

# GENEALOGY DATABASE ENTRY

©Vera V. Mainz and Gregory S. Girolami 1998

Cooke, Josiah Parsons

1827 - 1894

DEGREE: AB

DATE: 1848

PLACE: Harvard

TEACHER/RESEARCH ADVISOR: none

established Harvard chemistry department and introduced first laboratory instruction in an American university; measured atomic weights of Sb, H, and O; studied iodides of antimony; his ideas on the numerical relationships between atomic weights and the properties of the elements foreshadowed the periodic table; studied the crystallography of minerals, esp. vermiculite and other silicates.

FOOTNOTE: Cooke attended Silliman's lectures at the age of 16, but received no formal education in chemistry. Shortly after he received his AB degree from Harvard and was appointed Professor of Chemistry, Cooke travelled to Europe to buy chemicals and equipment, and attended lectures given by Dumas and Regnault while in Paris. Although Cooke called Silliman "my only instructor in chemistry", he felt he learned much of his chemical philosophy while in Europe.

1. *Proc. Am. Acad. Arts Sci.* **1895**, 30, 513-543.
2. *Biog. Mem. Nat. Acad. Sci.* **1902**, 4, 175-183.
3. Elliott, C. A. *Biographical Dictionary of American Science*; Greenwood Press: 1979; p61-62.
4. *Dictionary of Scientific Biography*; Charles Scribner's Sons: 1970-1990; vol. 3, p397-398.
5. *Dictionary of American Biography*; Malone, D., Ed.; Charles Scribner's Sons: 1936; vol. 4, p387-388.
6. *Pop. Sci. Monthly* **1877**, 10, 491-495.
7. *American Chemists and Chemical Engineers*; Miles, W. D., Ed.; American Chemical Society: 1976; p91-92.
8. *Am. J. Sci.* **1894**, 48, 353-354.
9. *Am. Chem. J.* **1894**, 16, 566-568.
10. *Sci. Am.* **1887**, 57, 377.
11. *National Cyclopaedia of American Biography*; James T. White & Co.: 1921-1984; vol. 2, p12.
12. *The Development of Harvard University*; Morison, S. E., Ed.; Harvard University Press: 1930; p258-276.