



By Dorothy F. Robertson

Sunday June 30, we awakened to a nice quiet rain which was covering this area. In the afternoon, through the rain, the family of Cornelius Nicholas "Nick" Cox came to the museum to place on loan and display the musket Enfield rifle inscribed "1862 Tower" that had belonged to "Nick" Cox, a Comanche County Pioneer.

The presentation was made by Cornelius Wilburn Cox, son of William "Will" Cornelius Cox of Brownwood, Texas, a grandson of Nick Cox, his wife Effie Mae, and son Tony and grandson Stephen. Others in attendance were Missy Cox Jones, daughter of Will Cox and her son and daughter-in-law, Mark and Laurie Jones and their daughters Moran and Jolee.

Missy Jones shared some history regarding the Cox family was very interesting. "Nick" Cox, born on January 16, 1850, in Smith County, Texas was a son of Andrew J. "Andy" Cox and Arenna Ratliff Cox.

Andy Cox arrived in Texas in a wagon train with his parents, Cornelius "Nealy" Cox and Catherine "Katy" Jackson Cox, from Newton, Missouri. They arrived in Texas near Dallas on

March 10, 1845. They were parents of 10 children, the oldest was Andy. Andy and Arenna were married in Nacogdoches County, Texas on April 10, 1846, and had four children. William, who married Susan Adeline Savage; Catherine, who married John P. Pettit, Nicholas, who married Mary Jane Johnson and Amanda who married G.B. Stone, Jr.

Arenna died on July 10, 1855, during the move to Comanche County and was buried in Fort Worth, Texas. After the death of Arenna, the four children were raised by their uncle and aunt, the Rev. Jesse Johnson and wife Adeline Ratliff Johnson near Fleming, Texas. Rev. Johnson was an early day Methodist minister in Comanche County, Texas.

Cornelius Nicholas Cox married Mary Jane Johnson in Comanche on April 19, 1875. Mollie was the daughter of Robert Whatley Johnson and Sarah Whitaker Johnson. She was the granddaughter of Peter Cartwright Johnson and Matilda Whatley Johnson. Peter Cartwright Johnson was killed by Indians near Meredian, Texas in 1857.

Nick Cox had acquired 80 acres of land west of Union Cemetery near Gustine before he married. Later they owned a total of 260 acres. He built a log cabin on the first 80 acres, and told of Indian raids and holding his horses reins through the open windows at night so he would know if the horses were alarmed if the Indians came near. One time the Indians cut the strap holding the cow bell on his cow and took the cow with them.

After Nick and Mollie married, they built a big house on a hill on their place, it had a

porch on 3 sides. They were parents of nine children; Robert Whatley Cox, Renier Cox, Joe Cox, William Cornelius Cox, Mary Ellen Cox, Berlen Daniel Cox, Author Cox, John Henry Lofton Cox, and Andrew Jefferson Cox, the father of Director Preston Cox.

Pictures of the family show them to be healthy, well-dressed, and handsome people. Stories abound of the good times they had and the good food prepared in their home. Their home was always open to family and friends. They went camping and fishing on the South Leon River, celebrated Christmas with home made eggnog.

They raised fruit of every kind that would grow in this area. They had big gardens, lots of chickens, hogs, cows and horses. The boys each had a buggy and the big barn allowed them to store their buggies inside the barn.

Mollie's sister, Bobbie Johnson lived with them and helped Mollie with the chores of the home. Every child and grandchild loved Aunt Bobbie. She knew every child's game, every riddle and could make sling shots and corn-cob dolls and other toys.

Mollie Cox died in 1921, and Nick Cox died in 1929. There are both buried in Union Cemetery near Gustine.



COUNTY MUSEUM ACQUISITION: On June 30, 2002, at the Comanche County Museum, an 1862 Enfield musket rifle was presented for loan and display to the Museum. The rifle, inscribed with "1862 Tower," once belonged to Comanche County pioneer, Cornelius Nicholas "Nick" Cox. Presenting the rifle was the grandson of Nick Cox, Cornelius Wilburn Cox, of Brownwood. He and his sister, Missy Jones, a museum director, are the children of William Cornelius Cox, son of Nick and Minnie Steward Cox. Pictured are, front, left to right, Stephen Cox, Effie Mae Cox, Tony Cox, and museum directors Harold Roberts and Ben Evridge; back, left to right, Missy Jones, Mark Jones, Museum president Fain McDaniel and museum director Gene Griffin.

