

JOHN I. COX

LONG MEADOWS CEMETERY 1793-1839
COX CEMETERY 1839-

This cemetery was established on July 4, 1793 at the confluence of Arroyo La Lucia and Arroyo Caballo at a point some eight miles east and north of Los Lampazos, a watering place. Lampazos is now^{known} as the little city of Lampasas.

Since 1753 this area had been known as Long Meadows, having been named by Oliver Pollock, the famous Irish trader who later became a millionaire merchant in New Orleans.

A horse hunting party headed by Thomas Isaac Cox, made up of his kinsmen including his name sake, Thomas Isaac Cox, planned to take over the wild horse trading business that had been established here in 1757 after the troops of Captain Basteros abandoned the Presidio.

On the afternoon of July 3, 1793, the party was attacked by a scouting party consisting of some thirty-five (35) Indians, well armed and well mounted. This skirmish lasted until after sunset.

Three of the Cox party were injured. The older Thomas Isaac Cox, the leader, was shot through his left leg; Nate Owens, a flesh wound in his left side; and the 16-year old William Bybee received a fatal arrow wound. He was shot through the upper body. The arrow went through the body, piercing the lower lobe of the left lung. There was no water in the camp, and throughout the night young Bybee begged for water as his life ebbed away from loss of blood. He expired at sunrise on his 17th birthday, July 4, 1793. He was buried at the base of a large post oak tree. The grave was covered by large flat limestone rocks, and the tree had three diagonal slashes on the trunk in order to make it easily identifiable.

Since that day thirty-six (36) other bodies have been interred here and at the nearby Presidio ruins. Five generations have been buried here, the last being March 12, 1912 when Martha Jane Bybee Cox's body was interred here. