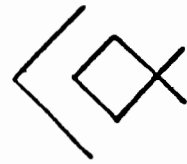


# COX CLAN



## NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 13

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Editor: Mrs. Ruth Anna Hicks, 6703 Holdrege St., Lincoln, NE 68505-1659

### PIONEER DAYS OF MAJOR RICHARD RUE COX

By Charles Epperson Cox

Taken from Journal of the Illinois State Historical Journal, Volume 10, 1918

Joseph and Mary Cox settled in Illinois in 1837. John Cox and Richard Rue my father's grandfathers, were soldiers in the Revolutionary War, fighting in a Virginia regiment. They were among the early settlers in Kentucky but soon emigrated to Wayne County, Indiana. Richard Rue was under George Rogers Clark in his conquest of the Northwest territory. Richard Rue and George Holman having been captured by the Indians on one occasion and carried through Wayne County, Indiana, were so impressed with the lands there that they declared if they were ever set free alive they would return to that country to settle. In Kentucky my father's father, Joseph Cox, married Mary, the daughter of Richard Rue, and there my father, Richard Rue Cox, was born--the first white child born in Wayne County. About 1828 the family went to Montgomery County. There my father married Sarah L. Epperson on December 13, 1832.

After the marriage of my father and mother they worked three years clearing a timber farm. Here I was born in a log cabin among the primeval forest trees, on Sept. 28, 1833, the night of the phenomenon of the falling stars. Stories of the richness of the soil of the prairies and the ease of cultivating them, led my parents again to undertake the pioneer's fortunes in a new home. After selling the cleared farm and spending a year at Lafayette, we set sail in a prairie schooner with five yoke of oxen, a cow and heifer and a few sheep. A few pieces of furniture were taken with us. This journey, camping at night and traveling slowly along in the day, made a deep impression on my mind.

We arrived at Mercer County, Illinois, the first of June 1837. Father staked out his claim. The big wagon box with its arched white cover father set under a big bur oak tree and there we lived while father broke up ten acres of the virgin earth to plant sod corn.

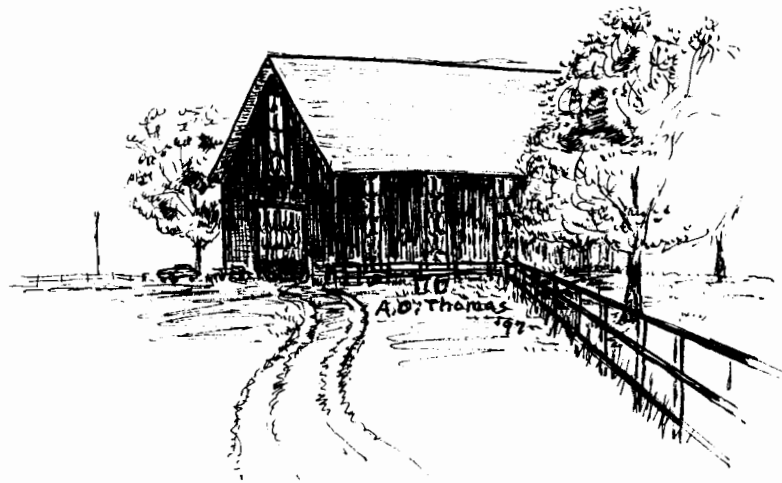
As soon as our bread for the next year was assured by the planting of the corn, father cut logs and built a log cabin. There was not a nail used in it. The roof was clapboards rived out. The chimney was made of sticks and clay. The floor was hewed puncheons. The door was hung on wooden hinges and was fastened with a wooden latch of which the string was always out. Father then fenced forty acres with rails and continued improving the farm. My mother made our clothes out of cloth that she spun and wove on the loom. The dye was brown walnut. We lived in the cabin, enlarged as we needed it, until a saw mill was built. With the new source of lumber we built a farm house made mostly of black walnut.

Settlers came steadily and took up claims about us. Each was allowed 160 acres. My father, being one of the earliest settlers, was able to help the new comers with meat and feed and flour and seed. The traditional hospitality of the west grew naturally out of these times when life was dependent on the kindness and generosity of neighbors. My father's greatest pleasure was to help establish the new comers.

**YEAR 2000  
COX CLAN REUNION**

Did you mark your calendar reserving the August **Reunion** dates? You neglected to do this! Good! The dates were wrong - I goofed! Jerry Cox sent me the correct ones, so now you can mark these dates on your calendar:

**COX CLAN REUNION  
August 11-13, 2000  
Frankfort, Kentucky**



These pictures were drawn by our President, O. O. "Bud" Thomas.

