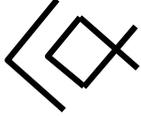


# COX CLAN



## NEWSLETTER

May 2011; Issue No. 40 Founder: Ruth Anna Hicks Editor: Bill Utermohlen, 1916 Windsor Rd, Alexandria VA 22307  
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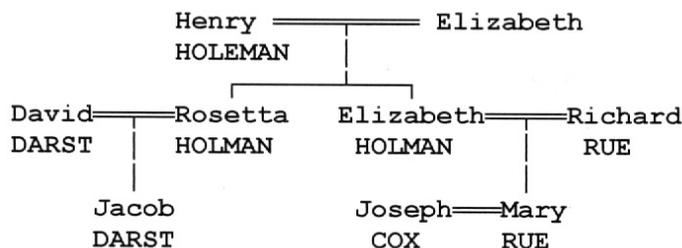
### JACOB DARST: DEFENDER OF THE ALAMO

(Third in an occasional series about sort-of-famous people to whom we are more-or-less related)

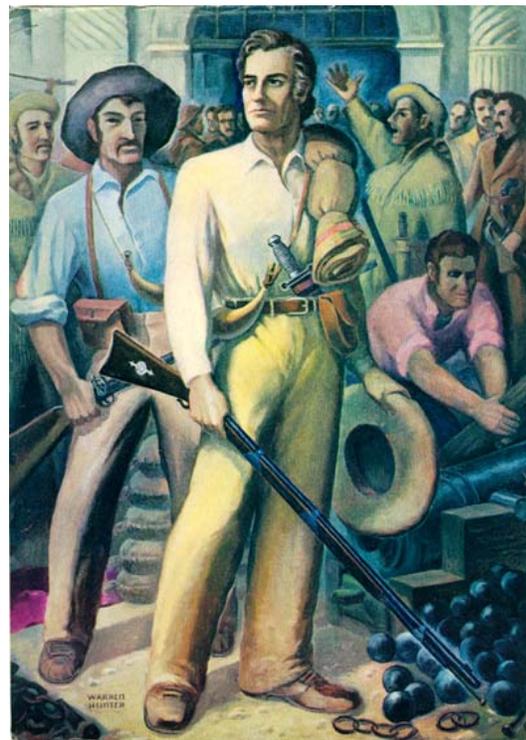
Jacob C. Darst was born on December 22, 1793 in Woodford County, Kentucky, a son of David Darst and his wife, the former Rosetta Holman. When Jacob was about five years old, the family left Kentucky and took up a Spanish land grant about 35 miles west of St. Louis, Missouri (in the Femme Osage district in what is now southwestern St. Charles County, near the town of Defiance). The land was in the rich bottom on the north bank of the Missouri River in an area now known as Darst's Bottom.

The area around the confluence of the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers had long been dominated by the French, who founded St. Louis in 1763. From 1768, however, it was governed by the Spanish. The population grew very slowly under the French and Spanish. By 1800, St. Louis itself held about 1000 people. In 1795, the Spanish government adopted a policy of encouraging American settlement to serve as a buffer against British incursions from Canada. One of the first to take advantage of this policy was Daniel Morgan Boone, son of the famous Daniel Boone, who obtained a Spanish land grant in 1797 and settled along Femme Osage creek. David Darst obtained grant no. 18 in 1798 and settled very near the Boones. Daniel Boone, the patriarch, came to the area in 1799, fleeing land title disputes and poor hunting in Kentucky. While the Spanish government officially did not permit non-Catholics to settle in Missouri, in practice a settler's promise to raise his children as Catholics was sufficient—a promise that need not actually be kept.

Jacob Darst grew up in Darst's Bottom, helping his father on the farm, hunting deer, fox and wolves, trapping beaver, otter, mink and muskrat. Living on the bank of the Missouri was an exciting place for a boy. The Missouri drained much of the West, all the way to the Rocky Mountains, and many colorful characters used it as a highway, including French traders, mountain men and Indians. In the spring, the Missouri became what T.S. Eliot, who was born in St. Louis, called "a strong brown god—sullen, untamed, and intractable." Floods of the bottom land were common.



The Cox-Holman-Darst Relationship



In 1800, the Spanish transferred Missouri back to the French and, in 1803, the United States acquired the area as part of the Louisiana Purchase. The next year, Jacob probably met Lewis and Clark and their party, who stayed overnight in the area at the beginning of their expedition to explore the new territory. In 1813, at the age of 19, Jacob married Elizabeth Bryan, a cousin of Daniel Boone's wife. By 1817, when a census was taken, they had two young daughters. Elizabeth died by about 1820, when Jacob married a second time, to Margaret C. Hughes.

Tammesage Township.		White Females		Free-born and Black people		Slaves	
Names of free White Males Over 21 Years	Age of free Males of 5 Years and upwards	Of 15 and upwards of 5 Years	Under 15 Years	Of 15 Years and upwards	Males	Females	Of 15 Years and upwards
Jacob C Darst	1	1	2				
David Madloch	2	1	2				
John B Callaway	1	1	2				
Daniel Hoops	1	1	2				
Nathan Boone	1	4	3			3	
David Boone	1						
Jonathan Bryan	1	2	2				

David Darst died in December 1826. At the estate sale the following spring, Jacob Darst bought farming and household items: 3 plows, an adze, a frying pan, basins, spoons and forks, a razor and strop, a saw, barrels and a small keg. In 1828, Jacob bought 3 slaves from his father's estate for \$750.

Meanwhile, events that were to affect Jacob's life had been taking place in Mexico. After a long struggle, Mexico obtained its independence from Spain in 1821. In 1824, a Constitution was adopted providing for a government on a federal basis, with much power reserved for the diverse states of the new country. The Roman Catholic faith was made the national religion and all others were prohibited. Slavery was formally abolished in 1829.

The northeastern Mexican state was Coahuila y Tejas, which combined two former provinces. The new state capitol was placed at Saltillo, some 500

miles from San Antonio de Bexar (present San Antonio), capitol of the old Texan province. Also in 1824, a colonization law was passed that encouraged settlement in Texas, in order to provide protection from Indian raids. At that time, only about 3,500 non-Indians lived in Texas. New settlers were to receive one league of land (4,438 acres). Stephen F. Austin had been the first to bring American settlers to Texas, in 1822, and more soon followed under the encouragement of the new law. One of the most prominent of the new settlements was the DeWitt Colony, centered on Gonzalez, about 65 miles east of San Antonio.

In 1830, Jacob Darst left Missouri for Texas. He arrived in DeWitt's Colony on January 10, 1831 with a family of four (his daughter Rosetta had remained behind in Missouri). By April, he had registered for 24 labors of land on the Guadalupe River, above Gonzalez, and also one labor of land on a small creek that empties into the Lavaca River. His home on the larger tract was located on a creek that flows seven miles to the Guadalupe River, known as Darst's Creek, which later gave its name to a large oil field discovered in 1929.

About the same time Jacob Darst decided to move to Mexico, things started to deteriorate for the American settlers there. New immigration was prohibited in 1830, although DeWitt's Colony obtained a temporary exemption. The ten-year exemption on property taxes was also revoked and customs duties on imports from the United States were raised. On April 15, 1831, DeWitt's contract with the government expired and he was unable to obtain a new one. By that time, he had recruited a total of 166 families, spread over all or parts of four present counties. The settlers had been able to negotiate peace treaties with the Karankawa and Tonkawa, but were unable to reach any accommodation with the Comanche. Due to the ongoing Indian raids, the Mexican government provided them with a small cannon in 1830. There was ongoing conflict with the Mexican authorities over slavery, most of the settlers having come from Southern states and many having brought slaves with them. As slavery was illegal, the settlers deemed the former slaves to be indentured servants for life, a distinction without a difference. Many of the settlers wanted Coahuila and Tejas to be separate states. Things started to come to a head in 1834 to 1835, when the new Mexican President, Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, abolished the Constitution of 1824 and its

federal system in favor of a more centralized government. Stephen Austin, who went to Mexico City to present the Texan request for a separate state, was imprisoned.

In the face of increasing discontent, Santa Anna sent additional troops to Texas. The local commander in San Antonio sent 100 dragoons to retrieve the cannon in Gonzalez. On September 29, 1835, when the dragoons reached the Guadalupe River (just west of Gonzalez), only 18 men opposed them. However, the river was swollen by rains and the men had removed all the boats, preventing the dragoons from crossing. Jacob Darst was one of these men, who have come to be known as the "Old Eighteen." They stalled the dragoons until more militia could gather at Gonzalez. On October 2, the Texan forces attacked the dragoons. Two of the dragoons were killed before they withdrew. This was the outbreak of the Texan Revolution, which was commemorated in the "Come and Take It" flag, featuring the Gonzalez cannon.



