

CHAPTER 03

INDIAN HORSE THIEVES AMBUSH THEIR PURSUERS

Pages 22 – 22

(Transcribed by Dorothy Harlan)

William Temple Cole Is Mortally Wounded at First Fire; His Brother, Captain Stephen Cole, Single-Handed Kills Four Sacs and Pottowattomies, Wounds a Fifth and Escapes in Darkness with 26 Wounds--The Widow Hannah Cole, Stephen Cole and Their Families Move to Site of Boonville While the Coopers Return in 1810 to Their Original Settlement Across the Missouri--Sac and Fox Indians, Friendly but Treacherous, Are Only Neighbors to the 17 White Persons Living West of the Osage and South of the Missouri--Young Sam Cole Hunts With Blackhawk, Who Later Becomes a Noted Chief and Troublesome Warrior--William Hurt, First White Native in the Present Cooper County, Is Born March 7, 1816.

WHEN Colonel Benjamin Cooper and his family returned to Loutre Island, four miles below the mouth of the Gasconade under orders of Governor Meriwether Lewis of Missouri Territory they renewed friendships with settlers who had located there in 1807. *Stephen Cole* and *William Temple Cole* and their wives, who were sisters, were natives of New River, Wythe County, Virginia.

In 1810, 10 roving Sacs and Pottowattomies stole horses from Loutre Island, The Cole brothers, Sarshall Brown, James Patton, Nicholas Gooch, Abraham Potts and James Murdock started in pursuit.

Hard pressed after a long flight, the Indians scattered and that night ambushed the camp of their pursuers. Gooch, Patton and Brown were killed in their blankets and William T. Cole was mortally wounded.

Murdock slipped under a creek bank and escaped, leaving Stephen Cole, who was then a captain of militia, to fight single-handed.

TWO INDIANS rushed him. One stabbed him in the back from behind. The other attacked face to face.

Cole wrested the knife from the hand of the Indian in front and plunged it into his heart. Turning on his assailant from the rear, he was about to finish him when all the others threw themselves upon him. Realizing he would be overpowered, he cut his way through one group and escaped in the darkness. *He killed four Indians* and wounded a fifth.

Slipping stealthily down the creek, he halted to wash his 26 wounds and then the surviving Indians having departed, he crawled back to the scene of the ambush. There he found the Indians had finished killing his brother, William Temple Cole.

STEPHEN COLE, weak from loss of blood and with no food since before the attack, reached the settlement three days later.

February 20, 1810, Colonel Benjamin Cooper and family returned to what is now Howard County with a group of settlers. Cooper's cabin had not been disturbed during their two years' absence.

HANNAH COLE, widow of William T. Cole, her children and Stephen Cole and his family at the same time settled on the south side of the Missouri river. Hannah Cole located in what is now East Boonville on a bluff overlooking the site where the late Marcus Lohse operated a lime kiln. Stephen Cole and his family settled a short distance farther east.

Hannah Cole had nine children: Jennie, Mattie, Dikie, Nellie, James, Holburt, Stephen, William and Samuel.

Stephen Cole and his wife Phoebe had five children: James, Rhoda, Mark, Nellie and Polly.

These 17 were the only white people south of the river as far east as the Osage.

THE SAC AND FOX INDIANS were friendly but treacherous. Of distant racial origin, pagans in sylvan temples, their backgrounds and slants on life were entirely foreign to their white neighbors.

In the early years of the settlements Hannah Cole's youngest child, *Samuel*, hunted often with chiefs and braves, including *Blackhawk*, a warrior who later became a noted chief.

COURAGE of the pioneer mother finds highest expression in the life of Hannah Cole. After her husband had been killed she did not turn east to an easier civilization. She joined the move westward toward further hardship and achievement.

At Hannah Cole's Fort March 7, 1816, was born *William Hurt*, the first native white child within the present confines of Cooper County. He was a son of Colonel Clayton Hurt, a distinguished Indian fighter assigned by the government to the frontier, who had made the trip from Virginia, his native state, on horseback.

WILLIAM HURT was father of William A. Hurt, prominent farmer just east of Boonville, and an ancestor of most of the Hurts now in Cooper County.

End of page 22

End of Chapter 03

www.mogenweb.org/cooper