*Pioneers, Lives forged in Hardship
Carving out a place from nothing to make a home*



Cornelius Nicholas "Nick" Cox
and wife
Mary Jane "Mollie" Johnson Cox

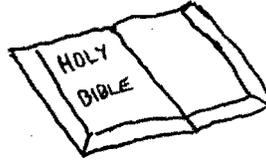
The black powder "1860 Tower" rifle in the case to the left belonged to Nick Cox. He was born January 16, 1850 in Smith County, Texas. He was the son of Andrew J. "Andy" Cox and Arenna Ratliff Cox. Andy Cox had arrived in Texas with his parents, Cornelius "Nealy" Cox and Catherine "Katy" Jackson Cox, and family. They had left Newton, Missouri with a wagon train and arrived in Texas, near Dallas on March 10, 1845. Andy was their oldest child.

Andy and Arenna married in Nacogdoches County, Texas April 20, 1846. They had four children: William, who married Susan Adeline Savage; Catherine, who married John P. Pettit; Nicholas, who married Mary Jane "Mollie" Johnson; and Amanda, who married G. B. Stone, Jr.

Arenna Cox died July 20, 1855 during the move to Comanche County. After the death of Arenna, the children were raised by their uncle and aunt, The Reverend Jesse J. Johnson and his wife, Adeline Ratliff Johnson near Fleming.

Nick and Mollie had their first patent on 80 acres of land, and later had a total of 260 acres. They lived first in a log cabin, and he told of holding the reins of his horses through the window so he could know if Indians were trying to steal them. Later, they built a big house on the hill, with a curving porch around three sides. Nick and Mollie had nine children: Robert Whatley, Renier, Joe, William Cornelius, Mary Ellen, Berlen Daniel, Author Hill, John Henry Lofton, and Andrew Jefferson Cox.

This black powder "1860 tower" rifle was presented for loan to The Comanche County Historical Museum on June 30, 2002 by a grandson of Nick Cox, Cornelius Wilburn Cox of Brownwood, the son of William Cornelius Cox.



**If we could see again through our parents memories
all the things that made their lives
and fashioned all their hopes and dreams.**

**All the stories told to us, of childhood days so free
of brothers and sisters, working hard
a family love so strong and true.**

**Camping on the South Leon and fishing days on end
Christmas coming, happy times, homemade eggnog
and every child knew they were part of family ties.**

**Of Grandma and Aunt Bobbie, spinning wheel
and quilting frames. A garden full of things to eat
and can, jellies and jams, fruit to dry, pies and
cakes to make.**

**A welcome home to every child
and cousins by the score
knew they were loved when they came through
Uncle Nick and Aunt Mollie's door.**

**Family sorrows to be shared
a loving sister gone
a brother to fight on foreign shores
would he be coming home?**

**Through it all, the word "home" seems to say it all
of comfort in a family close
and happy times to recall.**

**Lives forged in hardship.
Pioneers, carving out a place from nothing
to make a home.**



Missy Jones

No 280 of.
Marriage Licence
A B Cox
To
A Pattiff

Filed July 20. 1846
O J Holmes
C. Geo. S. Mac. Co.

State of Texas
County of MacDougal

to any Judge Justice of the Peace or regular
ordained Minister of the Gospel.

You are hereby authorized to solemnize the
rites of Holy Matrimony between Mr Andrew J
Cook and Miss Anna Hatfield
the necessary proof of the consent of all parties concerned
having been made according to law.

Due return thereof to me make within thirty
days from the time of solemnization.

Given under my hand and seal of office
at MacDougal this 9th day of April
AD 1846

J. Holmes
Clerk Co. Court Mac. Co.

Solemnized on the 20 of ~~April~~ May 1846
by Albert Wells J.P.