



John Cox Jr.

Born: May 12, 1836
Wield, Hampshire, England

Died: November 17, 1915
Woodruff, Rich, Utah

Arrived in the Salt Lake Valley September 15, 1866
By Wagon – William Henry Chipman Company

John Cox Jr.

Born: 12 May, 1836, Weild Hamp., England
Died: At Woodruff, Rich, Utah 17 November, 1915
Parents: John Cox Sr. & Ann Baker
Pioneer: Arrived in Salt Lake Valley - Sep 1866
William Henry Chipman Co. - by wagon
Spouse: Hannan (Annie) Stiff/Neville
Born: 19 March, 1839 at Rotherick, Hamps, England
She died: At Woodruff, Rich, Utah 28 February, 1920

- Children:**
- (1) John Hyrum Cox, b. 18 Jul 1859 (Southampton)
died: 16 May 1866 (child) (at sea)
 - (2) Elizabeth Ann Cox, b. 4 Feb. 1861 (Portsmouth)
md. William Henry LEE
 - (3) William James Cox - b. 31 May 1863 (Basingstoke)
md. Minnie May BOWNS
 - (4) Heber Charles Cox - b. 14 Jan 1866 (Lambeth)
md. Teenie BOWNS
 - (5) Annie Cox - b. 8 Dec 1867 (Centerville)
md. Thomas Josiah TINGEY
 - (6) George Edwin Cox - b. 7 Dec 1869 (Centerville)
md. (1) Vinnie MANGUM; (2) Carrie JOHNSON
 - (7) Ellen Josephine Cox - b. 23 Dec 1871 (Salt Lake City)
Byron Arbury SESSIONS
 - (8) Mary Louise Cox - b. 1 Mar 1874 (Woodruff)
md. David DEAN
 - (9) Minnie Amelia COX - b. 31 Jul 1876 (Woodruff)
md. James Richard STUART
 - (10) Agnes Ada Cox - b. 22 Jan 1881 (Woodruff)
md. Scott Aytch SESSIONS
 - (11) Julia Rachel Cox - b. 22 Jun 1881 (Woodruff)
died: 2 Jun 1888 (child)
 - (12) John Alma Cox - b. 13 Dec. 1883 (Woodruff)
md. Laura Rosina GODBE/GODBY

Hannah (Annie) Stiff/Neville Cox, always known to everyone as "Annie" was born 19th of Mar 1839, at Rotherick, Hamps, England, the 5th child of William Stiff and Rachel Jennings. (Annie and her brothers and sisters often went by the surname of "Neville" instead of "Stiff", which was the maiden name of William Stiff's mother.) She had six brothers and three sisters.

John Cox Jr.

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Died: At Woodruff, Rich, Utah 17 November, 1915
Parents: John Cox Sr. & Ann Baker
Pioneer: Arrived in Salt Lake Valley - Sep 1866
William Henry Chipman Co. - by wagon
Wife: Hanna (Annie) Stiff/Neville-22 Aug. 1859

Wife #2: Ellen Eliza Akers
Born: 23 July 1867 - London, Middlesex, England
Died: 24 July 1921 - Ogden, Weber, Utah
Burial: Woodruff, Rich, Utah
Father: William Akers Mother: Rachel Stiff

