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# COX CLAN

## NEWSLETTER

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No. 19

October 2000

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Editor: Mrs. Ruth Anna Hicks, 6703 Holdrebe, Lincoln, Ne 68505



### REPORT ON THE COX CLAN REUNION August 11-13, 2000 Frankfort, Kentucky

#### Children:

Richard Rue Cox  
John Washington Cox  
Rachel Cox - Knight  
Sandford C. Cox  
Joseph Bird Cox  
Jesse Lewis Cox  
Jeremiah L. Cox  
Augustus D. Cox  
Mary A. Cox - Freeland  
Sarah C. Cox - Kirby

This was a most talkative, exciting and congenial Cox Clan Reunion with members coming from 10 different states, and a number of "first timers." A lot of photos were taken and information on several branches of the family was shared. From all the feedback and observation, everyone enjoyed the Hospitality Suite on Friday, the Saturday tour to New Castle and the State Capitol, and the talks and discussion on Saturday evening.

Banquet timing was begun early on Sunday to complete the business meeting and allow most attendees to meet flight schedules at Lexington or Louisville. Ken Glass gave the blessing. After the business meeting, everyone remained

discussing Cox Family matters, leaving at the last second to catch flights. Hope you all made it!.

Prepared talks given Saturday evening, to be included in future Cox Newsletters, were: Bud Thomas - Three Cox Stories; Janet Hunt - Past Cox Reunions, Gloria Thomas - John Cox Sightings; Marian Kate Thomas - Coxes in the Education Field; and Ruth Anna Hicks - Cox Migration. Spontaneous remarks from : Christine Lage, Ken Glass, Ian Schoales and Bill Utermohlen. Time available was utilized for business to save time the next day; remaining business was completed after the Sunday Banquet.

#### COX CLAN BUSINESS

- (1) Discussed at the 1995 Reunion, Scott Lodge inquired about clean-up of the Cox Cemetery where Joseph Cox et al. are buried. He reported via telephone and e-mail.

The local Department of Natural Resources will not allow brush removal and clean-up of the cemetery. They will probably allow installation of a memorial plaque about 50 yards from the highway. The purchase of same is estimated between \$700 and \$1200. Discussion conclusions.

- (a) Christine Lage will work with Scott to formulate plans of action. Names of all family buried there will be determined.
- (b) Ken Mincer, Treasurer, reported via telephone a balance of about \$500. He declines continuing in office. Christine volunteered to accept the position and will contact Ken.

- (3) Election of Officers for the ensuing years and 2005 Reunion were:  
 President Tom Cox , 7427 S. Richfield, Foxfield, CO 80016  
 Vice President Bill Utermohlen, 1916 Windsor Rd. Alexandria, VA 22307  
 Treasurer Christine Lage, P.O. Box 516, Hampton, IL. 61256-0516  
 Historian Ruth Anna Hicks, 6703 Holdrege st. Lincoln, Ne 68505-1659  
 Secretary ?
- (4) Denver, Colorado was offered as the location for the 1005 Reunion which sounded good to all, however the vote confirmed Richmond, IN as suggested in 1995, celebrating the 200th Anniversary of Jospheh Cox's moved from Kentucky to that area in 1805.
- (5) The Cox Clan Newsletter should ask for e-mail addresses. (have some, but more are needed. RAH)
- (6) Ruth Anna Hicks made a plea for postal address changes. It is extremely difficult to keep track of addresses, and all are not provided by returned mail.

Congratulation, Tom, we know that you'll do a great job in 1005.

The President, and unofficial assistant, Bud and Gloria, extend thanks to everyone for their cooperation and participation in this successful Cox Clan Reunion 2000.

By Appointed Secretary, Gloria J. Thomas

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The numbers attending the reunion were small, (20) we had a great time visitng and getting acquainted with those we had not met before. I am including a couple of pictures, I just hope they reproduce clean.

I am using parts of some of the talks, to lengthly to do all in one issue, so they will be used in several upcoming issues. I hope you find them interesting.

### COX FAMILY MEMBERS IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION

#### PIONEER ATTITUDE TOWARD EDUCATION

Immigrant desires and expectations when they came to America in the 1600's and 1700's were three fold: first, to have freedom of religion without oppression; second, to obtain ownership of land; and third, to get an education. For the most part, these had been denied to all but wealthy members of the upper social class in their homeland.

The freedom of religion was acknowledged with the fact that whenever two or three families moved into communicating distance of each other, and if they were of the same religious persuasion, they formed a church group and met in a home. As additional pioneers arrived in the area and joined the worship meetings, the group would use a barn to handle the greater numbers. Then, a log building was erected for their services. They came from religious oppression, some mild and some severe.

