

COX CLAN

NEWSLETTER



No 29 October 2005

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

COX REUNION

June 24-26, 2005; Branson, Missouri

The Cox Reunion of 2005 took place in the family-friendly site of Branson, Missouri. Almost 50 family members attended from the Richard Rue Cox, John Washington Cox, Sandford Cull Cox, Augustus David Cox and Mary (Cox) Freeland lines.

Cox Family President Tom Cox of Denver organized the reunion. Several family members brought pictures and other family mementos and a 786-page draft of the Cox family genealogy by Ruth Anna Hicks and Bill Utermohlen was available for review. Ruth Anna was unable to attend, but Bill gave a talk about the marriage of Joseph and Mary (Rue) Cox and their adventures in the winter of 1804-1805 as the first settlers of Wayne County, Indiana. Bill also described some of the interesting facts that have come to light through his and Ruth's work on the family book. It is expected to be complete in about six months.

Other activities included the "Ride the Ducks" tour of Branson and a variety show. Possible sites discussed for the 2010 reunion include the Quad Cities area and Washington, D.C. Christine Cox Lage was elected President of the family association.

The photo on the next page names most of the attendees. Additional attendees included: 42. Gregory Camp; 43. & 44.: Courtney & Eleanor (Devinney) Cook; 45. & 46.: Peggy Haubold and her friend Emmet Ascherl; 47.: Chelsy Nell; 48.: Charles Bartel; 49.: Ali Schonengerdt.

SAM COX REUNION

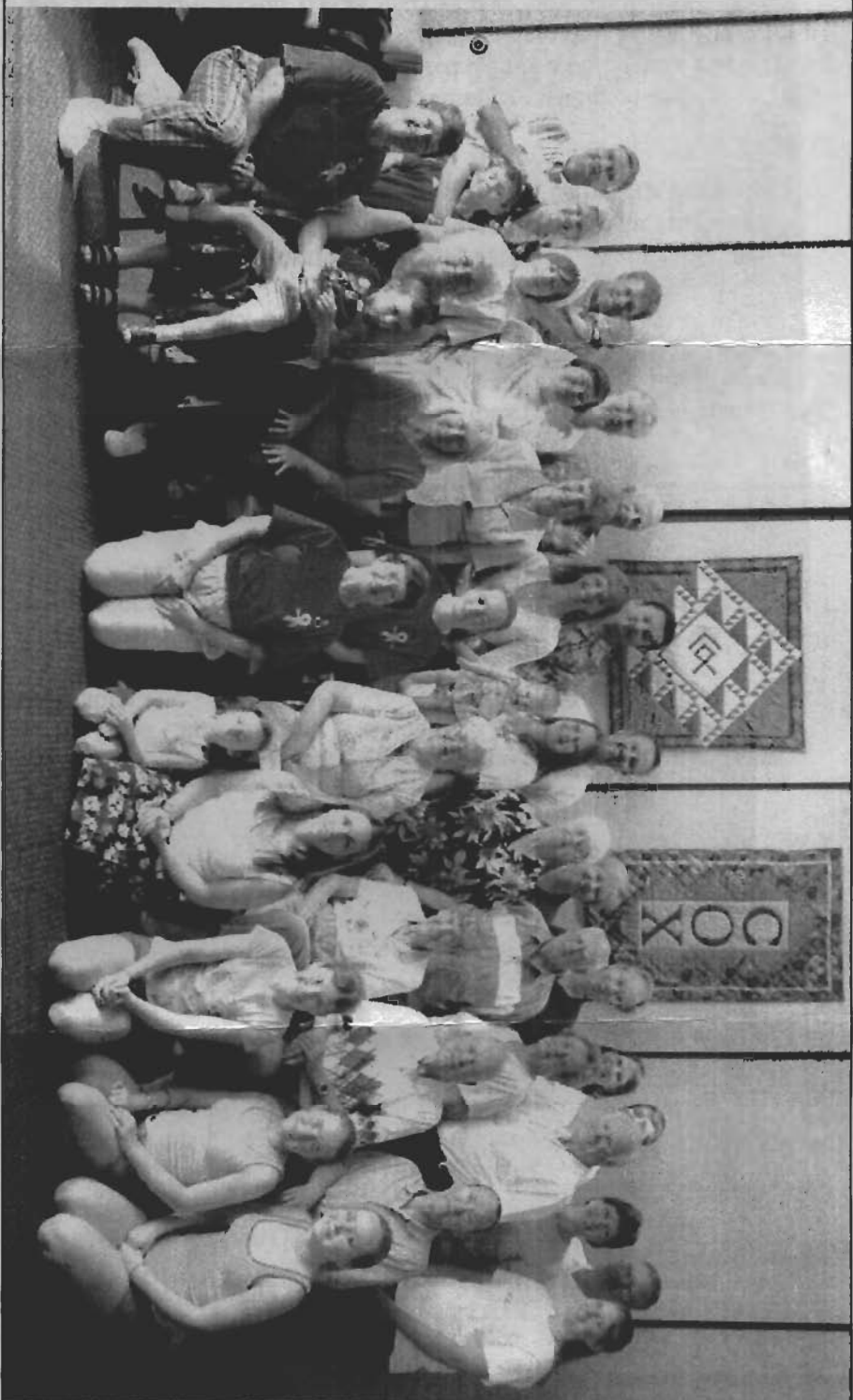
August 5-7, 2005; Central City, Nebraska