On October 13, the Texan army left Gonzalez for San Antonio, where they began a siege of the town. The Mexican troops there eventually surrendered on December 9 and the Texans occupied their last defensive position, the Alamo Mission, a rectangular walled compound with a mission church located adjacent to one corner. Meanwhile, Santa Anna had relinquished his Presidential duties to assume command of an expeditionary army to quell the rebellion. In late December 1835, about 6,000 soldiers marched from the Mexican town of San Luis Potosi toward Texas. They moved slowly, crossing the Rio Grande on February 12, 1836.

The Texans discovered that Santa Anna was coming and tried to reinforce the remaining force of about 120 men in San Antonio. However, reinforcements were slow in coming. By mid-February, only 150 men were present, including William Barret Travis and James Bowie, who assumed joint command. Also present was Davy Crockett, a volunteer who arrived early in February. The front elements of a Mexican Army column of 1500 men came in sight on February 23. Travis gave the order to concentrate at the Alamo and penned a quick note:

"The enemy in large force is in sight. We want men and provisions. Send them to us. We have 150 men and are determined to defend the Alamo to the last. Give us assistance."

The note was given to a rider for Gonzalez, the nearest settlement. The Mexican Army, once it occupied the town of San Antonio, raised a red flag indicating no quarter would be given.

Jacob Darst was at Gonzalez when Travis's message arrived. He was then 42, with a wife and children to support. However, he joined the party of 32 mounted rangers organized to assist the men in the Alamo. About 3 a.m. on March 1, the men from Gonzalez snuck into the Alamo in the wake of a thunderstorm that drove the temperature down to 33°, evading the Mexican cavalry patrols.

The situation inside the compound was bad. Bowie was deathly ill with typhoid. The defenders were surrounded by a much larger force, the Mexicans had begun a bombardment, and the Alamo's cannon ammunition was limited and of poor quality. Worse yet, the men from Gonzalez were the only reinforcements to arrive.

At 5:30 am on March 6—about an hour before sunrise—the attack came. The Texans, exhausted by the strain of the 12 days of siege, were caught by surprise. Attacked from all sides, the fight did not take long. Once the Mexican soldiers got over the wall, they seized the cannon in the courtyard and blasted out the men that had retreated into the rooms along the inside of the wall. When the situation became hopeless, about a third of the Texans managed to get over the walls, but were ridden down by lancers waiting outside to prevent escape. All the defenders were dead by the time the sun came up. They had fought hard: Mexican casualties were about 500.

There were further disasters to come, as the three parts of Santa Anna's army drove the Texans before them. However, on April 20, 1836, about 900 Texans unexpectedly routed a Mexican force of 1,200 in the Battle of San Jacinto, capturing Santa Anna, who was forced to sign a treaty recognizing Texan Independence.

**Bibliography:** Wikipedia; [www.tamu.edu/faculty/ccbn/dewitt/oldgonzales18.htm](http://www.tamu.edu/faculty/ccbn/dewitt/oldgonzales18.htm); Sanford Charles Gladden, *The Durst and Darst Families of America* (1969); Robert Morgan, *Boone: A Biography* (2008); William C. Davis, *Three Roads to the Alamo* (1998). An historical novel with good reviews on Amazon.com is Stephen Harrigan's *The Gates of the Alamo*

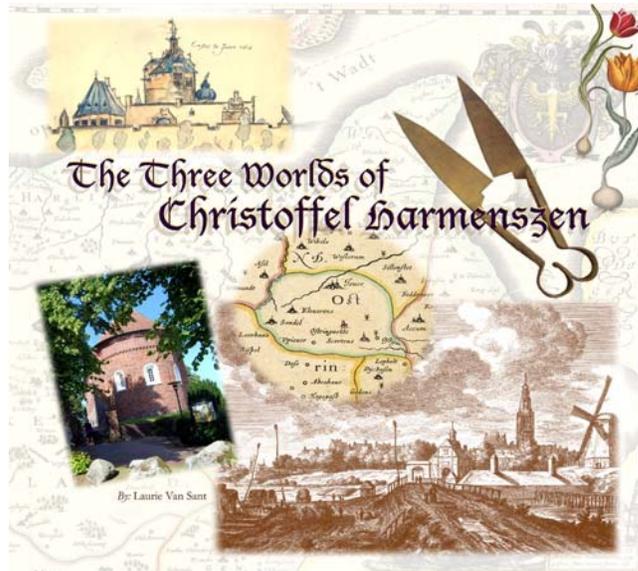
## THE THREE WORLDS OF CHRISTOFFEL HARMENSZEN: A Colorful New Book on the Ancestor of the Vansant Family

Laurie Van Sant, editor of *The Van Zandt Record* newsletter, has produced a wonderful book on Christoffel Harmenszen, immigrant ancestor of the Vansant family. Mary Rue, wife of Joseph Cox, was doubly descended from that family (see chart opposite), making all of her many descendants also Vansant descendants.