To be a land owner apparently was so strong an urge that each generation went further west immediately after the government made new agreements with the Indians. Land was cheap, often \$1.25 or less an acre. Another factor spurring acquisition of more land was that the size of children's acreage became smaller as parcels were divided as additional children became of age. Government programs also encouraged development of new lands; there was a timber program, the homestead program, and others. The railroads later offered to haul household, farm and personal goods free for settlers who purchased land from them.

Finally, an education was worth untold efforts to obtain. We find the pioneers clearing the land to plant a crop for fall harvest and winter sustenance, or starve. Only after planting did they raise the first log cabin of one room, and maybe a sleeping loft for the men. If they could find anyone, even with a minimum of schooling, they hired their first teacher. Initially, stores, churches, and sometime a home would serve as the schoolhouse. Usually a log school was erected in short order. The school master would be fed and housed by local parents of school children.

Regarding their attitude about early schools, Old Oxford village is used as an example. It was laid out in August of 1829 in Henry County, Illinois. Development was extremely rapid with the influx of early pioneers, and the following demonstrates this growth:

"In a short time many business houses and dwellings were built. Amos B. Cole was chosen as the post master and school teacher. Classes were held above his store which was a blacksmith shop and post office combined.

"The first school house, a frame type, was built in 1840, although the district was not organized until 1841 and included a slice of Mercer County."

### **Joseph Cox<sup>2</sup> (John<sup>1</sup>)**

Joseph studied by fireside light and gained sufficient knowledge that he was asked to teach school, which he did at various locations on an intermittent basis. While on a teaching excursion to New Castle, Henry County, Kentucky, he met Mary (Polly) Rue, daughter of Richard Rue, Esq., proprietor of the town.

They were married in November, 1804, and removed to the Indiana wilderness in 1805. There Joseph became the first teacher in a log school house on property now the Elkhorn Cemetery between Richmond and Abington. The latter community was founded by Joseph and his father, John Cox.

Joseph was certified to practice law which he did from time-to-time, but had no particular liking for it.

### **Richard Rue Cox<sup>3</sup> (Joseph<sup>2</sup>, John<sup>1</sup>)**

Richard had many occupations indicating he was unusually talented. Charles Epperson Cox, his son, had this to say about his father:

...My father was woodman, farmer, blacksmith, carpenter, miller, cattle-grower, tanner, shoemaker, and teacher.

### **Sanford Cull Cox<sup>3</sup> (Joseph<sup>2</sup>, John<sup>1</sup>)**

Sanford experienced a traumatic accident at age 14. While helping to cut down trees, one fell on his leg causing irreparable damage requiring amputation. From the beginning of the amputation process until completion by a doctor, 24 hours elapsed!

Later, he left home without a word, leaving his parents uncertain as to his whereabouts for 2 years. He had crossed the Wabash River near Lafayette, Indiana, and there established a log cabin school where he taught. He referred to himself as *The Black Creek School Master*. In later years he became a lawyer, and served in local government. He wrote extensively of family, and of other historical experiences.

NEW TWIGS ON OUR BRANCHES

Richard Rue Cox Line

Erik. Tunnickliff Johnson, born 18 April 1999 , Dickinson, North Dakota to Bonnie and Chris Johnson, Grandson of J. Robert and Merrily Tunnickliff.

Emily Virginia Howard was born July? 2000 to Cloud Narcissa and Jeremy Howard of Conn. Granddaughter of Cecilie and the late Dudley Vanderlip Schoales.

John Washington Cox line

Katlin Dawn Griffin born 1 June 2000 in Oklahome City to Michelle and Gilbert Griffin of Tecumseh, Ok.

Elizabeth Anna Griffin born 26 Sept 2000 in Oklahoma City to Charles and JoAnn Griffin of Hurrah, Ok.

Grandparent of both babies are George and Janet Griffin of McCloud, OK and Great Grandmother is Audrey Wehrbein of Pawnee City, NE

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DEVINNEY REUNION

The Devinney Reunion was held on 8 July 2000, in Moline, Il. There were 17 cousins in attendance.

Georege and LaVonne Reed, Bruce and Gina Reed, Marvin and Margie Reed and Don Devinney all of Rock Island, Il. Chet and Doris Wildermuth of Silvis, Il, Roland, Melinda Reed Lueht and Stephen Lueht of Springfield, Il. Bev and Rich Harper of Blue Grass, Iowa, Jacquin, Rich Reed and M. Carsten of Flippin, Ar.

The Devinney's are decended from Jospheh and Mary Cox through their daughter Mary Ann Cox, born 9 April 1824, Wayne County, Indiana and died 21 October 1909, Garfield County, Nebraska. Mary married William Freeland 11 May 1848 in Rock Island County, IL. Their daughter maria Freeland was born in 1854 and died 22 April 1884 in Rock Island County, IL. She married Gustavis Johnson, 22 March 1876. Their daughter Ella Johnson, born 10 November 1877 or 1879, Rock Island County, Il. died 25 November 1896; married Albert Devinney and their children were: Grace, Eva, Clara and Roy.