The sixth triennial reunion of the descendants of Sam and Ellen Cox took place at Timberlake Ranch Camp near Central City. Tom and Barb Cox of Aurora, Nebraska made the arrangements. There were a large variety of activities at the camp, including wall climbing, horseback riding, the "Blob" and a waterslide. A list of attendees is included on a later page.

A business meeting was held on Saturday and approved having reunions every other year in the future, with at least every other reunion in Burchard, Nebraska. A majority voted to move the reunion to the third week of July. Terry Bunke and Kim Scott will organize the 2007 reunion. Bill Utermohlen also gave a talk on Joseph and Mary Cox's 1805 removal to Indiana.

Other highlights included distribution of a Cox family cookbook, complete with pictures, prepared by Mary Utermohlen and Terry Bunke. Ruth Anna Hicks prepared a replica of the quilt made for Ellen Patterson as a wedding present in 1879 by her grandmother, Margaret (Harmoni) Stitt (1800-1879), the original of which was displayed. The replica quilt was raffled off to support the family newsletter and won by Doug Hicks. A contest was held among the younger members present to correctly identify on a chart all the family members present, which was won by Micah Scott, age 8. There was also a bonfire, hayrack ride and a good deal of talk.

COX REUNION, Branson, Missouri



In the back row, from the left: 1. Tom Cox; 2 & 3.: Brent Morrison, holding Scott; 4. Jeffrey Smith; 5. Owen Smith; 6. Jeff Sweetman; 7. Brian Cox; 8. Christine (Cox) Lage; 9. Bill Utermohlen; 10. Jane Hanson; 11. Michael D'Lima, Jane's son; 12. & 13. Ann (Hanson) & Ray Kansler

Second row, from left: 14 & 15.: Julie (Cox) Morrison & her son Dylan Rogers; 16. Justin Smith; 17. Merikay Smith; 18. Sherry Smith; 19. Laura (Cox) Sweetman; 20. & 21.: April Fanning (sp?) & her daughter Marissa Cox; 22. JoAnne (Cox) Brooks; 23. Paul Thomas; 24. Marian (Wolfe) Thomas; 25. John Thomas; 26. Krista Kansler

Third row, from left: 27. Diane (Lodge) Hamman; 28. & 29.: Karen Bartel with William Camp; 30.: Suzan (Bartel) Moheit; 31. Rebecca Backs; 32. Lucille Cox; 33. Gloria (Stadler) Thomas; 34. Bud Thomas; 35. Art Cox

Front row, from left: 36. Susan (Lodge) Backs; 37. Jillian Camp; 38. Jeralyn (Dean) Camp; 39. Stephanie Cox; 40. Sibyl Cox; 41.: Sarah Cox

(Sam Cox Reunion, cont.)