While Garret Stoffelszen Vansant, who settled in Bucks County, Pennsylvania by 1698, was long thought to be the immigrant ancestor of the Vansants, Barbara Barth showed in 1996 that he came to New Amsterdam in 1652 as a child, with his father Christoffel Harmenszen and his stepmother Tryntje Claes.<sup>1</sup>

Records of Christoffel's two marriages in Amsterdam gave his origin as Kleverins or Jever, two towns in Ostfriesland, the part of Germany lying just to the east of the present Netherlands. Thus, the "Three Worlds" that Laurie Van Sant explores are Ostfriesland, Amsterdam and New Amsterdam.

Laurie traveled to Amsterdam and Ostfriesland with her husband and daughter in the summer of 2009. Her background as freelance book publisher, photographer and illustrator contributed greatly to the resulting hardbound book, which is completely in color and full of photographs, maps and old images of the places discussed. The 12" by 12" format allows ample room to accommodate both text and relevant illustrations on the same page. Laurie does an excellent job of taking what is known of Christoffel's life and placing it in the context of the places and times in which he lived.



Both the Dutch and Frisians used a patronymic system, having no surnames that were passed between generations. Rather, a child's second name referred to their father's name. Thus, Garret Stoffelszen, meant "Garret, Stoffel's (or Christoffel's) son." After the English seized New Amsterdam in 1664 (renaming it New York), families gradually began to use surnames, after the English custom. Surnames became fixed at different times in different families. Garret Stoffelszen is not recorded as using the name "Vansand" (meaning "from Sand") until 1698. However, it may have referred to his father's birthplace in Ostfriesland. While Cleverens is located a number of miles from the coast, Laurie has identified several places nearby with "Sand" in their name.

Christoffel Harmenszen is first of record in Amsterdam on June 13m 1643, when his intention to marry Moeder Gerrits, Garret's mother, was recorded. He was described as a *droogscheerdersgesel*, a journeyman cloth shearer, meaning someone who cut the burls (knots or lumps) from rough cloth. He was then age 25 and his status as a journeyman suggests that he had been in Amsterdam some time, learning his trade. Laurie has used the streets where Christoffel lived to recreate his life in Amsterdam, where he was a contemporary of Rembrandt.