- Children: (1) Charles William Cox, b. 19 Oct 1887 (St. Charles, Bear Lake, Idaho). Died: 5 July 1962
md. Emily Elizabeth Dickson
- (2) Wilford Woodruff Cox, b. 7 Mar. 1890 (Montpelior, Bear Lake, Idaho). Died: 6 Jan. 1906
- (3) Rachel Fanny Cox - b. 13 Dec 1891 (Woodruff, Rich, Utah)
md. Ernest Melvin Crouch
- (4) Leonard Henry Cox - b. 26 Feb 1893 (Woodruff, Rich, Utah)
Died: 11 Mar. 1933
md. Maude Dean
- (5) Sarah Edith Cox - b. 21 Oct 1894 (Woodruff, Rich, Utah)
md. James Henry Buck
- (6) Barbara Cox - b. 30 Sept. 1896 (Woodruff, Rich, Utah)
md. (1) Paul Clifford
- (7) Irvin James Cox - b. 30 Apr 1898 (Woodruff, Rich, Utah)
md. Elsie Lord
- (8) Arthur Jabez Cox - b. 7 Dec. 1899 (Woodruff, Rich, Utah)
Died: 7 Oct. 1984
md. Elsie Cornia
- (9) Newel Cox - b. 1 Sept 1901 (Woodruff, Rich, Utah)
Died: 3 Sept. 1901
- (10) Oneita Rhoda Cox - b. 3 Oct 19021 (Woodruff, Rich, Utah)
md. Hans Victor Hansen
- (11) Owen John Cox - b. 24 July 1904 (Woodruff, Rich, Utah)
Died: 9 Aug 1984
md. Hannah Cornia
- (12) Vernon Leroy Cox - b. 13 Sept. 1906 (Woodruff, Rich, Utah)
Died: 10 January 1939
md. Bella Morrow
- (13) Thelma May Cox - b. 19 May 1910 (Woodruff, Rich, Utah)
Died: 19 Oct. 1946
md. Francis Lowry Wadsworth

John Cox Jr., was born at Wield, Hampshire, England on 12 May 1836, the second child of John Cox Sr. & Ann Baker.

All of their 8 children were born in Wield, Hampshire, England. By the time John was 23 years of age he had lost 5 of his family, 3 brother, 1 sister and his mother.

In the spring of the year 1851, members of the family, including the sixteen year old son, John having been taught the Gospel by the elders of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, were baptized by Elder William Budge, a missionary who had left his home in Bear Lake County to teach the gospel in England. Later William Budge became president of the Bear Lake Stake and then president of the Logan Temple.

In his young manhood John joined the British Navy. It is not know if he went to and worked in the large shipyards, but during his service he learned the carpentry trade which he used for the benefit of others throughout his lifetime.

At the age of twenty-two, on 22 August 1858, he was married to Annie Stiff in Southampton, Hampshire, England. She was the beautiful dark-eyed daughter of William Stiff and Rachel Jennings, born 19 March 1839 in Rotherwick, Hampshire. The Stiff family was baptized into the Church in 1851 by Elder Budge. (Some members of the family used the surname of Stiff, others used the surname Neville.)

The following year, they had their first child, John Hyrum, born 18th of Jul 1859, in Southampton, and then they moved to Portsmouth where their dau, Elizabeth Ann was born in 1861. Two years later, at Basingstoke, they had a son, William James born, and it was at this time the family had a strong desire to go to Utah and be with the Saints in Zion. They worked hard and tried to save enough money to pay for the trip, gathered a few belongings and headed toward London, where they were to await word that they could embark on their venture.

While they were in Lewisham, Surrey, on the outskirts of London, Annie had their fourth child, Heber Charles, born the 14th of Jan, 1866. After waiting four more months, they arrived at the dock, on May 5th, and while saying goodbye to their loved ones, two well-dressed men with silk top hats and walking canes approached the children, and took the hand of five yr. old Elizabeth, leading her away. Fortunately, Annie's sister, Elizabeth Rose Stiff Smith noticed what was happening, ran after them, and insisted they return her to her parents. The men tried to bargain with Annie and John to leave her in England, saying "She was too lovely a child to go to such a wicked place as America. "Of course, the offer was promptly rejected, and Annie kept a closer watch on her children.

They boarded the ship, Caroline, under the shipmaster, Capt. Adey, and began the long difficult journey across the ocean, often suffering seasickness and yet taking courage from the other Saints, knowing that they were going to a land where they could enjoy personal and religious freedom with others of their beliefs.

When they were about twenty days out of London, little seven yr. old John Hyrum was stricken with membranous croup and died within a few hours. John and Annie were filled with grief at the shock of his death, and devastated at the idea of burying him at sea in the shark-infested waters, but they stood courageously by, as he was wrapped in blankets and lowered over the side. The heartache of this loss was difficult for them and their family to bear, and never forgotten over the years to follow.

