



The Lives of
James Clayton Cox
(1830-1903)
&
Mary Ann Nicholson
(1836-1911)

by **Great-Great-Granddaughter Robin Yonash**
2012

(updated to reflect data from James C. Cox Official Military Records)

Based on:

The Historical Record, including James C. Cox Official Military Records
The Cox-Nicholson Saga by LuDelle Cox Powell, 1967
A Narrative of the Origin and Wanderings of the Cox Family by Clark Cox, 1930
The Civil War Journal of Mary Ann Nicholson Cox

The Lives of
James Clayton Cox & Mary Ann Nicholson
 (1830-1903) (1836-1911)

1830 James Clayton Cox (Jim) was born April 12, 1830 in Boydton, Mecklenburg Co., Virginia,^a the fourth child of seven born to Wilson Cox and Martha Mallett. At the time of his birth, the family owned one female slave.^c

1833 Around 1833 Wilson and his family migrated to Boyle County, Kentucky^b (possibly Dixsville), a trip of nearly 500 miles. By 1840 they had settled a few miles north in nearby Mercer County, Kentucky with no slaves.^{b,c} This was probably Danville.

1841 When Jim's father Wilson Cox died in 1841,^{b,1} Martha was financially unable to keep the family together, and Jim, age 11, was sent to live with a Quaker family 45 miles to the east in Bardstown, Nelson Co., Kentucky.^b In his teens, he returned to Mercer County, to make his own way in Dixsville,² and the 1850 Census shows him living there, at age 20.^{b,c} Later that year, he went to Texas with his good friend Tignal (Tig) Coleman, where they stayed for two years.^b



1852 On his return in the spring of 1852, he met his future wife, 16-year-old Mary Ann Nicholson, daughter of John Nicholson and Mary Ann (Polly) Brooks.^{b,d} On meeting Mary, whose parents had moved to his home town during his absence, he was completely bowled over by this beautiful girl and wanted to become better acquainted. In the spring of 1852, soon after Mary was sixteen, she and Jim were out for a walk and he asked her to marry him. She was bashful, and shy and didn't know how to answer him, though she knew it would be "yes." They were passing by an arbor-vitae hedge and she broke off a sprig and handed it to him coyly. Both knew, in the language of flowers, this meant "ever thine"³ At once they began making plans to get married. Mary had never liked living in Kentucky, and asked Jim if he would be willing to take her away after they were married, preferably to Indiana. He, having been gone from home for two years, was not averse to leaving, and readily promised they would go as soon as he was financially able to do so.^b



Mary's father opposed the union because of Mary's age, so they reluctantly agreed to postpone the wedding a year, at which time Mary would have finished school. However, that fall Jim found a perfect house for them and without a thought Jim and Mary gathered Tig and eloped to Jim's mother's home in Danville, Boyle Co., Kentucky where they were married by the Reverend Dr. Polk on October 6, 1852.^{b,d} Mary's father, a clockmaker, gave the couple a clock in honor of their wedding.^b The clock is still in the family and still working as of 2012.



1853 When Jim returned from Texas, he had gone to work on the plantation of the Hon. Al G. Talbot. While Mr. Talbot was a fine man to deal with and most of Jim's duties were satisfactory, a part of his work was overseeing slaves and he had always been vigorously opposed to slavery. He expressed his feelings openly, and at one town meeting his remarks so enraged the Southern sympathizers that a group of them came to his house in the night and burned him out ~1853.^b

¹ Clark Cox's narrative says that Wilson died before 1833 and Martha moved on her own with the children, but Wilson appears in the 1840 Census still living in Mercer County, Kentucky.

² Ludelle's account misspells this as Dicksville.

³ LuDelle's saga spelled this as "over thine" but that makes no sense. so it appears to have been a typo.

After this outrage he and Mary decided to leave Kentucky at once. Within a week they, together with his brothers Richard and Taylor, and their families, his two single young sisters and his mother, Martha, left by covered wagons for Shelby County, Indiana near Flat Rock,⁴ a move of about 170 miles.^{b,5} Mary Ann was probably pregnant during the move.



1854 Here on February 17, 1854 Mary's and Jim's first child was born, a boy whom they named Tignal Franklin (Frank), Tignal for their friend Tignal Coleman, and Franklin for Mary's brother Frank. He was born the day before his mother's eighteenth birthday.^{b,c,d} Jim was 24.

1856 By 1856, Jim and Mary were alone, Jim's mother having died in 1856 and the other family members moved away.^b Their daughter Fanny Alice (Allie) was born on October 23, 1856^{b,c} when Jim was 26 and Mary was 20. Times were tough, and in 1857⁶ Jim decided to move his family further west, ending up in Wellington, Lafayette Co.,⁷ Missouri, a trip of nearly 500 miles; Mary traveling with a toddler and an infant. Jim bought a farm near Wellington.^{b,d}

1857



1860 The 1860 Census shows the family living in Clay Township, Lafayette Co., Missouri, which included Wellington.^c That year an infant son was born dead.^b Then on March 7, 1861 son Clark Alonza was born, their third child (not counting the stillborn).^{b,d,f} Jim was 31 and Mary was 25. Just one month later war was declared between the north and south and Jim thought it best to leave Missouri, which was a slave state and Jim was strongly anti-slavery. Clark's narrative says "James...was compelled to abandon what had not been confiscated and make his way at night *across the river* into the Federal lines in order to save his life, the family following as soon as he made proper arrangements."^d "Across the river" meant, at a minimum, traveling to St. Louis, Illinois, a distance of over 200 miles! In fact, the family ended up in Virden, Macoupin Co.,⁸ Illinois,^{b,d} a distance of nearly 300 miles, Mary traveling with two young children and an infant. In Virden, Jim went into partnership with George W. Cox (no relation) in a general merchandise store.^{b,9,10}

1861

⁴ LuDelle's narrative misspelled this as Flat River.

⁵ Clark Cox's narrative says that they moved in 1855 *after* the birth of Frank, but Frank was born in Indiana, so he couldn't have been around at the time of the move. Thus 1853 was used.

