
COX CLAN

NEWSLETTER



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Page 10

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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

COX FAMILY MEMBERS IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION

continued from NO. 19

Hiram Sanford Cox⁴ (Richard,³ Joseph², John¹)

Hiram taught school in Old Oxford, Henry County, Illinois. This northwestern area of the State was home to Coxes, Rues and Eppersons.

Hiram was the Oxford school teacher for several years, but moved on to Kansas, Nebraska and Missouri where he also taught. For a while he was the County Superintendent of Schools in Jewell County, Kansas.

Martha Bell Thomas, the daughter of Hiram's sister Mary Elizabeth, wrote the following:

"...Uncle Hiram Cox lived a few blocks away [in Old Oxford] and had a family of little boys.... Uncle Hiram taught school just across the block. I remember visiting the school and envying the children with their books and slates."

Mary Elizabeth Cox⁴ (Richard,³ Joseph², John¹)

Mary Elizabeth continued her rural education by attending the Female Seminary at Knox College in Galesburg, Illinois, and was teaching when she met and married William Lee Thomas who had arrived in Henry County from Coal Center, Pennsylvania.

Illustrating the demand for education by these earliest pioneers, Knox College received female students in 1841, long before Vassar College in New York State. Sometimes, colleges were established in virgin territory before settlers arrived to farm the land.

John Neil Cox⁴ (Richard,³ Joseph², John¹)

John Neil was born in Old Oxford, Henry County, Illinois. After his elementary education in the Oxford public schools, he entered Valparaiso University, Indiana. For 19 years, Professor Cox taught, and was the founder of the first high school in Warren County, at Alexis, Illinois. He then entered medical school, and finished his post graduate work at Rush Medical School, Chicago. He practiced medicine until retirement.

Eliza Cox⁴ (John,³ Joseph², John¹)

Eliza was the daughter of John W. Cox and Juliette Williamson, and was born in Lafayette, Indiana. The family moved early to Henry County, Illinois.

Eliza became the first teacher in the Alpha School District in Henry County according to an untitled booklet on the History of Henry County.

Interestingly, the railroad was won by Alpha instead of Old Oxford, about 5 miles away. In those formative years of the early west, communities offered incentives to win the railroad through their location; this often was the death knell for the others. Old Oxford has disappeared, leaving only a bronze plaque fastened to a large rock noting its former existence at the crossroads.

Lee Rue Thomas⁵ (Mary Elizabeth Cox,⁴ Richard,³ Joseph,² John¹)

Lee Rue graduated from Amity College at College Springs, Iowa. He taught in a country school until he decided to enter the ministry. He graduated from William Jewell Theological Seminary at Liberty, Missouri. Then he traveled for the *Shenandoah Post* as a writer. After two years of graduate work at Morgan Park University, he entered the ministry. As a minister, he officiated at the wedding of his brother, Augustus, and Ella May Colvin.

Augustus O. Thomas⁵ (Mary Elizabeth Cox,⁴ Richard,³ Joseph,² John¹)

Mary Elizabeth Cox and William Lee Thomas, married in Henry County, Illinois, and had four children who entered the field of education. The most prominent was Augustus O. Thomas.

From the *Epperson Book*:

Augustus Attended Amity College at College Springs [Iowa]...Although he was quick to learn, he did not care particularly about education, for he was going to be a farmer....When he came back from Nebraska, he was asked to substitute in the home school for a teacher who was ill. Thus...he discovered his peculiar genius for teaching and determined upon the profession...

He graduated from the Western Normal College at Shenandoah, and later continued schooling at Amity, earning his Ph.D.

He was principal or superintendent of schools in Cambridge, St. Paul, Minden, and Kearney, Nebraska. In 1906 he became the first President of Kearney Normal School, now the University of Nebraska at Kearney. In 1914 he was appointed State Superintendent of Instruction for Nebraska moving to Lincoln. He resigned this position to accept the appointment of Commissioner of Education for the State of Maine (1917-1929).

His interests as Commissioner were far-ranging, and he accompanied a teacher, by boat, to the families of the Lighthouse Keepers on small islands, checking on the home-schooling of the children.

At a convention of the National Education Association of the United States held in San Francisco in 1923, he founded the World Federation of Education Associations. He resigned his position in Maine, in 1929, and moved to Washington, D.C. as President of the WFEA (the title changed to Secretary General in 1931) a position he held until his death in 1935. He presided over biennial world meetings in Edinburgh, Toronto, Geneva, and Denver.

Martha Bell Thomas⁵ (Mary E. Cox,⁴ Richard,³ Joseph,² John¹)

Martha Bell taught school in Page County, Iowa, following her own advanced education at Amity College. She also taught in the Akron city schools.