The 70 attendees included Doris Freeman; Ken and Martha (Cox) Linstrom; Karen (Linstrom) and Monni Karim and children Chase, Tori and Ramsey; Sue (Linstrom) Wendte and children Kristen and Sam; Luke and Robin Cox; Ruth Anna (Martin) Hicks; Joe and Jan (Hicks) Hunt and daughter Amelia; Doug and Deb Hicks and children Sam and Seth; Larry and Lois (Martin) Walrath; Gayle (Selders) Johnson and son Lee; Gene and Louise (Martin) Welsch; Mark Welsch; Dave and Deb Welsch and children Ben and Rebecca; Mike and Mary (Welsch) Wiese and son Karl; George and Leone Cox; Jocile (Cox) Peterson; Bob and Mary (Cox) Utermohlen; Bill and Alison Utermohlen and daughter Mary; Scott and Terry (Utermohlen) Bunke and children Ryan, Michaela and Kendra; Paul and Kim (Utermohlen) Scott and children Briannon, Kaitlin, Erinn, Noah and Micah; Tom and Sandy Cox; Troy and Kari (Cox) Eppert and daughter Kirby; Denny and Amy (Cox) Placzek and son Chase; Tom and Barb Cox and children Elizabeth and Trey; and Jerry Cox.

COX BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

RICHARD RUE COX

Katrina Davis, b. 18 Mar 2003, Alameda Co. California (dau of Kathleen (Tugaeff) & Richard Davis)
Bradley Favre Rosenow, b. 25 Aug 2003, Mesa, Arizona (son of Matthew & Melissa (Roig) Rosenow)
Claudia Virginia Harris, b. 21 Mar 2005, Warwick, NY (dau of John B. & Narcissa (Smith) Harris)
Lakota Roo Schmidt, b. 30 Mar 2005 (dau of Stephenie Fiferlick)
Margaret Ann Armbruster m. Cary Bishop Harman, 17 Oct 2003, Laughlin, Nevada
Kenneth Roy Zell m. Gloria Appenzeller, 5 Aug 2004, Elkton, Maryland
Robert W. Reaney, of Bakersfield, d. 2 Jul 2004, Los Angeles, California
Marjorie (Cox) Gage, d. 20 Mar 2005, Los Angeles, California (see obit)
Betty A. (Greene) Mahelona, d. 22 Mar 2005, Citrus Heights, California (see obit)

JOHN WASHINGTON COX

Marissa Lynn Cox, b. 27 Nov 2004, Denver, Colorado (son of Brian Cox & April Fanning)
Clark John Hodge, b. 18 April 2005, Denver, Colorado (son of Mark & Crystal Dee (Logan) Hodge)
Scott Clayton Morrison, b. 31 Mar 2005, Denver, Colorado (son of Brent & Julie (Cox) Morrison)
Joe Logsdon m. Sheron _____, 24 Jun 2005

SANDFORD CULL COX

Tracen James Caston, b. 24 May 2004 (son of James Lloyd and Darilynn (Smith) Caston)
Mason Rodney Cox m. Jennifer _____, 2004.

JESSE LEWIS COX

Isabel Alicia Mon, b. 29 Mar 2004, Iowa City, Iowa (dau of Rodrigo & Michelle (Eimen) Mon)
Robert Edward Cox m. Heather Marie Anderson, 19 Feb 2005, Rochester, Iowa
Virgil Fred (Bud) Getty, d. 11 May 2005, buried at Corpus Christi, Texas (see obit)

AUGUSTUS DAVID COX

Bryler Marshall Brooks, b. 26 Aug 2004 (son of Scott Robert & Monica (Marshall) Brooks)
Burdette Ward (husband of Laura (Cox) Ward), d. 9 Mar 2005, Davenport, Iowa (see obit)

MARY ANN (COX) FREELAND

Katie Jeanne Woltmann m. Christopher Blair, 12 Jul 2003
Rita (McConnell) Talchik m. Glen Hudson, Oct 2003

SARAH CATHERINE (COX) KIRBY

James F. Appleby, d. 29 Jun 2005, Las Cruces, New Mexico (see obit)

MOSES COX

Gracie Jo Urbatsch, b. 20 Jun 2003 (dau of Gregg & Mary Jo (Schaudenecker) Urbatsch)



James Frederick Appleby, 84, long time resident of Las Cruces, passed away Wednesday, June 29, 2005. Mr. Appleby was born January 11, 1921 in Mesa, AZ. Growing up there through his first year in college he helped his father and grandfather farm and raise prize-winning jersey bulls. He was a WWII veteran, serving six years: first in the National Guard, then the Army Air Corps. During these years he flew weather reconnaissance missions out of England, served as Weather Forecaster, and earned six medals including the Air Medal with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters. Jim continued his education following the war, graduating from Arizona State College in 1946 then continued serving the country as a civilian with the Hydrometeorology Section at the U.S. Weather Bureau, Washington DC.