⁶ Neither Clark or LuDelle gives a specific year for the move. Clark's narrative says "James and family, now augmented by the birth of Fanny Alice migrated to Lafayette Co., MO." LuDelle says "Soon after their daughter Fanny Alice (called Allie) was born on October 23rd, 1856 they left..." Since Allie was born in October, 1857 was used as the year of the move as that is "soon after."

⁷ LuDell's saga misspells this as "Fayetville."

⁸ Clark's account misspells this as "Magoupin."

⁹ Clark's narrative says he opened a grocery business *after* the war. Probably Clark is correct because Jim's Civil War record shows his occupation as farmer when he enlisted.

¹⁰ The 1870 Census for Virden shows a George W. Cox, grocery merchant. George was a 1st. Sgt. in Company G with Jim. At the time of his enlistment he was a student, which is further evidence that the store business started after the war.

1862

Jim enlisted as a Corporal in the War between the States on 15 August 1862 on the Union side, serving the state of Illinois. On 4 September 1862 he was mustered in to Company G, Illinois Volunteer Regulars, 122nd Infantry Regiment, stationed at Carlinville, Illinois under Captain Cowan and Gen. John I. Rinaker.^{a,b,d,e} This town being nearby, Mary was able to visit him often.^b

Jim liked good coffee and found it hard to the watery brown fluid served as such in the mess hall. Almost at once he began supervising the coffee making and was soon being called "Coffee Cox", a name he endured throughout the war period.^b

On December 19, 1862 during the Battle of Jackson in Tennessee,^{11,12} Jim was captured by the Confederates. In accordance with the Dix–Hill Cartel¹³ he was paroled on December 20, 1862 and sent to the Benton Barracks near St. Louis, Missouri, arriving two months later on February 26, 1863.^e

According to family stories, during the war Jim was shot through the chin, leaving a hole so large he was forced to wear a beard ever after^b and he was paroled home during convalescence.^d Since his military record for March 30 through July 1863 shows him AWOL and declared "Deserted" on July 12, 1863 it's likely that the parole for convalescence was not sanctioned by the Union Army!^e

In September 1863 Jim again appeared Present on the Muster Roll for his Regiment.

1864

On March 17, 1864, Jim was detailed on special duty as Superintendent of the Barracks in Cairo, Illinois. From June 16, 1864 until September 1864 he was on sick leave.^{Error! Bookmark not defined.} According to family lore, Mary Ann and the children joined Jim for these six months.^{Error! Bookmark not defined.,Error! Bookmark not defined.}

Although Jim was assigned special duty as the Superintendent of the Cairo Barracks, he was reporting to the Superintendent of the Prison. The prison for the Cairo Barracks seems to have been located in Alton rather Cairo,¹⁴ so it's not clear whether he was in Cairo or Alton during this time. (Alton is about 180 miles from Cairo, a direct route on the Mississippi River.)

Family lore says that while he was confined to prison, he suffering illnesses from which he never fully recovered.^b It's possible that this was during the time he was at Benton Barracks. The winter of 1862-1863 was especially tough for all soldiers at the Benton Barracks. Besides being very cold, a small pox epidemic broke out.¹⁵ Jim was there during part of this time, and was already wounded, in addition to traveling several hundred miles cross country during the winter, so would have been susceptible to illness.

However, since the family memory specifically mentions a prison, it's more likely that it is referring to his extended illness while on special duty as the Superintendent of the Cairo Barracks/Alton Prison. Cairo's climate was humid, disease-carrying mosquitoes and rats were

¹¹ LuDelle's account says he was wounded at the battle of Kennesaw Mountain, Georgia (June 27, 1864), but this is not possible because at the time his Regiment was over 300 miles away fighting the Battle of Tupelo, Mississippi. Also, on that date, Jim was absent on sick leave at the barracks in Cairo, Illinois.

¹² Clark's narrative says he was wounded at the Battle of Shiloh, but this battle was on April 6–7, 1862, which was before the 122nd Illinois Infantry was mustered into service.

¹³ The Dix–Hill Cartel was an agreement concluded on July 22, 1862 between the Confederate and Union governments to handle the general exchange of prisoners of war. Authorities were to parole any prisoners not formally exchanged within ten days following their capture. The terms of the cartel prohibited paroled prisoners from returning to the military in any capacity including "the performance of field, garrison, police, or guard, or constabulary duty."
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dix-Hill_Cartel

¹⁴ For more details on Alton Prison, see www.fantasy.com/civil_war/content/alton-prison-%28union%29 and <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~prsjr/wars/cwar/pow/0index.htm>.

¹⁵ For more on Benton Barracks, see <http://www.usgennet.org/usa/mo/county/stlouis/benton.htm>

everywhere, and the low flat land was extremely muddy because the town was prone to flooding.¹⁶

Daughter Ona Etta, their fourth child, was born November 4, 1864 when Jim was 34 and Mary was 28.^{b,c,d} She was named for Jim's niece Ona McCalip.^b

1865

In February 1865, the 122nd Illinois Infantry headed to New Orleans and from there went by steamer to Mobile Bay, Alabama where they assumed responsibility of the eastern defense of Mobile, Alabama, AKA the Siege of Spanish Fort and Fort Blakely, from March 26 to April 8. Then they fought in the Battle of Fort Blakely on April 9.

His war record shows that he was on sick leave at a hospital in Montgomery, Alabama from May 30, 1865 until the Regiment was mustered out in July.^e Family lore says that while on a burning transport ship between New Orleans and Mobile Bay, he was compelled to slide down a rope in order to save his life. This so severely burned the inner parts of his hands that he was never able to open them more than part way.^b

On July 3, the 1865 Illinois Census shows the family living in Virden. The writing is difficult to read, but it looks like the Cox family had something called a "Clott" (as did many others) worth \$50, live stock valued at \$620, grain products at \$240, "all other agricultural products" at \$200, and 30 pounds of wool. They had no coal mines, flour mills, or distilleries.^c

Jim was mustered out of Company G, 122nd Infantry Regiment Illinois on July 15, 1865 at Mobile, Alabama.^{a,e} He returned to Virden and resumed his work in the store.^b (For more details on Jim's Civil War experience, see the separate document *The Civil War Service of James Clayton Cox*.)

