

A Narrative of the Origin and Wanderings of the Cox Family by Clark Cox

This is the unpublished manuscript written in 1930

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February 2012*

NOTE: This document contains errors and the information should not be used for source material without corroboration.

Also see *The Cox - Nicholson Saga* by LuDelle Cox Powell, 1967

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Surnames Mentioned in This Manuscript

Adair, Alstin, Alton, Arking, Atkins, Ayers, Baggerly, Baker, Bass, Boman, Brenon, Briggs, Brooks, Brown, Caddell, Campbell, Cathcart, Chambers, Clark, Clayton, Close, Coleman, Corbett, Cornwall, Cowan, Cox, Crossett, Deitrich, Devine, Drewett, Ebien, Eddy, Fish, Fitzsimmons, Filtch, Fort, Foster, Gabbart, Blanzer, Greenwall, Grey, Gribbin, Hitchins, Hunt, Jamison, Keeter, Kell, Kendall, Kidd, Koenig, Kysor, LaMothe, Leonardy, Levecq, Lonergan, Longino, Lovan, Mallet, Marlowe, Marsh, May, McCalip, McIntosh, Means, Morgan, Morrison, Newell, Nicholson, O'Banion, Peck, Pingree, Pitts, Powell, Prewitt, Reid, Rennaker, Rightor, Rohr, Salmon, Sappington, Sinks, Smith, Spain, Standish, Stewart, Sullivan, Swain, Swift, Took, Thomas, Trower, Walsler, Warren, Watkins, Whoberry, Wilberforce, Williamson, and Wright.

James Clayton Cox and Mary Ann Nicholson

(Where possible, the information in this section was checked with the historical record and footnoted.)

This history of the Cox family dates back to Archer Cox who was born in Wales, in the 18th century and married a Miss Arking.¹

We can trace no children from this union, but about 1800 he emigrated to the United States and married a Miss Ayers in Virginia² and to them the following children were born as shown in the family chart.

Wilson Cox married Martha Mallet, a "Lady of Highland" of the Scot aristocracy who was visiting relatives in America and whose uncle named Ayers came from Scotland to visit her in 1831. She had a nephew, John Mallet, who ran away from home when a boy and went to sea remaining for fourteen years and then came to Virginia and later to Kentucky where he married the reigning belle of the county Ann Coleman, eventually returning to Virginia and confiscating the Mallet plantation to himself.

In 1833 Wilson Cox having died³ at the old plantation in Michlenburg Co, Virginia the widow, Martha Mallet Cox took the children consisting of William Henry, James Clayton, Richard (Dick), Taylor, Mary and Jane and moved to Kentucky. After his wife's death Archer Cox⁴ followed them into the new country where he married the widow Burnet and died of cholera in 1865 and is buried in Boyle Co. Ky. He must have been near 90 as he had been married to his first wife before coming to America in 1800.

About 1850 John Mallet and wife and her brother Tig Coleman, a Russian by the name of Shannon, and James C. Cox migrated to Texas. After two years in the lone star state James Cox returned to Kentucky where on Oct. 6th 1852 he was married at Danville, Kentucky by Rev. Dr. Polk to Mary Ann Nicholson, the daughter of John McIntosh Nicholson, having eloped on horseback to his mother's home. (Twenty years afterward John McIntosh visited them for the first time at their home in Morgantown, Indiana.)

About 1855⁵ J. C. Cox and his wife and their son Frank Cox, two brothers, Richard and Taylor and their families and two maiden sisters, Mary and Jane and the widowed mother Martha Mallet moved to Indiana. Martha Mallet Cox, being of the manor born and accustomed to servants at her call, knew nothing of domestic affairs, and not being in sympathy with the hardships of their new country, was very unhappy and until her death in June 9th 1856, continued to grieve for her old Virginia home or the hills and braes of bonny Scotland.

Taylor and his family and the two sisters, Mary and Jane who had married Indiana men, remained in Indiana, but Dick and family returned to Kentucky. James and family, now augmented by the birth of Fanny Alice, migrated to Lafayette Co. Missouri and settled on a farm near the village of Wellington where on a stormy night, March 7th 1861, Clark Cox was born. Shortly after this event the feeling between the North and South became so intense that James C., whose sympathies were with the north, was compelled to abandon what had not been confiscated and make his way at night across the river⁶ into the Federal lines in order to save his life, the family following as soon as he made proper arrangements. They were assisted in every way by the next door neighbors who, although sympathizing with the south, were, nevertheless loyal friends.

They located in Virden in Macoupin⁷ Co., Illinois and one of my first memories is of Father holding me up for a view of Abe Lincoln who was on the rear platform of the train taking him to his home in Springfield [Illinois]. Father was home on furlough at the time.

¹ No record can be found of these names.

² No record can be found of this marriage or of Miss Ayers, but there is a record in *Virginia Marriages, 1740-1850* of a marriage between Archer Cox and Polly Lewis Hatchell (with the bride's name misspelled) in Mecklenburg County, Virginia on 8 Feb 1802.

³ This is incorrect, as the 1840 Census shows Wilson Cox still alive.

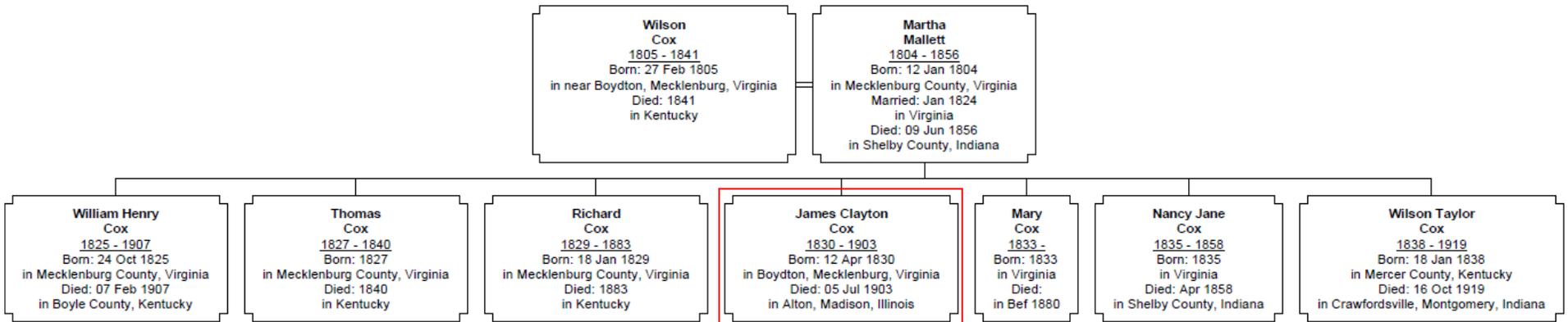
⁴ The 1840 Census shows Archer Cox living in Mercer County, Kentucky.

⁵ This must have been 1855 because Frank Cox was born in 1854 in Indiana.

⁶ "Across the river" meant, at a minimum, traveling to St. Louis, Illinois, a distance of over 200 miles!

⁷ Clark misspelled this as Magoupin in the original document.

Descendants of Wilson Cox and Martha Mallett



After getting the family settled and making arrangements for their welfare he enlisted in company G. 122nd Reg. Illinois Volunteers under Capt. Cowan and during the war became a bosom friend of Col. John I. Rinaker⁸ who was instrumental in securing sutler's privilege⁹ for him which enabled him to provide for the family and give them some luxuries. He was wounded at Shiloh and paroled home during convalescence¹⁰ and afterward was in charge of the barracks at Cairo Illinois. and the family was with him there for six months.¹¹ He was wounded again on the transport ship between New Orleans and Mobile¹² and drew a pension which was a great help to his widow after his death.¹³

He served throughout the war and was mustered out at Jefferson Barracks at St Louis.¹⁴ On Nov 8th 1864 while sleeping on his arms on the eve of Battle he dreamed of the birth of a daughter Ona of which he wrote home directly after the battle and some of the details were almost miraculous as she was born that night. He was a great lover of sea food and never tired of telling of the feasts at Spanish Fort at New Orleans and always did contend that the oysters of Navy Cove on Mobile bay were the finest in the world, and Spanish Mackerel the finest fish.¹⁵

Directly after being mustered out of the Army he opened a grocery business in Virden and succeeded in securing the trade of a large Dunkard community¹⁶ and prospered. But being a born farmer with the scent of the soil in his nostrils he sold out and getting together several teams of mules and horses and several head of fine blooded Durham cattle began the slow trek via Boonville Missouri to Jasper Co. Another daughter, Artella Eva, having been born April 3d 1866 there were now five children.

The road from Boonville on to Jasper Co. led through a wild and uninhabited country with what civilization there had been laid waste by the carnage of war. The lonesome hoot of the owl, the shrill cry of the panther and the howl of the wolf was the music we got over nature's Radio. Progress was necessarily slow on account of the livestock. We stopped for a rest at Sedalia and laid in a supply of provisions, ammunition and other supplies and Father bought Frank an expensive double barrel Shotgun.

Arriving at the intersection of Spring River and North fork in Jasper Co., Missouri on Allie's birthday, Oct. 23 1867, camp was made on the grassy carpet now covered by the brown leaves of the towering trees.

The woods were full of pawpaws,¹⁷ blackhaws,¹⁸ grapes, walnuts and hickory nuts and gams¹⁹ of every description. As we passed through Carthage, Missouri where the dismounted cannons and debris of the Price-Siegel fight²⁰ still lay among the weeds and rank grass.

⁸ Colonel Rinaker raised and organized the 122nd Illinois Infantry. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_I._Rinaker

⁹ Sutler tokens could be used to purchase goods from the sutler attached to the regiment. A sutler or victualer was a civilian merchant who sold provisions to an army in the field, in camp or in quarters. The sutler sold wares from the back of a wagon or a temporary tent, allowing them to travel along with an army or to remote military outposts. For more, see <http://mysite.verizon.net/resqje2x/classicnumismatics2/id34.html>

¹⁰ Jim could not have been wounded at the Battle of Shiloh as it was on April 6–7, 1862, which was before the 122nd Illinois Infantry was mustered into service. He was probably injured at the Battle of Jackson, where his official war record shows that he was briefly captured by the Confederates and then paroled. The Union Army sent him to the Benton Barracks near St. Louis, Missouri where he reported on February 26, 1863, two months later. Among other things, Benton Barracks was used as an encampment for paroled Federal POWs released from the Confederacy. These paroled prisoners were released by Confederate authorities on the condition they would "not bear arms against Southern forces until the expiration of parole". By March 31 Jim was AWOL, and was officially reported as "deserted" on July 12, 1863, so his convalescence at home was not sanctioned by the Army. By September 1863 he was back with his Regiment.

¹¹ Jim's official Civil War records show that he was detailed on special duty as Superintendent of the Barracks at Cairo, Illinois on March 17, 1864 and on June 16, 1864 he went on sick leave until September 1864. This totals six months at Cairo.