In 1955 he joined the staff of the Meteorology Department, U.S. Army Electronic Proving Ground, Fort Huachuca, AZ. He became the Army Research Office European Representative stationed at Frankfurt, Germany in 1966. After three years in that office he returned to the U.S. Army Atmospheric Sciences Laboratory at White Sands Missile Range, NM. Mr. Appleby earned the prestigious U.S. Army Meritorious Civilian Award for his scientific research in Meteorology. After more than 33 years he retired in 1976 to enjoy gardening, tennis, acrylic painting, and visiting with friends. Jim volunteered many years with the Boy Scouts of America and supported many charitable and civic organizations throughout his life. His warm personality, ready smile, and quick wit earned him many long-lasting friendships over the years.

He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Martha Appleby and 9 nephews and nieces. He was preceded in death by his infant son, his parents J. Frederick and Lulu May Appleby of AZ, his brother William B. Appleby, and sisters Lula Mae Smith and Mary A. Gieszl. A Celebration of Life will be held Saturday, July 9, 2:30 p.m. at St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 225 W. Griggs Ave., Las Cruces. In lieu of flowers the family suggests a donation to American Lung Association, American Heart Association, or your favorite charity.

Marjorie Faye Cox Gage, 78, of Los Angeles, died March 20, 2005, in Los Angeles. Her survivors include a daughter, Gerrienne (Clyde) Sakamoto, of Kula. Services have been held in California. Memorial donations may be made to the Marjorie Gage Scholarship Fund; c/o Palos Verdes Peninsula Republican Women's Federation; P.O. Box 2368; Palos Verdes, CA 90272. Green Hills Memorial Park assisted with the arrangements. Mrs. Gage was born Sept. 11, 1926, in Texas. She was a registered nurse and a teacher. She is also survived by two grandchildren. [Hawaiian paper, MN Apr. 3, 2005]

ROCKFORD - Kenneth W. Grothmann Sr., 82, died at 11 p.m. Thursday, May 6, 2004, in River Bluff Nursing Center. Born Oct. 17, 1921, in Chicago, the son of Bernard and Laura (Leuderman) Grothmann. Married Alice E. Cox on June 14, 1947. Ken graduated from high school in 1940 and worked at the Palmer House Hotel in Chicago, until he was drafted during World War II. In the war, Ken served in the 557th Air Service Group as a staff sergeant, in Ieshima, Japan. Following World War II, he owned and operated a photography studio in Milwaukee, Wis., where he specialized in baby photography as well as being a church pictorial directory administrator in three states. Kenneth was a lay leader for Greenwood Methodist Church and was a member of Loves Park Masonic Lodge 1145, Valley of Freeport Scottish Rite Bodies, Tebala Shriners and Loves Park American Legion. Also member and past president of the Big Bend, Wis., Lions Club and Big Bend Vernon Volunteer Fire Department. Survivors include his son, Kenneth W. Grothmann Jr. of Las Vegas, Nev.; daughter, Nancy L. (Gordon Clyde) Bates of Alma Center, Wis.; four grandsons; two granddaughters; and sister, Margaret Horbus of Elgin. Predeceased by his wife and parents.



Virgil Fred Getty was born March 23, 1928 to Violet M. Cox and Fred Owen Getty. He died May 11, 2005 after a lengthy illness.

Fred joined the Navy in 1945 and was honorably discharged in 1949. During his time in the service, Fred was on USS Kearsarge CV/33 from June to October 1945. He trained and was stationed two years at NAS Corpus Christi, then NAS Kingsville for another year as an aircraft mechanic. Fred worked as a Chevrolet Master Mechanic for the rest of his civilian career. Fred was a mechanic of all the vehicles that were on the premises at Oxychem. He was also a lifetime member of the Disabled American Veterans and VFW 2397.

His marriage with the late Lola Sahadi lasted from October 18, 1948 until her death on March 14, 1971. Lola had one son prior to their marriage, George Sahadi. Mr. Getty was married to Esther Aquilar Killian until her death on June 10, 2002. Esther left three children from a prior marriage: Sharon Killian Fishlock of Houston, Texas; Riley Killian of Houston, Texas; and Georgina Afram of Corpus Christi, Texas.

Burdette William Ward 1916 - 2005

Burdette William Ward, 88, a resident of Davenport Good Samaritan Center, formerly of Rock Island, died March 9, 2005. A memorial service is 1 p.m. Tuesday at Hodgson Funeral Home, Rock Island. Visitation is one hour before. He was a machine operator and office manager. Survivors include a daughter, Susan Timm, Milan, Ill. He was preceded in death by his wife, Laura, and son, David. Published in the Quad-City Times on 3/12/2005.

