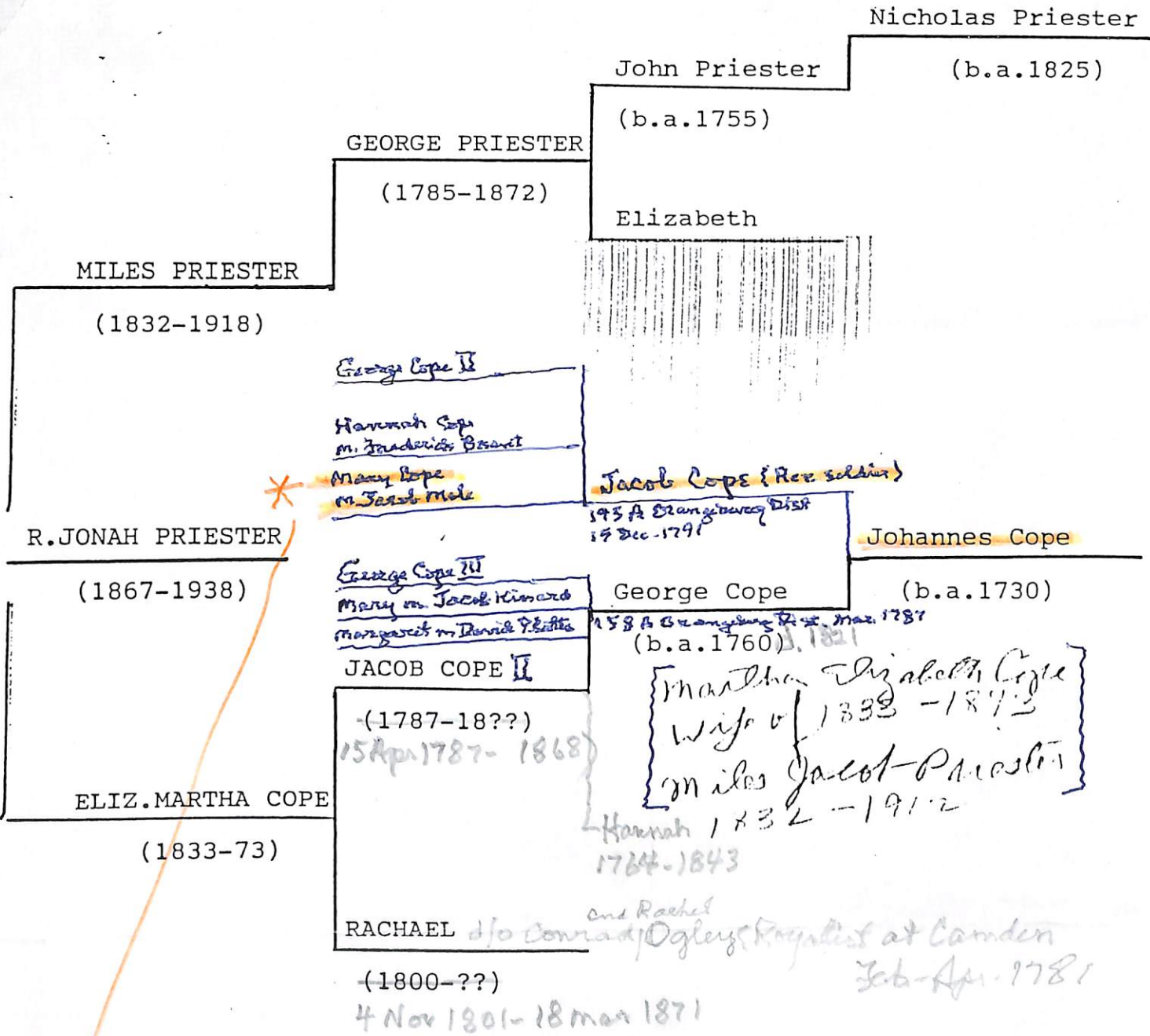
JOHANNES COPE
 German Immigrant
 arrived Charleston 1756
 born around 1730

GEORGE COPE
 (ba 1760)

JACOB COPE m. Rachel
 b. 15 Apr. (b 1787) 4 Nov 1801
 d. 1868 18 Mar 1871



PRIESTER-COPE



Only names in capitals are documented.

* Mary Cope married c. 1785 Jacob Mole (they appear in 1790 Pr. William Parish, Beaufort Dist. Census with 4 slaves); their daughter: Susannah Mole (27 Aug. 1791-25 Apr. 1844) m. 7 Mar. 1811 John Platts (27 May 1790-26 Jan. 1861) sons of John Platts (1743-1799) and their daughter: Mahala Elizabeth Platts (27 May 1829-14 Dec. 1897) m. 24 July 1844 John Francis Folk (19 Oct. 1822-12 Mar. 1861), great-grandparetns of Margaret Anne Folk Peeples (1894-1983).