¹² Jim's service record shows that he was on sick furlough starting May 30, 1865 in Montgomery, Alabama but doesn't reveal the exact illness. Regimental history shows that the 122nd traveled by steamer from New Orleans to Mobile Bay, Alabama starting March 6, 1865. By March 23rd, they were at Blakely and Spanish Fort to provide the eastern defense of Mobile, Alabama. The Battle of Fort Blakely was on April 9th. By April 26th the Regiment was in Montgomery, Alabama.

¹³ There is a record of Jim applying for invalid benefits in 1879 and of Mary Ann applying for widow's benefits in 1903.

¹⁴ The 122nd Illinois Infantry was mustered out in Mobile, Alabama, not Jefferson Barracks St. Louis, on July 15, 1865.

¹⁵ This is consistent with the historical record, since Jim's war record shows that he was in all of these locations.

¹⁶ Presumably he means the Dunkard Brethren, AKA Dunkers. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dunkard_Brethren

¹⁷ Of the same family as custard apples. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pawpaws>

¹⁸ *Viburnum prunifolium* http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Viburnum_prunifolium

¹⁹ Possibly an this is an abbreviation of the generic name for flowering plants, phanerogams. <http://schoolkid.org/niki/biology3.pdf>

²⁰ Probably he means the Battle of Wilson's Creek, also known as the Battle of Oak Hills, which was fought on August 10, 1861, near Springfield, Missouri, between Union forces and the Missouri State Guard. It was the first major battle of the war west of the Mississippi River and is sometimes called the "Bull Run of the West." http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Wilson's_Creek

Father bought several yoke of oxen and employed a young man named Lee Greenwood who could talk their language—and how—who proceeded to get out building logs and haul them across the river to where James Cox and John. C. Guinn were burning the rank bluejoint reedgrass²¹ and laying out Georgia City²² which was later missed four miles by the railroad and never grew up. By Christmas they were all comfortably housed. A foot of snow covered the landscape and the deer came up to within a hundred yards of the house. The closest neighbor was an Indian hunter seven miles down the river and the nearest town was Carthage sixteen miles east.

James opened a grocery business the next year, secured the Post Office²³ and employed a man named Ek for a year to build a two and a half story house on the farm a mile north of town. He was assisted in the heavy work by two unskilled laborers John Goodenough and Millard Fillmore Gilmore, the latter the slowest man on earth for, while driving a yoke of oxen to a wagon that was coupled out to carry long timbers, he fell off the front end of the unloaded wagon and the front wheels run over his legs and before he could get out of the way the hind wheels run over him.

Eugene Cox was born in 1869 in the newly completed Big House as it was known throughout the country. At Minersville (now Oronogo) twelve miles from Georgia City was unearthed the largest chunk of lead ore ever discovered. It was "all alone" and was taken to the Philadelphia Centennial Exposition²⁴ in a specially constructed flat car. Shortly the great lead mines of Joplin were discovered and a city grew overnight.²⁵

The country began to settle up fast but lady luck deserted the Cox's. The Railroad missed the town by four miles. All the blooded cattle died with Texas fever²⁶ and murraine,²⁷ Dolly the fine race mare was stolen, the grasshoppers came in dense clouds from the Kansas plain and laid everything brown and sere,²⁸ another son Claude born in 1872 died at the most interesting age of his babyhood,²⁹ and the big house went up in flames.³⁰

Mary Cox of the big house, who with her knowledge derived from the teachings of her father and the eternal study of her big book "Doctor Gunn"³¹ and who rode on horseback through all kinds of weather and on the darkest nights among the wolves and wild beasts of the new country on her missions of mercy among the sick and suffering was now in a state of collapse so her husband, ever thoughtful for her

²¹ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bluejoint_reedgrass

²² Georgia City, Missouri was officially founded in January 1868. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Georgia_City,_Missouri

²³ The store is somewhat supported by the historic record, but not the post office. "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>

²⁴ Not sure why Clark mentions the Philadelphia Centennial Exposition since it took place in 1876, after the Cox family left Georgia City.

²⁵ Lead was actually discovered in Joplin 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=CX0UAAAAYAAJ

²⁶ 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>

²⁷ Murraine can refer to any one of several highly infectious diseases of livestock, primarily cattle and sheep, such as anthrax, foot-and-mouth disease, and Texas fever.

²⁸ While 1874 was extreme and got the major attention, 1873 was also a bad year. <http://shs.umssystem.edu/outreach/mohist/jun5.html>

²⁹ While no historical documents have been found, online family trees generally show that Jesse Claude Cox was born 15 Dec 1871 in Georgia City, Jasper, Missouri and died 19 Apr 1874 in Terre Haute, Vigo, Indiana.

³⁰ 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." *The History of Jasper County, Missouri, Mills & Co., Des Moines, IA, 1883.* <http://www.archive.org/details/historyofjasperc00desm>

³¹ Possibly this is referring to Dr. Moses Gunn http://www.braceface.com/medical/Medical_Authors_Faculty/Gunn_Moses.htm

welfare and himself sated with discouragement, bundled her off for a visit with her sister Susan Baggerly at Weatherford, Texas while he closed up his affairs preparatory for another task.

In 1871 he had taken his son Clark and paid a visit to his old home in Kentucky. While Clark enjoyed living the things he had heard so much about, gathering chinkapins,³² eating ash³³ and hoecakes,³⁴ climbing over the ten rail staked and double-ridered fences³⁵ and hunting, fishing and playing with his cousins, his father was very much disappointed with the changes twenty years had wrought and declared he would not take the whole country as a gift. Everyone was "kin" to everyone else and after we had seen them all he was ready and anxious to get back to Missouri. We had gone from St Louis on the Steamer Arlington through the locks at Louisville but returned by rail. (You will see that I drop into the personal I and we at times but you must remember that this is a part of the writer's life.)

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.

In closing out in Missouri he had acquired the state rights of Indiana and Kentucky for the Rigby Patent Steam Washer³⁶ 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.

One man to who 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.

Here on Sept 12th 1875 Allie was married to William Turner Cathcart, a Greek and Latin scholar, graduate of the Bloomington University, A.B. and A.M. and who at that time was principal of the Morgantown High School. Rev. Miles Wood officiated.

While teaching Greek and mathematics at Wyman Institute (now Western Military Academy) at Alton, Illinois, Cathcart took the Civil Service Examination and was summoned to Washington in 1890 and placed in the pension department. Gen. Pickett's widow held the next desk and became a great friend of the family. He and Allie attended the second inaugural ball of President Cleveland. He was sent to the "field" in 1898 and stationed at Dayton and was a personal friend of Wilbur and Orville Wright in their pioneer days when they run a bicycle shop at Dayton. Cathcart was a federal soldier and served throughout the civil war.

James Cox and his brother Taylor (who had remained in Indiana since 1855) bought an outfit and with Clark, now a lad of 15, and who always accompanied his father on his treks, started overland in a covered wagon for Missouri, but Taylor abandoned the trip. James and his son continued and located on a farm near Buffalo in Dallas Co. Missouri and sent for the family.

About a year afterward Allie and her husband and their brand-new son Ernest followed and located on an adjoining farm but Cathcart, being a scholar and knowing little of farming, soon returned east to teach.

James Cox and his son Frank traded for a stock of groceries and moved the family, except Clark, who had left home to live with the Indians, to Springfield, Missouri and opened business on College St. Here the youngest of the Cox children, LuDelle, was born May 14, 1878.

About 1883 he moved the family to Upper Alton, Illinois, a beautiful suburb of Alton just above St Louis and overlooking the broad waters of the Mississippi. Here he built a home at the edge of the town where he would have all the room he wished and spent his declining years among the chickens and other live

³² Clark spelled this Chinckerpins. Probably he meant chestnuts. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chestnut>

³³ Ash cakes are simple bread patties cooked directly on the ashes of the fire. www.practicalprimitive.com/ashcakes.html

³⁴ Also called Jonnycakes, a cornmeal flatbread that was an early American staple food. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hoecake>

³⁵ A stake and rider fence is assembled without postholes. <http://www.answers.com/topic/stake-and-rider-fence-1> See <http://www.flickr.com/photos/yourmom1/168650811/> for a photo.

³⁶ 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

stock, whistling the tunes of his boyhood or sitting on the front porch reading his favorite newspaper, the *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*.

Each year at yuletide the children would rather from far and near for the Christmas reunions. On October 6th 1902 was celebrated the Golden Wedding at which the following were present:

- James Clayton and Mary Ann Cox
- Frank Cox and second wife, Chicago
- Fanny Alice Cathcart husband, son Ernest and wife Kate Morgan and son Ernest Morgan Cathcart, making the four generations, plus Mr. and Mrs. Morgan, Kate's parents, and Mary (May) Alice and Nellie Aleen Cathcart, all of Alton
- Clark Cox and wife Bertha Louise and children Claude and Violet then living at Mexicana Flats in Chicago
- Ona Etta Sinks and husband Will Francis and children Frank and Earl of Golconda, Illinois
- Artella Eva and husband Will Boman and his sister Lotta of Chicago
- Eugene Cox and wife Carrie and children Eugene, Hoyt, Boman, Morris and Irene, of Chicago
- Lu Delle Powell, her husband Will, and baby Verna Lucille of Alton

These composed the group which posed in front of the beautiful foliage background of the home and were photographed en masse, singly and in pairs.

This was the last reunion, for on July 5th of the following year, surrounded by his family James C. Cox passed peacefully away and is buried in the Upper Alton Cemetery.

After his death his wife sold the home and divided her time between the children but mostly with Allie. Taking pen drawing and water color work, she brought to life a latent talent that, had it been awakened in her youth, would have undoubtedly set her name down in the annals of artistic fame. However, her health failed fast and while living with Allie at Dayton Ohio she closed her weary eyes and is laid to rest beside her mate, devout Methodist Christians and devoted lovers throughout their long and eventful lives.

"Where have gone the merry party I remember long ago
Sitting 'round the Christmas fire, looking at its ruddy glow
Or on summers balmy evening in the field among the hay
They have all dispersed and wandered, far away, far away."

The Brooks Family (Mary Ann's Mother's Family)

(No attempt has been made to verify the information below with the historical record.)

Each year there is held at the Old Brook's Home in Bonlee³⁷ in Chatham Co. N.C. the Brooks-Marsh reunion and in the memoirs of T. T. Brooks appears the following, read at the 1927 reunion on Aug 11th by Frank A. Brooks:

Early in the 18th century John Brooks and family came from Virginia to Cross Creek (now Fayetteville), a part of the way in canoes, in N.C. with six sons, Isaac, Joab, James, Thomas, Marcus (Mark) and John Jr. The records locate John Brooks in Bladen Co. in 1735. Likely this was the part of Bladen Co. that became Cumberland County and St. David Parish, (now Cumberland County), of which John Brooks was Vestryman.