Paul W. Cox Jr., 84, of Clearfield, UT, formerly of Kansas City, KS, died Monday, May 12, 2003, at his home. Funeral services will be 1 p.m. Friday, May 16, at the Porter Funeral Home, 1835 Minnesota Ave., Kansas City, KS. Burial in Chapel Hill Cemetery. Friends may call at the funeral home from 6-8 p.m. Thursday, May 15. The family suggests memorial contributions to Grinter Chapel United Methodist Church, 7819 Swartz, Kansas City, KS 66111.

Paul was born September 20, 1918 in Chicago, IL and had lived in Kansas City, KS for 47 years. He had lived in Utah for the past two years to be near his daughter. He was an Army Air Corps veteran of World War II. Paul had been a pilot with Smith & Loveless and retired as the Parts Department Manager in 1983 after 28 years of service with the company. He was a member of Grinter Chapel United Methodist Church and member and Past President of the Wyandotte Lions Club.

He was preceded in death by his loving wife, Monnie in 1997, his parents, brother and a sister. Paul is survived by his son, James W. "Jim" Cox, Paradise Valley, AZ; two daughters, Anne C. Starnes, Clearfield, UT, Patty Jo Reinert, St. George, KS; a brother, Robert N. Cox, Bensenville, IL; 12 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

MAHELONA

BETTY A. GREENE MAHELONA

Entered peacefully into rest on March 22, 2005 at home in Citrus Heights, CA, surrounded by family. Born to Floyd and Agnes Greene on November 9, 1933 in Oakland, CA. Betty grew up and lived in Oakland for 72 years. She was married to her late and beloved husband, William Mahelona, for 40 years. She was preceded in death by her sister, Janet Diebner. She is survived by her siblings, Floyd (Sandy) Greene, Ned (Coaqui) Greene, Thomas Greene, Jackie (Gunther) Haas, Allen (Holly) Greene, Helen (Charlie) Cavalli; brother-in-law, Ronnie Diebner. Also survived by her loving children, William Mahelona, Lani (Gary) Loudermilk, Debra (Mike) Coons, Bob (Brenda) Mahelona and Donna Mahelona. She has 11 grandchildren, 7 great grandchildren, many nieces and nephews, grand nieces and nephews and other relatives and friends.

A Strong and Spiritual Woman; Sara Emma Cox

I remember being a small child, sitting on the lap of my great-aunt Mabel Johnston, eating M&Ms from her (always full) candy dish. She would always tell the most adventurous stories, and I never tired of her enthusiasm or her imagination. There were tales of feather masks, shoes of animal skins, painted faces and stories by the firelight. My memories of visiting her home in Iowa weren't appreciated until 30 years later, when the full impact that these just weren't stories, they were memories. It caused me to admire the dedication she made to preserving our family's history as well as recording her personal experiences as a very young child.

Upon the death of my father, Allen Rue McCord, I humbly accepted the task of continuing to record our incredibly detailed family history. When I looked into the old boxes of pictures, letters, and "foreign" items, I discovered I had an overwhelming desire to know more about who my ancestors were, where they came from and why I became the person I am today. I remember my grandmother telling me that she was born in Africa, so I used to tell my friends that I was ¼ African (I was blonde haired, and blue eyed). Needless to say, my father had to explain the circumstances, and my grandmother would just smile with that ever present twinkle in her eye.

My ancestor, Joseph Rue Cox, was born January 15, 1835 and was a Civil War soldier when he married Miss Elizabeth Thomas on January 3, 1866. They had a short marriage lasting until November 8, 1869, when Joseph Rue Cox died. They had three children, Sara Emma Cox, born in 1867, Mary Grace, born in 1868, and Josephine Rue, born after his death in 1870. Upon the death of her husband, Elizabeth moved her three girls to College Springs, Iowa, where she ran a boarding house for college students.

My great-grandmother, Sara Emma Cox married Henry W. Johnston on January 19, 1887. Henry was a deeply spiritual man and when he was 22, they bought *The Weekly Index*. He did not know how to run a newspaper, but went right ahead with it, changing the name to *The Crank*. The young couple faced financial struggles forcing them to board with Sara Emma's mother and two sisters. They led a very active life, and met such persons as Susan B. Anthony and Frances Willard. They joined a group that went about the city, preaching from "a gospel wagon" and they worked in the Central Union Mission. He notes in his dairies that Sara Emma was always "patient" with the trouble they ran into because of his radical views.

