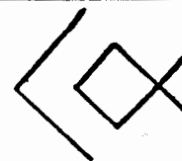


# COX CLAN

## NEWSLETTER



May 2002 Editor--Mrs. Ruth Anna Hicks  
# 22 6703 Holdrege St., Lincoln, Ne 68505

### 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

I was given the following article by Eleanor Vanderwalker Antes sometime in the 1980's. She was a descendant of Sarah Catherine Cox Kirby.

Sarah Cox married Samuel Kirby in 1848 in Illinois. She was the youngest child of the ten children of Joseph and Mary Rue Cox.

Sarah and Samuel left Illinois in 1855 to start westward. By 1870 they were in Humboldt County, CA.

Mary Josephine Kirby was thier third child. She married George Vanderwalker in 1877 and died in Mesa, AZ in 1931.

Mary and George had a son Charles A. Vanderwalker. Only child of Charles was Eleanor Vanderwalker Antes, born in 1918 in Alliance, NE and died 14 April 1991 in Athens, TX  
The following is as Eleanor Antes wrote it.

### WAGONS EAST TO ARIZONA

by Eleanor Vanderwalker Antes

Picture a little girl, an only child, isolated on a dry land farm in western Nebraska, tagging along while her "Daddy" did the chores. "Tell me about when you were a little boy in Arizona," she begged. "Did you have fun with your brothers and sister? Were you afraid of the Indians?"

"That's too such sugar for a penny," kindly stalled the father, as he thought back to the years before an attractive school teacher from Nebraska had boarded at his mother's house in Laveen, and enticed him away from family and home.

He thought back to his earliest memories of Cochise County, and the mountainous, rock land near Dos Cabezas, where he was born January 7, 1885; back to an invincible but loving pioneer mother, rearing her children (five boys and one girl) in the midst of the lonely, wild, and Indian occupied frontier. His father was a cattleman, prospector, and, finally, a sheepman, spending little time overseeing the family home.

"Daddy's mother, Mary, born in northern California twenty-five years earlier, and her thirty-year old husband, George, born in Oregon after his parents had come over the Oregon Trail in 1847, decided to migrate to Dos Cabezas, Arizona Territory. They arrived New Year's eve, 1881, with a team and wagon and a herd of cattle, accompanied by three young sons and a sixty-one year old father-in-law, after having lain over in San Bernardino, at the home of a relative, while they waited for cooler winter weather to cross the desert.

"Daddy's" stories are partially forgotten, but now precious letters from New Jersey, Illinois, Oregon, Washington, California, and Arizona tell the story of how they had come to such a remote corner of Arizona, carried along with the restless stream of settlers who were pushing on to unknown lands, searching for a better life, and often, rainbow fortunes, in the so-called "Last Frontier".

These letters begin with George's sister and family starting the difficult trek from Humboldt County, northern California, to the then Pima County, Arizona.

Mary Smith and husband Perry left Humboldt County late in 1877, writing back in January, 1878, from Ventura County: "I am very well satisfied with the change I made. In fact, I think a man can go anywhere and beat Humboldt for farming. Stock of all kinds is low and money scarce like elsewhere. Van, I would like to have you come down."

Still from Ventura County in 1879 they write: "It is fearful lonely here. Oh, we be so glad to have you come. The chance is good here, rent low, so is the land, and as pretty a country as anyone looked at."

The next letter, dated May, 1880, from Los Angeles County, states: "The children think it strange that you are so long coming.

"If you have a wagon and four or six horses, I would say to you, come by land, as you can do little or nothing here without a team.

"From San Francisco you can come by emigrant train in two days to San Fernando for twelve dollars each. When you get there, I will meet you with my balloon."

But their "balloon" was tugging at its ropes again, and the next letter, dated February, 1881, comes from Dos Cabezas, Pima County, Arizona: "Our balloon has landed in Arizona. We have come out here and taken a ranch. It is a goo stalk country as ever you saw; wood and water a scarceaty. You have to haul wood three and four miles where we have stopped, and go 24 miles for lumber. Have to dig for water. There is a vallie here about one hundred miles long, about 40 wide, and only a few settlers here.

"The mountains are all mineral of various kins. There is a mining camp in three miles of here. They are taking plenty of quartz and have a mill grinding. There is a new camp just started lately.