The Caroline docked in New York on June 11th and Annie and John & their family left for New Haven, Connecticut the same day. From there they traveled by steamboat and railroad to the outfitting station at Wyoming, Nebraska, which was, the point from which they were to depart for Salt Lake Valley. Here, they rested with their family, and then they bought supplies for the journey, including a wagon to live in and for travel, three oxen, and a cow.

On Jul. 13, 1866, Annie, John and their three children departed with the Chipman Co. The average rate of travel was about fifteen miles a day, and the cow was milked, placing the cream in a bottle and fastening it to the wagon, so that the day long jolting motion would churn it to butter. Annie gathered currants, berries, and prickly pear plants to eat along the way, never venturing too far from the company, for fear of being taken away by the Indians.

Many times John & Annie felt grateful for their blessings and protection. One day, fording the Platte River, John, swam on the lower side of the oxen, guiding them, with his thumbs twisted into their tails to prevent being swept downstream. Annie and the children were in the wagon and she was afraid, as John plunged down and back up again, repeatedly, in the water's strong current, for fear he might drown. Suddenly, she realized that the wagon box was filling with water, endangering all of their lives. As she glanced back at her children, she saw three year old William being swept over the side of the wagon box. Hurriedly, reaching back behind her she was able to catch hold of his clothing and pull him to safety.

One day, about noon, Indians stampeded the cattle of the Chipman wagon-train and they lost ninety of them. The loss of oxen cut down on the team-power and so lessened the distance covered each day. It soon became evident that there would not be enough food to cover the originally planned ration, and the daily allowance had to be cut down. Game was scarce and they couldn't rely on this source, so Capt. Chipman telegraphed Bingham Young of their plight, and a relief wagon was sent to meet them with forty sacks of flour. Great was the joy of all, to be relieved from the threat of starvation.

The overland trek lasted two months, when finally they reached the Territory of Utah, moving down through Parley's Canyon, John and Annie and their family were happy to camp on the bench area overnight, to rest before the last part of their journey into the Salt Lake Valley below. The next morning, Sep 15, 1866, upon entering Salt Lake City, John and Annie were greeted by friends and relatives in a tearful reunion. Soon after, their wagon was headed for Centerville, Davis Co., where they were to settle.

John built a humble, yet comfortable home, made of rocks he hauled from the east mountains. The walls were from twelve to eighteen inches thick to keep out the chill of the east winds and bitter cold of winter. Two more children were born to them - a daughter, Annie born in 1867, and a son, George Edwin in 1869. This sturdy house still stands in Centerville, although remodeled with more rooms added.



The home of John Cox built when they came from England. It still stands @ 483 East 100 South, Centerville, Utah. Back of the home now stucco over the original rock.

Annie's parents immigrated to America in 1867, arriving in the Salt Lake Valley in 1868, settling next door to them, and thus able to enjoy the little grandchildren. This same year, Annie and John were sealed in the Endowment House. In 1869, word was received from England that John's father had been killed in a tragic railroad accident, causing much sadness. Annie was grateful to have her parents in America living so near to her, especially because she missed her other brothers and sisters still living in England.

By 1871, John and his family moved to Salt Lake, where Ellen Josephine was born. They lived in the 1st, 2nd and 9th wards. In 1872 more saints were called to colonize a new settlement known as Woodruff, in northern Utah. Annie's parents, William and Rachel Stiff responded, taking Annie's two young sons, William and Heber with them to live for awhile in a Dug-Out in a 6' high embankment.

While John worked as a carpenter, hauling logs and granite rocks from the Canyon areas, helping to build the Salt Lake Temple and other houses, Annie cared for the needs of her family at home. Then one day John was thrown from the back of a buckboard, while trying to steady a flour bin being moved for a friend, and received a serious hip injury. Annie had to care for him, as he was unable to work for sometime afterward, assuming most of his chores in addition to her own.