After Sara Emma gave birth to their first child, Irvin Frederick, born September 24, 1888, Henry was approached to become a missionary in Africa, but this decision was not hastily made. There were many preparations, hardships to consider, and funds to be raised. Because they were so young, Henry had to make himself look older by growing a beard (he was 26).

After accepting a position to establish the Kunso Mission outside of Freetown, Sierra Leone, Africa, they made the first of many voyages arriving in January 1890. Thus, they began the tremendous challenges of finding a site for the Mission, securing the funds, establishing a home for Sara Emma and Irvin, and initiating the construction of the mission itself. Several months later, in July 1890, my great-aunt Mabel was born in Sierra Leone. She was a small, fragile, 5-pound premature baby.

Sara Emma became so impaired that the doctors advised her return to America as the only means of saving her life. In December of 1890, Henry took his young family back home to Illinois, only to return himself when Sara Emma and the children were safely cared for. Sara Emma returned to Africa in 1892, strong and healthy, only to find herself expecting another child in the next year.

In March 1893, Sara Emma gave birth to my grandmother, Estelle, also born premature, but perfect and lively as a full term baby. Many family members begged them not to continue this mission in Africa, but despite Sara Emma's lack of enthusiasm, she "followed Henry anywhere". For most of their young lives, the family would endure many years of frequent illnesses.

In late 1893, while Henry was on a crusade deep into the bush, their young son, Irvin, took ill again, and passed away. Here is an excerpt from Henry's diaries.

He had been sitting and reflecting on a few days before when he had entered the village and he saw his family. "I clasped again my wife and children to my bosom, but the central figure in the happy group was my little boy Irvin, who I could see dancing up and down with excitement." After his reflection, and as his associate was preparing dinner, "a man from Kunso came in, and after saluting me...told them something in a low tone." "It was a letter...stating that 'Your darling little Irvin was taken at 3:15 this morning.' The man had walked sixteen hours without stopping to get me the message. I could hardly believe it. I had felt such an assurance that the Lord would keep my little ones until I got back, and now my first born, the apple of my eye, my joy and pride, was gone, and I, two days and a half from home....the bolder men volunteered to walk all night and ... the next day and get me to the mission in time to help bury my child. ... Upon returning to the village several days later he recalls 'Found wife well and bearing up wonderfully. Everybody had been kind to her and her heart was rejoicing even under the rod'. A grave has been made and a life given for the salvation of Bombali land. We have done the best we knew. We leave the rest to God."

Thus he became the first of many "white foreigners" buried in African soil in Sierra Leone. My great-aunt Mabel recalls not believing that her brother was dead and went out into the bush to look for him, causing much uproar until she was found quite a distance from home. Henry and Sara Emma never fully recovered from the loss of their son, yet they continued with their mission, despite fever and illness, a lack of funding, continuous construction and language problems, exhausting travel during the rainy season, and incredible heat. Despite these challenges, there were many happy memories for the family, playing with the other young village children, eating rice covered with palm oil and sleeping in hammocks. What it cost Henry and Sara Emma to plant that little mission at Kunso, most of us will never know, understand, or appreciate.

In 1895, the family was given a much needed break, so they boarded a ship bound for home to rest in Wheaton, Illinois. They were not only emotionally exhausted, they were physically tired and weak. While attending a Conference in Fairmount, Indiana, in October, 1895, Henry suddenly took sick and died. Sara Emma was pregnant at the time, expecting a child in January and in honor of her late husband, upon her new daughter's birth, she named her "Henrietta".

