

Please indulge me as I present my short understanding of

Our Cox Family Civil War Experience

First let's set the stage near the MS/TN border along the Naches Trace about 1850. In the town of Holly Springs Mississippi and a nearby community called Potts Camp we have the Pipkin brothers (a Miller and a Grocer), several Cox families from GA and SC and a Shoffner family, all farmers and none of which are slave owners. About 20 miles north of Holly Springs, just outside Moscow Tennessee we have the Chambers plantation with several slaves. In 1853 William B. Cox's son John C, eldest of 10 children marries Elizabeth Rainey who is the (unofficially) adopted daughter of Phillip Pipkin. They have four children while in MS, eldest of which is James F. Cox. Between 1856 and 1860 John moves to land in Independence County Arkansas and with wife Elizabeth and kids they relocate.

About 1862 the Civil War impacted the area with their family farms from Arkansas through Memphis and Moscow in Tennessee and Holly Springs to Potts Camp in Mississippi right in the heat of it. In 1976 Penwood Rountree sent me the story told him by his Aunt Amanda Duncan, daughter of John C. Cox, about what happened during the war. She said they were in MS and her father "was home on leave from the Southern Army, a party of Northern Soldiers came by and captured him and took all of the family's supplies and live stock-even gathered the hen's eggs from the nests". She was about six at the time, he was never heard of again and her mother reportedly became the cook at a big farm.

Several John, John C and J.C. Cox CSA privates from AR and MS are listed in the archives and I assume they were at the grandparents home when this happened. Their son James Franklin Cox was born October 20, 1851 so he was about 11 years old when this started. On the 1870 census we find James F. Cox as the "Head of Household" in TN with his wife Emma, her mother Jemima Chambers and his siblings. His mother lives next door with current husband Jake Shoffner and the younger Pipkin boys live on the other side with the Bradley's.

In 1875 Jemima Chambers filed a Southern Claims Commission petition in Fayette Co. TN. The testimony is extensive but essentially states that her husband died in 1863 leaving her with two young daughters while the Northern Soldiers were taking all of their crops and livestock. The filing was delayed because they had to reconstruct his will from witnesses because a female could not own the land unless willed to her. Area histories record many similar stories because records were lost when the Union Army looted and burned the towns of Potts Camp MS and Moscow TN to the ground as they left.

After the rejection of the claim for losses I have documents showing the sale of a few acres of land belonging to Emma (Chambers) Cox in 1880. By 1888 they have packed up and gone to Titus County TX in a wagon train. I have documents dated 1888 including a note deeding some land to R.A Rountree and a power of attorney from Jemima Chambers authorizing James F. Cox to recover any value for property in TN. There are stories of his riding back several times with no apparent success. This is information compiled from family stories and public document research. It is to the best of my knowledge accurate and links to most documents are contained in my genealogical pages at www.cox-tx.us.

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As many soldiers come back from a war they put it in the past and don't talk much about it. This is especially true if you were not welcomed as a victor as we are now experiencing with many of our Vietnam War Veterans. The family stories are just that Jim Cox was a soldier and it was verified to the government's satisfaction so he drew a pension all his life. Even though he was barely a teenager when his father was captured at their home and apparently died, he may have just taken his place. Other stories are that being a young boy he served as a spy and then joined in the battle when it came to him.

I have not found a grave for John C Cox, his father William B Cox or his father in law William P Chambers. Graves for these names that I have located on line to date have proven not to be ours. I have found no additional stories about him, his father, father in law or son Jim so far. Some of John's brothers were also soldiers and their families may have details that we can link to.

Ken Cox
Great Grandson of James Franklin Cox
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Links to pages that bring the story to life.

Great little History of Potts Camp in the "HEADBOARDS OF STONE" blog
<http://headboardsofstone.blogspot.com/2010/07/early-settlers-on-pototoc-trail-potts.html>

Jemima Chambers Southern Claims Commission petition, Fayette Co. TN
http://www.cox-tx.us/family/genealogy/Chambers_Disallowed_Claim.pdf

The Union's story "Excerpt from the 48th Ohio Regimental History"
http://www.civilwaralbum.com/misc8/moscow_48th1.htm

OUR COX FAMILY PATRIOT ANCESTOR, Joseph Allen (DAR-A001697)
<http://www.cox-tx.us/family/genealogy/Patriot%20Ancestor/Home.htm>

Our Home page www.cox-tx.us.