



John Cox Family Organization

NEWSLETTER

September, 2013

Elizabeth Ann Cox Daughter to John Cox

This is a brief history of ELIZABETH ANN COX LEE requested by Julie Eckman and submitted by Barbara Dickson Jones (daughter of Catherine Cox Lee and granddaughter of Elizabeth Ann Cox).

Elizabeth Ann Cox was born February 4, 1861 to Hannah “Annie” Stiff Cox and John Cox Jr.

At the age of 5, in 1866, she sailed from Liverpool to America with her family to join the Mormon church. Also at 5 she walked across the plains with a handcart company to Salt Lake – the West.

As she matured she looked like her handsome father, with brown hair, brown eyes and a contagious smile. The Cox family settled in Woodruff, Utah. The bishop of Woodruff and leader in the community of Woodruff was Wm. Henry Lee and his counselor was John Cox Jr.

Like a lot of young girls at that time, many worked in the homes of large families and Elizabeth was working in the home of Bishop Lee. She was dating a young man whom she had fallen in love with, but had to have the permission of the bishop and her father. Bishop Lee said “no” I am going to marry her and her father agreed – it was a privilege for him to have his daughter marry William Henry Lee.

They were married October 10, 1878 in the Endowment House. She being 17 years old and he being 51. She was his third wife and they produced nine children – my mother was the sixth and the last three were born when their father was in his seventies. Grandma had a hard life being so young and living with such a large family. William Henry Lee died in 1910 at age 83 and grandma died 1944 at the age 83.

After grandfather died there was no inheritance for



grandma, only a cow. Grandma lived with my parents for the rest of her life – staying sometimes with her daughters when they invited her. The things I remember in my youth with grandma living with us. She could out-spell anyone. The walls in their home were papered in newspaper and she read them all. She was a little lady thus we called her “little grandma”. She wore a long gray “shimmy” under her dress, sleeveless and long to keep her warm.

She had long hair and brushed it nightly and bunned it in the morning. She would scrape the cooking pans until they were clean. For some time she and my sister shared a bed and she would pray for hours it seemed. As she aged she became forgetful. One thing she did a lot was put on her best clothes –her hat on her head, her purse and would sit on our front porch waiting for one of her sons to take her for a ride – all day sometimes. I would like it to be remembered that my father Rufus F. Dickson and my siblings had the greatest respect for our dear grandmother. I know that she felt our love. I just know that she will be sitting on the front row in heaven – along with the other grandma’s who sacrificed so much. I am 83 years old and hope to see her again soon.

Southampton, Hampshire, England

Home Of The John Cox Family

From 1858-1870

By Janet Porter

On 28 March 1857 Edwin Cox, son of John Cox Sr. and Ann Baker, married Harriet Barrow, daughter of James and Elizabeth (Newman) Barrow. The marriage at the Saint Marks Church in Southampton is the



Wield was about 25 miles from Southampton.

Courtesy, Google

first mention of Cox family members in Southampton.

Edwin's wife Harriet was born in and lived in Southampton. Apparently before 1857, members of the Cox family had moved there from Wield, a distance of about 25 miles. Southampton became the Cox family home for more than a decade.

The main road from Wield to Southampton lay south, twelve miles to Winchester where they would certainly have viewed Winchester Cathedral, the oldest religious edifice in Britain. Originally founded in 642, the cathedral is evidence of the early settlement of Hampshire County.

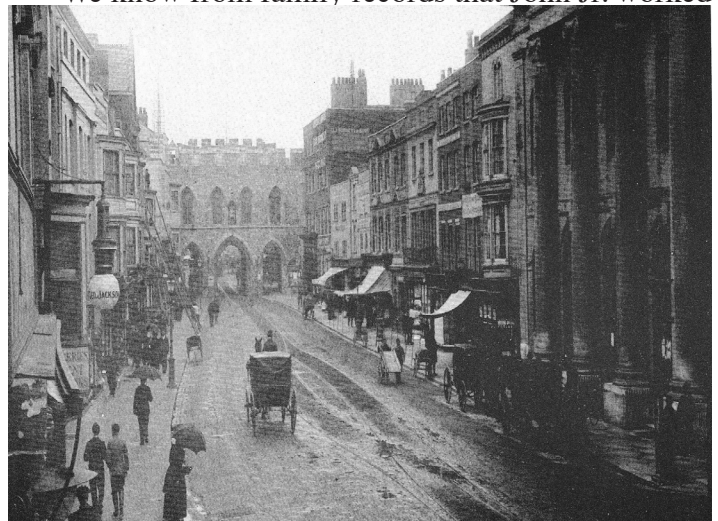
After the Normans came into the country in the 11th Century, the cathedral was rebuilt in the Norman style, but it is said to contain the remains of the old Saxon kings such as King Eadwig of England and his wife Ælfgifu, first buried in the Old building and now memorialized in the present cathedral.