"Perry sayd to tell you that he had located a ranch for you if you wnat it and sayd to let me know and come and take a look at it.

"If you ever come, for God sake, come by rail from Frisco, for you will have about 500 miles of desert to come over. Stalk is about as cheap as in California. If you come by rail, come third class and take your ticket for Willcox, Arazona. That is the cheapest way to come and much the quickest."

"Dos Cabezas, Arazona, March the 4th, 1881: Perry was surprised and glad to hear that you was sold out and a coming down, for we think that there is splendid chances here. This is a new country in here. There is only miners and a few stalk men here. This is, I think, the nicest country that I have seen since I left Oregon.

"George, you sayd if if ranch that we had located for you was a good one, to held on to it. Well, we have a falf a dozen picked on for ourselves and as many for you. We do not know which we will take yet. We are sinking a well in the valley to be near the school. There is no knowing whether there is watter in the valley or not, as no one had ever dug there.

"it is beautiful land and will make fine farms if there is rain enough to make grain grow. The people here say that there is, and we think so too, We are going to try it. Anyway, there had never been any gardening done here nor no grain. If grain will grow, there can be money made here this year.

"The grass is all dry now and there is men a making hay now. That is all now. That is all the kind they have here is the wild hay, and it is \$30 per ton. Barley, three collars her hundred, flour \$12.50 a barrel, labor \$9 to \$4 per day. There is plenty of watter in the hills and cattle is fat cows

with young calves.

"In good order, you wanted to know how long it will take you to come down here. It will take about ten weeks. It took us just four weeks from Los Angeles. Here we had eight horses and the one we got from you was as small as any we had bit to. They was smaller and they was all fat when we left Los Angeles, and when we got here, they was as poor as crows. There is no feed to be had after one leaves San Bernardino, only what you have. There is grain to be had at Fort Uma 2 and 3 cents a pound.

"Bring all the garden seeds that you can get, and all kinds."

"Cochise Co., Arizona, Dos Cabezas, 1881: Dear Brother, Received your letters this evening. They found us all well, so far as I know. Perry and Arthur are a cutting had about 18 or 20 miles from home. They are a cutting now for the government.

"Now George, about your team, if you can charter a car and come right through, you can make money hauling, but if you come by land, your team will be so run down that it will not be able to do any thing.

"If you come by rail, your teams are in good condition for to work. If you can, stick to your mares. If you come by rail, you will make in one month double what it will cost to come.

"As to the Indians and cow boys, pay no attention. A little stink make a big one by the time it gets that far.

"There has been no trouble with the Indians less than 240 miles. The cow boys teach people how to take care of their horses.

"We live 108 miles from Tucson, 15 from Millcox. That is our nearest railroad depot."

In the meantime Mary's mother and father left Humboldt County, California, and wrote: "Porterville, October 10, 1881: We left home on the 27th of August. Arrived at Tulare City September 27. Remained there until October 1. The people that we traveled with persuaded them to stop as the Indians were reported hostile. and this is a good place. Work is plenty and wages good. I was a little disappointed in not going through, but now I am satisfied that this is a good place. They can rent, buy, or take up land. I wish George had located in this country this winter, at least, until the Indians are all taken care of. Do not go in there this fall."

"Porterville, January 20, 1882: Dear Children, We were so glad to hear that you all got through all right. The boys have in a big crop, and lo, there is no rain but day and clear, so that they will have to work another year before we can go any farther, as they have invested all here, and this is one of their dry seasons."

From Mary's oldest sister in Franklin, Oregon, February 12th 1882: "Dear Sister: I received your letter two weeks ago and was glad to hear that you have landed safely at your journey's end. You said that you got there New Year's eve, so you begin the first day of the New Year to build up a new home. Hope that you will find plenty of water in your well and plenty of gold in your mining claim, so you will have plenty of money and some to spare.

"Well, Mary, I have just lots of questions to ask you for ourselves and some for other people who are greatly interested in your letter.

"First, if there is lots of land to be taken yet, any good bottom or valley land that can be taken and farmed. If you can raise grain of all kinds, if there is much stock, if there is any sheep, if horses is a good price.

"What we want is to find some place where we can take up a home and keep a few stock of all kinds, sheep, cattle, hogs, and horses, and make a good home of it in a good, healthy place; for we are tired of this and will start out before many more months and will come that direction."