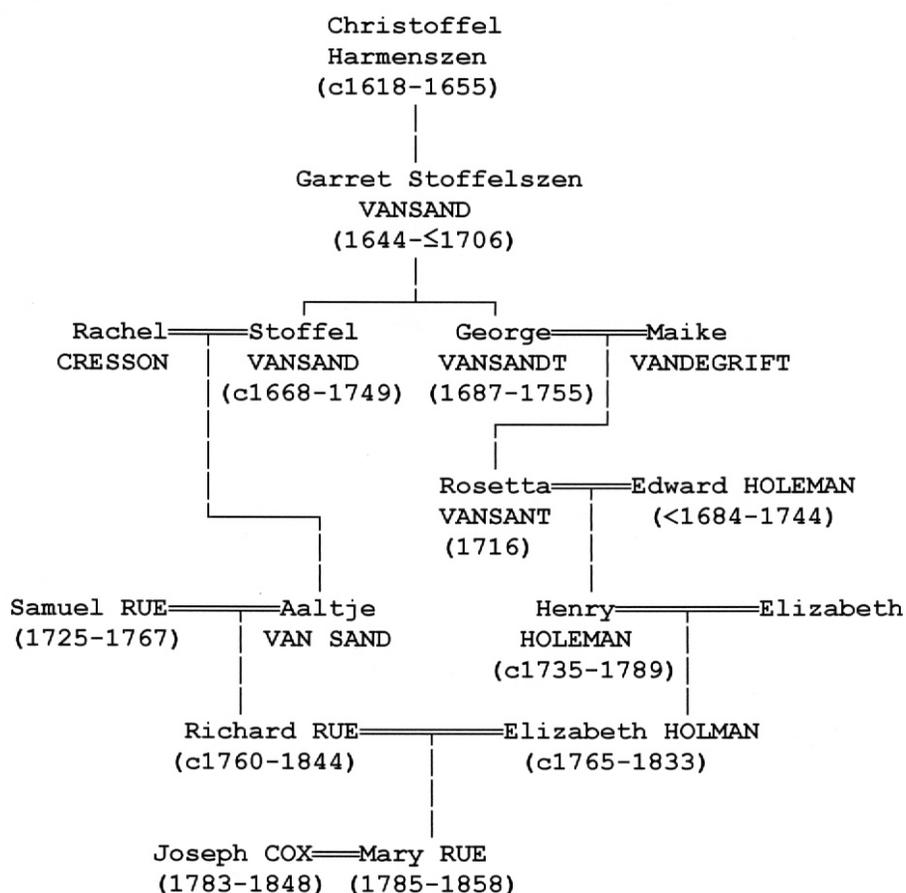
On April 16, 1652, Christoffel, Tryntje and even Gerrit (age 8) agreed to work for three years for Cornelis de Potter of Manhattan in New Netherland, for 200 carolus guilders per year and free room and board. Unfortunately, Christoffel was killed in 1655 in the Indian attack on New Netherland, probably at Potter's farm near Brooklyn, across the river from New Amsterdam. Two years later, the Orphanmasters appointed Johannes Nevius and Jacques Cortelyou to take the inventory of Christoffel's property to secure half of it for Garret.

Laurie Van Sant's 44-page book is available for \$70, plus \$12 shipping, from Laurie Van Sant, 66 Martin Lane, Mercerville, NJ 08619-1170. An order form is at: [http://vanzantsociety.com/PDFs/order\\_book.pdf](http://vanzantsociety.com/PDFs/order_book.pdf)

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1 Barbara A. Barth, *The Van Sant Family of New Utrecht and Bucks County, Pennsylvania*, NYGBR 127:129 (1996).

## Mary Rue's Descent From the Vansant Family



**Family Updates** (readers are encouraged to send me more family news):

**Zelma M. (Strader) Root** (CB#242ii), of Dayton, d. 3 Aug 1998, Huber Heights, Montgomery Co, OH, age 87  
**Hugh B. Avis** (CB#175ii), of Denver, d. 30 Jan 2008, age 85, wf Elaine d. prev. [*Rocky Mtn News*, 2 Feb 2008]  
**Arnold L. Donaldson**, d. 12 Jun 2010, Westland, MI, age 97, husband of Cornelia (Cox) Donaldson  
**Steven Burke**, d. 12 Mar 2011, age 30, husband of Willow (Cox) Burke

### **Barbara Jo Dickey** (Cox Book #868, Sarah (Cox) Kirby family)

Barbara Jo Black Hodge. Born November 28, 1940, in Phoenix, Arizona, our Momma finally ended her long journey and went to be rejoined with her beloved mother once again at the gates of Heaven on August 27, 2010. Barbara had a wonderful sense of humor and she loved spending time with family and friends, playing bingo and watching tennis. Always full of laughter and spirit, she was a very devoted mother and grandmother and the joy of her life was spending time with her grandchildren. This world will be a little darker without her light, but we know that she now waits for us.



Preceded in death by her Mother Hazel Vanderwalker Morris, Father Tommy Jo Black, Brother Terry Jo Black. Survived by Step-father, Cal Morris, Children, Scott Hodge & Wife Karla, DaYon Travis & Husband Jamie. Grandchildren Steven Hodge & Wife Esther, Amber Hodge, Tasha Hargrove & Husband Thomas, Jaye Travis & Wife Tina, Cody Hodge & Wife Kristi, Patricia Travis, Allyssa Griffith, Garrett Griffith and Madison Travis. Great Grandchildren Landon & Aydon Hargrove, Jillian Travis. Sisters Shirley Gladden & Husband Robert, Jean Littlefield & Husband Bobby, Brother Robert Black & Wife Glenda along w/ many nieces, nephews, family etc.