(My husband Robert and I attended this reunion, Ruth Anna Hicks,)

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Working Sun Dial, using plants, Capitol Grounds, Frnakfort, Kentucky



REUNION ATTENDEE'S  
Cox Reunion  
11-13 August 2000

Picture taken in New  
Castle, Kentucky in  
front of the Court House  
Henry County

Front Row: Ruth Anna Hicks, Lincoln, Ne; Ian Schoales, Eugene, Or.; Barbara  
Armstrong, Sacramento, Ca; Marjirue Gage, Harbor City, Ca; Lucille Cox, East  
Moline, IL; Marian Thomas, Chantilly, VA  
Secons Row: Gloria Thomas, Williamsport, Pa, Anne Cox & Thomas Cox, Foxfield  
Co. Arleta Glass, Olalla, Wa, Laura paynter, shannon, Ga; JoAnne Brooks, Moline,  
Il, Christine Lage, Hampton, IL.  
Back Row: Augustus Thomas, Williamsport, Pa, Janet Hunt, Lincoln, Ne; Ken Glass  
Olalla, Wa Tanya Reeves, Amarillo, TX Mary Alice Whittemberg, Chalres Whittemberg,  
Hurst, TX, Bill Utermohlen, Alexander, Va



Log Cabin in  
New Castle, Ky  
built in 1798

COX GENEALOGY  
A TALE OF THREE FAMILIES

An acceptable ancestry for Joseph Cox's father John continues to be elusive. Reading again the notes of Clay Cox inspired a review of material gathered from various sources over the last dozen years. This critical analysis resulted in the following three stories that are related,, by name, place, and time, although not proven—these connections are only circumstantial.

Story No. 1  
SWEDISH SETTLERS

The first story begins with Lars Petersson Cock who was born and died in the Turinge Parish, Bangsta, Sweden. There were two children known: Peter Larssen Cock, born in 1610, and his brother Mäns Larssen Pettersson Cock.

**Peter Larssen Cock** was sent to the new American community being formed on the Delaware River. Early Swedish settlers came to the Delaware River region in 1638 and founded their colony called New Sweden. They built Fort Christina at present-day Wilmington, Delaware.

However, the Dutch government believed that New Sweden was in the territory they claimed in the new world, and in 1651 Peter Stuyvesant, governor of the Dutch colony called New Netherlands, established Fort Casimir at present-day New Castle, Delaware.

Conflict between these two entities was inevitable, and the Swedish colonists captured Fort Casimir in 1654, but lost it back to the Dutch the following year. Ten years later, in 1664, the English seized all the territory along the Delaware River. It was not until 1681 that William Penn received his Charter from King Charles II of England, and founded the colony of Pennsylvania. The Duke of York gave Penn the Delaware region to provide access to the Atlantic Ocean, and Pennsylvania continued to govern the Delaware Region, known as the "three Lower Counties," until the Revolutionary War, when they joined the other colonies in voting for independence.

Peter Larssen Cock was an agent for the West India Company.

Peter Cock was granted a deed for a tract of land called Shackamaxon, by Governor Henough of New York, in 1664.<sup>1</sup> Governor Lovelace of New York granted to Peter Cock, on 1 Oct 1669, land within the limits of present day Philadelphia. Peter also had two hundred acres assigned to him, by virtue of a warrant dated 26 Jul 1684, in the Liberties to the west of the Schuylkill River.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Everts and Peck. *History of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania*. 1884. p. 136.

<sup>2</sup> Lawrence Lewis, Jr.. *Original Land Titles of Philadelphia*. 1884. p. 99..

The family of Peter is listed below:

Peter and Margaret Cock

Lars Petersson Cock	b. 21 Mar 1646	m. Martha Ashman
Eric Petersson Cock	b.	m. Elisabeth Philipsson
Mäns Petersson Cock	b.	m. Gunnilla Nilsson
Anna Cock	b. c. 1652	m. Gunnar Rambo
John Petersson Cock	b. 1656	m. Brigitta Frände
Peter Petersson Cock	b. 1658	m. Helena Helm
Maria Cock	b. 1661	m. Anders Rambo
Gabriel Petersson Cock	b. 1663	m. Maria Frände
Brigitta Cock	b. 1665	m. John Rambo

### THE SECOND COCK GENERATION

Lars Petersson Cock (Lorenz, Lawrence), generally known as Captain Lasse, was a prominent member in colony affairs. He married on 15 May 1669 Martha Ashman, English, born in August 1650. As a result of this union, Lasse acquired greater skill with the English language than his Swedish and Finnish contemporaries which proved to be a great advantage.