In 1873, Annie and John were also called to settle in Woodruff, and they sold their home and left for the undeveloped, sagebrush covered flats in the Uinta Mountains, traveling over rough trail-like roads, and mountain passes. There they purchased a farm, and built a cabin with logs from the hills, as a protection from the harsh cold winters, winds, and from roaming wolves. Also, Indians in the area were at warpath with each other, and the security of the cabin was reassuring.

The following winter of March 1874, Annie gave birth to a daughter, Mary Louise, and during a blizzard that night, the end of their little cabin gave way, exposing them to the harsh elements. Canvas and quilts were stretched across the opening to try to keep out some of the cold until it could be repaired.

During the next seven years four more children were born to John & Annie.- Minnie Amelia in 1876, Agnes Ada in 1879, Julia Rachel in 1881 and John Alma in 1883. This completed their family of twelve children, although in June, 1888, seven yr. old Rachel Julia also died, leaving her with ten still living, so it was time for John to make an addition to their home. Annie fed her children cereal and bread made from the grain they raised, and vegetables from the little summer garden, consisting of potatoes, turnips, beets, carrots, and onions. There was little meat to eat, except what could be spared from their livestock, and wild game.

John was one of the early selectmen and commissioners of the county. On February 15, 1875 a mass meeting was held by the people of Woodruff for the purpose of organizing a water company and John was chosen as one of the trustees. He was also instrumental in helping to construct and operate mills in that area. When a group decided Woodruff must have a creamery he donated his only cow. Later when the creamery company became well-established, he received repayment by way of two or three fine young cows.

John was a handsome man, noble in bearing and action, of large build with broad shoulders. He was very agile and active in spite of his lameness and had an unusual amount of energy. He was of fair complexion with brown hair and blue eyes and wore a very short, neatly-trimmed beard and moustache he had the misfortune to have a felon on his thumb which had made it necessary for the thumb to be amputated.

On August in Paris, Idaho at a social meeting of the membership of this Bear Lake Stake, William Henry Lee was sustained as bishop of the Woodruff Ward. He selected Peter Cornia and John Cox as his counselors and Savanna C Putnam as ward clerk. (Woodruff Ward was later in Summit Stake and then in Woodruff stake).

The revelation concerning plural marriage had been put into practice and various worthy men of the Church were urged to take new obligations upon themselves. John had accepted each call that came to him and on three occasions had left his established home for new assignments.

He and Annie discussed this matter, prayed and fasted that they might be shown the proper answer. After their decision was made, he accepted the added responsibility placed upon him by virtue of his good character and the Priesthood he held.

On 28 October 1886, Annie's full knowledge and consent, John married Annie's young, nineteen year old niece. This was Ellen Eliza (Nellie) Akers, daughter of William and Rachel Stiff Akers, born 23 July 1867 in St. Johns Wood, London, Middlesex, England. Ellen and her mother had migrated to America, leaving England 1 November 1884. Both were members of the L.D.S. Church, Ellen having been baptized 24 June 1883 at the age of fifteen and Rachel the following year, 30 March 1884.

Ellen was a lovely, well-educated and cultured girl. Her father had died when she was seven years of age, and in America her widowed mother married John Adams Hancock of Montpelier, Idaho.

Despite the threats and dangers of persecution John and Ellen traded vows in the Logan Temple and she was sealed to him for time and eternity.

Their first child, Charles William, was born in St. Charles Bear Lake County, Idaho 19 October 1887.

On 2 June 1888 Julia Rachel, the seven year old daughter of John and Annie died and was buried in the Woodruff Cemetery. (On 12 September 1889 John and Annie went to the Logan Temple and in sacred rites had sealed to them their sons Hyrum, William Heber, and daughters Elizabeth and Annie.

On 7 March 1890 a son, Wilford Woodruff, was born to John and Ellen in Montpelier, Bear Lake County.

After the Manifesto was issued in 1890 Ellen and her children moved into Wyoming, just over the Utah-Wyoming border, three miles above the Francis Ranch, with the closest Wyoming settlement being Almy, about seventeen miles away. The tiny community she lived in was called Salt Springs. Wives and children of other men who practiced plural marriage had moved there, also, some to the Narrows several hundred feet away.