John Brooks received several grants of land (large tracts) from 1735 to 1744 and there are many records of sales and transfers of large tracts where John Brooks is mentioned. The old Brooks home was built in 1757. John Brooks was Justice of the Peace of Bladen Co. from 1743 to 1751

The homestead fell to Isaac Brooks the youngest son who married Ruth Terrell. Their oldest son Terrell Brooks was born in 1767 and there were six other children. Isaac Brooks represented Chatham Co. in the General Assembly in 1773 and was a member of Public Claims. He was paid 2lbs 8s. 10p for his services as Assemblyman.

After the Battle of Guilford Court House, while pursuing Cornwallis, General Greene's Army encamped near the homestead and Colonel William Washington slept in the house that night and they ran the Brook's grist mill all night grinding grain for the soldiers.

Isaac Brooks was in the battle of Alamance and was reported killed but it was an error. In 1793 the records show that Isaac Brooks deeded to his Son Terrell a section (640acres) and in May 1796 a half section (320) acres. In 1804 he gave his daughter Sarah four slaves and in 1813 his daughter Ruth two slaves.

The old home which he gave to Terrell comprised 1,500 acres and all of the furniture, implements and stock therewith. Terrell was born in this house in 1768 and died in it in 1824. He married Susanna Warren in 1792 so the deed must have been a wedding present.

Edward W. Brooks, the youngest son of Terrell, succeeded to the home. There were five boys and seven girls. The youngest was Mary Ann, who eloped with John McIntosh at the age of fifteen and was never forgiven by her people. John and Mary moved to Kentucky and settled in Boyle Co.

Terrell Brooks Jr. married Ann Dismukes Marsh, hence the Brooks-Marsh reunions. The old line of Brooks' were a high-minded people. Easily insulted, high strung and brave to rashness. They owned lots of property and slaves and were outstanding and influential in the community and throughout the state.

Clark misspelled this as Bonlees in the original document.

The Nicholson Family (Mary Ann's Father's Family)

The Nicholson branch up to the wedding of James C. Cox and Mary Ann Nicholson together with the descendents of some of her brothers and sisters.

(No attempt has been made to verify the information below with the historical record.)

Mary Ann Nicholson's paternal grandfather was John Nicholson, who married Jane McIntosh, both born in Scotland. There were eleven children of this union. The oldest, John McIntosh (Mary Ann's father), was born in South Carolina August 19th 1800. He married Mary Ann Brooks, the daughter of William³⁸ Terrell Brooks and Susanna Warren. William was the son of Isaac Brooks (son of John Brooks) and Ruth Terrell. The Warrens were Irish and the Brooks English. William Brooks was born in Chatham Co. North Carolina October 9th 1767 and died in August 1824. His wife Susanna was born in Maryland on Dec. 4th 1772.

Mary Ann Brooks, Mary Ann Nicholson's mother, was born in 1805 and died in 1838. She eloped at the age of fifteen and married John McIntosh Nicholson and they were never forgiven by her family.³⁹ There were thirteen children all together.

Her second Brother William Tell⁴⁰ Brooks was born Dec. 9th 1809 and died Jan 16th 1883. He married the daughter of Deacon Foster Fort and there were three children born. The following appears in the general catalogue of Wake Forest College, North Carolina covering a period 1834-5 to 1891-2 "William Tell⁴⁰ Brooks matriculated June 14 1834. A.B. in 1839. A.M. in 1844. D.D. in 1870. Ordained May 1835 Rives Chapel. Tutor Wake Forest College 1843-6. Asst Prof of Language 1846-58 President of Trustees 1870-1880. Pres Baptists State Convention. Pastor Henderson, Mt. Vernon, Forestville.

To John McIntosh and Mary Ann Brooks the following children were born: **No 1** Susan Jane born 1831, married Rev G. G. Baggerly (Baptist) and lived at Weatherford Texas. There were five children, two who died young, George who died at 23, Judson who died in 1920, and Kate.

Kate married a Baird⁴¹ and moved to Tyler, Texas and they had five children: Georgia born Dec 8th 1881, James Benjamin born Sept 21 1883, Susan Jane born 1886 and died young, Charles Edwin born July 15th 1885, and Thomas Edison born April 23 1889.

Georgia married Edgar Allen Alstin and to them were born: a child who died in infancy, Edna May born Jan 5th 1904 and who married Cade Smith, Joe Ben born Sept 30th 1905 and died June 15th 1906, Allan born Mar 16th 1907 and married Cecelia Deitrich, Glenny Ruth born Aug 15th 1910 and died Oct 27th 1911, and Charles Edgar born Sept 17th 1912.

James Benjamin married (1) Mattie Fort and (2) Maud Crosset. James Benjamin and Mattie Fort's children were Pearl born Nov. 30th 1909, James Patrick born Mar 25 1911, Walton born in 1914, Charles born July 13 1922. By his second wife, Maud Crossett, James Benjamin had Maud Elizabeth born Sept 1926.

Charles Edwin married Lucille Longino and they had four children: Alva, Carl, Lolia and Glenn.

Thomas Edison married Marie Grey and they had two children: Tom & Jack.

No 2 Lydia. **No 3** Alpha. Died in 1839. **No 4** Frank. **No 5** Infant, died young. **No 6** Infant, died young. **No 7** Marion who married Susan Nichols and they had two children: Melville born in 1864 and who married Victoria Standish, and Laura born in 1866 and married Ben Gabbart and had children, Lillie, Eugene, Stanley, Logan, Arty, Cratty and Cleo. **No 8** Child who died in infancy. **No 9** Mary Ann, born Feb. 18th 1836 at New Albany Indiana, died Nov 1911.

Of John McIntosh's second marriage to Lavina Salmon there was one child, Margeret Wilberforce, who married a man named Gabbart or Gabhart and the following children were born: (1) William R. born 1876

³⁸ Clark omitted "William" in the original document.

³⁹ Elsewhere in this narrative, Clark says that her father visited her and her husband 20 years after their marriage so he must have forgiven them; also, when she and Jim married in October 1852, she was sixteen, having been born in February 1836.

⁴⁰ Clark misspelled this as "Terrell" in the original document.

⁴¹ This may have been spelled Beaird.

and married Georgia Morgan in 1901 and their children were Bruce, Joe Lucille Howard and Jimmie. (2) Ada, born in 1877 and married Ode Trower in 1895 and their children were Maggie May, Lee and Louise. (3) Tom, born in 1879 married Tilda Devine in 1899 and had seven children, Dora, Roy, Lillian, Beatrice, Winifred, George and Anne Brice. (4) Winfield Scott, born in 1887 and married Marie Jamison in 1911. They had two children, Margeret Lucille and Winifred Scott.

The above not only completes the antecedents of Mary Ann Nicholson but carries down the descendents of her brothers and sisters.

John McIntosh Nicholson was a graduate of Connecticut College and by trade a jeweler and clock maker. He told me that he had often collected for "just winding up a clock where they had forgotten it". He made the wedding rings for all the Kentucky swains, kept a stock of home remedies, had a smattering of medical knowledge and was a sort of unlicensed Doctor and taught school on the side and was one of the best known men in the new country. One of his own concoctions was his undoing. An overdose of blackberry root killed him at the age of 78.

Frank Cox

(No attempt has been made to verify the information below with the historical record. This is done in the separate Frank Cox Biography document, which is under development..)

Frank Cox developed artistic talent early in life. I remember along in the early 1870's of a big ledger in which he used to draw and practice sign letters and it was very wonderful to me.

One winter he and Ike Kendall hunted prairie chickens and rabbits, tamping them into barrels and shipping to St. Louis. When lead was discovered at Joplin he got him a sign-writer's outfit and made and spent considerable money and at one time owned two lots on which now stands a big bank building.

Later he went on the road as an itinerant sign writer finally locating in Streator Illinois and marrying Clara Atkins, a voluptuous blonde and run a shop there for a couple of years. Then he went to Springfield MO where he went into the grocery business with his father and doing some sign painting on the side.

Finally a man by the name of L. R. Close came through. Close was in the advertising drop curtain business and a hustler and high powered salesman but no artist so Frank and he formed a partnership and toured the country and made money for several years.

However, Frank had high ideas and went to New York and rented a loft in the Grand Opera House building on 23d and 8th Ave and opened up a Scenic Studio which he operated more or less success until he was offered a good proposition as Scenic Artist at the Old French Opera House in New Orleans. In the meantime he and his first wife had called it a day and he had married Ada Walser, a striking brunette of South Bend Indiana.

He remained in New Orleans for several years, forming a partnership with his brother Clark and opening "The Grand Southern Scenic Studios." H. Greenwall, who was lease⁴² of the Grand Opera House on Canal St. in New Orleans, was the "open sesame" to the western circuit. Greenwall was the Theatrical Czar of Texas and he gave all of his work to the Studio. The Gorgeous Comus Parades⁴³ and the Grand Carnival Balls were staged by this Studio from 1890 to 1900. Frank superintended the building of the great Peace Parade at Washington at the close of the Spanish-American war.⁴⁴

In the meantime Eugene Cox had been admitted to the firm. Frank withdrew from the business and opened an architectural and theatrical building office on Baronne St. He was architect of the Galveston Opera House and remodeled the Sweeney & Coombs Theater at Houston and the theatres at Sherman, San Antonio, Waco, and several others in Texas. He built a Theatre at Nashville and Knoxville Tenn. and a theater in Atlanta Ga. and re-modeled or rebuilt several others in the south, among which was the old Savannah Theatre which was built in 1812.

The yellow fever scares and quarantines broke up the business in New Orleans and the three brothers scattered. In 1901 Frank got a lease on the Old Bijou Theater on Archer Ave in Chicago and fitted it up as a Scenic Studio and the three Brothers opened it as "Cox Bros Studio." Frank disposed of his interest in 1903 to devote his time to Theatrical building.

On the death of his second wife he went to Arizona where he built two theaters and then to Los Angeles. He was connected for a short time with the Los Angeles Scenic Studios and is at present [1930] devoting his time to easel work on water colors of California's wonderful scenery, for which he finds ready sale, and entertaining his new wife Ida Marie Glanzer who he married in Hollywood August 5th 1926.

Frank had two children by his first wife: Myrtle, who married George Leonardy, and Zella the mother of two grandchildren he has raised, Gwendolyn and Jacquelyn,⁴⁵ who are the pride of his declining years. Zella married a second time to a Russian and her father has never forgiven her.

Zella inherited her father's artistic talent working mostly on fashion plates and commercial work. She is a modernist in both her work and manner of living.

⁴² Unclear what Clark means by "who was lease".

⁴³ Comus is the namesake for the oldest Carnival organization in New Orleans, the Mistick Krewe of Comus. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mistick_Krewe_of_Comus

⁴⁴ The war ended on 12 August 1898.

⁴⁵ Clark misspelled these here as Gwendolen and Jaquelen, but spelled them correctly later on in the genealogy section.

Myrtle and her husband live in Los Angeles and two of Frank's nephews. Frank and Earl Sinks and their families live near him.

