

John I. Cox
Cox Journals
11/21/11

Rt 2, Box 169
Hamilton, Tx 76531

Miss Valerie Tripp
1022 Shipman Lane
McLean, Virginia

Dear Miss Tripp,

Sorry I am tardy with this information, but my source of information spent several months in Japan.

The following named items, pamphlets and manuscripts are the chief sources of information recording the protest movements of the rural people in Texas: Four (4) volumes of The Cox Journals - 1748-1816 Thomas Isaac Cox, The Elder; 1792-1922 Thomas Isaac Cox, The Lesser; 1818-1836 Solomon Cox; 1817-1870 Thomas Cox with notes from Benjamin E. Cox and Pleasant Cox covering Texas during pre-colonial and colonial days.

The preservation of the above journals in content and context should be credited to the following persons: John T. Cox, a former Texas Ranger and Confederate Ranger, 1846-1927, who preserved the old journals and kept his own journal until 1924, and his daughter, Mary Ellen Cox Campbell, who assisted her father in recording the family history and other items of interest from 1870 until 1924.

In April 1924 Mrs. Campbell secured the services of Joe B. Cox of Moline, Texas, a 19 year old history buff, and would be hunter and trapper. Young Joe (copied) transcribed the contents of the above journals to four (4) large spiral composition books. Some of the contents were faded and tattered, however, little of the contents were not preserved. The contents were examined and read by many historians and curiosity seekers for the next twenty or more years.

From these sources came "The Saga of A Brave People" by W. E. Cox, 1926. This manuscript is still available. This is the story of the colonization of America and the Grange Movement. The original protest group in Texas, "The Society of The Friends of Husbandry" was founded by Benjamin E. Cox, a horse hunter, trader and originator of The Rural Rifles, a volunteer defense group to protest against marauding Indians and out-laws in the early 1800s in frontier Texas. The militant protest group originated in Lampasas County, Texas in 1878. It was founded by dissatisfied members of the Grange who wanted a rural organization that would be dedicated to the protection

of the interests of the farmers and ranchers in that area. It is interesting to note that James C. Cox was one of the founders of the alliance. He was a former member of the Grange and younger brother of Pleasant Cox, the first Master of the Lucy Creek Grange in Lampasas County, Texas, in the year of 1869 on October 12th.

The full story of the organization of the Farmers Alliance in Texas in 1878 was written by Willie May Price of Bertram, Texas. She was a grand-daughter of James C. Cox who was one of the original protestors against the "gentle Methods" of the Grange which were ineffective in dealing with the problems of the rural people.

Willie May Price, the author of "The Founding of The Farmers Alliance" a 15-minute story of the rise of the alliance, was read by Mrs. Price at the opening of Rural Appreciation Day in Texas, a day designated by proclamation issued by Texas Governor Mark White in recognition of The Annual Convention of The Texas Grange which opened its session on August 3, 1983 at Lampasas, Texas, A fitting place to meet and remember where rural problems were to be reviewed and deliberated.

I am sure Mrs. Price would be glad to furnish you a copy of her story if you would write to her at Bertram, Texas. Mr. Joe B. Cox, who helped preserve the original journals by transferring the material to the composition books, would be glad to help you if you would contact him at 1411 Prospect St, San Marcos, Texas. 78666.

Mr. Arlee Gowen, a writer and genealogist of note, has considerable knowledge of the origin of rural protest groups which originated in Central Texas from 1817 to 1894 when the Texas Grange and the Farmers Alliance joined forces, and two years later joined in forming the Farmers Union. This organization still survives with their state headquarters in Waco, Tx. Mr. Gowen lives at 5708 Gary Ave, Lubbock, Texas, 79413, where he owns and operates Electros, Inc.

Best wishes on your project.

Sincerely,

JOHN T. COX