Ellen lived with her children in a neat, clean, one-room log cabin.

On 13 December 1891 the first daughter of John and Ellen was born. She was named Rachel Fanny. Leonard Henry was born 26 February, 1893, and Sarah Edith was born 21 October, 1894. Barbara was born 30 September, 1896.

On March 20, 1895 John's brother William Edwin, was killed in Almy, one of sixty-two men who lost their lives in a great explosion at #5 mine. Edwin was working on the surface as a carpenter but the force of the explosion was so great that even workmen on the outside were killed.

John went to Almy to work in the mines but employment was very scarce there and the mines were beginning to play out.

His sister, Sarah, who had come to the United States and married George H. Knowlden was residing in Salt Lake City where she was a midwife and nurse.

After a little time John moved Ellen's home from Salt Springs to a site about one mile west of Woodruff on Woodruff Creek, where he had taken up a homesite. At this home four more children were born: Irvin James, 30 April 1898, Arthur Jabez, 7 December 1899, Newell, 1 September 1901 and Oneita Rhoda, 3 October 1902. Newell lived but two days and was buried in the Woodruff Cemetery .

About that time, Ellen was left a legacy by her Aunt Fanny Akers Stone. With it she bought ten acres of pastureland up Woodruff Creek and another five acres in the heart of Woodruff. A little house stood on that five acres and she moved into it.

In the "new" home Owen John was born, 24 July 1904. In 1906, on the 6th of January, a dreary, winter day, sixteen year old Wilford died of typhoid fever. He, too, was interred in the Woodruff Cemetery.

The youngest son, Vernon LeRoy, was born 13 September 1906 and the youngest daughter Thelma May, was born 19 May 1910.

In 1910 Ellen's home caught fire and burned to the ground leaving her and eleven children homeless. They moved into two rooms of the Elizabeth Ann Cox Lee home while a new house was being built. (Elizabeth was the daughter of John and Annie and wife of Bishop Lee. She and Ellen became close friends) . For some time the new home consisted of one room downstairs and one room upstairs; later other rooms were added.

John made most of the caskets for the people of Woodruff and vicinity, dampening the wood to shape it, was the custom at that time. Ellen who had been a milliner in her youth, lined the caskets. He requested that when he died he should not be buried in a ready-made coffin as he felt they were not made substantially enough. He often mentioned that he wanted to build his own casket and keep it until it was needed, but Ellen always told him they couldn't keep something like that around the house".

Early in November, 1915, John was working at a gravel pit. About 2 p.m. he fell from the chute and was injured. He insisted that he should stay until quitting time so that the other men would not lose out on their full day's work because of him. They propped him up in a sitting position for the rest of the day and after working hours that evening he was taken to the home he shared with Ellen. His injuries proved serious and pneumonia set in. About two weeks later, in spite of the tender and constant care given him, he died at the age of seventy-nine, on 17 November 1915, leaving Annie a widow at the age of seventy-six and Ellen a widow at the age of forty-eight. Seven unmarried children born to Ellen and him were left fatherless, children ranging in ages 5, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17 and 19.

Following John's request, Ellen arranged for Bishop Gray of Randolph, Utah to build him a sturdy casket.

Of the twenty-five children he had fathered, twelve of the children of Annie and thirteen of the children of Ellen, twenty-one survived him at that time, along with seventy-seven living grandchildren and twenty great-grandchildren. His funeral was held November 21st in the Woodruff Ward Meetinghouse which was filled to overflowing. He was buried in the Woodruff Cemetery and when the casket was being lowered into the grave, a Brother Barker who was present remarked, "Oh, if I could only be like John Cox. There was a truly GOOD man."

All of John's posterity are honorable, upstanding people. Many have held prominent positions of trust in church and community life. Today they still carry on, upholding the tradition which John set so firmly and faithfully.

*Compiled & condensed from
biographical sketches of Lis Buck
Dearden and Marlene Dimond of
John & Annie Cox.*



John Cox Jr.

