

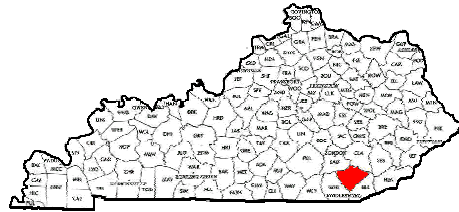
# FORD

## Richard Ford and Nancy Cope

*2g-grandparents*

Richard Ford was born on September 12, 1847 in Kentucky. His parents' names are unknown but the 1880 U.S. census tells us that they too were born in Kentucky. He was a farmer and little is known of the first thirty years of his life although at some point he moved to Indiana.

Nancy Cope was born on June 26, 1857 in Knox County, Kentucky, in the southeastern part of the state. She was the fifth of five children born to Andrew Jackson Cope and Winnie Lewis. Her father served briefly in the Union army during the Civil War in 1861 and 1862 but his enlistment was cut short, reportedly by injury. During his time away, Nancy's mother died. Nancy was not yet five years old. Her father married Rachel Honeycut in 1863 and the family moved to Indiana shortly thereafter where two more boys were born to the family. When Nancy was 16, her father died.



*Knox County, Kentucky today. County borders have changed a great deal over the years.*



*Richard Ford*

Richard Ford, age 30, and Nancy Cope, age 21, were married on July 20, 1878 in Orange County, Indiana. Over the next eight years, they had three children:

- Rachel A. Ford, born in 1879
- Mary Elizabeth Ford, born in 1884
- Hulda J. Ford, born in 1886

Shortly after Hulda's birth, Richard Ford died in an accident. The Jasper Courier reported this July 1, 1886 event:

*"On Thursday afternoon of last week about 3 o'clock, the boiler of Bender Brothers, at Ellsworth, in Hall Township, in this county, exploded with terrific force, tearing the engine and boiler from their foundations, and hurling the latter through piles of lumber fifty yards, killing instantly Mr. Richard Ford, a farmer of that neighborhood, who chanced to be near the mill. He leaves a widow and three young children. Mr.*

*Wyley Cope, who was working at the mill as a hand, was thrown 100 feet by the concussion, and was badly bruised and scalded; will probably die. Dr. G.W. Walker was sitting on some lumber talking to Ford at the time. He was thrown several yards, into lumber piles, scalded on one side, one arm broken, and badly bruised. John Bender, one of the owners of the mill, was badly scalded, but will recover. Nicholas Bender, another of the owners, had some heavy lumber fall on one hand and was slightly scalded. Lafayette Ellis was also slightly injured: he was thrown among the flying timber about 100 feet and his escape is almost miraculous. The mill was a stationary one; was several years old; having been bought by the Benders from the now notorious Archer gang of Martin county, one of whom hangs at Shoals today, and who ran it several years as a blind to their rascalities. It is supposed carelessness in the supply of water caused the explosion."*

The sawmill was a popular gathering place. Wylie Cope, mentioned in the article, was Nancy (Cope) Ford's older brother and died of his injuries within weeks.

Ford, Richard W. M. 39					1	Farmer
Nancy, W. P. 22	Wife				1	Keeping house
Rachel A. W. P. 8	Daughter					

The 1880 census shows Richard and Nancy Ford and daughter Rachel

NAME of each person whose place of abode on June 1, 1900, was in this family. Enter surname first, then the given name and middle initial, if any. Exclude every person living on June 1, 1900, but children born since June 1, 1900.	RELATION Relationship of each person to the head of the family. Color or race	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION							NATIVITY			CITIZENSHIP			OCCUPATION, TRADE, OR PROFESSION of each person TEN YEARS OF AGE AND OVER.		
		Sex	Age	Married	Single	Married	Single	Married	Single	Married	Single	Married	Single	Married	Single	Married	Single
Bradley, George W.	Head	M	74	Mar	1824	55	74	2		Indiana	Tennessee	Tennessee				Farmer	0
Wife	Wife	F	74	Mar	1827	52	74	2	7	5	Indiana	New York	Indiana				
Deal, William M.	Wife	F	74	Mar	1827	23	8			Indiana	Indiana	Indiana				Farm Laborer	0
Hannon, John W.	Son	M	74	Mar	1876	23	8			Indiana	Indiana	Indiana				Farm Laborer	0
Joseph E.	Son	M	74	Mar	1879	20	8			Indiana	Indiana	Indiana				Farm Laborer	0
Ford, Nancy	Wife	F	74	Mar	1827	74	5	5		Kentucky	Kentucky	South Carolina				Farmer	0
Rachel A.	Daughter	F	74	Mar	1879	20	8			Indiana	Kentucky	Indiana				Home Servant	0
Mary E.	Daughter	F	74	Mar	1884	16	8			Indiana	Kentucky	Indiana				at School	
Abella J.	Daughter	F	74	Mar	1886	14	8			Indiana	Kentucky	Indiana				at School	
Dessie M.	Daughter	F	74	Mar	1890	10	8			Indiana	Kentucky	Indiana				at School	
Leland G.	Son	M	74	Mar	1894	5	8			Indiana	Kentucky	Indiana					

In 1900, Nancy is the head of the household with a listed occupation of "farmer"

Not yet 30, Nancy (Cope) Ford was a young widow with three children. She had two more children with an unknown father. Later generations would speculate that Nancy was trying to "keep the wolves from the door" and that the father might have been a local banker who held a note on the family property. In any event, the children were given Richard Ford's surname:

- Dessie M. Ford, born in 1890
- Leland Ford, born in 1894

The last evidence of Nancy (Cope) Ford is the 1900 census which recorded a household headed by Nancy with all five children still living with her. The date of her death is not known.

### Sources and Related Information

- Maurice Baxter
- Robert E. Lane manuscript "Descendants of Andrew Cope"
- U.S. census records – 1860, 1870, 1880 and 1900
- Jasper Courier article reprinted November 28, 1986
- Vital records of Orange County, Indiana
- "Kentucky in the Civil War" website

The FORD line ends with Mary Elizabeth Ford, who married Thomas Bradford NELSON.