

Keyes Phillip Cool

Juliet Butler Cool

11/25/1795 - 8/12/1889

11/1/1800 - 11/24/1878

Plot 11, Lot 34

Keyes Cool is a descendant of a Dutch family who were among the original settlers of New Amsterdam. Barent Jacobsen Kool was born in Holland came to New Amsterdam and was made an officer of the Dutch West India Company in 1633. After living in New York City, Barent Kool moved to Ulster County, and his descendants migrated across Dutchess County and beyond. Gradually, the children were no longer given Dutch first names, as English names prevailed and the "K" of the surname became "C."

Keyes P. Cool was the son of Hyman and Lovisa Cool of Connecticut. Hyman served in the Continental Army throughout the Revolutionary War. After their marriage, Hyman and Lovisa moved from Fairfield Connecticut to Vergennes, Vermont. There, in 1795, their son, Keyes Phillip, was born.

Like his father, Keyes served his country. On September 6, 1814, at the age of 19, Keyes enlisted and served during the War of 1812. He wrote an account of a service which chronicles a skirmish with the British near Plattsburgh, where his company of Vermont volunteers defeated a company of British troops, capturing 27 prisoners and driving the rest of the British into retreat to Canada.

A cabinet maker and builder by trade, Keyes supervised the construction of the first Methodist Church in Glens Falls. Later known as the "old stone church," it was later used as the first Roman Catholic Church.

As an accomplished businessman, Keyes is credited with opening the first hardware store in Glens Falls, and starting the first lumber and limestone businesses. In 1834, he exported the first shipment of lime from Glens Falls. This very important industry operated along Canal Street from the foot of Fredella Avenue (known then as Lime Street) southward. The kilns and quarries were part of a very successful business which was carried on by his sons. Later known as J.B. Cool and Brothers, records indicate that 160,000 barrels of lime were produced in 1859.

The industrious Keyes family owned and operated a line of canal boats which traveled to New York City and back, as well as a store on the east side of Glen Street between the canal and the river, which served the needs of the boatmen and his other employees. Later in life, he and his brother owned a factory which manufactured hats and caps.

While living in Glens Falls, Keyes held various civic offices. He served as a member of the original vestry of the Church of the Messiah. In 1861, he presided over the first war meeting in town when two companies of recruits were formed who became part of the 22nd Regiment in the Civil War.

In his later years, Keyes was a regular member of a group called the “Bear Garden” in the 1870’s. These elderly men met daily around the stove at John Kenworthy’s store to socialize. In 1938, a biographer named Edith W. West noted that even in his old age, Keyes presented a distinguished appearance. Keyes lived to the age of 94, dying on August 12, 1889. At the time of his death it was noted that “the name of Keyes P. Cool stood for business integrity and sterling honesty.” He and his descendants added greatly to the prosperity and success of Glens Falls.

Juliet Butler Cool was born in 1800 a descendant of Samuel Robinson, the first proprietor of Bennington, Vermont. Juliet married Keyes Cool, a cabinet maker, and moved to the Village of Glens Falls in 1828.

In 1832, the couple built a home at 50 Warren Street which became the residence of six generations of descendants of the Cool family until its demolition in 1952. A devoted wife and mother, Julia raised six children: Joseph Butler, Hiram Moore, Sarah Ann, Alvin Fassett, Louisa Keyes and Harriet Augusta. Joseph found success in working in his father’s business endeavors, and Joseph’s son Charles W. Cool became the first mayor of Glens Falls. Charles also established the Cool Insurance Agency.

The matriarch of one of Glens Falls’ most influential and productive families, Juliet died in 1878.

Prepared Evelyn Donahue from a theatrical script written by William Woodward for the Chapman Historical Museums fall Glens Falls Cemetery tour in 2002.

Questions and comments should be directed to the Glens Falls City Historian at: City Hall 42 Ridge St. Glens Falls, NY historian@cityofglensfalls.com 518-761-3871.



**The Cool family monument at the Bay Street Cemetery
Keyes and Juliet Cools information with their daughters Sarah.**