Frank was always in the van in any enterprise and when we would all gather at home for our Christmas reunions we would put on an entertainment for the church. One year while I was a \$ a week boy traveling with him and learning the scenic profession, while at Erie Pa a Prof.? Morrison gave a mesmeric show in the theatre where we were working and I was one of the subjects at an honorarium and was the hit of the performance. While I and one of the other boys were dogs on all fours on the stage and growling and snapping at each other the kid whispered to me " I'm gettin' a two spot. How much you git" " Shut up. I growled. I'm with the show."

Frank conceived the idea that it would be a good stunt to put on for the church entertainment and as I was going in a couple of weeks in advance he told me to get two or three of the more sedate of the boys lined up and rehearsed for the show. There was one young fellow who was working in a bank. On of those paragons that mamas pointed out for their sons to emulate. I was pretty well acquainted with him, and although he balked like a mule at first I finally won him over with the fact that it was for a good cause and no one would know he was not really mesmerized and he made an artist. I also got hold of a couple of other boys who were in for the sport of it and put them through the preliminary paces for Frank to work out.

Come the day. or rather night, of the performance with Frank in his full dress and the stage set with a kitchen set with painted soot running out of a painted stovepipe hole down the painted plaster and a runway leading from the stage down into the center aisle. When volunteers were called for, beside my boys there were half a dozen or so others, among which was old Captain La Mothe, a retired Mississippi steam boat Captain, who with the aid of his two indispensable canes and an usher on each side succeeded in negotiating the gang plank and taking his seat in the circle. After a short talk to the audience, Frank proceeded to make the mysterious passes and myself and the boys passed out according to schedule.

When he came to Capt La Mothe he made a slight fight and then succumbed into coma. Frank was nonplussed, thinking "My Lord, have I really mesmerized some one?" To be on the safe side after he had "aroused" the subjects he called the Captain's attention to the stove pipe hole. "Now you see that big hole in that tree? Well, there's a big coon in there and what ever you do don't let him out." Then he started to put the boys through their tricks. "Now we are up in a balloon. We are getting higher and higher. See that big mountain, we are just clearing it Now we are sailing over the ocean. My god. The balloon has burst and we are falling. Get your clothes off and ready to swim."

The "Bank boy" came near beating him to it as he had thrown aside coat and vest and was half way off with his trousers when Frank got him into the wings. In the meantime Capt La Mothe had discovered the coon and had thrown both canes at him and was jumping up and down like a schoolboy. Frank snapped him out of it and he walked over and sat down in a chair apparently exhausted, and I guess he was, and without his canes which he was so accustomed to that he thought them indispensable. The audience shrieked, roared, clapped their hands and wondered and when the curtain went down they crashed the entrance of the stage to ply the "subjects" with all kinds of questions.

But Frank had queered himself in Alton for the mothers not only advised but absolutely forbade their girls from "ever being caught out with that man alone under any circumstances. All in fun. Do you suppose for a minute you could hire or persuade that nice boy to undress right in front of all those people? How about Old Capt La Mothe? The years and years he has had to depend on those canes? Never, my daughter, Never."

There are people in Alton today that you could never convince that it was all a fake for a good cause for the house was jammed and when the young Pastor hinted that it might be a good idea to repeat it Frank looked "kinda sick and nervous" and said that business called him away at once.

His next show experience⁴⁶ was starring throughout Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska and Colorado in a one man show entitled "The Tramp Painter". He accumulated a lot of press clippings, sleeping car stubs, a few fan letters and a lot of experience. He became a great friend of Joe Hitchins, an artist in Pueblo, and painted several oils, among which was a 4'X6' of Pike's Peak and a large painting of the entrance to the Garden of the Gods. He is 5' 11" and favors the Nicholson branch.

⁴⁶ Clark's timeframe seems a bit off. According to statements later in this narrative, he began learning the scene painting business with Frank around 1876, but Frank was doing his Tramp Painter shows around 1871, so that couldn't have been his "next show experience".

Fanny Alice Cox

(No attempt has been made to verify the information below with the historical record.)

Allie, born Oct. 23 1856, was just naturally born good and was always looking out for the pleasures of others. When a boy I always went to her in my wants and troubles and when she was cooking there was always some little extra dish for me like a special cookie from the left over dough or a cake from the pie crust and she used to make me corn bread of which I am still fond (the only one of the family which is). She could get me to cut wood and dry it out in the oven and make me like it. She would cook the minnows I caught and the birds I shot and confide her little secrets with me before telling them to every one else and all of the blarney of the Irish percentage was centered in her. Mother to all of the sick or crippled animals and the comforter of all children's woes.

Her first affair of the heart was a young lawyer of Carthage Mo., Al Thomas, who used to ride sixteen miles to our house to visit her. They corresponded for a time after we left Mo. but it gradually dwindled out and though many a swain mooned about she remained heart free until she met William Turner Cathcart at Morgantown, who was principal of the High School, a scholar in Latin and Greek, a graduate of Bloomington University, A.B. and A.M. and the way he could recite poetry and read romance was a dream. He became her Omar and they were married on Sept 12 1875. Their first son was born July 29th 1876 and was christened Ernest Alonzo. The next spring they went to Dallas Co Mo. where Allie's parents had moved and tried farming. But with his education there were better things in store than grubbing the black jack sprouts and wrestling with the Missouri soil and they returned east and he resumed teaching.

Allie and William had three children: Ernest, Mary Alice (May) born August 15 1882, Nellie Alleen born Dec. 4th 1884.

Ernest married Kate Morgan at Alton Ill. and they had three children, one of whom is Ernest Morgan born May 4th 1901 and who married to Lucille Reid, divorced and is at this writing with the Marines in Shanghi, China.

Mary Alice (May) married Morley Thomas May 16th 1906. May and Morley's children were Morley Elisha born June 23 1907 and died of pneumonia April 11 1919, William Cathcart born Sept 30th 1910 and died of influenza Oct 17 1919, Sidwell Bradley born Feb 15 1913, John Knight born Jan 27th 1915, and James Nicholuson who was born April 20th 1917 and died of influenza Oct 13th 1919.

Nellie Aileen was born Dec 4th 1884. I remember when she was a little tot the minister visiting at the Cathcart home lifted her to his knee and said "Well, well. How big we are getting. Why before we know it you will be getting married and leaving us." "No" remarked Nellie, "I'm just goin' to get me a little baby and stay home with Mama." She married Frank Mercer Thomas Aug 16th 1904 and got her eight of them.

Alice Cathcart	Born July 24th 1905
Jane Hanway	" Dec. 16th 1906 ⁴⁷
Florence Jeanette	" Sept 2nd 1908
Frank Mercer	" Sept 18th 1910
Virginia Ann	" Feb 18th 1912
Jonas Hanway	" Jan 27th 1914
Richard	" and died 1916
May Nellie	" Aug 10th 1918

While Allie was in the south she learned the art of making fish scale jewelry and became an artist at it. She bought a home next to Father's place in Alton and manufactured and shipped to agents all over the U.S.⁴⁸ This was the cause of her oldest son Ernest getting into the curio business. His home is in Miami Fla. and he is known as Florida's Curio King. Allie has a letter of acknowledgement for a beautiful basket modeled in fish scale work filled with delicately wrought fish scale flowers and leaves and with a number of small bird's eggs which she sent as an Easter offering to "Baby McKee," President Harrison's grandchild.

⁴⁷ Clark incorrectly had this as December 6th in the original document.

⁴⁸ The W. B. Harris and Co.'s Directory of The City Alton, North and Upper Alton 1889-90 has an ad for Cathcart Fish Scale Jewelry

Her husband was doing "field" work in the Pension Department and was stationed at Dayton Ohio for several years and then transferred to Sedalia Missouri. but his health was failing and he was given leave of absence on full pay and went to Fayetteville Tenn. where May Thomas was living and died in about five weeks. He was asked if he should like to be buried in Arlington but said he had always liked Tennessee and to bury him there. Although a federal soldier, he was carried to his last resting place by six of Fayetteville's most prominent citizens who had worn the gray.

Allie spent about two years with her oldest son Ernest in Florida but most of the time with May and is at present at Toombsboro Ga. Her optimistic and lovable nature has endeared her to her many grandchildren. Her greatest pleasure is living in the past and her big fat letters are always full of reminiscences.

Clark Cox

(Where possible, the information in this section was checked with the historical record and footnoted.)

I had my first voice test on a dark and stormy March night [March 7th 1861] in a farm house in Lafayette County near Wellington Mo. Father being in sympathy with the north had to get out between two days and we joined him at Virden Illinois where he located us and went to fight for the Stars and Stripes. He was home once on furlough and toward the close of the war⁴⁹ [we] joined him for six months at Cairo Ill. where he was in charge of the barracks there.¹¹ It was here that I have my first memory. When the soldiers broke camp early in the morning they tramped my playhouse into the ground and I was some angry kid. When we went to Cairo we went by train but Father made arrangements for us to take the steamboat as far as St Louis on our return.

I knew there was no river at Virden and concluded that if they were foolish enough to try to get there on a boat that I would go the way we came. So getting some of my things in a pillow slip (including my kitten) and lit out for the depot. After holding the boat for an hour I was found asleep on the rear platform of a passenger coach with my head pillowed on my smothered kitten.

Another time at Virden when we had company for dinner they gave me a string of army blouse brass buttons to play with and when dinner was over they found me trying to untie the last of the twenty six buttons from the string, having swallowed the other twenty five. There were hours of excitement and anxiety till the buttons had completed their journey.

Shortly after this I was left at home with the girl while the folks went to church. Old Brother Sappington was preaching the coming of a new Christ when I walked down the aisle bare as when I was born and Sue Brown, the village wit, cried "Here he comes now."

Time ran on and one fine morning Mother dressed me in clean clothes topped off with a long sleeved apron⁵⁰ and bundled me off to school. I hid the apron under the sidewalk and then had a hard time explaining how I kept my apron so clean with the condition of my other clothes. I had long yellow curly hair and the boys began teasing me so one day I went to the barber shop and told the barber that I was going to school now and Ma said to cut my hair "like a boy." When I showed up at home Mother had several kinds of spasms. I learned fast and shortly was locked up in the dark cellar for using a cuss word but I discovered a jar of brandied peaches and they found me in a coma on investigating my quietude. I was everlastingly funning away and there was a standing reward of candy from Father's store to any kid bringing me in.

From the time when we left Virden for Mo. the chain of events in my life are pretty well linked. The long slow trek, the fishing in the streams when in camp, the howling of wolves, the sight of deer and other game and wild animals, the arrival in the new country, the gathering of hickory and walnuts, grapes, wild cherries luscious pawpaws¹⁷ mayapples⁵¹ and wild berries, the feasts of blackhaws,¹⁸ schooldays and vacations leading up to my visit with Father to his old home in Kentucky in 1871. Gathering chinckapins³² eating hoe cake³⁴ and ash cake³³ I had heard so much about, fishing chestnuts from the open fireplace, hunting, fishing and playing with my cousins. The wild tales the roustabouts told of Quantrill's cave⁵² and other points on our way from St. Louis down the Mississippi and up the Ohio and through the locks at Louisville on the steamboat Arlington, the silk vest Pa bought me in Springfield and the things those high Kentucky fences did to it all are engraved on my memory.