Winchester Cathedral,
courtesy Wikimedia Commons

Leaving Winchester they would have traveled 10-12 miles south and west to the great port city of Southampton, no doubt to gain employment. Edwin and John and their parents had been baptized into the L.D.S. Church at Wield in 1851. Although their parents remained in Wield, both Edwin and John Jr. left to live and work in Southampton.

We know from family records that John Jr. worked



Bargate into Southampton from High Street

(Adran Rance, Milestone Publications, FHL British book 942.27/s1 H2r, p. 9)

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Southampton: Cox Family Home For 12 Years

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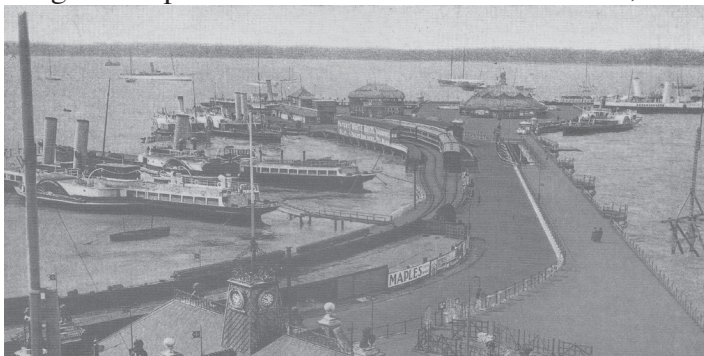


Shoreline and Southampton, 1840

Jan Stovold, Pillimore, *Bygone Southampton: Georgian and Victorian Engravings and Paints* FHL British book 942.27/S1 H2s, p. 58

as a ship builder there. On 22 August 1858 John Cox Jr. and Annie Stiff, both formerly of Wield, married at Southampton, the largest city south of Wield, an area inhabited since the Stone Age, and the port city for the Mayflower over 200 years earlier.

Southampton is inland, lying twelve miles north of the English Channel. The city is located along the great seaport at the confluence of three rivers, the



The Royal Pier at Southampton in 1840

with railway. (John Edgar Mann, *Southampton Past and Present*, Countryside Books, Newbury. FHL British book, 942.27/S1 H2m, p. 18.

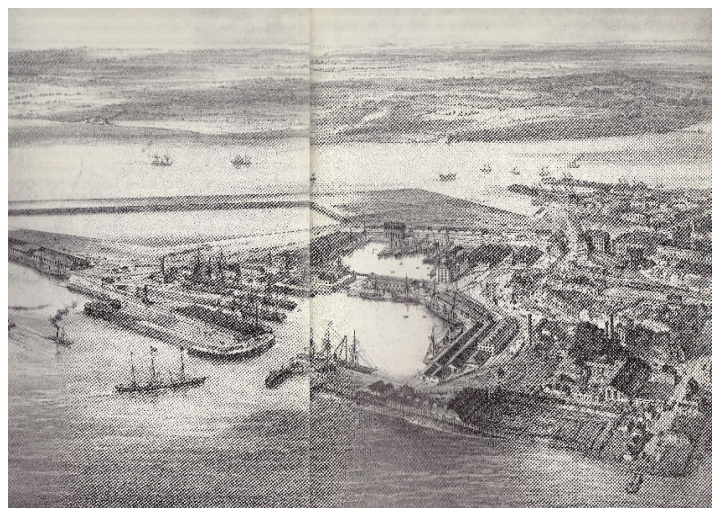


Southampton High Street

about the time the Cox family lived there. (*Southampton Then and Now*, p. 48)

site of a major ship-building industry for centuries. In 1840 the railroad linked the city to London and other major cities, and Southampton soon became known as The Gateway to the Empire.

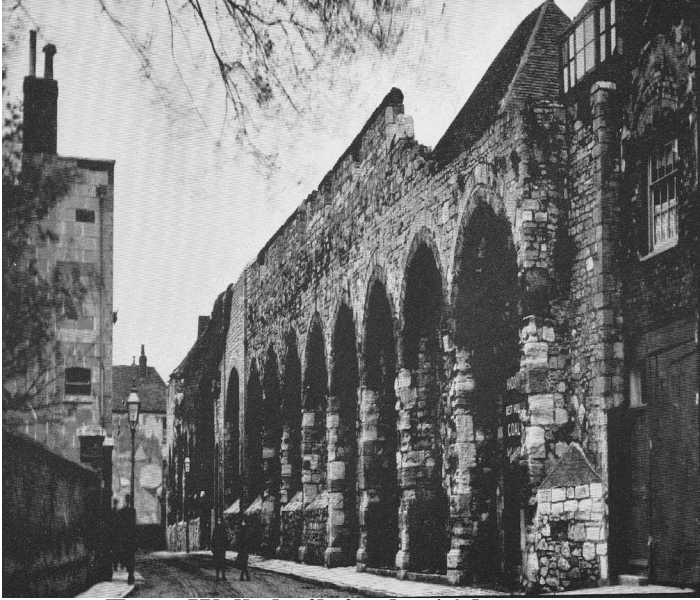
Both Edwin and John Jr. lived in Southampton and each had a child there. Edwin's son William Edwin was born 4 June 1857 and John's son John Hyrum



