

The Whitley Republican July 14, 1966

Heads Or Tales

By Gene Siler

Rachel Cox Cordell lives right smack on Possum Creek, which is a branch of Wolf Creek where all the Moses people live. Rachel herself is a half Moses and so this makes her very much at home up in Possum Hollow and close to the many Moseses on Wolf Creek.

Unlike Rachel in the Bible, our Rachel has no children. But although widowed she is not quite alone. She has 16 cats, one dog and one lonely rooster.

Her little farm is spread over both sides of the road. There are several estimates on the acreage, varying from 43 acres up to 90 acres. This good earth all came down to Rachel by heritage. Her grandpa, Absalom Cox, lived and died there. Her father, Jim Cox, lived and died there. And now Rachel has her flag flying on the very same place and it will probably remain flying there until the Lord calls her from Possum Creek to Paradise. Rachel belongs to Wolf Creek Baptist Church, less than a mile from her home. She likes to write music and songs and at the drop of a hat she will sing one of them for you.

I am not sure where I first met Rachel, but she used to write me letters when I was in Congress about various matters of public concern. Besides she knew my father when he was a green and struggling country school teacher holding forth on Sheep Creek, not far from Possum Creek.

Our Rachel now draws the old age pension like many other good citizens of Whitley County. It is really not enough to meet her needs but she is making out with it. And in spite of very limited vision from cataracts on her eyes, she gets out and cultivates her little garden. The corn and cabbages are growing and by the end of the season, Rachel will have a small part of her living from that good earth Grandpa Absalom handed down to her. As you sit on Rachel's front porch you realize Henry Ford has more money and LBJ has more prestige, but just as clearly you also realize neither of those two is doing any better with what he has than is the "Princess of Possum Creek," our Rachel.

Note: Rachel Samantha Cox was born Jan. 7, 1893 Whitley Co., KY, d. Oct. 30, 1987 Whitley Co., KY, buried Wolf Creek Cemetery, Whitley Co., KY. She was the daughter of James Bird Cox (s/o Absalom Cox and Dialtha Bird) and Melvina Moses. Rachel married Willie Cordell.

James Bird Cox was a brother to Anderson Barton Cox (m Nancy Ellen Creekmore). Bonnie White and Mary Lou Hudson descend from Anderson Barton Cox and Nancy Ellen Creekmore.

5/06/2004
I met this lady
when I was maybe
nine years old.
She taught a Sunday
School class I attended
when we were at
Mum's old home place
visiting her brother
and his family.
Bonnie