After marrying Thomas Dyall, a photographer, they lived in Mt. Pleasant, Iowa. She wrote for local organizations and the newspaper. Her collection of poems titled, *My House*, was published by the Federated Women's Club of Iowa.

Hallie Elma Thomas⁵ (Mary E. Cox,⁴ Richard,³ Joseph,² John¹)

Hallie also attended Amity College in College Springs, and then taught school in Page County, Iowa.

She married James LaShum and lived in Clarinda, Iowa, and raised her family there.

Ralph LaShaum⁶ (Hallie Thomas,⁵ Mary E. Cox,⁴ Richard,³ Joseph,² John¹)

A graduate of the University of Virginia, Ralph held various positions, some in foreign lands. At one point in his career he was President of the American University in Beirut, Lebanon.

Capt. Charles Ward Thomas⁶(Charles Edward Thomas,⁵ Mary E. Cox,⁴ Richard,³ Joseph,² John¹)

Ward entered the Coast Guard as a career. In 1943, during World War II, he had attained the rank of Captain, and was in command of the Ice Breaker *Northwind*. The next year when the new *Eastwind* was launched, he took command. After the war, he was commandant of the Curtis Bay Coast Guard base near Baltimore, Maryland.

During his years of service, he studied oceanography, and with his vast experience and knowledge of ice and water, he was considered an expert in this field. He taught in Universities in Washington State, Hawaii, and Florida.

He wrote an interesting book about Greenland wartime patrols which he titled *Ice Is Where You Find It*. Rear Admiral, USN (Ret.) Richard E. Byrd wrote the Forward.

Paul Augustus Thomas⁶(Augustus Thomas,⁵ Mary E. Cox,⁴ Richard,³ Joseph,² John¹)

Paul received his education at the Kearney Normal School in Nebraska until his senior year, then the Kearney High School. He graduated from Cotner University in Bethany, Nebraska. After a brief stint in the Army during the latter days of World War I, he returned to Nebraska to teach. He then taught school in Maine, and New Hampshire. Paul completed the scholastic requirements and received a MA Degree from Columbia University in 1926, and that fall began teaching at John Harris High School in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. His abiding interest was in athletics, so he coached high school sports while teaching the physical education and hygiene classes. His last several years, to create an opening for a new football coach, he taught World History until his retirement in 1963.

Katheryne Colvin Thomas⁶(Augustus Thomas,⁵ Mary E. Cox,⁴ Richard,³ Joseph,² John¹)

Katheryne also graduated from Kearney schools. She attended Randolph Macon in Virginia, but transferred to Vassar College in New York State where she graduated in 1921. Her teaching began in Alaska, followed by a term in Japan and then the Phillipines. She continued her around the world trip, visiting India, Egypt, Palestine, England, and other European countries, arriving back in America in 1924.

Her career started and ended at the State Normal School, Buffalo, New York, which later became the Buffalo State College. Her specialty was geography. Promotions followed, until she was appointed Director of Arts and Sciences, which included all the academic departments of the college at that time.

Dr. Katheryne Whittemore wrote the textbooks *The United States* and *The United States and Canada* for Fifth Grade students.

Bud Thomas contributed this material. If you have teachers in your branch of the family, I would be glad to have an article on them.

A few years ago a Mr. Lester E. Sutton sent me a lot of information on his Cox line, which proved not to be connected to our Cox line, but included was some information on a origin of the name Cox. Which was interesting, so the following is some of what he sent.

ONE STORY ABOUT THE ORIGIN OF THE NAME COX

Some authorities suggest that the name Cox was derived from the Latin work cocus, meaning a cook. Or it could be derived from coke or cocke, meaning river or watercourse. Or it could be a synonym for little or diminutive.

One story is as follows: One of the followers of William the Conquer when he came to England from Normandy in 1066 was a Norman-French soldier named Walter de Chelworth. Apparently Walter was a diminutive but plucky fighter and reminded his comrades of a gamecock, so they nicknamed him Le Coq, which is French for "the cock" This account appears in the lineage of Walter Cokkes de Chelworth or Walter Le Cock as the name was sometimes spelled, who lived in the county of Kent in about 1250.

The name, or one of its variants appeared in nearly all of the counties in the vicinity of London and by the sixteenth century, was well known in every quarter of the Kingdom.

This is part of what Bud Thoms has written. The Story No. 2 was to long to go in this issue of this newsletter. It will be in the next newsletter.

Story No. 3
JOHN COX and HUGH CULL

A John Cox enlisted, on 20 Feb 1776, in Captain Nelson's Rifle Company of Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania. His age was given as 27 years of age, and his occupation given as farmer. He listed his home as Virginia. Why Virginia?