Father had fallen into the habit of taking me with him on all his jaunts and this continued throughout his life. When we left Mo. I went overland with him to Terre Haute where we joined the family and when he

⁴⁹ Jim was in Cairo starting in March 1864. The war didn't end for another 16 months, so this was hardly "toward the close of the war"

⁵⁰ Today we would call this a smock rather than an apron.

⁵¹ *Podophyllum peltatum*, commonly called mayapple (also known as mandrake root, American mandrake, raccoon berry, wild lemon, Indian apple, duck's foot, hog apple, umbrella plant, ground lemon), is a herbaceous perennial plant. The ripened fruit is edible in moderate amounts, though when consumed in large amounts the fruit is poisonous. The rhizome, foliage and roots are also poisonous. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Podophyllum_peltatum

⁵² William Clarke Quantrill (July 31, 1837 – June 6, 1865) was a Confederate guerrilla leader during the American Civil War. After leading a Confederate bushwhacker unit along the Missouri-Kansas border in the early 1860s, which included the infamous raid and sacking of Lawrence, Kansas in 1863, Quantrill eventually ended up in Kentucky where he was mortally wounded in a Union ambush in May 1865, aged 27. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Clarke_Quantrill

went back to Mo. from Morgantown Ind. I was with him and we kept batch on the farm until the arrival of the family. After I was grown we traveled together over several states in the Advertising Drop Curtain business, he doing the selling and I the painting.

While working in the *Buffalo Reflex*⁵³ (Mo.) office I got a letter from my brother Frank that if I would come to Streator, Ill he would teach me the sign writers trade. Mother sewed a ten Dollar bill in my shirt to pay my fare from St. Louis and I got to drive a team for a man named Hoover as far as St. Louis but he stopped ninety eight miles short of that city and I walked the rest of the way in two days.

I remained in Streator until the next spring and getting homesick, with the aid of the wholesale grocer's boy, got into a freight car that was being loaded at Joliet, Illinois. The car was billed to Boonville [Missouri?] and locked up. It got a hot box⁵⁴ somewhere down the road and was shunted onto a side track and was not picked up until the next day. A small grated aperture in one end gave all the light and air there was. I had a package of lunch and a fruit jar full of water to begin with, but along about the middle of the day it was gone and I was hungry and thirsty. I foraged around and found a case of ginger ale and a box labeled ginger snaps. I don't like either one to this day. The car was switched off at Boonville sometime during the next night and about the time the light began to shine through the opening good the door was thrown open and a husky young hopped in. He set me to work helping unload and took me down with the first load and turned me over to his father.

I was some sick boy and the upshot of it was that I was to go to work for him until I could send home for money or make enough to pay my fare. I worked a week, got three dollars and crossed the river and out across the wild and unsettled country for Buffalo, sleeping in the open, at one time treed by a bunch of ferocious dogs and had to remain in the tree for several hours until the man who owned them came home and called them off.

I often traveled twenty to thirty miles without seeing a house or human being. Where I crossed the Gasconade river a woman gave me a good supper and stored me in the loft of the cabin and that night a bunch of men came and stilled moonshine whiskey till daylight. When they were gone the old woman told me to keep my trap shut, gave me a good breakfast and a lunch to take along, squared it with the ferryman to take me across and I proceeded on my way.

Frank had written the folks that I had disappeared from Streator and they were glad to see me safe. Father started me to grubbing the sprouts off of stumps. I had grubbed for two seasons and after a few days I concluded there was no future in that.

When Father was a young man in Ky. he had trekked to Texas for two years and the tales he told of the Lone Star State had made me want to go there. I went over to the onion patch where he was working and broke the news and a neighbor boy, Will Means, and I started out.

We separated in Fort Scott Kansas and I worked south into the hay fields near Joplin, then joined Miles Cornwall, who had a team, and went down into Neosho Co. Kansas cutting and hauling cross ties to the railroad being built through southern Kansas.

We then teamed up with a may named Pitts who called himself White Wolf. We stopped in the Cherokee Nation⁵⁵ and burned a lime kiln for a man named Duncan who had married a Cherokee and my task was to gather the limestone rocks off the prairie and killing prairie rattlesnakes at the ratio of about one rattler to six rocks.

⁵³ The *Buffalo Reflex* newspaper is still in publication. <http://buffaloreflex.com/>

⁵⁴ A hot box is the term used when an axle bearing overheats on a piece of railway rolling stock. The axle bearings were housed in a box that used oil-soaked rags or cotton (called packing) to reduce the friction of the axle against the truck frame. When the oil leaked or dried out, the bearings overheated, often starting a fire that could destroy the entire railroad car (and cars coupled to it) if not detected early enough. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hot_box

⁵⁵ The Cherokee Nation of the 19th century —an historic entity —was a legal, autonomous, tribal government in North America existing from 1794–1906. Often referred to simply as The Nation by its inhabitants, it should not be confused with what is known today as the "modern" Cherokee Nation. It consisted of the Cherokee (Cha-la-gee) people of the Qualla Boundary; those who relocated voluntarily from the southeastern United States to the Indian Territory (circa 1820 —known as the "Old Settlers"); those who were forced by the United States government to relocate by way of the Trail of Tears (1830s); Cherokee Freedmen (freed slaves); as well as many descendants of the Natchez, the Delaware and the Shawnee peoples. It was mostly located in what eventually became the state of Oklahoma. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cherokee_Nation_\(19th_century\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cherokee_Nation_(19th_century))

Pitts was a wolf all right for he tried to beat me out of my share and when I put the matter up to Duncan and got my money he made it so hot for me that I pulled out and went it alone on foot.

When I got to Cabin Creek about sixteen miles south-east of Vinita [Oklahoma] the water was all over the bottoms and the stream a mile wide so I got a job for the winter with Karny Kell, a quarter breed who had the consumption. As my work only consisted of keeping up wood, feeding the stock, and attending the chores, I had plenty of time for hunting and was dubbed "Cheequa" or rabbit. Kell died in Feb. and his wife went to her father's. His name was Daniels and he was second Chief of the Cherokees. I remained, fixed the fence around the twenty acre clearing and put in a crop that spring, keeping batch.

I had been going under the name of Tom Clark for some unaccountable, romantic reason and had never been in touch with the family since leaving, but one day in Vinita a traveling salesman stopped me and said "Clark why don't you write to your Mother?" I told him he must be mistaken but he said "No, I've seen too many of your pictures and I know your father and mother and all the children. Did you know you had a new sister since you left Buffalo?" This got my goat and I came clean.

He took me over to his hotel to dinner and told me about Father leaving Buffalo and going into the grocery business at Springfield, Missouri and that he not only sold him goods but was a friend of the family and often went out to the home, that my sister's name was Della and that she was the cutest thing ever.

He made me sit down right there and write a letter to Ma and he mailed it. He wanted to give me some money but I told him I was fixed all right and had plenty coming to me. Really I hadn't seen money for so long I didn't know what it looked like.

I laid my crop by July 8th 1878 borrowed some money on the crop and went to Springfield, worked in the store, and delivered groceries for a couple of months and then went on a trip with Frank through southern Kansas to locate a place for him to open a store for himself, but it developed into a prairie chicken hunt. While at Arkansas City we went down in the Indian Territory where the government had just moved the Ponca Indians⁵⁶ and we saw the last scalp dance that was ever permitted.

I worked in the "Arkansas City Traveler"⁵⁷ office for a while and Frank went on further west. On his return I left him at Baxter Springs Kan. and went down into the Territory to gather and dispose of my crop but an old white Doctor had married Kell's widow and as my permit had run out I was beat out of my labor only realizing twenty five dollars.

I went to live with Daniels, 2nd Chief, who spent much of his time among the full bloods in the Spavinaw Hills [Oklahoma] across Grand River where the Indians lived in all their primitiveness. Here I lived in a teepee, joined the Indian boys in their games, hunts, and fishing expeditions and painting pictures on the skins of animals with the aid of different colored clays mixed with the oil of castor beans and resin from the pines, poke berries,⁵⁸ saffron and other roots. On account of this gift I was looked up to something like a Medicine Man. I had wits enough to play up to it and got along fine.

There was a man named Briggs who had raised a crop in the Grand River bottom and sold it to Daniels to go to Texas. I was put to hauling the corn about four miles to Daniels' cribs and struck up a friendship with the Briggs' boys and went with them as far as Chico, Texas. When near Okgamulga⁵⁹ we saw armed Indians some in war paint all mounted and pressing into Okmulga⁵⁹ where the chiefs were reported to be treating with the Government to dispose of some of the land. There was much excitement. We placed sentries at night and could hear the imitated calls of night birds and wild animals around camp but I guess it was just the pranks of the Indian boys as we were not molested.

⁵⁶ The Ponca were moved to Oklahoma in 1877. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ponca>

⁵⁷ The *Arkansas City Traveler* is a local paper published in Arkansas City, Cowley Co., Kansas. It is still in publication. <http://arkcity.net/>

⁵⁸ Many different species of plants are called pokeweeds. Clark's poke berries were probably American Pokeweed (*Phytolacca americana*), a large semi-succulent herbaceous perennial plant growing up to 10 feet in height native to eastern North America, the Midwest, and the Gulf Coast, with more scattered populations in the far West. It is also known as Virginia poke, American nightshade, cancer jalap, coakum, garget, inkberry, pigeon berry, pocan, pokeroot, pokeweed, pokeberry, redweed, scoke, red ink plant and chui xu shang lu (in Chinese medicine). Parts of this plant are highly toxic to livestock and humans, and it is considered a major pest by farmers. Nonetheless, some parts can be used as food, medicine or poison. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phytolacca_americana

⁵⁹ The spelling was probably Okamulga. It has disappeared from history and is no longer listed as a place name. Contemporary accounts put it somewhere in Oklahoma Indian Territory. There was an *Okamulga Indian Territory Democrat* newspaper at one point.

I worked for a while near Chico [Texas] for a young preacher but the glamour of Texas had faded and I was homesick and started for the States on foot.

Near Decatur [Texas] I was given a ride by a man going into town and told him my trouble. "Shaw kid, all you need is to get on a good drunk and you'll get all over that." We rolled ten pins in a saloon and had several drinks of whiskey and blackberry until some of his friends came in when he dropped me.

By this time I was beginning to feel different, and bought myself a half pint of applejack and a piece of coffeecake and proceeded to wash down my frugal meal with copious draughts of brandy. I woke up sometime during the night between two store buildings with the rain pouring from their eaves onto me. My hat, coat and a new pair of shoes I had bought were gone, together with what change I had left.

I made my way to the shelter of the Courthouse vestibule and finding the door open went up into the courtroom and laid down on the lawyer's table with a pile of law books for a pillow. Oh but I was sick and when I got out of there at daylight that court room was a mess.