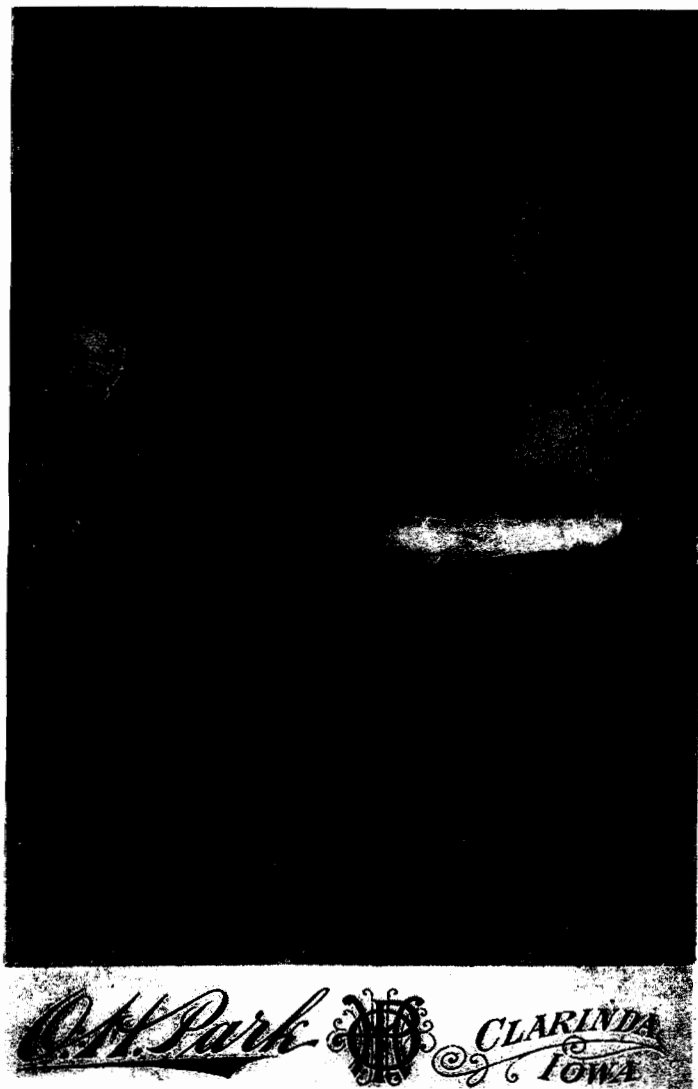
In a strange twist of fate, Sara Emma Cox Johnstone found herself in the same position as her own mother, forced to raise three daughters alone. She was not only heartbroken, but short of money to live on, as they were not able to invest in life insurance as a missionary to Africa. But being the strong person that she was, she began giving illustrated lectures on Sierra Leone, usually in the Wesleyan Methodist churches. She was trying to regain her health, which had been weak since the birth of her last child, when she saw a sign for a doctor of Osteopathy. Sara Emma believed that she could regain her strength if she committed herself to the treatment, thus she made a life changing decision, and the result was that a door opened for her, allowing her to expand on the healing skills she learned while treating sick natives in Africa.

With the help of countless friends, monies earned from her slide presentations on Africa, and pledges from Wesleyan ministries, Sara Emma Cox Johnston attended Still College in Des Moines, Iowa. Trying

to study and care for three children became too much for her and her two youngest daughters, Estelle and Henrietta, went to live for a while with her late husband's family until her completion of her studies. As there were other Johnsons in her class, she added the 'e' to her last name. After graduation, 'Dr. Emma Johnstone' established and had successful practices in Marengo and Denison, Iowa. She died in 1947 with her daughters close, knowing she was blessed with many grandchildren.

As I continue to pour over volumes of correspondence, peel back layers of original photos, hold glass slides up to the light, strain to read old entries from my great-grandfather's 12 journals, and gently open letters dated as far back as 1884, I treasure each word, picture, and memory. In the many documents in my possession, I found a "Cox Family Reunion" for 1936. My grandmother, Estelle and her sister, Henrietta had attended this reunion, and in 1960, my great-aunt Mabel, Estelle, my grandfather, and Henrietta attended the reunion in Burlington Junction, Missouri. Since the death of my grandmother, Estelle, her descendants lost this line of communication with the "Cox children". It is only since the creation of modern technology that I was able to connect with my very distant cousins, all descendants of the children of Mary Rue and Joseph Cox. My admiration goes to those of previous generations who have preserved our family heritage. I am sure there are many, but I can only thank those who have had a direct influence on me; Mabel Johnston and Ruth Anna Hicks.

Connie McCord Pula, Great-granddaughter of Henry and Sara Emma (Cox) Johnston. A longer version of this article is on the Cox website: <http://members.cox.net/wutermohlen/>



Henry Johnston and Sarah Emma (Cox) Johnston with their children Irvin (b. 1888) and Mabel (b. 1890), thus taken in late 1890 or early 1891.

Pictures taken at Cox Reunion, branson, MO.