Despite the obstacles involved, at least four volunteer regiments were composed entirely, or in part, of western Pennsylvania settlers. Because of the still confused colonial jurisdiction, would-be soldiers had a choice of Virginia...or Pennsylvania...organizations. A few men even went to Maryland to enlist.¹⁶

Capt. Nelson's Rifle Company was ordered on 13 Mar 1776 to leave for New York to join Benedict Arnold's forces. John Cox was on a muster roll on that date. Capt. Nelson's Company became one of four Companies with a total of 110 riflemen and 300 musketeers. Arnold's army included Cox, and his future brother-in-law, Hugh Cull, the latter a private in Capt. William Rippey's Company H, 6th Pennsylvania Battalion under command of Col. William Irvine.

Hugh Cull was born of Roman Catholic parents in Havre de Grace, Maryland, in October 1759. He removed to Pennsylvania with his father when aged four. His

¹⁶ Barbara Turner William, *Peters Township Heritage*, 1976, p. 18.

residence apparently remained in that State as he enlisted a private in Capt. William Rippey's Company . His enlistment dated was 24 Jan 1776, about a month prior to John's enlistment, occurred at Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

The 6th Battalion was also assigned to Arnold's army, and they marched to New York from Carlisle on 22 Mar 1776, becoming part of the strike force preparing to invade Canada.

The American forces arrived in Canada about June of 1776. Their attack on Quebec failed, and the British routed Arnold's units at Three Rivers where Colonel Irving was captured. The army retreated to Crown Point, and then to Fort Ticonderoga on 14 Oct 1776, both on Lake Champlain, New York. Both Cull and Cox were at Fort Ticonderoga on muster roll calls on 20 Oct 1776; Cox reached the Fort a little later than Cull because Capt. Nelson's Rifle Company was assigned rear guard duty upon retreat.

Most were taken off duty in November of 1776 after the British went into winter quarters. One year enlistments were about to expire, and recruitment of replacements and re-enlistments were necessary to replenish troops for George Washington's army. Hugh Cull re-enlisted on 20 Jan 1777, probably at Camp Carlisle, Pennsylvania, where the 6th Battalion was disbanded and the 7th Regiment established in its place.

Capt. John Nelson's Company was attached to Col. Francis Johnston's 5th Regiment on 4 Mar 1777. Capt. Nelson, on 3 May 1777, sold 31 men to Col. Grier before his men arrived at Camp Carlisle. Capt. Nelson was court marshaled and cashiered on May 15th, and replaced by Capt. George Grant.¹⁷ The incident having taken place at Carlisle implies that the Rifle Company with John Cox was there also.

Throughout the war period, John Cox and Hugh Cull were attached to the same army group, John's unit attached to the 9th Regiment, and Hugh Cull in the 6th or 7th Regiments. Hugh Cull was paid and discharged at Carlisle in April of 1781. It seems probable that he went to Kentucky thereafter, and was accompanied at least by his sister Catherine. He married Rachel Meek in Henry County, Kentucky, in 1785.

John Cox mustered in Capt. John Davis' unit on 2 May 1780, but on furlough.¹⁸ His discharge date is not known, but it is safe to assume it occurred by early 1781. This makes traveling to Kentucky to visit brothers and sisters manageable time-wise. Marriage to Catherine Cull in 1782 is thereby easily accepted.

These fascinating stories are the history of pioneering America from the east coast into the east-central plains. The Cox namesakes participated in this danger, excitement, and hardship. Even though the THREE STORIES do not prove these Cox Family Groups to be genealogically connected, the thrill of early history continues to infest each one of us.

¹⁷ *Pennsylvania Archives*, Series II, Book X, p.625.

¹⁸ *Archives*, Series V, Book III, p. 445.

Obituaries

RICHARD RUE COX LINE

Gerald B. "Jerry" Cox, 77, of 500 1st St. N., died of a heart attack, Saturday, October 28, 2000, at the YMCA Community Center in Newton, Iowa.

Funeral services will be Wednesday at 11 a.m. at First Presbyterian Church in Newton with the Rev. Norm Schouten, interim pastor, officiating. Burial will be at Newton, Iowa Union Cemetery.

The son of Kenneth H. and Mary E. Sorrowfree Cox, he was born Nov. 8, 1922, in Davenport, Iowa. He graduated from Iowa City High School in 1940 and earned his bachelor of science degree in civil engineering in 1944 from the University of Iowa and his bachelor of arts degree in architecture in 1949 from the University of Illinois. He married Bette R. Towner May 27, 1950 in Iowa City.