1866

Their fifth child, daughter Artella Eva (Tella) was born on April 3, 1866.^{b,c,d} One day a group of travelers from the west came through Virden, telling of vast wealth to be made by raising stock in southwest Missouri. Jim became more and more convinced he could become rich in the promising country and soon decided to sell out completely in Virden and move his family. Mary was greatly opposed to such a plan. She pointed out they were all happy in Virden, had a fine business, owned their home and were saving money. She loved Virden and wanted to stay there the rest of her life. But Jim loved Mary and wanted to do even better things for her. He was convinced that this would be the outcome of their move.^b

1867

They reached Jasper County, Missouri, near Carthage, in 1867^d after a trip of over 350 miles with Mary toting an infant, a toddler, and three older children (Frank was the eldest, at 13). At this point, having traveled over 650 miles, they were just 170 miles south of where they started in 1861, before the war.

NOTE: The years from 1867, when the family arrived in southwest Missouri, to 1883/4 when they settled in Upper Alton, saw many changes for the Cox family, including moving cross country twice, from Missouri to Indiana and back again, plus a couple of shorter moves in between; Frank leaving home; and Clark going walkabout to Texas and Indian Country. It is a complex task to reconcile the differences among the historical record, LuDelle's saga, and Clark's narrative for this time. LuDelle and Clark don't agree with each other or with history, and Clark's narrative has several stories to resolve for various family members. What follows is an attempt to interweave these three sources with the historical record as the spine and noting where there are conflicts.

¹⁶ www.legendsofamerica.com/il-cairo2.html

The family arrived at the intersection of Spring River and North fork in Jasper County on Allie's birthday Oct. 23 1867.^d Jim bought some cattle either before they left Illinois,^d or around the time of their arrival in Jasper County.^b The cattle died from Texas Fever,¹⁷ either shortly after arrival^{b,18} or in 1873 shortly before they left.^d



Initially they lived in tents.¹⁹ Jim hired a young man to haul building logs across the river where Georgia City was in the process of being laid out,²⁰ about 15 miles north of present-day Joplin, and by Christmas they were “comfortably housed,” presumably in a log cabin in Georgia City. The town of Medoc was also laid out in 1868, less than two miles north-northeast of Georgia City as shown on the map.²¹ By 1869, Georgia City had a population of about 200 and Medoc 225.

1868

In 1868, Jim opened a store,^{d,22} presumably in Georgia City, while he had a two and a half story house built on the farm a mile north of town.^d The approximate location of the farm is

¹⁷ The Texas Fever, which was deadly to cattle, was spread by the cattle drives. Because they carried the deadly Texas Fever, Missouri had banned cattle coming from Texas in 1861, but the Shawnee Trail from Texas terminated at Baxter Springs, Kansas, only 25 miles from Georgia City, Missouri—beyond control of the Missouri ban. After the Civil War, cattle drives on the Shawnee Trail were at a peak in 1866 and 1867, gradually being replaced by the Chisholm Trail through central Kansas. <http://knightswithoutarmor.20m.com/custom2.html> However, a severe outbreak of Texas Fever hit Jasper County as late as 1878. <http://www.archive.org/details/historyofjasperc00desm>

¹⁸ LuDelle's saga says that after the death of the cattle, Jim sold his land and took his family to Carthage and then to [Buffalo in] Dallas County where they laid out Georgia City after the railroad was announced. However, Georgia City is in Jasper County, not Dallas, and Buffalo is over 100 miles from Georgia City—more than a 3 day ride. Later in her narrative, she says that Mary Ann moved “back” to Buffalo from Indiana because she had friends there. These mentions of Buffalo remain a puzzle.

¹⁹ *Traveling By Covered Wagon* by Mrs. W. T. Cathcart <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~kysor>

²⁰ Georgia City, Jasper Co., Missouri was formally founded in January, 1868 by John C. Guinn. William A Fugit, **John C Cox & Son** started stores there. *A History of Jasper County, Missouri, and Its People, Volume 1* by Joel Thomas Livingston, 1912 http://books.google.com/books/about/A_history_of_Jasper_County_Missouri_and.html?id=CX0UAAAAYAAJ Wm. and R. Fuget were the first merchants; afterwards **J. C. Cox & Son**, and many others. *The History of Jasper County, Missouri*, Mills & Co., Des Moines, IA, 1883 <http://www.archive.org/details/historyofjasperc00desm> The first postmaster was John Wasson and the first store was owned by Joseph Wagner. *An Illustrated Historical Atlas Map of Jasper County, Mo.* Brink, McDonough and Company, 1876 <http://cdm.sos.mo.gov/cdm4/document.php?CISOROOT=%2Fmocoplats&CISOPTR=595&REC=1&CISOBX>

²¹ *An Illustrated Historical Atlas Map of Jasper County, Mo.* Brink, McDonough and Company, 1876

<http://cdm.sos.mo.gov/cdm4/document.php?CISOROOT=%2Fmocoplats&CISOPTR=595&REC=1&CISOBX>

²² LuDelle's saga says he went to work in a store in Carthage. However, two sources in the historical record, as noted above, show a J. C. or John C. Cox & Son with a store in Georgia City, although the “& Son” is puzzling, since this would have been Frank, and he was only 14 in 1868. It's possible this was the John C. Cox (no relation) who later established Joplin and was a major landowner in Jasper County, but the 1870 Census lists James C. Cox and John C. Cox so James may

indicated on the map. Clark's narrative says that Jim also became postmaster, but the historical record does not support this.²⁰

1869

Jim and Mary's sixth child, Eugene, was born in the "big house" near Georgia City on January 27, 1869.^{b,c,d23} Later that year Jim turned 39 and Mary 33.

1870

The Census on July 18, 1870 shows the family living in Georgia Township, Jasper Co., Missouri, presumably on the family farm.^c Frank Cox is listed with the occupation farmhand but no occupation is given for Jim, so he may or may not still have been in a store in Georgia City.