I headed north and every low spot I came to I would drink and every high spot where the sun had dried the grass I would lie down and rest. It took me all day to make sixteen miles.

There was an old man named Johnson cutting firewood out by the road and I told him how sick I was and all about it. The old hick laughed long and loud but he took me in the house, stirred up a big hot drink and much to my disgust make me drink it. By much swallowing I kept it down and in about a half hour he repeated the dose and shortly after I was able to eat some. After a good night's rest in a good bed I arose a new boy

After breakfast he gave me a lecture that for good sound reasoning I have never heard equaled. He said that he wouldn't ask me to promise not to ever take another drink for that would be against the laws of human nature. But he would advise me to let it alone until I was old enough and had seen enough of its workings to handle it as it should be handled. I worked for him a while and found him to be one of the finest men ever and later worked for his son a month who was the finest man never.

I worked on the Harman Caddell ranch that winter and the next spring broke horses for a man named Russell in Wise Co. There, one day I met Sam Bass the notorious outlaw⁶⁰ who traded some jaded horses for fresh ones and gave more than the value to boot in cash. He left a slicker there which I wore for years. Then I worked on the Chisholm Ranch and for Charles Adair and Tom Lovan and his brother.

I made one trip from Double Mountain⁶¹ across the staked plain into New Mexico and back and saw the remnant of the last herd of Buffalo near the headwaters of Double Mountain Creek. We did not get any as we had strict orders to stay in sight of the chuck wagon as there were several bands of Apaches roving the plains. Mostly hunting parties but nevertheless dangerous to weak parties. Thousands of buffalo bones and horns strewed the plain and the dried dung (buffalo chips) was our fuel

I have just returned [1930] from a twelve hundred mile auto trip over this western part of the state. The old trading station near Double Mountain is a filling station and country grocery but its rock boulder walls, the half ruined stone corral and the outline of Double Mountains is all that is left of the desert of fifty two years ago. In the place of the sage brush, cactus, short wiry buffalo grass and stunted mesquite are waving fields of alfalfa, wheat, barley, oats, cotton and corn with clean, thriving towns every few miles.

In the fall of 1879 I returned to Springfield [Missouri] a big, healthy boy with a broad-brimmed sombrero and a loud bandanna handkerchief knotted about my neck and was the envy of all the boys in our neighborhood. I followed in the footsteps of Frank and began painting signs.

I was in Marshfield [Missouri] during the cyclone of April 12 1880⁶² when eighty one were killed and two hundred and fifty wounded out of a population of less than a thousand. I was in partnership with a painter named George Drewett and got my front teeth knocked out in rescue work that night.

⁶⁰ Sam Bass (July 21, 1851 – July 21, 1878) was a nineteenth-century American train robber and outlaw. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sam_Bass

⁶¹ Double Mountain is the name of a pair of flat-topped buttes located 13 miles (21 km) southwest of Aspermont in Stonewall County, Texas. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Double_Mountain_\(Texas\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Double_Mountain_(Texas))

⁶² On April 18, 1880, a tornado measuring F4 on the Fujita scale struck Marshfield. Its damage path was 800 yards (730 m) wide and 64 miles (103 km) long. It is said that 10% of Marshfield's residents were killed and all but 15 of its buildings were destroyed. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marshfield,_Missouri

In 1881 I joined Frank at Indianapolis Ind. to learn the scene painting business. After a year with him at the Grand and English Opera Houses in Indianapolis and on the road I 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. We did very well.

Falling in love with Upper Alton, Ill on a visit there we got a house, furnished it complete, and I bought a piano and we sent for Ma and the younger children who were yet home and sprung the surprise.

In 1885 I took the position of Scenic Artist in (Sarney) Macauley's Theatre in Louisville Ky⁶³ and from there went to Kansas City where I worked for the L. R. Close Studio for some months and then to Keeler's Ninth St. Theatre for a year. I married Lotta Marsh⁶⁴ the daughter of the editor of the Kansas City Times who died within a fortnight of heart trouble.⁶⁵

At the expiration of my contract with Keeler he wanted me to go with him to his Denver House but the work of a two-a-day house was too confining and I again took the road. While at Waterloo Iowa I ran across Colonel Harry G. Fish whom I had known while with the Buffalo Bill Show⁶⁶ and courted and married his daughter on her sixteenth birthday Oct. 23 1887.

I made headquarters at Waterloo, working the towns throughout Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Dakotas and joined Frank as associate artist at the Old French Opera House on Toulouse and Bourbon Sts in New Orleans.

While here I witnessed the Fitzsimmons-Dempsey fight [January 4, 1891], the great bare-knuckle London Prize Ring rule fight between John L. Sullivan and Jake Kilrain [July 8, 1889]⁶⁷ in the hot sunshine among the pine trees just across the state line in Miss. near Richburg. I saw the Myer-Bowen fight [May 22, 1890] at West End [Athletic Club] and the fistic Carnival⁶⁸ in the old Olympic Club⁶⁹ where on the first night Billy Meyer fell to the greater prowess of Jack Mc Auliff, the second night Nigger Dixon put Skelly to sleep, and on the third night when Jim Corbett surprised the majority of the world by laying low the mighty John L. Sullivan. I also saw the Bowen-Burke [April 6, 1893]⁷⁰ and the Bowen-Everhardt [September 13, 1891 and May 31, 1893] fights at the Olympic and saw Bob Fitzsimmons when he knocked Hall out in the first minute of the third round⁷¹ of the fastest battle I have even witnessed [March 8, 1893].

After working for a few weeks in New Orleans I fell in love with the south and sent for my wife and infant son Claude to join me and remained in that city until 1900. Frank and I founded the Great Southern Scenic Studio⁷² with headquarters at the Grand Opera House which was the "open sesame" to the theatrical business of the west and was run by Henry Greenwall of the Texas Greenwall Circuit as the key house. Greenwall gave us all of his scenic business over the circuit.

⁶³ Macauley's Theatre was the premier theatre in Louisville, Kentucky during the late 19th and early 20th century. It opened on October 18, 1873 on the north side of Walnut Street between Third and Fourth Streets. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Macauley's_Theatre

⁶⁴ Missouri Marriage Records, 1805-2002

⁶⁵ Her obituary, which is in Mary Ann Cox's scrapbook, says she died two months after their marriage from an accidental overdose of chloroform taken to ease the pain of neuralgia.

⁶⁶ Buffalo Bill's Wild West show was founded in 1883 in Nebraska and traveled all over the US and even Europe. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buffalo_Bill#Buffalo_Bill.27s_Wild_West

⁶⁷ The Sullivan-Kilrain fight is considered to be a turning point in boxing history because it was the last world title bout fought under the London Prize Ring rules and therefore the last bare-knuckle heavyweight title bout. It was one of the first American sporting events to receive national press coverage. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_L._Sullivan#The_Kilrain_fight

⁶⁸ One of the most elaborate and important programs staged in boxing history was the three-day "Carnival of Champions" held at the Olympic Club in New Orleans, Louisiana, on September 5-7, 1892. <http://www.bestofneworleans.com/gambit/blake-pontchartrain/Content?oid=1519844>

⁶⁹ There once was a time when New Orleans was recognized as the boxing center of the world, and in 1891 Louisiana became the first state to legalize prizefighting. Athletic clubs were popular in New Orleans in the 19th century, and the Olympic Club was the city's leading club in the 1890s. The Olympic Club was founded in 1883 as an athletic association for men in the Third District. It got into prizefighting as a sideline, and in less than 10 years it had become a major boxing venue. The arena was located on Royal Street between Montegut and Clouet streets. <http://www.bestofneworleans.com/gambit/blake-pontchartrain/Content?oid=1519844>

⁷⁰ Andy Bowen and Jack Burke were involved in the longest fight in history. The fight lasted 111 rounds (consisting of 3 min rounds each), it took 7 hours and 19 mins until referee John Duffy called "no contest" after both men were too dazed and tired to come out of their corners. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andy_Bowen

⁷¹ Actually, it was the fourth round.

⁷² Various sources, including *Encyclopedia of New Orleans Artists 1718-1918* show the name "Cox Brothers Scenic Studio."

We built the Magnificent Pageants of Comus⁴³ and Momus⁷³ for several years and the Rex parade⁷⁴ one year.

Later Eugene Cox was admitted to the business and Frank withdrew and opened a Theatrical Architecture business.⁷⁵ We painted the scenery and produced the tableaux for all the grand carnival balls given at the old French Opera House from 1890 to 1900 but the yellow fever scares and quarantines⁷⁶ made it difficult to do business out of New Orleans so we split up and I went to Houston Texas.

A daughter Violet had been born in the meantime and I located in Houston until 1902 when I joined with Frank and Gene and opened the Cox Bros Scenic Studio 1925-7 Archer Ave and moved to Chi.⁷⁷ In Nov 1903 I contracted pneumonia and just before Christmas by advice of my physician went south.

I located at La Porte on the bay near Houston and the next spring took the position of Scenic Artist with the Alice Treat Hunt Stock Co. at the Eliseum Theater at New Orleans,⁷⁸ leaving the folks at La Porte, and returning in the Summer to re model the theatre in Houston which had been damaged by fire. I moved the family and remained in Houston until after the World War.⁷⁹

I built the parades and Carnival balls⁸⁰ for the No-Tsu-Oh Assn. and for the Red Roosters of which I was a charter member.⁸¹ I also built the M.M.M. Parades at Galveston and the Floral Parades in San Antonio⁸² and the Waco Elks entry for the Elks Convention Parade at Dallas. I built the largest float ever built in the U.S., a double-decked steamboat "City of Waco-Brazos Navigation Co." carrying thirty five passengers besides the crew. It took the \$1,000 prize.⁸³

My wife died under an operation⁸⁴ and I placed Violet in St. Agnes Academy.⁸⁵ I built a launch and houseboat and spent much of my time on Galveston Bay finally marrying August Koenig⁸⁶ and bought a home on Harrisburg Boulevard [Galveston] where on March 8th 1913 Violet was married to Will F. Eblen, a New Orleans boy who was then working for the Houston Light & Power Co.

After the war I came to Dallas and went into partnership in the King Studio.⁸⁷ I sold my interest the next year and returned to Houston, renting out the Dallas home I had bought. I later acquired the Dallas Scenic Studio located on Grand Ave., burned out with no insurance, and was left flat. However, I finally financed a new building on the rear of my residence lot with all the necessary equipment for a studio, worked hard and got it paid out.⁸⁸

⁷³ "The Knights of Momus" is the name of the third-oldest New Orleans Mardi Gras krewe, founded in 1872.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Momus#Mardi_Gras

⁷⁴ Rex (founded 1872) is a New Orleans Carnival Krewe which stages one of the city's most celebrated parades on Mardi Gras Day. Rex is Latin for "King", and Rex reigns as "The King of Carnival" http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rex_parade

⁷⁵ Several New Orleans City Directories for the mid-1890's show Frank listed as an architect.