**Esther Dugan** (Cox Book #147vi, Rachel (Cox) Knight family), 96, formerly of Newton, Kansas died on March 1, 2011, at Terrace Nursing and Rehab in Berea, Ky. Esther Dugan was born on Sept. 2, 1914, in Stockton, the daughter of Roy and Maggie Knight. Esther was involved in the Church of Christ. Survivors include five children, Judy and husband, Michael Lewis of McKee, Ky., Meta Blue of Hastings, Neb., Patti and husband, Dennis Carter and Carol Dugan, all of Newton, and James and wife, Nancy Dugan of El Dorado; one sister, Ruth McGaha of Columbus, Ohio; 16 grandchildren; 34 great-grandchildren; and four great-great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by two children, Connie Dee and Walter Roy. Burial will be at Benton Cemetery. (*Newton Kansan*, 22 Mar 2011)

**Sharon Lea Muench** (Cox Book #784, Jesse Lewis Cox family) of Drummond Island, Michigan, passed away April 9, 2011 with her family in attendance. Sharon had been waging a courageous battle with brain cancer since 2007. She leaves behind numerous friends and relatives in Hampton.

Sharon was born in Winona, Minnesota, to Cornelia M. Cox and Arnold L. Donaldson, grand daughter of Ivy (Lee) and Charles M. Cox of Hampton. She graduated in 1958 from Edsel Ford High School in Dearborn, Michigan, won a scholarship to the College of Nursing at Wayne State University and graduated in 1962 with a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing. Later she obtained her State of Michigan Registered Nurse Certification.

Sharon married Norman Carl Muench on 16 June, 1962, and went to work at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Allen Park, Michigan, where she advanced to Supervisor of the psychiatric ward by 1965 when she retired to have her first child, Brian. After using the Lamaze method of controlled breathing for Brian's birth, Sharon proceeded to first teach the method to prospective mothers, then to training teachers and eventually co-authored Lamaze training manuals as coordinator of education for the Lamaze Childbirth Association of Greater Detroit. She also prepared college level classes for nurses Continuing Education Credit. In 1967 she had her second child, Laura and in 1970 her third child, Eric. Through the years she was active in the youth programs at the childrens' schools and continued her nursing education including cardiovascular certification. In 1981 she joined the staff at Saratoga Hospital in Detroit and in 1996 retired as Administrative Director of Nursing, to move to Drummond Island, Michigan.

Sharon participated as a worker and officer of Island clubs. In recognition of her active and committed service to the Drummond Island Community, the Interservice Council honored her in 2002 for Outstanding Community Service at the annual dinner and her name is engraved on the Outstanding Citizen plaque in the Town Hall. Sharon continued to serve her community until her cancer in 2007. Among her Hampton family and friends, she will be remembered for her quick wit, her clever limericks and her wonderful sense of humor.

Survivors include her husband Norman, her three children: Brian, Laura, Eric, their spouses and children. She was preceded in death by her parents and younger sister Suella Donaldson-Sineli. [*Hampton Cannon*, April 15, 2011]

### **Older Obituaries:**

**Emeline Morton Avis** (Cox Book #175i, Joseph Bird Cox family), 77, of Denver died May 3 [1997]. Services will be at 1 p.m. Wednesday, May 7, at Moore Howard Mortuary's Memorial Chapel, East 17th Avenue and Clarkson Street, with entombment at Fairmount Cemetery. Ms. Avis was born in Denver on Dec. 23, 1919. She worked for Denver Public Schools for 35 years as a kindergarten teacher at 17 schools and a principal at three schools. She was a member of Trinity Methodist Church for 50 years. She is survived by brother Hugh of Denver. [*Rocky Mountain (CO) News*, 6 May 1997]

**Irene Faye Holt Albert** (Cox Book #178ii, Joseph Bird Cox family), 92, of Clearwater, died Thursday (June 12, 1997) at Glen Oaks Health Care Center, Clearwater. She was born in Moline, Ill., and came here in the 1950s from Washington. She was a journalist and editor and worked for more than 20 years for the former Clearwater Sun. She also received several literary awards for short stories and poetry and before coming to this area worked for the Paris Bureau of the New York Times. The daughter of a State Department member, she lived in many countries

in Europe and Africa, attended various schools and spoke five languages. She graduated from Horace Mann School for Journalism and the Sorbonne University, Paris. Survivors include a cousin, Edward Cox, Fairbanks, Alaska. International Chapels Funeral Home, Pinellas Park. [*St. Petersburg (FL) Times*, 13 Jun 1997]

