

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN SOPER

Benjamin Franklin Soper, for whom Soperton was named, was born on December 25, 1856 to Andrew and Eliza Soper on their family plantation near Gallatin, Tennessee.

In 1885, at the age of 29, Benjamin married Sally Lambert. This union produced nine children, three girls and six boys. Their names in order of birth were: Olive Soper White, Leslie Soper Tyson, Nell Soper Puckett, Benjamin Soper, Jr., Earl, Hershel, Jack, Jim and Arthur.

Characteristic of Mr. Soper, he was disappointed that his first child was not a boy and when his second was also a girl, he went ahead and gave her the name, Leslie, that he had planned to name a boy.

Mr. Soper became a prosperous builder of railroads in Tennessee and Georgia and, as his business grew, he established the Southern Railway Mine & Milling Company in Nashville, Tennessee.

On a bitter cold day Mr. Soper served as pall bearer for a close friend and, as a result, he contracted pneumonia and died a few days later on March 13, 1907. His youngest son, Arthur, was only three weeks old at the time. He was buried in what was the family plantation graveyard near Gallatin, where his parents were also buried. This property now belongs to the government and is known as steam plant.