1871

Frank left home in late 1870, at age 16, to make his way as an artist.²⁴ By February 1871 he was giving his Tramp Painter/Lightning Artist presentations in various locales.²⁵

In 1871, Jim took his son Clark back to visit where they had lived in Kentucky.^d

On December 15, 1871 in Georgia City, Mary had their seventh child, a son whom they named Jesse Claude.^b Earlier that year Jim had turned 41 and Mary 35.

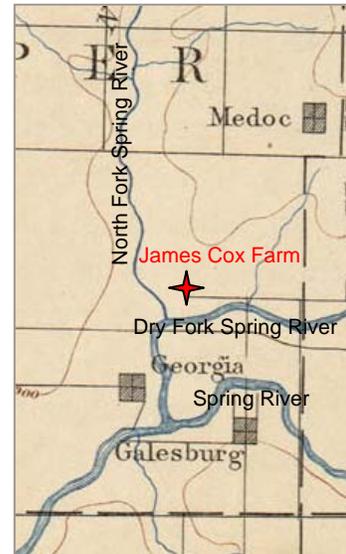
1872

In May, 1872 there was a huge flood in Jasper County. The Spring River, which is where Georgia City was located, grew to a mile in width.²⁶ No mention is made of this event by either LuDelle or Clark, but it had to have had an impact on the family.

July 1872 saw the completion of the Memphis Carthage and Northwestern Railroad from Pierce City to Carthage. It was extended to Minersville (now Oronogo) in February 1873. By 1876 the line had reached Oswego Kansas.²⁶ Unfortunately, the final route bypassed Georgia City by over four miles to the south, contrary to Jim's expectations.^{b,d} He feared that Georgia City would now become a ghost town.

1873

On February 4, 1873 the Carthage, Missouri paper reported: "Fire at Georgia City. Mr. J. C. Cox's residence one and a half miles south of Medoc was destroyed by fire Tuesday noon. The building cost \$3,000 and was insured in the Continental, of New York, for \$1,800. A defective flue was the cause of the fire."²⁷



have been known as John. And one of the sources uses J. C. Cox when referring to James and spells out the other Cox's name.

²³ Eugene's obituary says he was born in Buffalo, Missouri, adding to the Buffalo mystery mentioned in a footnote above.

²⁴ LuDelle's account says he left at age 15, but since he was listed as a farmhand on the 1870 Census this is unlikely. While he might have already left home prior to the Census and the family simply included him in the tabulation because he might have been otherwise overlooked (this was a common practice), then wouldn't they have listed him as an artist rather than a farmhand? Clark saga says he left when lead was discovered at Joplin. Lead was actually discovered there before the Civil War, but mining didn't really start until after the war. Joplin was formally established in 1871 by John C. Cox (no relation). A *History of Jasper County, Missouri, and Its People, Volume 1* by Joel Thomas Livingston, 1912
http://books.google.com/books/about/A_history_of_Jasper_County_Missouri_and.html?id=CX0UAAAAAYAAJ

²⁵ Neither Clark or LuDelle gives a specific timeframe for Frank's stint as the Lightning Artist and the Tramp Painter. LuDelle's narrative implies that it was prior to 1873. Clark implies that it was early in his career. Family records have a copy of a playbill for the Tramp Painter advertising a performance on "Friday, February 17." According to the historical calendars at <http://arc.id.au/Calendar.html>, February 17th was on a Friday in the years 1865, 1871, and 1882. In 1865, Frank was only 11. By 1882 he was already established as a Scene Painter in Indianapolis. Thus the year 1871 was chosen for this event.

²⁶ *A History of Jasper County, Missouri, and Its People, Volume 1* by Joel Thomas Livingston, 1912 In 1879 the Missouri & Western was sold to the St. Louis-San Francisco Railway (Frisco).

²⁷ http://books.google.com/books/about/A_history_of_Jasper_County_Missouri_and.html?id=CX0UAAAAAYAAJ

²⁷ *The History of Jasper County, Missouri*, Mills & Co., Des Moines, IA, 1883.
<http://www.archive.org/details/historyofiasperc00desm>

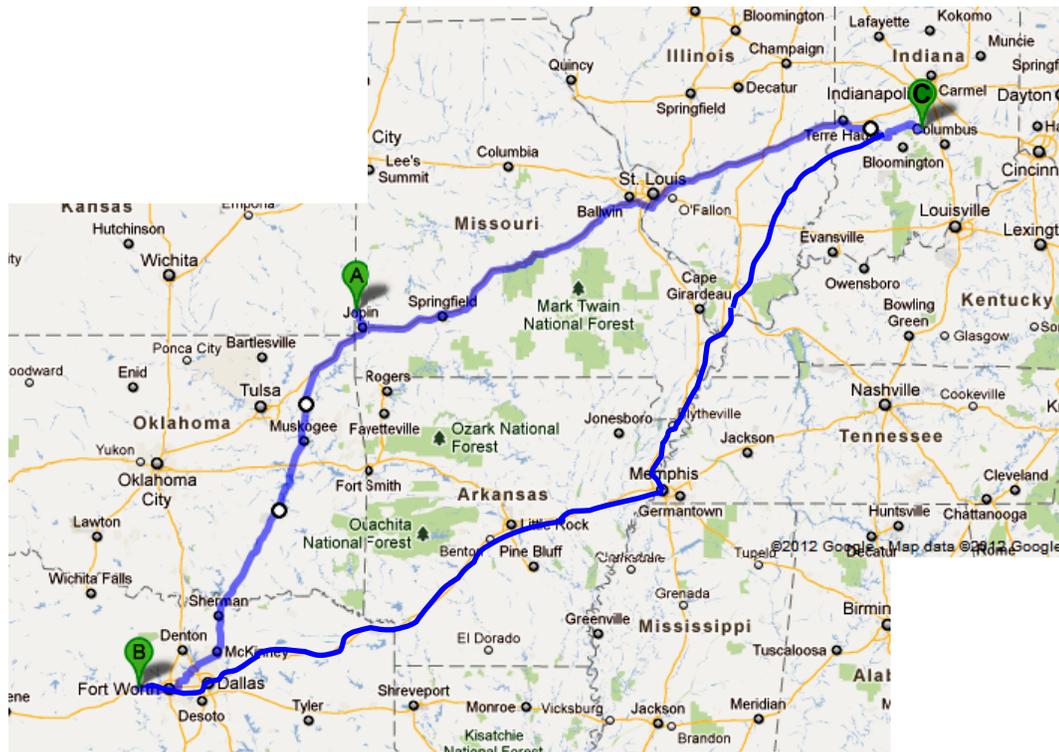
In the summer of 1873 an infestation of grasshoppers²⁸ was the last straw for the Cox family. He and Mary decided to leave the state and return to Indiana. He would buy another farm.^{b,d} That fall,²⁹ Jim sent Mary off to visit her sister in Weatherford, Parker, Co., Texas, a trip of 490 miles, while he wound up his affairs in Missouri.

