Mary Frances Cooley, daughter of Timothy G Cooley

I have done a lot of research on Mary Frances Cooley. The following is the information given me by my cousin Dale Walker in 1982.

Mary Frances Cooley born 18 January 1848 in Bevier Township of Macon County, Missouri. She married first to Green Lawson on 13 August 1866. They went to Oregon where, after a few years, Green died. She returned to Missouri and later remarried a man named Nichels, who was a farmer in Adair County, Missouri. No known children.

Over a period of many years I set out to prove or disprove the above and this is what I found.

First. I found them in the 1870 census with Greenberry Lawson listed as Reuben Lawson. I will explain later why I think he apparently used this name. They are enumerated as Reuben Lawson age 27, Mary F. Lawson age 22 and son Charley E. Lawson age 3/12. Source:*1870*; Census Place: *Township 64 Range 14*, *Adair*, *Missouri*; Roll: *M593\_755*; Page: *114B*; Image: *233*; Family History Library Film: *552254*.

After much searching they were found still living in Adair County, Missouri in 1880, but index as Grainberry and Frances Lawson. He is age 34 and she is 32 with no children. Years later in my research I found in the book**, The Cemeteries of Adair County, Missouri, 1880** a listing which I think are the children of Greenberry and Mary Frances Lawson. Fort Madison Cemetery has Charlie Lawson, 1871-1877, Elenora Lawson, 1876-1876 and Emma 1873 are listed in Fort Madison Cemetery. Source: *1880*; Census Place: *Clay*, *Adair*, *Missouri*; Roll: *671*; Family History Film: *1254671*; Page: *39D*; Enumeration District: *144*; Image:*0081*.

1900 census they are enumerated in Eldorado Springs, Cedar County, Missouri as George B Lawson born Sep 1841 and his occupation is given as landlord. Mary F Lawson born January 1848 married 33 years and she had 4 children with one living. Son George H Lawson was born Aug 1881 with no occupation. Source:*1900*; Census Place: *Eldorado Springs*, *Cedar*, *Missouri*; Roll: *847*; Page: *3B*; Enumeration District: *48*; FHL microfilm: *1240847*.

I purchased the pension record of Greenberry Lawson for his service in the Civil War. When it came it was over 400 pages-- no wonder that later the National Archives raised their price for Civil War pensions. However, it was worth its weight in gold. I now know that Greenberry and Mary Frances didn't go to Oregon where Greenberry supposedly had died, so I could stop searching there.

Greenbary Lawson enlisted in the Union Army on 15 Oct 1861 for three years. He was mustered out on 7 Feb 1863 because of a disease (typhoid pneumonia) and started receiving a pension of $8 per month. However, he reenlisted on 1 Oct 1864 without notifying the pension office, so continued receiving his pension. The pension office finally caught on to the fact that Greenbary had drawn a pension from his second enlistment and in 1913 sent him a letter stating that his second pension was illegal. I believe his use of Reuben Lawson on the 1870 census and George Lawson on the 1880 census was his attempt to hide the drawing of two pensions. On 12 March 1913, he was permitted to refund the overpayment by check of $71.47. Source: NARA; Greenbary Lawson, SC234174.

On 16 August 1866, G.B. Lawson and Mary F. Cooley, both of Macon County and state of Missouri were married. Source: Macon County, Missouri Marriage Record Book "D" page 382.

In 1901, Mary F. Lawson filed a claim for part of Greenberry's pension as a deserted wife.

After reading the many affidavits in his pension file I found that the life that Mary F Lawson had with her husband was very contentious. She and people who gave affidavits stated that Greenberry was abusive, cursed at her and would not provide her with money for food nor clothes so she started to do laundry for other people, but G.B. would not let her use their well water. Then Mary Frances went to other people's home to clean and do the laundry. This further angered him and he started telling people he was going to leave his wife and go to Oklahoma which he did on 6 September 1900. Mary F Lawson had received word that her brother was dying in Macon County, Missouri and she had left to be with him. This was apparently her brother Thomas Jefferson Cooley who died 3 December 1900 according to his obituary.

Mary Frances Lawson was awarded half on Greenberry's pension on 5 April 1902 and on 29 Sep 1902 Greenberry divorced her in Newkirk, Oklahoma Territory. In an attempt to get back his full pension, Greenberry sent a letter to the pension commission informing them of his divorce and that Mary Frances had married O.B. Nichols at Eldorado Springs, Cedar County, Missouri on 18 November 1902. He was told to furnish proof , which he did with a copy of her marriage license and a notice of the wedding in the paper. Mary Frances was dropped from the rolls for her one-half of Greenberry' pension as of the date of her marriage to Ozem B Nichols.

After Ozem B Nichols' death she applied for a share of his pension from the civil war, but it was denied because the marriage was after June 27, 1890.

On 19 November 1903 Greenberry was admitted to the Home for Disable Soldiers in Leavenwood, Kansas where he did 28 March 1922.

After Ozem B. Nichols died Mary F. Lawson Nichols married William G. Jones on 18 January 1916 in Eldorado Springs, Missouri. Then after the death of William Jones she married A. L. Turner on 6 November 1920 in Eldorado Springs.

Mary Frances Cooley Lawson Nichols Jones Turner died in Kansas City, Jackson County, Missouri on 30 August 1924. Her body was taken to Eldorado Springs, Cedar County, Missouri for burial. Her son George H. Lawson was the informant on the death certificate. Source: Missouri State Archives, Missouri State Death Certificate database.