⁷⁶ In the 100-year period between 1800 and 1900, yellow fever assaulted New Orleans for sixty-seven summers. The last known epidemic of yellow fever in the United States occurred in Louisiana in 1905. www.knowla.org/entry.php?rec=766

⁷⁷ There is an ad for the Cox Brothers Scene Painting Studio at this address in the 1902 Chicago City Directory.

⁷⁸ The *New York Clipper*, a weekly trade newspaper for the entertainment industry, has several listings for the Alice Treat Hunt Company in 1904-05, and shows her as the manager of the Elysium Theater.

⁷⁹ Listings for "Clark Cox, Scenic Artist" begin appearing in Houston City Directories in 1905 and continue through 1919.

⁸⁰ Clark is credited with producing the 1910 Grand Ball at <http://houston100yearsago.wordpress.com/2010/11/28/scene-of-beauty-was-grand-ball/>

⁸¹ The Red Roosters Association were the "fun makers" of the annual Houston Carnival, the No-Tsu-Oh (Houston spelled backwards). <http://books.google.com/books?id=hVoEAAAAMBAJ&pg=PA58&lpg=PA58&dq=%22Red+Roosters%22+houston&source=bl&ots=bf6TSc9ZrQ&sig=zivxhSS7ERHCefICTJ6g-6BOYBY&hl=en&sa=X&ei=G-IOT5GpNsW7twfA8s2oDQ&ved=0CFYQ6AEwCA#v=onepage&q=%22Red%20Roosters%22&f=false>

⁸² Probably he is referring to the annual Battle of Flowers Parade at the Fiesta San Antonio, held since 1891.

⁸³ Probably commemorating the Galveston and Brazos Navigation Company, which operated steamboats on a canal between Galveston and Brazos River prior to the Civil War.

⁸⁴ Later in this document, Clark says that Bertha died 6 August 1906.

⁸⁵ St. Agnes Academy is a Catholic college-prep high school for young women, still in operation in Houston. www.st-agnes.org

⁸⁶ Probably the marriage was in late 1910. In the May 1910 Census Clark is single, but in the 1911 Houston City Directory (data compiled in 1910) Augusta is listed as his wife.

⁸⁷ Clark is listed as being with the King Studio Co. in the 1920 Dallas City Directory.

⁸⁸ The Dallas Scenic Studio is listed in several Dallas City Directories.

In 1930 I incorporated the business for \$10,000.00 with myself as President, W. F. Eblen Vice President, and A. T. Baker Secretary-Treasurer. About ten years ago [1920] I contracted arthritis and for the last three years have not done much scenic work but have made yearly trips to the mountains and have about thirty water color paintings which some day will command a good price. I have a special exhibition room built and enjoy being among them. The Guadalupe, Van Horn, Davis mountains and the country of the big bend of the Rio Grande all lying in western Texas is one vast region of nature's wonders and beauties, a great part of which is unexplored.

While Scenic Artist of the Elysium Theatre at New Orleans I became quite intimate with Joe Levecq, the editor of the "Harlequin," an amusement periodical, and with Henry Rightor, a noted newspaper reporter⁸⁹ and was the recipient of much publicity and favorable comment. When I went to Houston, I carried a letter from Joe to Marcellos Foster (Mefo), the editor of the Chronicle, and that paper and the Houston Post were of great benefit in getting me established in my new quarters.

Alice Treat Hunt, the leading lady of the Alice Treat Hunt Stock Co. at the Elysium,⁷⁸ was the wife of Lester Lonergan,⁹⁰ the leading man of the Stock Company playing at the Grand. When that house closed, Lester joined our Company and we gave him a big blow out and reception on the Elysium Stage. Herbert Brenon, now the great director,⁹¹ was master of ceremonies and recited a poem I composed for the occasion. Lew Morrison was a heavy man and Herbert was playing juveniles. Herbert was everlastingly working on some skit or other with different members of the cast and I remember one in particular which was a hit. He and Alice did the song "Navahoe" with Alice as the Indian girl and Herbert the Nigger.

After the Company closed and Lester and Alice went to the Athenaeum in Boston,⁹² Herbert got a company together and opened at Highland Park in Houston with a summer show. He had a fair company and a rattling good soubrette (Helen Pingree), who made a big hit in the song "Won't you fondle me," but street car facilities were poor the weather against them and Herbert closed the show, got his people back to New Orleans, and he and his wife were my guests until he secured a date at the Athenaeum at Boston where Lonergan was leading man and Alice leading lady.

In June 1912 my son Claude told me he wanted to get away from Houston as he had got into bad company and I gave him a ticket to New Orleans. I have never heard from him since.⁹³

⁸⁹ Henry Rightor was the first president of the New Orleans Press Club. http://medianola.tulane.edu/index.php/New_Orleans_Press_Club

⁹⁰ Alice Treat Hunt and Lester Lonergan were indeed husband and wife. <http://www.fultonhistory.com/Process%20small/Newspapers/New%20York%20NY%20Clipper%201853%20-%201924/New%20York%20NY%20Clipper%201903-1904.pdf/New%20York%20NY%20Clipper%201903-1904%20-%200397.pdf>

⁹¹ Herbert Brenon (13 January, 1880 – 21 June, 1958) was a film director (during the era of silent movies through the 1930s). http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Herbert_Brenon

⁹² The Howard Athenaeum (1845-1953) in Boston, Massachusetts, was one of the most famous theaters in Boston history. Founded in 1845, it remained an institution of culture and learning for most of its years, finally closing in 1953. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Howard_Athenaeum

⁹³ It is probable that he died 20 July 1913 in San Antonio, Texas. There is a death certificate for Claude Cox with the occupation Sign Painter & Decorator. He died of tetanus, with a morphine addiction as a secondary cause. <https://familysearch.org/pal:MM9.3.1/TH-266-11772-123121-62?cc=1320964>

Ona Etta Cox

(No attempt has been made to verify the information below with the historical record.)

Ona [born Nov 8th 1864] was the belle of the family. She had beaux from the time she was able to toddle. She had the faculty of talking to a crowd and making each one feel that she was devoting the most of her attention to them. She was a good entertainer, had a wonderful sense of humor and was a great kidder. She graduated in music while still a young girl and taught and some of the anecdotes of her pupils was a scream.

While visiting us in Chicago we were eating in the restaurant of the big department store of Siegel-Cooper and there were hot biscuits. Turning her big innocent looking eyes on the girl waiter she remarked, "These are sure fine biscuits. Did Mrs. Siegel or Mrs. Cooper bake them?"

Another time while riding on the trolley car she got up and went out on the front platform and looked all around with that innocent stare and then asked the operator, "What in the world makes this car go?" He pointed to the trolley and proceeded to explain its workings and after he was through she said, "Now just because I am from the country you needn't try to tell me that that little wheel runs this big car. I guess I'd better go before you try to sell me Lake Michigan." And she haughtily swept back into the car.

While visiting her sister Allie in Golconda, Ill she met William F. Sinks and they were married at the Cox home in Upper Alton, Ill. They had three children: Corrinne who died in infancy, Frank who married Mabel Spain to who were born twins Ona Francis and Bertha Clare who married and has a son, and Earl who is married and living in California.

Onas husband was in the Harness and Vehicle business in Golconda Ill for several years and One run a very successful millinery business up to the advent of the Automobile when then Moved to Yuma Ariz where they both are buried.

Artella Eva Cox

(No attempt has been made to verify the information below with the historical record.)

Telle [born April 3, 1866] was the stormy petrel. Her dark blue eyes that turned black when excited, independent, an ardent lover and fierce hater with a touch of the wild in her nature. She never quite forgave me for leaving her behind when I went to live with the Indians for together we used to pour over "Deadwood Dick" "Buffalo bill" and other yellow-backs and I remember once when we was selecting a book and we would read some of the opening lines. We were undecided between one that started out, "Against the reddish glow of the sinking sun a lone horseman could be seen moving slowly along the far horizon" and "Rattlesnake Pete reined his jaded steed on a rocky eminence overlooking the broad valley lying like a map to the hazy distance of a low range of blue mountains melting into the western sky" when Telle cried with excitement "Here it is."

"CRASH.-Crackle, BANG, DOO-OOH-E-Y: A man standing between Rawbone Rowdy and Frontier Fred fell dead." Away went our dime.

We would take turns in reading aloud and at times she would have a far away, dreamy look, then her eyes would glow black and bright with excitement or a tear steal down her cheek and her lip quiver as her little hands clinched in anger as the emotions stirred her.

While we were living in Upper Alton I traded for a ten gallon keg of port wine and one day my youngest brother plied her with it 'til she got cry-eyed and then awfully sick and when the sickness had worn off to some extent she went on the warpath. "Where is Gene? Show me that low down pup. I'LL PULVERIZE HIM IT IT'S THE LAST BONE IN MY BODY."

At another time she got the hiccoughs and we did everything, even to getting the doctor, without avail. That night when Father returned from St Louis he heard of it on the street car. "Did you hear about Annie Randall? were his first words. Annie was Telle's inseparable chum. "Well it seems that there's some fatal disease struck Alton, beginning with hiccoughs and Annie is not expected to live." Telle never stopped for a hat but rushed out and down to Annie's house, only to find her drying the dishes for her mother. On her return she got after Pa at once to find out where had got that preposterous story. Pa unwound the long strap of his pocket book and took out a dollar and said, "Daughter I'll just give you this dollar for one big hiccough." We all laughed but there was not a hiccough in a car load.

After I had came home from my life with the Indians and running cattle in Texas she would listen for hours whole I related my adventures with all thee embellishments and would then remark. "I'LL never forgive you. Never."

To make up for it I adopted her and gave her clothes, spending money and a musical education. More than one swain got his ears boxed before she married Will Boman, a Druggist of Kimswick Mo. They never had any children and when any one was sick or in trouble she was the first to help. She traveled from Chicago to Yuma Arizona and back to be with sister Ona in her last hours. When I was taken down with pneumonia in Chicago and my family was in the south she took me to her immaculate flat and nursed me through what otherwise would have been a fatal illness. She visited me twice in Texas, the last time shortly before her death in Chicago.

When I see a Petrel skimming the white capped waves or beating its graceful wings against a stormy sky I think of Telle. Wild, impetuous, loving, kind. A square-shooter with a heart of gold.

Eugene Cox

(No attempt has been made to verify the information below with the historical record.)

Gene caused me to take a long ride through the wild and lonesome woods on a cold, winter night with the howl of the timber wolf on each side and a the cry of a panther deep down in the river bottoms. I have always felt that in a way I was responsible for him and we have been much together and "sorter chums".

When in Missouri I taught him how to strip the black haw trees, hunt the may apples hiding under the last fall leaves or the wild strawberries under the tufts of grass. When we moved to Terre Haute he helped me sell papers on the street and his babyish cry of "EVENIN' BUSSETT brought many a nickel I would not have got. I saved him from being drowned in the Wabash river for he was always a venturesome kid. He was always getting into trouble because he had a big brother and I had to play up to the part.