One letter from Laura Patton, with whom Mary and George stayed in San Bernardino, waiting to start to Arizona, was dated January 29th, 1882: "How glad I am to hear from you. Glad to hear that you are well and sorry to hear that you have the blues. How I wish that I could put my arms around you and give you a good hard squeeze; and then I think you would feel better, and know I would. How lonely the old adobe is without you. We sent your things to you about 12 days ago and sent you the receipt by express.

"Write soon and let us know if you got the things all right. I hope you will have a pleasant home; all the harm I wish you is that I was your neighbor. Don't work too hard."

Since we do not have Mary's account of her experiences, we can only guess, from letters to Mary and George, about the tribulations of their trip.

A letter from Mary's mother early in 1882 states: "Now you wanted to know how we heard that Sammy was lost. The young man that went part of the way told Will Knight that one of the boys was lost on the desert. Will wrote to us to know which one it was and more of the particulars."

Note: Sammy was T. S. Partin, nine years old, and George's stepson. He became separated from his parents' wagon as they were following the trail east along the Southern Pacific tracks. He continued to follow the rails, and the train picked him up, catching him up with his parents' wagon again.

A verbal family account tells how the family stopped overnight with their wagon and stock at a cabin near Benson. The husband told George that Indian raiders frequently ran off stock, and that he had better put his livestock in a corral near the house. George replied that he was going to turn them loose. That way, only he could round them up. In the night the Indians did come and steal the host's stock out of the corral, but George was able to track down his horses and cattle, and proceed on his way.

Experiences after arriving in Dos Cabezas are reflected in questions from Mary's school-teacher cousin from Hackensack, New Jersey. "August 25, 1882: What a long journey you had. Weren't you afraid of the Indians? I am glad you found a good country, but isn't it lonesome?"

"You speak of having nine nice cows. I wish we could have some of the milk they give and a portion of the butter you make.

"Is cousin George carting quartz to the mill yet?"

"Hackensack, July 4, 1883: Your last letter was mailed on June 21 and we received it with pleasure on June 27, only six days in coming. It had been so long since you wrote last October that I began to fear something had happened. Perhaps the Indians were troubling you.

"How many cows have you? Also, chickens? Is cousin George farming, you say he has not hauled any ore since December?"

"Hackensack, October 3, 1883: Dear Cousin, I am glad you have so many cows and chickens and think they have paid you nicely.

"Is business any better than when you wrote?"

"Aren't you lonesome with so few people around you, and do you ever see any Indians? I think I would be afraid of them.

"There must be some satisfaction in mowing such grass as cousin speaks of. The Sulphur Spring must indeed be large to supply such a vast number of cattle with water."

Meanwhile Mary had another cousin, a businessman in Los Angeles, who apparently was a great help financially to his emigrant relatives.

"Los Angeles, November 25, 1882: Dear Cousin George, I went to see Luitwieler today about the wagon. Enclosed I send his card with price, if 3½ inch and 4 inch Steel Skein gears without bed. The freight is so high he thought you would not want rack bed. The 3½ inch is warranted to carry 50 hundred. The

4 inch is warranted to carry 60 hundred on them. It has a 3 1/2 inch tire, the 3 1/2 inch has a 3 inch tire. I think they are the best wagon on this market. The freight on the gear to Willcox will be \$31 and about \$8 more for rack bed."

"Pasadena, September 16, 1883: I am not posted on the price of cattle here. I know that milk cows are high. They sell from 50 to 75 dollars per head.

"It is too bad we did not get our cattle last spring. I suppose we will have to do the best we can now. I will have about twenty-five hundred dollars to send you."

Meanwhile, George, who was considered a small rancher in comparison to neighbors like Brannock Riggs, J. H. Shattuck, H.C. Hooker and the Munk brothers, bought cattle wherever he could. A letter addressed to his wife and family from Snow Flake, November 13, 1883, writes:

"it is with plesure I take amy pencil to drop you a fiew lines to let you know that I am well, and that is all I can say, for I am nearly froze to death, and have ben ever since I left the Gula river. The road has ben very rough and rockey. So far it has ben the poorest and disolute counry that I ever saw. We will have no show to buy here, for there is some parties ahead of us that has baught every thing up in this cuntry. They are just Giting ready to leave. They start there cattle in the morning, so we will start for Saint John in the morning. There is a band of cattle on the road from Utaw for sale. They have twelve hundred head."