1874

Having disposed of his Missouri belongings, mostly at a sacrifice, he had his wife return from her visit and take the family and go on east. Taking Clark, he went overland and joined them at Terre Haute, Indiana.^d In Terre Haute son Jesse passed away on April 19, 1874 from complications due to whooping cough.^{b,30}

In closing out in Missouri Jim had acquired the state rights of Indiana and Kentucky for the Rigby Patent Steam Washer³¹ and he began selling county rights. He was a great trader and once after an absence of about two weeks he returned with a regular cavalcade he had traded for. Horses, wagons, live stock of all kinds, country produce and about \$200 worth of groceries. This aroused the cupidity of a neighbor he had been trying to trade with and he sold him the right for his balance of the state (presumably Indiana). He duplicated this in Kentucky and sold out.^d

One man to whom he had sold two counties in Indiana and from whom he had taken a note in partial payment wrote him offering to turn back Morgan County in payment of the note. This was accepted and he moved the family to Morgantown, Vigo Co., Indiana.^{d,32} accompanied by Allie, age 18, Clark, age 13, Ona Etta, age 10, Tella, age 8, and Eugene, age 5. It was 550 miles to Morgantown for Jim, while Mary traveled 890 miles from Texas. (Since it is only 80 miles from Terre Haute to Morgantown, that was not mapped separately.)



²⁸ While 1874 was extreme and got the major attention, 1873 was also a bad year.

<http://shs.umsystem.edu/outreach/mohist/jun5.html>

²⁹ According to LuDelle, "As they left the state, Mary looked across acres of bright yellow golden rod." Goldenrod blooms in the fall.

³⁰ While not technically in the historical record, this date is used in all online family trees. No source information is available.

³¹ While nothing could be found specifically about Rigby, several brands of steam washers were available. See www.paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/cgi-bin/paperspast?a=d&d=AG18870606.2.9&cl=CL1.AG&e=-----10-TS-1-----2%22burlington+street%22-- and www.flickr.com/photos/mohistory/4359060287

³² Clark and LuDelle disagree on the trip to Terra Haute. Clark says that Jim met Mary Ann there after calling her back from Texas while LuDelle has them traveling together.

1875 In Morgantown, Jim eventually bought a farm and Mary opened a millinery store.^b On September 12, 1875 Allie married William Cathcart.^{b,d,f}

1876 Sometime in 1876 the family moved 435 miles *back* to Missouri, to Buffalo in Dalles Co., about 110 miles east of Georgia City, only three years after they left in despair from the many disasters that befell them there.³³ Nothing is known about why they moved.



Clark was working in the offices of the *Buffalo Reflex* newspaper in 1876³⁴ when he received an invitation to join his brother Frank in Streator, La Salle Co., Illinois and learn the scenic artist business.^{b,d} On June 21, 1876 Frank married Clara Atkins in Streator.^{b,c,d,f,35}

1877 In the Spring of 1877, Clark went walkabout to Texas and the Indian country, where he remained until late 1878.^d

Sometime in late 1877 or early 1878, the family moved about 80 miles southwest to Springfield, Greene Co., Missouri—a distance of about 40 miles.^{b,d} Here Jim and Frank established a grocery business.^d The store was Cox & Co. at 220 College St.,³⁶ Frank also did sign painting and the extended family lived at 410 E. Walnut St.³⁷ Presumably Frank's wife Clara and daughter Myrtle were with him.

1878 Jim and Mary's eighth and final child, Lulu Delle (LuDelle), was born on May 14, 1878 in Springfield, Greene, Missouri.^{b,c,d} Jim was 48 and Mary was 42.

1880 The June 8, 1880 Census found the family still living in Springfield, Greene Co., Missouri. Clark is listed, as is Frank, with his wife Clara Atkins and 2-year-old daughter Myrtle. Frank's occupation is Painter, but no occupation was recorded for Jim or Clark. Also listed were Ona, Telle, Eugene, and Della.

³³ The accounts of Clark and LuDelle differ significantly here. Clark says "James Cox ... bought an outfit and with Clark, now a lad of 15, [1876] ... started overland in a covered wagon for Mo. ... and located on a farm near Buffalo in Dallas Co. Mo. and sent for the family" No reason is given for what prompted the move. LuDelle says "He [Frank] ... persuaded [Jim] to sell the farm and enter into business with him [Frank] and Clark. Mary then sold the millinery store and took the children back [sic] to Buffalo, Missouri, where they would have better schooling, and she would be among friends." However, Clark was on walkabout from Spring 1877 to late 1878; also Clark gives ~1882 as the timeframe for his father joining him in business.

³⁴ The *Buffalo Reflex* is still in publication as of 2012. <http://buffaloreflex.com/>

³⁵ Unknown whether Frank and Clara married before or after Clark went to Streator.

³⁶ The map at http://digital.library.umsystem.edu/cgi/i/image/image-idx?sort=umcscsanic_ti&sid=bba2f080ada8612a68ecc4a39bc66289&q1=springfield+1884&rgn1=umcscsanic_ti&c=umcscsanic&ox=0&oy=0&lastres=1&res=1&width=3231&height=3854&maxw=6463&maxh=7709&subview=getsid&lasttype=boolean&view=entry&viewid=SANBORN5758.JPG&entryid=x-sanborn5758.jpg&cc=umcscsanic&quality=1&resnum=2&evl=full-image&image.x=1962&image.y=917 shows the location of the family store on the south side of the street.