He attended school in Terre Haute, Morgantown Indiana, and in Buffalo and Springfield Missouri. He always had an eye to business and got up in the middle of the night at Springfield to carry a paper route and then got out on the evening delivery of another paper.

He married Carrie Swift, a vivacious blonde, at Alton Illinois when a mere boy and was broke into the scenic business early in life but instead of taking the road as his brothers before him had he went into the Scenic Studio of Sosman & Landis in Chicago where he got good schooling and advanced fast.

At times he would break away for a time and work with the brothers and later joined them at New Orleans and was a member of the Cox Brothers Great Southern Studio until 1900, in the meantime acquiring a family of four boys and a girl.

Eugene 2nd married Winona Swain. There were no children and after being divorced he married Myrtle Fritch and they had one child Jack. This union also went to the bad and he married Beatrice Took.

The second son Henry Hoyt (named for a prominent scenic artist) was raised by his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Swift of Upper Alton Ill, and was reared under their guidance in a different atmosphere than the other children in the city and grew up into sturdy manhood with high ideals. His father gave him a medical education and today he is a prominent physician and surgeon in Chicago. He married Ruth Griffin and they have a daughter Dorothy and two sons, Hoyt 2nd and David.

Boman Cox married Mabel Keeter and they have two boys and a girl. Boman 2nd, Norman, and Beverly Jane.

Morris, the youngest of the boys, married Margaret Kidd and they have three children: Hoyt, Harriet and Earl.

Irene, the daughter, married Harvey Peck and they have a daughter Lorraine Peck.

Gene and Carrie were divorced and he married Sue Newell, a relative of his first wife.

All of his children who when they were children were known far and near as those "Cox Kids" and were a wild bunch that gave their mother many a worry. They knew kids from the ghetto to the South side and grew up city wise but each one developed into a business man and a good citizen.

He moved to Chicago about 1900 and in 1902 joined with his brothers in the Cox Brothers Scenic Studio at 1925-27 Archer Ave. After Clark went to Texas, the Studio was sold to Sosman & Landis, and Gene opened business in the Guthman Transfer building and doing well and saving some money bought a brick building on Ogden Ave and turned it into a Studio which he ran until Eugene 2nd was grown.

He sold the business to his son and retired, buying some property on Lake Marie near Antioch and building several commuter's or summer cottages. He afterward acquired some more land on Channel Lake (a connecting Lake) and built and stocked a resorter's store, filling station and later on built a restaurant adjoining. After the close of the season just after Labor Day he closes the business place locks up the cottage and recreates. One winter he trapped enough furs on the lake to make his wife a nice fur coat.

He has a place in Wisconsin teeming with fish and game and he loads up the big truck and spends some weeks every fall. He made one trip back to his old home at Buffalo Missouri and got photos of the old barn which still stands, renewed acquaintance with an old school chum O'Banin, who is now a banker,

and visited Springfield where he found several friends of his boyhood still living. He spent two winters in Florida, one year going via Dallas to visit Clark and New Orleans to see friends there.

He is not as tall as his brothers being short armed and heavy build and favors the Cox branch.

I am just in receipt of a clipping from the *Chicago American* telling of his place getting hi-jacked by four bandits who made them all lie down on the floor while they took \$416 and a watch. John Fachsm who owned an \$800 diamond, got it in his mouth and saved it. Gene called a Deputy as soon as they were gone and they followed them in an automobile, catching up with them where they had got stuck in a ditch. When called on to surrender, they replied with shots and Gene and Hans emptied their guns at them only to find they had no more ammunition and had to run under fire and hide in the brush till the bandits got their car out and escaped.

LuDelle Cox

(No attempt has been made to verify the information below with the historical record.)

When Delle was born [May 14 1878] the next child, Eugene, was nine years old. Being the baby, it was almost like being of another generation. All of a mother's interest was centered in her and she was reared in a sedate atmosphere. The puritanical ideas handed down especially from the Brooks branch were instilled into her until we other children looked to see her grow up a prude, but she had ideas of her own which became manifest as she grew up and she developed a broad-minded character with a firmer and more even base than any of us.

She graduated in music from Shurtleff College at Upper Alton and married Harold Powell, the son of an educational instructor. She was a leader in her set and participated in all of the entertainments and activities.

They lost their first child in infancy but there were three other children born to them: Harold, Virginia and Donald, the youngest, who upon graduation secured a position with the Standard Oil Co. and is at present stationed at Aruba, a small island just off the northern coast of Venezuela near the equator where the company is building one of the largest plants in the world. He writes home some wonderfully interesting letters.

His mother [LuDelle] is a literary genius and Donald inherits the gift. Her husband is a railroad official, and in their early married life was shunted from pillar to post all over the system but as each change was a promotion they were satisfied. They got to see lots of the country and meet different people, which was an education in itself.

They are near enough to the old home to motor up there often and keep in touch with the friends of her girlhood. She will always be young and unlike any one else except—well, just Delle.

Genealogies

NOTE: Clark's genealogy data from the end of his document has been changed to an ahnentafel format as it is easier to read. All of the data needs to be checked to be sure it was entered correctly. In the meantime, it was omitted so that the rest of the document could be made available.

The Fish Family

(No attempt has been made to verify the information below with the historical record.)

Henry (Harry) Gilbert Fish was born Feb 2nd 1841. He enlisted in the Union Army as a drummer boy and served four years. He was a prisoner in the Andersonville death pens for over a year and was instrumental in the conviction and execution of the infamous prison keeper Wurtz whose aide he was compelled to be while in confinement.⁹⁴

On Dec 20th 1868 he was married to Louise C. Womelsdorf, who was born in Willowfield New Jersey⁹⁵ Sept 9th 1852, and to this union there were five children born, as shown in the family tree. His daughter, Bertha Louise Fish, married Clark Cox at Waterloo Iowa Oct 24 1887 and to them were born: Claude Cox on Dec 26th 1888, missing since Jun 1912,⁹³ and Violet on Oct 31st 1891, who married William F. Eblen March 8, 1913.

Harry (Colonel) Fish was born in New York City. His mother died when he was an infant and he was adopted by a relative and brought up as one of the family knowing no other parents. He left school and ran away to sea but returned and joined the Army of the North, among the first of the Volunteers

When William F. Cody (Buffalo Bill) started his Wild West show the "Colonel," as he was affectionately known, joined the show as purchasing agent and served in different capacities with the show for years.

He was very proud of the name the Indians with the show gave him: "Che-un-che-wau-gee. I have forgotten what that means, but the first time I met him was at Chicago standing knee deep in money in a little round ticket box and "cussing" because the "money wagon" didn't come around and relieve him. The show was new and had not yet been systemized and Chicago had stormed the gates to the tune of over \$30,000 and they were unprepared for it. When they ran out of tickets they sent those collected at the gates to be re-sold and when it was over Nate Salsbury, Major Burke and Col. Prentiss Ingram took job wagons and gathered up the money from the ticket boxes, little round affairs staked down to the ground and barely large enough to admit the ticket seller

He wore his hair long and in features was not unlike buffalo Bill and this was his undoing for when in advance of the show at one time he let the citizens entertain him as Bill. While getting by with it and having a lot of sport, Bill did not take to the joke and terminated business relations.

After his wife's death he went to Texas and located at La Porte near Houston, acquiring a nice piece of property near the Bay. He married again and spent his declining years among his curios and souvenirs, of which he had quite a collection, and the chickens and live stock. His home was a great rendezvous for hunters and fishermen. He was an eccentric "character" and was known all over the country and when the "Bill" show would come to Houston he was the guest of honor and had him one big day.

Louise C. Fish was of German descent and somewhere in the family is a sword presented by the Emperor to her grandfather who was head forester to the Emperor. She had the sweetest disposition of any one I have every known. She loved to get the bunch together and sing the old folk songs and wind up with "Then the roses come again."

" Sunshine over crimson clover
 Blossoms o'er the meadows wide
 Summers fingers softly lingers
 Every where on every side
 Some one's roaming in the gloaming
 Happy hearts that know no pain
 All their sadness turned to gladness
 Now the roses bloom again." Chorus.

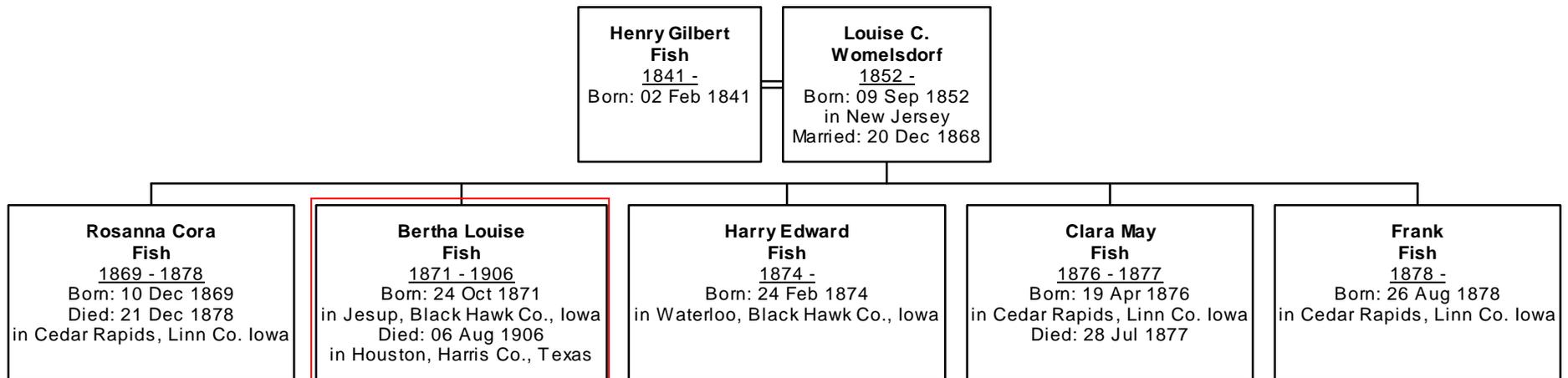
She was a true Christian and a wonderful Mother and when her hand grew cold in mine on November 22, 1889⁹⁶ the spirit had flown from one of the best friends I ever knew. —Clark Cox

⁹⁴ There is information about Harry in the bio of his son Frank at <http://iagenweb.org/history/peopleofiowa/vol4/f.htm>

⁹⁵ Clark Cox says she was born in Willowfield, NJ, but no such place exists. Perhaps he meant Winfield Township, Willingborough Township, or Westfield, or Williamstown. There is no way to know.

⁹⁶ In the original version of Clark's narrative, someone changed this date to the death date for Clark's wife. However, he is making a tribute to his mother-in-law, Louise, so her death date is used here.

Descendants of Henry Gilbert Fish



NOTE: Clark Cox says Louise Womelsdorf was born in Willowfield, NJ, but no such place exists. Perhaps he meant Winfield Township, Willingborough Township, or Westfield, or Williamstown. There is no way to know.