"Pasadena, California, February 3, 1884: Dear Cousin George: I have been making some enquiry about stock cattle in this state, and it appears to be the opinion of everyone that we had better buy out there. Yearlings are worth from 17 to 20 dollars and two year olds cannot be bought for less that 40 to 50 dollars per head here."

"Pasadena, November 19th, 1885: I have been trying our Pasadena butchers and they are very anxious to get the steers, but will offer only seven cents. i think it would be better to ship them at that, then to sell out there at 5 1/2. The fright should not amount to more than 1/2 cent and the shrinkage probably 1/2 cent."

According to Southwestern Town, by Vernon Schultz, men from all over the United States and foreign countries settled Sulphur Spring Valley in 1883 and 84. By 1885, the range was heavily overgrazed and remaining grass was destroyed by a severe drought that summer. At the same time the market dropped from 30 to 35 dollars a head to less then 10 each. Following years varied from heavy rainfall to drought, with cattle reading a peak in 1891. But by 1892 to railroad offered special rates in September and October to ship stock to California, Texas, Indian Territory, Oregon, and Montana to rented pasture. Even so, 50 to 75 per cent of the herds were lost.

By September 19, 1887, the cousin from Pasadena was writing: "We have been out looking among the sheep ranches, and find a few bucks for sale at prices ranging form \$5 to \$15. I succeeded in getting 21 (the number you wanted) for \$7.50 per head, and will ship tomorrow night. They are very fine, well bred Spanish Marenos."

Cousin Ida, from Hackensack, wrote July 5, 1893; "What a large piece of the world you must have! It must be necessary to held so many sheep.

"I said to Anty, 'I wonder where the market is for the wool. i can't imagine howvast a quantity 9000 pounds must be."

Thus, a Cochise County immigrant made the transition from teamster to rancher, to sheep raiser, until he moved his family to Tempe in 1903, for advanced schooling for his daughter, but continuing to move his flocks from the Winslow area in the summer to paradise Valley in the winter.

Am sorry this issue is so late in getting mailed, but I had some health problems earlier, but am OK now.

I could really use more Cox stories, as I am very short of material for the newsletter. Am not use how much longer I will be able to publish.

Also the Post Office has changed some of their policies, namely they do not sent me back change of address free, now I have to pay and thats 30 cents every-time and usually at least 20 to 35 changes of address occur. I sent out around 340 to 350 newsletters each mailing. And with the postage going up that is getting quite expensive. This issue the postage will cost at least \$118.00

#### Births on the John Washington Cox line

Haley Freeman born 8 April 2001. Daughter of Chris Freeman and Anne. Great granddaughter of Doris Freeman, granddaughter of Lyndle Freeman.

Chancellor Carr Roach born 18 July 2001 to Ann Marie and Nick Roach in Phoenix, Arizona. Great grandparents are Bobby and Jack Logan, Grandfather is John Logan

Arnold Goreth of Rock Island, Illinois send this obituary.

### **Arnold Cox**

Arnold D. Cox, 88, of Port Byron, died Thursday, April 11, 2002, at Illini Hospital, Silvis.



Services will be 1:30 p.m. Sunday at Church of the Cross, Port Byron, where he was a member. Burial will be in Zuma Cemetery, Port Byron. Visitation will be 4 to 7 p.m. today at Gibson Funeral Home, Port Byron. Memorials may be made to the church or to Hubbard's.

Mr. Cox was born Nov. 9, 1913, in Zuma Township, the son of Percy and Nellie Ingram Cox. He married Aletha Ashdown April 21, 1944, in Zuma Township. She died Sept. 25, 1991.

He had been a farmer in Zuma Township. Arnold enjoyed farming and especially enjoyed being with his family. He was a member of the Rock Island County Farm Bureau.

Survivors include his sons and daughters-in-law, the Rev. Kenneth and Judith Cox, Vandalia, Ill., and Arlan and Debbie Cox, Port Byron; grandchildren, Brenda Drake, Craig, Brandi and Darrin Cox; three great-grandchildren; and a sister, Doris Zabilka, Montpelier, Vt.