



Born in 1854

Born in Missouri

Occupation Clerk

Residence: 207 W. 2nd. Street.

Moses Cooper was a Leadville clerk active in the city during 1880.¹ Cooper was born in 1854, and hailed from Missouri.² He worked as a clerk for David Loeb,³ who was a furniture merchant. Cooper was only in Leadville briefly, probably due to an unfortunate episode that occurred while he worked for Loeb. Cooper was involved in a scheme where he procured jewelry from Mr. (Sol) Levy, a pawnbroker, and Mr. Hauser, a jeweler, under the guise of selling this merchandise to a prospective client.⁴ Levy and Hauser trusted Cooper as a middleman, but he soon disappeared in an attempt to steal away with the jewelry.⁵ However, Cooper was caught after he had pawned some of his stolen goods off on Judge Pendery.⁶ Cooper was regretful of his actions and admitted what he had done was wrong.⁷ Cooper was upset the story had appeared in the papers, because he feared his friends and family in the East would learn of wrongdoings.⁸ The *Carbonate Chronicle* stated “that fast women and wine have been the prime causes of this unfortunate young man’s deviation from the path of rectitude.”⁹ The paper also noted that Cooper had held “a part interest in a saloon” in Leadville.¹⁰ Cooper reached a compromise with those he wronged, and thus avoided state prison.¹¹ He no longer appeared in the city directories after 1880, which suggests he had to leave Leadville.¹²

¹ 1880 Leadville City Directory

² U.S. Census Bureau. 1880 Census

³ 1880 Leadville City Directory

⁴ “Crooked Cooper.” *Carbonate Chronicle*, September 11, 1880. Accessed October 15, 2016.

<https://www.coloradohistoricnewspapers.org>

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² 1880 Leadville City Directory