A former resident of Marshalltown and Bettendorf, Mr. Cox moved to Newton in 1997. He owned and operated a private practice in architecture from 1952 to 1977, in Bettendorf and was a staff architect for R.D. Stewart, Inc. from 1977 to 1989 in Marshalltown before retiring in 1989. Mr. Cox was a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Newton, Newton Noon Rotary, Project AWAKE Board, Iowa Arboretum Board of Directors, American Institute of Architects for 40 years, Elks Lodge No. 312, Republican Party of Iowa, Chi Epsilon for Civil Engineering, Tau Beta Pi for Engineering and Gargoyle for Architecture. He was past president of the Bettendorf Chamber of Commerce, he received the Societe des Architectes Diplomes par le Gouvernement Francals' Silver Medal; and was a veteran of the United States Army, serving as combat engineer in Europe during World War II.

Survivors include his wife, a son, Arthur Towner Cox of Cedar Falls; two daughters, Susan Stafford Graf of Butler, Pa, and Ann Vincent Correll of Loveland, Ohio; and 12 grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers.

JERRY organized the Cox Family Reunion in 1991 at Richmond, Indiana and again in 1995 in Rock Island, Illinois.

SARAH CATHERINE COX KIRBY LINE

Mary Alice Appleby Gieszl was born Nov. 21, 1913 in Mesa, Arizona, daughter of James F. Appleby, Sr. and Lulu May Vanderwalker. Died April 17, 2000 in Modesto, CA. She married Carl Gieszl on January 10, 1940 in Tempe, Arizona. Mary lived in Mesa, Arizona until 1942 when she moved with her husband to whatever locations the U.S. Navy assigned him. She resided in Los Altos, Ca from 1954 through 1999. She moved to Modesto, CA and lived with a daughter's family until her death.

She was an active member of the First Presbyterian Church of Mountain View for 45 years--serving as deacon, Sunday School teacher, Women's Association officer, Circle leader and Youth Group supporter, throughout this time.

She is survived by her daughters: Sally Giezl Dale of McKinleyville, CA; Carlene Gieszl DuAmarell of Modesto, CA; and Betty Giezel Fleming of Daly City, CA. brother James Frederick Appleby of Las Cruces, N.M.; 6 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

She was pre-deceased by her husband Carl R. Gieszl, her son Robert Duane Gieszl; a brother William Appleby; and sister Lulu May Appleby Smith.

JESSE COX line

LOIS M. Henning, 79, Rock Island, Illinois, died Tuesday, June 27, 2000 in Manor Care Health Services, Davenport, Iowa.

Services are 10 a.m. Friday at Gibson Funeral Home, Port Byron. Burial will be in National Cemetery, Rock Island, Illinois.

The former Lois M. Dillin was born Aug. 19, 1920 in Hillisdale, the daughter of Jesse and Grace David Dillin. She married Michael Henning August 19, 1942 in Davenport, Iowa.

She had been a beautician operating her own shops in Port Byron and Davenport. She had also been employed for the City of Rock Island Police Department retiring in 1988.

She was a member of St. James Lutheran Church, the American Business Women Association and AARP.

Survivors include a daughter, Judith Verfaillie, Rock Island; a son and daughter-in-law Steven Henning and Patricia Talley, Davenport; grandchildren Scott Verfaillie, Dia Rini and Brent Henning; and five great-grandchildren.

MARY COX FREELAND line

Jesse Andrew Freeland, 88, died of natural causes Saturday, Sept. 23, 2000, at Cooney Convalescent Home, Jesse was born April 29, 1912 at Burwell, NE, on the family homestead to Truman and Ida (Rasmussen) Freeland.

Jesse and Milred Davis were married in 1934 in Burwell, NE. That marriage ended in divorce. He later married Ellen Bates in Burwell, Ne. Both wives preceded him in death.

Jesse was a carpenter in the Bozeman area for many years. After retirement, Jesse and Ellen moved to Clancy, Montana where he enjoyed his yard, flowers, fishing and watching the wildlife.

In addition to his two wives, Jesse was preceded in death by his parents, brother Elmer, great-granddaughter Cathy; and two sons-in-law George Lee and Lou Arnold.

He is survived by daughter Jacqueline Lee of Helena, MT, grandchildren, great-grandchildren; step-daughter and step-son Murleen Arnold and Walter Bates and thier families; numerous cousins, nephews and nieces. Family members from the States and Canada.

A graveside service will be held at Sunset Memorial Gardens in Bozeman, Sept. 26, 2000.

In all the years of publishing this newsletter, Jesse has been the only great-grandchild of Joseph and Mary Cox that I knew of in my list of addresses.

Please keep the family news coming, I can always use it.