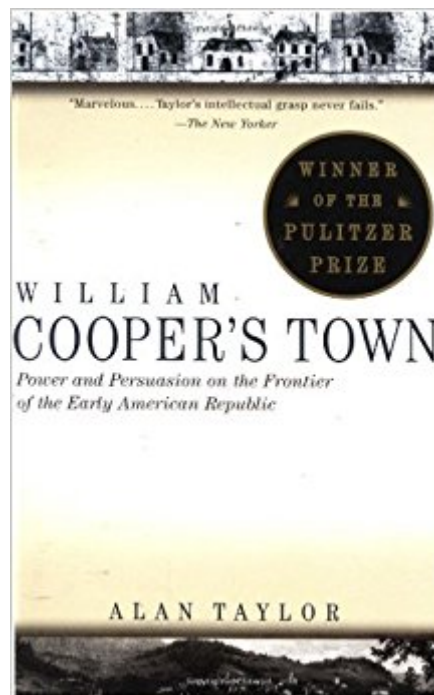




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# William Cooper's Town: Power And Persuasion On The Frontier Of The Early American Republic



## Synopsis

William Cooper and James Fenimore Cooper, a father and son who embodied the contradictions that divided America in the early years of the Republic, are brought to life in this Pulitzer Prize-winning book. William Cooper rose from humble origins to become a wealthy land speculator and U.S. congressman in what had until lately been the wilderness of upstate New York, but his high-handed style of governing resulted in his fall from power and political disgrace. His son James Fenimore Cooper became one of this country's first popular novelists with a book, *The Pioneers*, that tried to come to terms with his father's failure and imaginatively reclaim the estate he had lost. In *William Cooper's Town*, Alan Taylor dramatizes the class between gentility and democracy that was one of the principal consequences of the American Revolution, a struggle that was waged both at the polls and on the pages of our national literature. Taylor shows how Americans resolved their revolution through the creation of new social reforms and new stories that evolved with the expansion of our frontier.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

In 1786 William Cooper, determined to become a self-made gentleman of substance in post-revolutionary America, founded Cooperstown, N.Y., through a dodgy land deal. His town rose to become county seat, and Cooper became a judge and then a congressman. He lost most of the prestige he earned later, when he overstretched himself, and his local patronage weakened when he backed the Federalists against the victorious Republicans. Nonetheless, his son, James

Fenimore Cooper, the early 19th century's best-selling novelist, wrote essentially a justification of his father in his third novel, *The Pioneers* (1823). Taylor's book--a combination of biography, personal history, social history, literary exegesis and analysis of father-son dynamics--charts the interplay between the fact and the fiction of the days when upstate New York was the frontier. William Cooper's *Town* won the 1996 Pulitzer Prize for history. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Taylor's account of politician William Cooper and his son, the novelist James Fenimore Cooper, was awarded a Pulitzer Prize. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Book in great condition.

Greed, corruption, misuse of power - so what's changed between then and now? Only the names of the individuals and a true, undoctored accounting on the way things actually were. The insatiable progress west, and the risks our early Americans had to endure to realize their dreams. Very interesting!!

This book truly did deserve the Pulitzer Prize. A+++

When I saw that Dr. Taylor teaches in Davis, Calif., just a few miles down the road, I thought of going and shaking his hand. I read the book for the dual reasons of love of history and the Pulitzer Prize. I immediately purchased and am looking forward to reading "The Divided Ground".

well done

Small type in the Vintage paperback edition. I guess it's my fault for not looking carefully at the product description, but in any case the type is small on this edition. I do read quite a bit, I do not need especially large type, but if you wear glasses this might not work for you. I'm going to return it and go for a used hardback edition.

Good read

Item was as described and very nice.

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