Robert Cooke was of a respectable, but very poor Scotch family, and wishing to emigrate to America, he went to Liverpool and contracted with an emigrant captin (sic) to bring him to America and sell him for a certin (sic) time to some planter to work out his ship fare across the Atlantic, and on arriving Mr. Boyd bought him. In about one month afterwards, Mr. Boyd also bought Sarah Fielding, who became Robert Cooke’s wife. On the evening of the day in which be bought Miss Fielding, he said to Mr. Cooke, “Well Bob, I’ve bought you a wife.”

She was from Devonshire England. She was of a wealth family and highly educated and accomplished. Having a love affair [in Devonshire] with a gentleman not liked by her parents, they confined her for months in an upper chamber to prevent her meeting him clandestinely. Finally, making her escape, she ran away to Liverpool, embarked on the first ship starting, which happened to be coming to America.

They [Robert and Sarah] served one year for their fare. Truth is stranger than fiction.

Wm. H. Cooke