**Donovan R. Knight** (Cox Book #147viii, Rachel (Cox) Knight family), 76, retired Ostmeyers Implement and Rooks County Implement employee and construction worker, died Thursday, Dec. 14, 2000. Service 10 a.m. Monday, St. Thomas Catholic Cemetery. Survivors: wife, Alvina; sons, David of Santa Rosa, Calif., Myron of Newark, Calif., Kenny of Ness City, Gary of Plainville; daughters, Mary Hoerman of Topeka, Donna Greer of Shawnee, Patty Scott of Oberlin; sisters, Lucille Almgren, Norma Asebedo both of Redding, Calif., Esther Dugan of Newton, Ruth McGaha of Lakewood, Ohio; ten grandchildren. Memorial established with Rooks County Historical Society. Smith-Moore-Overlease Funeral Home. [*Wichita (KS) Eagle*, 15 Dec. 2000]

**Harry Dill** (Cox Book #446, Jesse Lewis Cox family), 82, of the Bates City, MO, area, passed away Tuesday, January 15, 2002, at Oak Grove Nursing and Rehab Center. Services will be 11 a.m. Friday, January 18, at Royer Funeral Home, Oak Grove, MO; burial in Oak Grove Cemetery. Visitation for Harry will be 6-8 p.m. Thursday at the funeral chapel. Contributions to the First Baptist Church of Bates City or the Salvation Army. Harry was born August 28, 1919, in East Moline, IL. He served in the United States Army during World War II and the Korean Conflict. After his tour in the service, he was employed at the Lake City Arsenal from February 1952 until he retired in June of 1974. He was a member of the First Baptist Church, Bates City. Harry was preceded in death by one son, Terry Michael Dill, in 1987. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Leone Watson-Dill of the home; one daughter, Vicky Brown and husband, Gordon, Bates City, MO; two grandchildren, Michael Brown and wife Cindy, Odessa, MO, and Karina Lyons and husband Scott, Lone Jack, MO; and four great-grandchildren, Daniel, Travis, Nicholas and Savannah. [*Kansas City (MO) Star*, 17 Jan 2002]

**Norma P. Asebedo** (Cox Book #363, Rachel (Cox) Knight family), 73, Wilsey, Kan., a former Leonardville resident, died Friday, Aug. 23, at her home. She was born Sept. 22, 1928, at Stockton, Kan., the daughter of Walter and Maggie (Barnes) Knight. She had owned and operated the Leonardville Cafe and was a cook at the Leonardville Nursing Home in Leonardville. She had loved to fly and had been an airplane pilot in the late 1940s and 1950s. She was a member of the Wilsey United Methodist Church. She was preceded in death by her husband, Roman Asebedo, in 1998. She was also preceded in death by a daughter, Luccine, in 1946, and two grandsons, Michael Coltharp in 1997, and Clifford Coltharp in 2001. She is survived by five sons, Michael Slansky of Topeka, Phil Asebedo of Denver, Colo., Roy Asebedo of Wilsey, Simon Asebedo of Manhattan, and Edwin Asebedo of Olsburg; five daughters, Alta Mae Sloan of Waterville, Tonleia Coltharp of Waunakee, Wisc., Margaret Bonura of Denver, Colo., Jennie Murrillo of Denver, Colo., and Rita Dugan of Leonardville; three sisters, Ruth McGaha of Lake Wood, Ohio, Lucille Almgren of Darby, Mont., and Esther Dugan of Newton; 24 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren. Graveside services will be held at 10:30 a.m. Monday at the Leonardville Cemetery, north of Leonardville, with Rev. Marvin E. Coffey officiating. [*Manhattan (KS) Mercury*, 25 Aug 2002]

**Dwight Eugene Howland** (Cox Book #263i, Moses Cox family) March 10, 1926 - June 26, 2007 Former Resident of Danville Dwight E. Howland passed away in Las Vegas, NV, at the age of 81. Born in Oakland, Iowa, Dwight grew up in the San Diego area and served in the U.S. Army during WWII. He had a 42-year career as a State Farm Agent in Berkeley until his retirement in 1999. He had lived in Las Vegas for the past 8 years where he attended the First Church of Religious Science. He enjoyed going to Canada for salmon fishing trips with his son Bruce. Dwight is survived by his loving companion, Ruth Merwin; his daughter, Sheryl A. Widger and her husband, Tom of Oakley, CA; son, Bruce A. Howland and his wife, Susan of San Ramon, CA; five grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. He was predeceased by his wife of 42 years, Alice Howland in 1993. Inurnment to take place at Hull's Walnut Creek Columbarium. Memorial donations to the American Cancer Society are appreciated. [*Contra Costa (Walnut Creek, CA) Times*, 7 Jul 2007]