Notes on Biography of: John Cox

Emigration Records: (GS# 025,692)

1866- "Caroline" (ship); master: Adey

John Cox age 29 sawyer (16/18/0- Ticket #18;264; 6.4.0)

Annie" age 27 wife

Hyrum" age 4

Elizabeth A" age 3

Herber C." infant

(note: child, Wm. not listed here, but somewhere I believe I was told that sometimes they allowed "two children" to go for the price of "one" so this may be why he is omitted from this record, since it involves purchasing the "ticket".) (per MCD)

Sailed; 5 May 1866;

Crossing the plains Index: (GS# 298,442)

1866, Sep 15th- Arrived in SLC in Cpt Wm Henry Chipman's ox-train:

Cox, John

" , Anna

" , Elizabeth

" , William

" , Herber C.

(Ref: J.H. - Sep 15, 1866, p. 1,3);

Perpetual Emigration Fund (PEF); (GS# 025,686) (persons indebted to PEF)

1866 (date of arrival in valley)

Cox, John

" , Elizabeth Ann

" , William James

(Note: In previous searching by Pat Bellamy, she found records where this family was continuing to contribute to this PEF, over the years).

1870 Census of Centerville, Davis County, Utah (GS#553,109)

#1/1- Cox, John age 54 male/White farmer 600/350 b.England

f. & m. ; of foreign birth

Cox, Anna age 31 female/White Keeps house b. England

(f. & m. of foreign birth)

" , William J. age 7 male/white b. England

" , Elizabeth age 9 female/white b. England

" , Herber age 5 male/white b. England

" , Anna age 3 female/white b. Utah

" , George age 7/12 male/white b. Utah (in the month of Nov.)

1900 Cen. of Woodruff, Rich Co. Utah (GS #1,241,683)(p.256-b)

#95 Cox, John hd/white/male/b. May 1836; age 64; md 41 yrs., b. England

fbp: England; mbp: England- Date of Emig: 1866; 34 yrs. in Amer.

naturalized citizen; farmer; owned own farm; can read and write, and speak English;

#96 Cox, Annie wf/white/female; b. Mar 1839; age 64; md. 41 yrs.,

12 children (10 living); b. England; mbp: England; Emig: 1866

34 yrs. in Amer.

Woodruff Branch (organized: 1871); became: Woodruff Ward in 1877; (GS#027,421)

In Index only:

John Cox family, p.3

Annie "

William "

Herber "

Annie "

George "

Nellie "

May "

Minie "

(Note; first six pages are missing)

(continued on next page:)

Records of members lists following: (continued from next page)

- #11 - John Cox (par: Jn Cox & Ann Baker); b. 12 May 1836 at Wield, Hamps, England; baptized & confirmed: May 1851; (by Wm. Budge); died: Nov. 17, 1915;
- #12 - Annie Cox (par: William Stiff & Rachel Jennings) b. 19 Mar. 1839 at Rotherick, Hamps, England; bapt. & confirmed: May 1851; (by William Budge); died: Feb. 1920;
 - William James (b. 31 May 1863 at Baskingstoke, Hamps, England
 - Alma John (b. 13 Dec. 1883 at Woodruff, Utah.)

(Above records searched by: Marlene Cox Dimond; notes & other information provided by family remembrances elated to Pat (Cox) Bellamy by her father, Emerson Cox. Also, Sigrid (Neville) Crandall related tidbits about the Neville/Jennings families, and portions of the "History of John Cox," written by Lois Buck Dearden were also used. A photo of John Cox Jr. and Annie Stiff/Neville Cox was provided by LaVaun & Zella Cox.) Also grateful thanks to all those who previously did research on these families in the past, preserving this info' for us.

(This effort to compile a sketch for John and Annie, was instigated by the appeal of the SUP for biographies of emigrant pioneer ancestors, who came by wagon or handcart prior to the extention of the railroad into Utah in May 1869. These are to be edited and published honoring men pioneers.) (Submitted to SUP April 16 1996 by:)

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