The shoreline at Southampton in the 1800s with docks, shipyards and the city. (*Bygone Southampton*)

was born 18 July 1859. John left Southampton the next year and emigrated in 1866, but Edwin stayed. Edwin appeared on the 1861 Census with his wife Harriet and son William, age 3. In February of 1859 Edwin's mother died at Wield, and John Sr. moved to be with his sons, because he married, in September of that year, Elizabeth Stockham of Southampton. They

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Town Walls built in the 14th century
to protect the city, some of which still stand
(*Southampton Then and Now*, p. 2)

John Cox and His Family In Southampton

Continued from page 3

had five children born in Southampton from 1859 to 1870. John Sr. died in a train accident 9 July 1869 and Elizabeth died the next year at Southampton 12 May 1870.

In 1871, after the death of his parents, Edwin was still in Southampton, enumerated at Alton, Hampshire. St Mary's Ecclesiastical Parish. Both he and Harriet were listed at age 32. Their son William was age 13. Also living with them was Edwin's sister Elizabeth, age 5, living there because her parents had both died. A few months later, in August of that year, Edwin and Harriet emigrated. Listed with them on the roster of the ship Nevada were their son William, and Edwin's sisters Elizabeth, (said to be 4 years old) and Sarah (19 years old.) The great city of Southampton had been their home for fifteen years.

Message from Julie Eckman John Cox Committee Chair

Dear Cox Family,

We enjoyed seeing many of you at our reunion in Kaysville last August. We met new relatives from as far away as Nebraska, Texas, and Wyoming! We highlighted John Cox Jr., and two of his children. We heard stories from Jackie Hecht about her grandmother, Ellen Josephine Cox Sessions. Barbara Jones shared the life history of her grandmother, Eliabeth Cox Lee. Janet Porter gave an insightful presentation about John Cox Jr. and his life while living in England.

We appreciate all of you who have shared your stories with us, and with each other. We encourage you to send short histories of your ancestors to Reed Scothern at reedscotcox@aim.com. He will publish them on the Cox website, which is: www.coxgen.org. Janet Porter is always happy to receive genealogy information. You can contact her at: janetprtr@gmail.com.

We hope to see you next August at the family reunion. Until, please remember to keep the memory of our dear departed relatives alive in the hearts of your children and grandchildren!

Julie Cox Eckman and the Cox Family Committee

P.S. We are looking for someone to head up the Reunion Committee. Please contact me at julie_eckman@yahoo.com if you would like to help organize reunions. We hold them on the even years and send out newsletters on the odd years.

Ellen Josephine Cox Sessions Highlighted by Her Granddaughter

By Jackie L. Hecht, granddaughter of Ellen Josephine Cox Sessions.

How do I ever begin to describe my grandmother, Ellen Josephine Cox in such a short space but I'll try. My grandmother was a short, plump lady with the softest baby skin I have ever seen on any adult. This was not the result sitting idly around or of any sort of pampering.

She always had a large garden and willingly shared with others. She canned huge amounts of fruits and vegetables and again gave a good share of these away. She separated the milk and made butter. The butter for her tithing was put into a mold with a design on top which was kept especially for that purpose. She made loaf after loaf of delicious bread. A glass of milk and a thick slice of bread shared at her oilcloth covered table was a wonderful treat.

She was noted for her delicious lemon sugar cookies and this recipe is a tradition to have at any family reunion. She also had a large English flower garden which was a treat for a little girl to wander through with grandma telling the different varieties and remembering that her mother had the same sort of flower garden.

Grandma was my example of faith and she is the reason why I attend church regularly. She taught by example and I never remem-

ber her preaching to me at all. She would take out her well-worn little leather purse with a snap on top and count out her money for her tithing. I remember her telling me that she always paid an honest tithe. She always attended her church meetings and very often she would cross the street wearing her best navy dress and small hat, with her Sunday shoes navigating the little bridge in front of our house. She would then ask if any of us were going to church with her. I'm embarrassed to say that often the answer was, "no".

I never remember her being angry or scolding when she heard that answer but I do remember the feeling that I had disappointed her. I always liked to ride my bike the mile to visit with grandma and after my parents died when I was very young, I made that trip very regularly.

Often grandma and I would sit side by side on the sofa and she would thumb through the pages of her photo album and tell me about the unknown people in these photos.

I came to know and love my Cox relatives long before I ever met any of them. She always told me that she when she left Utah to travel to the Big Horn Basin of Wyoming she felt she would never



Ellen Josephine Cox Sessions

see her family again. She marveled at the great blessing it was to have the automobile so that she could travel to see her family and attend the temple.

How fortunate I was to know and love this outstanding lady and that many of her teachings stuck with that little girl with the long pigtailed, skinned knees and elbows. I'm grateful I have embraced many of the things she held dear into my own life. She is my role model.

Ellen Josephine Cox Sessions was the daughter of John Cox, Jr and his wife, Annie Stiff Cox