Top Left: Henry County, Ky Courthouse  
Newcastle, Ky.

above: Tobacco Shed, Blue Grass Country  
Kentucky

Left: First United Methodist Church,  
Rev. Wm. Holeman in 1821  
Frankfort, KY



# Obituaries

Descendant of Richard Rue Cox line



**DOROTHY HEMPHILL**  
1904-1996

Memorial services for former longtime Newberg resident Dorothy Hemphill of Amity will be held at 2

p.m. Sunday, Oct. 27, in First Presbyterian Church, Newberg.

Mrs. Hemphill died Oct. 15, 1996, in Amity. She was 92.

She was born Sept. 28, 1904, in Pawnee City, Neb. She graduated from college in Plainview, Texas.

She married Frederick Hemphill in 1938.

She and her husband moved to Newberg, where they purchased a farm on Chehalem Mountain and also worked in the shipyards during World War II.

The couple raised, dried and shipped black raspberries and became the largest marketers of blackcaps in the country.

Mr. Hemphill died in 1972.

Mrs. Hemphill enjoyed charitable activities and had donated X-ray equipment to Newberg Hospital. She also provided grants to Lewis and Clark College and First Presbyterian Church of Newberg.

Survivors include a half-sister, Ruth Glass of Amity; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Descendant of Jesse Cox line

Oct 26, 1996

## Juanita Swarts

Graveside services for Juanita Irene Swarts, 67, of 715 27th Ave. Ct., East Moline, are 11 a.m. Monday at Petrie Cemetery, New Windsor.



There is no visitation.

Memorials may be made to Illini Hospital in her name.

Van Hoe Funeral Home Ltd., East Moline, is in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Swarts died Wednesday, Oct. 23, 1996, at Illini Hospital, Silvis.

The former Juanita Skelton was born April 29, 1929, in Port Byron, the daughter of Percy and Cora Cox Skelton. She married Harold Eugene Swarts Aug. 17, 1947, in East Moline.

She had worked as a nurse's aide at the former Lutheran Hospital and at Illini Hospital, retiring in 1979.

She enjoyed crocheting and needlework.

Survivors include the widow; a son and daughter-in-law, Michael and Sue Swarts, Boone, Iowa; a grandchild; three stepgrandchildren; two great-grandchildren; two stepgreat-grandchildren; sisters and a brother-in-law; Dorothy Power, East Moline, Grace and Vergeen Wongstrom, Clemont, Fla.; and brothers and sisters-in-law, Guy and Lora Skelton, Colorado Springs, Lyford and Helen Skelton, Colorado Springs, Colo., and Raymond and Dorothy Skelton, Cleveland, Ill.; sisters-in-law, Mary and Grace Skelton, both of Advance, Mo., and Donnalee Tuttle, East Moline; her mother-in-law, Hazel Swarts, East Moline; and a special friend, Rosie Sisson, East Moline.

Descendant of John Washington Cox line

## Camilla Bookwalter

Camilla Bookwalter, 78, of Lawrence, Kansas died Saturday, October 5, 1996 at the home of her daughter. She was born November 26, 1917 in Burchard, Nebraska to Roy and Margaret Henderson Poteet.

She was married to J. Wayne Bookwalter on October 22, 1938. They moved to Lawrence, Kansas from Pawnee City, Nebraska in 1951 where they lived the rest of their lives.

Camilla was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Nebraska and attended First United Methodist Church in Lawrence. She was a member of Fidelity White Shrine #11, Order of the Eastern Star Guild Chapter #16 in Nebraska, Kansas State Club White Shrine of Jerusalem, and Kaw Valley Quilters Guild of Lawrence.

She was preceded in death by her husband, who died May 6, 1979.

Survivors include one son, John W. Bookwalter of Visalia, California; one daughter, Judith J. Bond of Lawrence, Kansas; two sisters, Audrey Wehrbein of Steinauer, Nebraska and Maude Sejkora of Burchard, Nebraska; five grandchildren and nine great grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held at Warren-McElwain Mortuary in Lawrence, Kansas at 10:30 a.m. Friday, October 11, 1996 with the Reverend Virgil Brady officiating.

Burial will be at 3 p.m. Friday in Pawnee City Cemetery in Pawnee City, Nebraska.

The family suggests memorial contributions to Hospice of Douglas County and they may be sent in care of Warren-McElwain Mortuary, 120 W 13th Street, Lawrence, Kansas 66044.

TRIBUTE TO DOROTHY COX HEMPHILL and MARY COX  
BY Ken Glass

Dear Coxes and Descendants

A short note about Aunt Dorothy Hemphill and Great Aunt Mary Cox who raised her. One can see by the bulletin that Dorothy left us in October. The people attending her memorial service (about 100) had some very thrilling things to tell about one of the most unselfish people I have ever had the privilege to know. One after another told how she had done something for someone, or some worthy cause. Finally the Pastor said "We could easily write a book about her helping humanity". Which may have been one of her goals in life. In going through her things Mom found a letter written by Dorothy, while she was working in New York about 1930.

