

Thomas Settle Cooper

- Born:** September 23, 1876 in Windsor, NC
- 1902** Graduated from Elizabeth City State Colored Normal School (later renamed Elizabeth City State University)
He earned a Bachelor of Arts from Virginia Union University, Bachelor of Science from Hampton Institute and a Masters From Columbia University
- 1903-1907** Supervised principals of Elizabeth City Colored Schools. He was a leader in Local Educational Congress Organization. He sought to keep African American youth in school and away from life of crime
- 1904** Married Roberta Overton. They had two sons, Russell S. Cooper and Henry Cooper
- 1912** T.S. Cooper established an Industrial School in Sunbury
- 1919** He was appointed principal of Gates County Training School. Under his leadership, the school became an accredited high School. It was the first high school for African Americans in Gates County. Cooper and the Gates County School Building Committee worked to raise matching funds to qualify for Rosenwald Funds.
- 1927-1928** New school built with Rosenwald Funds (Last Rosenwald School built in Gates County)
- 1947** Cooper retired as principal. After retiring, he taught in Gates County agricultural program for veterans. He was the 1st African American on Elizabeth City State Teachers College Board of Trustees.
He was president of Elizabeth City State Alumni Association
- Died:** March 25, 1970
T.S. Cooper Elementary School was named for him

Annie Weelthy Holland (1871 – 1934) worked with T.S. Cooper as Jeenes Fund Supervisor in Gates County. Jeenes Funds made it possible to hire supervisors for rural schools. She supervised industrial training at T.S. Cooper School. In 1915 She was appointed as NC State Supervisor of Negro Elementary Education. In 1928 she was the founder of NC Congress of Colored Parents and Teachers.

Source: Linda Hofler, Retired Gates County High School History Teacher, member of Gates County Historical Society and Chair of County of Commissioners