Paul Cooper was born on the
12th day of February 1791— His grand
father Grand Mother & Mother
were all born in the City of
New York My Grandfather
John Campbell served as Major
and deputy quarter master General
during the revolutionary war
My Father served as a Lieutenant
in the ~~war~~ ward of the revolution ~~[illegible]~~
He was a hatter by trade ~~[illegible]~~ Among
my earliest recollection was the
pulling the hair ~~from~~ and cutting
the fur from skins and cutting
the wool to be used in the manufac-
ture of hats— As my strength increased
~~I was kept at~~ I engaged the business to aid my
father in the support of the family
which became necessary by a train of
misfortunes that attended his efforts—
My Fathers ~~[illegible]~~ misfortunes in trade
left me opportunity for me to attend
school with the exception of the half

each day during a part of one year — When I was about thirteen years of age my Father commenced and built a small brewery — In this business I was my Fathers main dependance for help — I soon learned the business in all its parts at which he continued for about ~~four~~ one years — and then removed to Newbury where he built a small brewery and continued the business for between two and three years —

He then again removed to Brooklandy and recommenced the making of malt and keeping cows for the sale of milk at which I was alternately employed — until I was about 17 years of age when I went ~~north~~ to learn the coach making business with M^r John Woodward of the City of Newyork — from whom I received $25 per year & made up the rest — When I was of age M^r Woodward kindly offered to build me a shop and set me up in business — Which offer I declined. ~~out of the fear~~

~~of being in debt~~ preferring to earn my first dollar by days work rather than incur so heavy a debt—

When I had served out my time I made a visit to my Brother on Long Island where I was invited to work at making machines for shearing cloth— At this business I worked for about one year during which time I made for a clergyman in the town of Hempstead a model machine for mowing grass allmost identical with the one now so succesfully in use

About this time I purchased the patent wright of the machine for shearing cloath with the priviledge of paying for it as I made the money from the sale of machines— I hired a shop and purchased materials with what little money I had saved— I made three machines which I valued at one hundred and fifty dollars each— I then hired

a horse and wagon to make
an effort to sell my machines
in the ~~[illegible]~~ winter of — with
no assurance of sale. Having
only a single inquiry for one
machine from a person living
back of Hudson — On my way
to this place I left one machine
on trial at a factory on the
saw mill road — I then went
to Poughkepsey where I left an
other machine on trial and
started to find the person living
back of Hudson — When I came
near this place I found the
person owning the factory had
failed — I then crossed the road
on the ice to look for factories
on that side of the river —
At this time the snow fell so
deep that I was compeled to turn

back and make my way
as far as Pokeepsey on the
ice— When I arrived almost
discouraged my journey seemed—
I found the machines that I had left
so well liked that all I was the
the gentlemen with whom I left
it was not only willing to pay
me for it but bought of me
in addition the right for the
county in which I resided the
privilege of selling three machines—
Out of this I received for
the right of the county $250 and
$150 for the machine— I then
went to a factory owned by Green
& Lewis and left my last
machine on trial— On my
return toward home I stopped at
Newburg to which place my father had
again removed— I found my father
required nearly all the money I
had received to meet the pressing
wants of the family— I reserved
only enough to take me home
and purchase a small amount of
stock— To work with— materials

x in order to recommence my work— In addition to the loss of ~~mon~~ what money I could spare it became necessary for me to endorse a note for my Father for about $400 to save the family from being broken up— At the time this note became it required all that I had made ~~it~~ to discharge the debt which I did— leaveing me a very small amount of material with which to again commence my work— After a time I found that the business could not be much extended unless the machine could be so improved as to save the last of the cloath from being shorn and by that means enable the manufacturer to imitate the imported cloath— After repeated conversations with the inventor who said he had thought much on the subject but had never been able to devise a plan by which it could be done— After much consideration I thought I had discovered a plan

by which that result could be obtained—
After spending about all that I had made
I succeed in producing a machine with that answered the
purpose so well that I sold them
as fast I could get them made
I was enabled by making
these machines to earn $250 per
month which at that time
seemed a rapid mode of making
of making a fortune— The business
I continued good until the close
of the war with england— When
it came to an entire stand—
As soon as I found that there
was no further chance at making
machines I commenced the cabinet
making business which I con-
tinued ~~for a short time~~ until
joined by a brother in law to
join him and open store in
Newyork— In course of the second
year I ~~had an apartment~~ bought
a place on the corner of eighth
street and Bowery and continued
the grocery business on my own
account— This business I continued

for several years—
Not being well pleased with the business I began to look around to see what chang I could make for the better—

One of my customers informed me that a man by the name of Vreeland had set his son up in the manufactor of glue at Kips Bay—And that the son had become so dissipated that he had determined to sell it out

This M Vreeland I knew from having often been sent to his store for the purchase of hard ware when an apprentice—

On the same day I saw M Vreeland pass my door I asked him if it was true that he wanted sell his factory—He said that he did—I started with him at once to look at the place

And after examining the buildings and stock He named his price which I at once agreed to — I went with him to town and had the contract drawn and paid him the money on the same day —

This business I have followed from that time to the present — Constantly increasing the amount —

In the year 1830 I built the Canton Iron works — in Baltimore — in order to burn the wood and use the iron ore on some 8000 acres of land that I had purchased within and adjoining the City — This property I sold and some years after I built an iron works and twine mill in the City of Newyork — It was about 1829 that I was first elected an assistant alderman of the 12 th ward —

Some years later I built the Trenton iron works in the City of Trenton State of Newjersey — I was again elected assistant Alderman — After which I was

alderman in which capasity
I served two and half years —

It is nearly 28 years since
I first connected myself the Publick
school society of the City of Newyork
with whom I continued, until
that society was merged into the
board of Educators — where I
continued my self — I am now
president of the Newyork & Newfound
land and London Telegraph Company
The american Telegraph Company
The North american Telegraphic asso
ciation — Vice president of the New
york Juvenile Asylum — Director
in the Newyork Life and Trust Com
and also in the Manhatten Fire insurance
company — Throu the whole cours
of my buisness life I have felt
a constant want of even a common
education — It was this feeling of
want in myself that awakened
within me a strong desire to do
something for those whose circum
stances might be similar to my own
At the time when first elected
an assistant Alderman I became

acquainted with a gentleman
in the board who had then late
ly returned from france — While
there said he had attended the
Politecnick school — Where he
assured me that he had learned
as much in three month as he
had done in three previous years
in this country — I then determin
ed if ever I was able I would build
such a institution for the my
natives City —

With this object in
view I have given — the best
efforts of my life with success