Even then in her 20's during the depression, she was dedicated to helping others and sharing what little she had.

To those of you who did not know Great Aunt Mary Cox, she was our family historian for many years. It is difficult for me to think of Dorothy, without Aunt Mary, for they lived together until Dorothy married and the two were like a pair of gloves. It is through them that we have so many of the family records.

We are not the only ones indebted to Aunt Mary. Hale county (Texas) was her county and her civic duties lead her to write a book "The History of Hale County" which was used as text book in the public schools. I do believe it has been updated now to include the next 50 years. After Mary's death in 1956, Dorothy put 5 of Mary's scrap books in the museum at Canyon, Texas (15 miles south of Aramillo) I stopped there a couple of years ago and found the books in the archives on about the third floor. I encourage any of you who go anywhere near there to stop and see what a contribution our Aunt Mary made in her life.

I was only 14 when Aunt Mary passed from us and even then I treasured her. At 16 began to know and love Aunt Dorothy. It has been a real blessing that I knew two such remarkable people.

Ken Glass (fifth gen Richard Rue Cox)

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NEW TWIGS ON OUR BRANCHES

Richard Rue Cox line:

Born to Tally Pauline Jones--dau. Taylor Rae Atwood, b. 1 Nov. 1996

Tally is the dau. of Laura Ann (Thomas) Paynter

Born to Renyanne Tracy Thomas--son Ricky Renee Thomas 20 Jan. 1997

Renee is the dau. of Dr. Paul A. Thomas, Jr.

John Washington Cox line

Thomas "Trey" Disher Cox III, born 16 January 1997, son of Thomas and Barbara Cox, grandson of Tom and Sandy Cox.

Orin Charles Peterson, born 29 Oct. 1996 son of Justin and Jennifer Peterson

Michael Ryan Peterson born 1 January 1997 son of Nathan and Michelle Peterson. The above two are the grandchildren of Jocile and Gary Peterson and great grandsons of George and Leone Cox.

MARRIAGE

Richard Rue Cox line

Peter Dpuglas Meyer, Jr. and Stafford Cowman Vaughey on 15 June 1996

Stafford is the dau. of Marcia Stafford Cox and John Vaughey

In the last issue on page 6 I included a picture of two men. I have had several letters (which I have misplaced) indicating that they were the sons of Hiram COX, namely Kenneth Cox and a brother. Sorry, I am sure that as soon as I get this newsletter printed, I will find the letters.

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I want to thank all of you have have sent me money, it is very much appreciated. This issue I will order 350 copies of this newsletter, it is not the printing that costs so much as the postage.

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The following is from the ROCK ISLAND ARGUS, Rock Island, Ill 22 Aug. 1918

Descendants of Joseph and Mary Cox met in sixteenth annual session yesterday at Prospect Park with seventy-five in attendance.

Charles Cox of Pittsfield, IL. who is 90 years old, is the patriarch of the clan. The family is widely scattered all over the country. thirty different states claiming some of its members. Davenport, Rock Island and Moline also have many desdndants of this pioneer family.

A picnic dinner was served at 1 o'clock and later the business meeting, called to order by J.J. Cox, chairman of the executive committee, was held. Miss Lillian Cox was appointed secretary pro tem in the absence of Miss Daisy Cox, general sec.

An interesting communication was red from Charles E. Cox, of Beechwood, Scarborough-on-the-Hudson, N.Y., president of the association. Also a communication relating to pioneer time in Rock Island county, on the Mississippi river, eulogizing the soldiers of 1861-1865 and the soldiers of the world war. A service flag with twenty stars represents the members of the Cox family who participated in the late war. Five soldier boys were present, as follows: Norman Cox, Chicago; Kenneth Cox PLainview, Tex., Allan O'Connor, Chicago, Lee Cox, Moline, Clyde Parkhouse, Moline.

Each of these boys made interesting talks relating to life in camps and overseas and JOHN W. Cox of Des Moines, Dr. J. Neil Cox of Rio, Walter E. Cox Chicago and P.F. Cox of Rock Island, all made short talks.

Miss Daisy Cox of Alpha was slected secretary of the association and Clinton C. Cox of Alpha named chairman of the executive committee. It was voted to hold the next reunion at Alpha. A luncheon was served at 5 o'clock, after which all returned to their homes.

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]F YOU Know of any deaths, please send me an obituary for use in the next newsletter. Also I would appreciate news of any births or marriages.