Initially, Lasse Cock's family lived in Shackamaxon, but by 1678 their home plantation was located at Passyunk. By 1693 his wife had borne eleven children, three of whom died in childhood. Names below, including his wife, are confirmed by Lar's Will abstract, dated 1699.

Lasse and Martha Cock

Catherine	b. Dec 1669	m. Richard Rhoads
Peter	b. 20 Jan 1671	m. Elizabeth Svensson
John	b. 20 Jan 1673	m. Margaret Svensson
Anders	b. 1675	
Robert	b. Sep 1681	
Mäns	b. 4 Nov 1683	
Margaret	b. 18 Feb 1685	
Lars	b. 15 Aug 1688	
Deborah	b. 7 Jul 1693	
Gabriel	b. 25 Mar 1695	

Lasse was chosen as one of the "Council of Nine," being a "duiy constituted authority" under William Penn's Charter. The Council was a provisional government under William Markham who was commissioned by William Penn as his deputy. The Council was authorized to "make public surveys, establish boundary lines, constitute courts, appoint justices of the peace, constables, sheriffs, to suppress violence," and to ensure peace and good order. By September 1681, the first court for jury trials was held in Upland and Lasse Cock was one of the justices.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Theodore W. Bean, Ed. *History of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania*, pp.91.92.

Capt. Lasse Cock was often called upon to deal with the Indians and assist in making treaties with them for William Penn.

Prior to the take-over by William Penn, authorities at New York made land grants at Upland. In the fall of 1677, a grant was made by the Upland court to Lawrence Cock, extending a mile along the Delaware above the mouth of Poquessing, called the "Poquessing patent." Lasse was also granted 100 acres on the south side of the Neshaming.<sup>4</sup>

On 23 Nov 1677, a number of Swedes, including Lawrence, Moens, Erick and Peter Cock, signed a petition to the court for permission:

...to settle together in a town at the west side of the river [Delaware] just below the falls. They represented that they were natives of the country and brought up on the river and parts adjacent. and asked for one hundred acres each...<sup>5</sup>

Eric Petersson Cock married Elisabeth Philipsson who came from Letstigen, Finland, with her parents in 1656. By 1697 the family had moved to Mantua Creek, Gloucester County, New Jersey, where Eric died in 1701. His widow died in April 1735.

Mäns Petersson Cock married Gunnilla Nilsson. Mäns was an Indian trader, and he assisted the new Pennsylvania government in negotiating land agreements with the Indians. He and his wife were involved in frequent litigation at the Burlington County court between 1697 and 1709; they had moved to Senamensing in 1697.

John Petersson Cock was born in 1656, and married Brigitta Frände or Friend. He was taxed for land at Crum Creek in 1693. He sold this on 26 Nov 1700, having already purchased 854 acres at St. Georges Creek, New Castle County, where they would live. He died 16 Dec 1713 and was buried in his own garden.

Peter Petersson Cock, Jr. was born in 1658 and married Helena Helm. Peter became a warden of Gloria Dei (Wicaco Old Swedes church) in 1704, and a vestryman from 1705 until his death 15 May 1708. "Piter" Cock was also one of the signers of the petition for new ministers for the Delaware. Swedish Pastors were learned and accomplished men, and extended themselves to educate the ignorant population, most of whom could not write their names.

**Gabriel Petersson Cock** was born in 1663, and married Maria Frände. In consideration for caring for his aged parents, Gabriel inherited his father's island near the mouth of the Schuylkill River. We are particularly interested in this family because of three boy's given names.

Gabriel and Maria Cock

Peter	b. 1688
Gabriel	b. 1690

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<sup>4</sup> W. W. H. Davis. *History of Bucks County, Pennsylvania*. 1876. p. 30.

<sup>5</sup> Davis 31.



Rebecca	b. 1692
Margaret	b. 1695
David	b. 1697
Anna	b. 1699
Ephram	bp 20 Jun 1705.
<u>Isaac</u>	b.
<u>Friend</u>	b.

After selling Cock's Island in 1714, Gabriel moved his family to St. Georges Creek in New Castle County to live with the family of Brigitta Frände, widow of his brother John, the latter having moved there in 1700.

A review of the children of immigrant Lars Petersson Cock shows that three daughters married Rambo sons, and two sons married Friend daughters. This is significant as we begin the second story near the forks of the Potomac River where three Cox brothers named Gabriel, Isaac, and Friend (the same as three of Gabriel's sons) arrived at the foothills of the Maryland Allegheny Mountains in 1740.

The gap between Cox families at New Castle and those at western Maryland remains open. An important reason to justify the Cock migration westward would be to join the Friend and Rambo families already in that territory.

This last article was written by Bud Thomas, the first of three parts



Bud and Gloria  
Thomas, Bud is tje past  
President of the Cox Clan  
amd planned the reunion