**Kenneth S. Kimberly** (Cox Book 266i, Moses Cox family) January 24, 1927 ~ October 5, 2007 Kenneth died after a three year battle with colon cancer. He was a faithful and loving husband to Hazel E., loving wife for 49 years and 8 months. He was born to James and Estelle Kimberly in Oakland, Iowa. The oldest of three children, he

is survived by his brother, Calvin (Bonnie) and predeceased by his sister, Doris Deras [b. 29 Jul 1930; d. 6 Aug 1999], all of Omaha, Nebraska. In addition to Hazel, he is survived by children, Gary Kimberly and Eileen (Barrett) Beaupre'; grandchildren, James (Tracy) Beaupre', Jannette (David) Rondeau, Jeffre and Johnathan Beaupre', Gail (Rob) Cantrall and Steven Kimberly; great-grandchildren, Jordan and Miranda Beaupre', Ryan Elford, Logan and Madigan Cantrall; sister-in-law, Dorothy Cook; and many nieces, nephews and friends. Kenneth joined the Air Force in 1944, moved to Seattle in 1954, and married Hazel in 1958. He was a printer for 45 years, 23 of those years at Frayn Printing, retiring from Longacres in 1990. Recitation of the Rosary will be at Hoffner Fisher & Harvey Chapel Funeral Mass will be celebrated Thursday, October 11th, at 11:00 a.m. at Christ the King Church, 405 N. 117th St., Seattle. Interment, Holyrood Cemetery. Remembrances may be made to Colon Cancer Research, Puget Sound Cancer Center, 1560 N. 115th St., #G-16, Seattle, WA 98133-8402. (*Seattle Times*, 9 Oct 2007)

**Evelyn Lucille Almgren** (Cox Book #147v, Rachel (Cox) Knight family), 96 of Hamilton, Montana passed away March 5, 2009 at the Marcus Daly Memorial Hospital in Hamilton. Evelyn was born March 10, 1912 in St. Francis, Kansas to the late Leroy and Maggie Knight. She attended Stockton High School in Stockton, Kansas and Concordia Teachers College. On October 7, 1933 she married Joseph Almgren in Mena, Arkansas. She taught school in Northern California while her sons were growing up. Evelyn was a member of the Redding Rebekah Lodge and was Past Noble Grand in California. She was a member of Porcelain Artists of Shasta Wonderland, CA. and was a member of the North Valley Art League of California. Her life's philosophy was that she did not believe that she would be able to do all she wanted to do before she died; she was still trying when she died. She was preceded in death by her beloved Joseph. Surviving include her sons; Ted Almgren of Darby, MT., Richard Almgren of Shasta Lake City, CA., Gary Almgren of Fair View Heights, IL., sisters; Esther Dugan of McKee, KY., Ruth McGaha of Columbus, OH.; 8 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren. [*Redding (CA) Record Searchlight*, 9 Mar 2009]

### Why Obituaries?

I am sometimes asked why I include so many obituaries in the Newsletter. I realize that with a mailing list of about 450 people, descended from many different lines, some of which diverged about 200 years ago, readers will not know many of the people named in the obituaries. However, one of the purposes of the Cox Book was to identify all the family members possible, both because their lives are worthy of remembering and to preserve a record of how they are related. As space permits, including obituaries in the Newsletter acts as a supplement to the Cox Book, serving both purposes. Indeed, several of the "older obituaries" above (which were found on GenealogyBank.com) identify family members that were not included in the Cox Book. As one generation succeeds another, knowledge of family origins can disappear and what were once real people can be reduced only to a name, or less. Rather than accept this as inevitable, the goal here is to resist it.

Bill Utermohlen

### **SAM AND ELLEN COX FAMILY REUNION August 4-7, 2011; Ft. Robinson State Park, Crawford, Nebraska**

Note that this time the reunion starts on Thursday, not Friday. For details, contact a member of the reunion committee or join the Cox Family group on Facebook:

Mary & Mike Wiese  
1893 County Road A  
Milford, NE 68405  
402-826-2086

Larry Walrath  
9875 Piute Dr.  
Salida, CO 81201  
719-539-4652

Luke Cox  
4906 Breckenridge Ct  
Rapid City, SD 57702  
605-381-2302