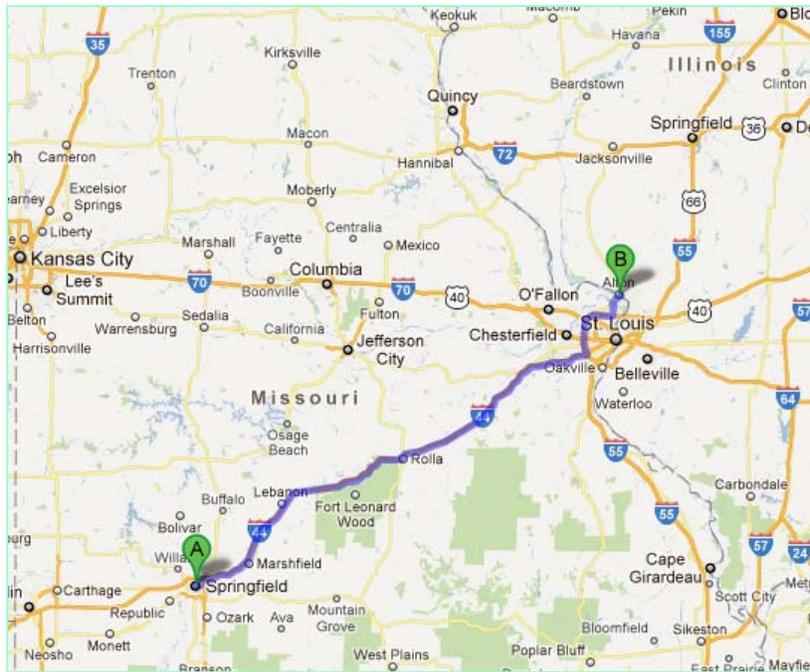
³⁷ *History and Directory of Springfield and North Springfield* by George S. Escott, 1878 <http://books.google.com/books?id=k3gUAAAAYAAJ&printsec=frontcover&dq=%22History+and+Directory+of+Springfield+and+North+Springfield%22&hl=en&sa=X&ei=fUQ9T-zWHeeWiALqy4CPAQ&ved=0CDYQ6AEwAA#v=snippet&q=cox&f=false>

1882

About 1882, Clark says he “was joined by my Father as business representative and salesman and launched out into the Advertising Drop Curtain business as a nucleus and painting such other scenery as we could contract.”^d At some point during this time, Jim suffered an accident during the painting of a new drop curtain for Wysor’s Opera House in Muncie, Delaware Co., Indiana. “While engaged above the wings in hanging the curtain he slipped and fell catching the little finger of his right hand in one of the weight ropes and was suspended. Mr. Cox weighs 220 pounds and his finger was cut nearly off at the second joint and broken between the first and second joints. He was thus suspended till his son rescued him from his painful position. Mr. Cox is an old soldier and the accident was made the more painful by his having been wounded in that hand and arm in service.”³⁸

1883

In 1883^d or 1884,^{b,39} the family, consisting of Jim, age 53, Mary, age 47, Ona Etta, age 19, Telle, age 17, Eugene, age 14, and LuDelle, age 5 (or 6) moved for the final time, traveling 238 miles to Upper Alton, Madison Co., Illinois. They had moved 7 times, for a total of over 2,500 miles, over the 31 years to date of their marriage only to end up just 60 miles from Virden, where Mary was so happy. What prompted the move to Upper Alton was that while traveling with Clark, Jim came to Alton, Illinois and was reminded of how much he had loved the town while stationed there in the War.^{b,d,g,40} Mary was visiting her family in Kentucky. While she was gone Jim and Clark found a house and moved the family possessions, then asked Mary to join them. She was stunned, but pleased.^b



1885

On April 9, 1885, Ona, age 21, married William Sinks, age 25 at the home of her parents in Upper Alton.^{b,f} Later that year, Eugene, age 16, begged to be allowed to quit school and join Frank in the theatrical scene painting business.^b Probably this was in Indianapolis, Indiana. Clark also left home for the final time to make his way as a scenic artist. The three boys eventually ended up in business together in New Orleans for several years before going their separate ways, but all remained artists.^{b,d}

³⁸ This comes from a newspaper clipping in Mary Ann’s Scrapbook. Unfortunately she did not record the date.

³⁹ Clark’s narrative is very specific about the year being 1883; LuDelle says it was when she was six, which would have been 1884.

⁴⁰ LuDelle’s account says that “Jim was away on one of his trips, later going to Alton, Illinois on business.”

1887

On October 23, 1887, son Clark Cox, age 26, married Caroline (Carrie) Fish, age 16, in Waterloo, Black Hawk Co., Iowa, his first wife, Lotta Marsh, having died from a heart condition after only a few weeks of marriage.^d

1890

Daughter Artella, age 24, married William G. Boman, age 22, on August 28, 1890 in Upper Alton. Rev. J.W. Greene, of the Baptist Church, performed the ceremony.^{c,f}

1893

In 1893, at age 63, Jim retired from his traveling business and became a financial backer for Telle's husband William Boman who was a druggist.^b At some point, Jim built a house in Upper Alton, as shown to the right.^{b,d,41} City Directories show that it was located somewhere on Merchant Street.

1899

On October 1, 1899, LuDelle, age 21, married Harold Powell, age 25, at the home of her parents. Rev. J. L. Wyler officiated.^{b,f}

Soon after Delle was married, Jim and Mary went back to Kentucky to visit Jim's oldest brother and many other relatives, as well as the old haunts of their youth. They found the picture of "The Carrier Dove" still hanging in its original place where Mary had looked at it during their wedding ceremony. They also found the old hand-carved spinning wheel, dated 1844, on which she learned to spin as a child. Both of these items were given to her to take home and still are being preserved by her descendants. It was a joyous and memorial trip, one they loved to talk about all through their remaining years.^b

1902

On October 6th, 1902, Mary and Jim celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary. Thirty-five relatives were in attendance, including their children, grand-children, and their first great-grandson.^b (See photo on next page)

1903

The following winter Jim's health began to fail due to illnesses sustained during the war. He also suffered from Brights disease (nephritis) and heart trouble, according to his obituaries. On July 5, 1903 he passed peacefully away, and was buried in Oakwood Cemetery in Upper Alton.^{b,d,h} Mary sold the house and divided her time among her children. During this time she discovered an unexpected artistic ability.^{b,d}

1911

On January 19, 1911 Mary passed away in Dayton, Montgomery Co., Ohio at the home of her daughter Ona Etta Cathcart, and was buried beside her husband Jim in Oakwood Cemetery.^{b,d,h} After his death, their son Frank's ashes were buried with his parents.



⁴¹ LuDelle's narrative says he did this after he retired. Possibly it was prior to 1889 as all of the city directories from that time on show Jim living at "Merchant near Liberty." However, that is strange because Merchant is over 1-1/4 miles from Liberty and there are other streets in between. In 1889, Jim is also listed as a "Scenic Artist" located at "College corner of Main" (this is near Merchant, which is only one block long). He was not an artist, but his sons were; perhaps this was intended as an ad for them?



On October 6, 1902 the family gathered at the home in Alton, Illinois to celebrate the 50th Wedding Anniversary of James Clayton Cox and Mary Ann Nicholson Cox
See next page for a list of names to go with the numbers

Key to Names
in the Photo of the
50th Wedding Anniversary of James Clayton Cox and Mary Ann *Nicholson* Cox
(maiden names are in italics)

1. **Ona E. Cox Sinks** [Mrs. William Sinks] daughter of James C. and Mary Ann *Nicholson* Cox
2. **Ludelle Cox Powell** [Mrs. Harold G. Powell] daughter of James C. & Mary Ann *Nicholson* Cox
3. **Harold G. Powell** [husband of Ludelle Cox Powell]
4. **Hoyt Cox** son of Eugene and Caroline *Swift* Cox
5. **Earl Sinks** son of William and Ona E. Cox Sinks
6. **Nellie A. Cathcart** daughter of William T. and Fanny A. Cox Cathcart
7. **Mary Ann *Nicholson* Cox** [Mrs. James Clayton Cox]
8. **James Clayton Cox** [husband of Mary Ann *Nicholson* Cox]
9. **Eugene Cox** [husband of Caroline *Swift* Cox] son of James C. & Mary Ann *Nicholson* Cox
10. **Ada *Walser* Cox** [2nd wife of Tignal Franklin "Frank" Cox]
11. **Gene Cox** son of Clark A. and Carrie *Swift* Cox (first great-grandson of James & Mary Ann Cox)
12. **Clark A. Cox** son of James C. and Mary Ann *Nicholson* Cox
13. **Zella Cox** daughter of Tignal Franklin "Frank" and Clara *Atkins* Cox
14. **Frank Cox** (Tignal Franklin) son of James C. and Mary Ann *Nicholson* Cox
15. **Lollie Boman** Will Boman's sister
16. **May A. Cathcart** daughter of William T. and Fanny A. Cox Cathcart
17. **William Sinks** [husband of Ona E. Cox Sinks]
18. **Fanny Alice Cox Cathart** [Mrs. William T. Cathcart] daughter of James C. and Mary Ann *Nicholson* Cox
19. **William T. Cathcart** [husband of Fanny Alice Cox Cathart]
20. **Katie *Morgan* Cathcart** [Mrs. Ernest A. Cathcart]
21. **Ernest Cathcart, Jr.** son of Ernest A. and Katie *Morgan* Cathcart
22. **Ernest A. Cathcart** son of William T. and Fanny A. Cox Cathcart
23. **Telle (*Artella Eva*) Cox Boman** [Mrs. Will Boman] daughter of James C. and Mary Ann *Nicholson* Cox
24. **Will Boman** [husband of Telle (*Artella Eva*) Cox Boman]
25. **Bertha *Fish* Cox** [2nd wife of Clark A. Cox]
26. **Violet Cox Eblen** [Mrs. William Eblen] daughter of Clark A. and Bertha *Fish* Cox
27. **Myrtle Cox** daughter of Tignal Franklin "Frank" and Clara *Atkins* Cox
28. **Frank Sinks** son of William and Ona E. Cox Sinks
29. **Carrie (*Caroline*) *Swift* Cox** [Mrs. Eugene Cox]
30. **Boman Cox** son of Eugene and Carrie *Swift* Cox
31. **Morris Cox** son of Eugene and Carrie *Swift* Cox
32. **Irene Cox** daughter of Eugene and Carrie *Swift* Cox
33. **Claude Cox** son of Clark and Bertha *Fish* Cox

(The people in the photograph were identified by Mrs. William T. (Fanny Alice Cox) Cathcart; familial associations were provided by David Quay based on information from David J. Cathcart's outline record of the Cathcart, Cox, Nicholson-Brooks families dated 23 Feb 1979)

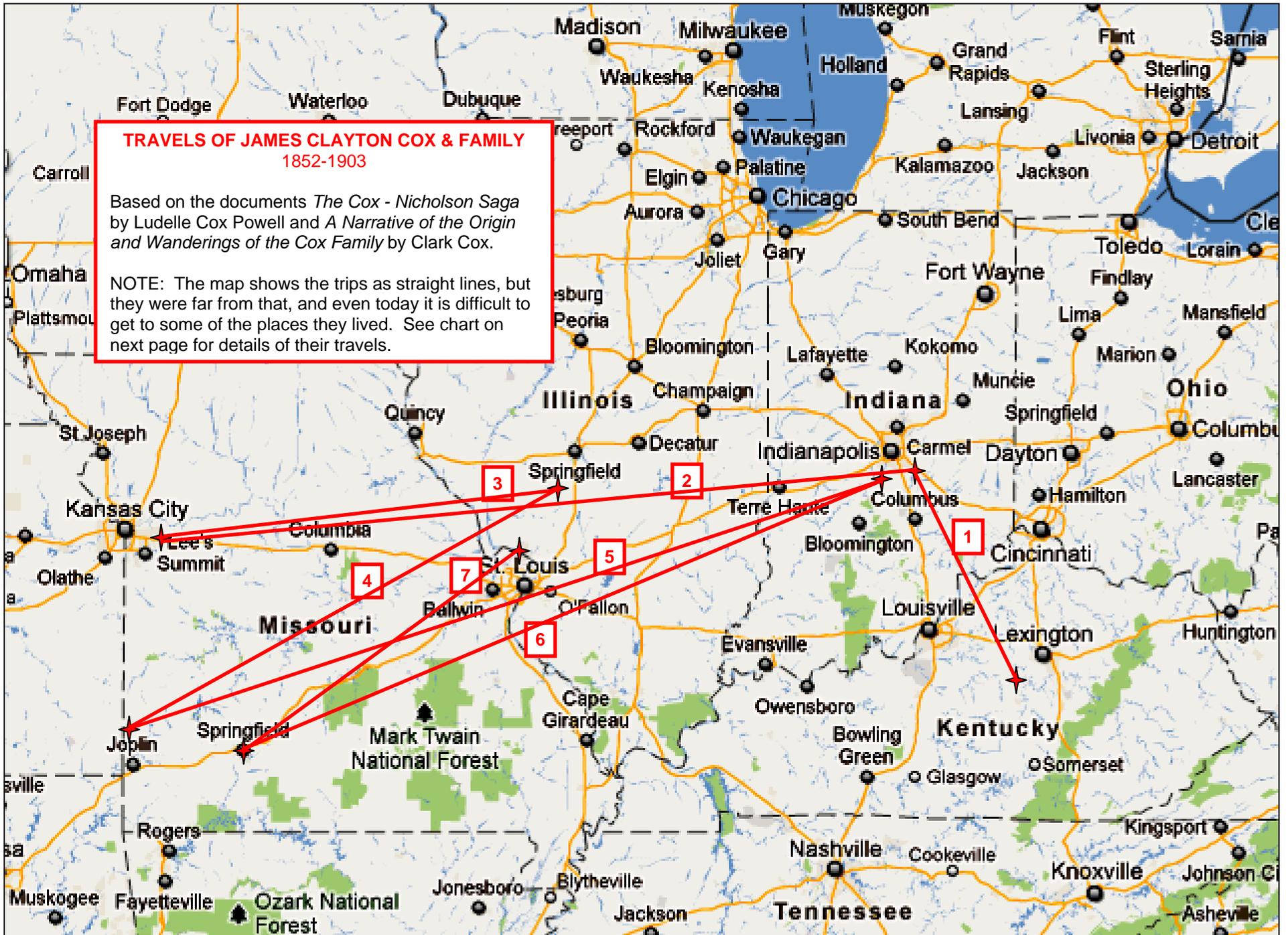
Summary of Occupations for James Clayton Cox

Year	Location	Occupation(s)
1852	Dixsville, Mercer Co., KY	On the plantation of the Hon. Al G. Talbot
1854	Flat Rock, Shelby Co., IN	Unknown, probably farming
1857	Wellington, Lafayette Co., MO	Farming
1861	Virden, Macoupin Co., IL	Owned a store; Corporal in the Union Army
1867	Georgia City, Jasper Co., MO	Owned a store and a farm
1873-4	Terra Haute, Vigo, Indiana	Acquired state rights of Indiana and Kentucky for the Rigby Patent Steam Washer and then sold county rights
1874	Morgantown, Morgan Co., IN	Farming
1876	Buffalo, Dallas Co., MO	Unknown
1877	Springfield, Greene Co., MO	Owned a grocery business
1882	Various locales	Traveled with son Clark in the drop curtain business
1883	Upper Alton, Madison Co., IL	Unknown; LuDelle mentions a "traveling position" but it's doubtful that this was with son Clark because Clark settled in New Orleans from 1890-1900.
1893	Upper Alton, Madison Co., IL	Jim retired and became a silent partner in the drug business with Tell's husband, William Boman

TRAVELS OF JAMES CLAYTON COX & FAMILY
1852-1903

Based on the documents *The Cox - Nicholson Saga* by Ludelle Cox Powell and *A Narrative of the Origin and Wanderings of the Cox Family* by Clark Cox.

NOTE: The map shows the trips as straight lines, but they were far from that, and even today it is difficult to get to some of the places they lived. See chart on next page for details of their travels.



James Clayton Cox's Family Travels

Leg	Location			Miles	Year	Hours Today	Days Then	~Years Stay
	Town	County	State					
	Danville	Boyle	KY		1852			1
1				168		3.0	5.6	
	Flat Rock	Shelby	IN		1853			4
2				489		8.0	16.3	
	Wellington	Lafayette	MO		1857			4
3				270		5.0	9	
	Virден	Macoupin	IL		1861			6
4				389		6.5	13	
	Georgia City	Jaspar	MO		1867			7
5				549		9.0	18.3	
	Morgantown	Morgan	IN		1874			3
6				464		8.0	15.5	
	Springfield	Greene	MO		1877			6
7				238		4.0	8	
	Upper Alton	Madison	IL		1883			20
		TOTALS		2,567		43.5	85.7	51

The move from Morgantown to Springfield actually had a stopover of less than a year at Buffalo. Since it's only 37 miles from Buffalo to Springfield and their stay was so short, for simplicity on the map, Buffalo was omitted.

They moved 7 times in 31 years, only to end up just 60 miles from Virден, where Mary Ann was so happy

30 miles a day was used to calculate the number of days then

NOTE: Georgia City, Jasper Co., MO no longer exists. According to <http://mapserver.mytopo.com>, it was north of Joplin, about 4 miles east of present-day Asbury, where Oak Rd. dead ends at County Road 270.

Source for maps of travel routes was <http://maps.google.com>. These maps are approximations, of course, since there was no Interstate Highway System at the time, and in many cases, no paved roads at all.

End Notes

^a Civil War Records

^b *The Cox-Nicholson Saga* by LuDelle Cox Powell, 1967

^c Census Records

^d *A Narrative of the Origin and Wanderings of the Cox Family* by Clark Cox, 1930

^e James C. Cox Official Military Records

^f Official Marriage Records, including wedding announcements

^g *The Civil War Journal of Mary Ann Nicholson Cox*

^h Official Death Records, including obituaries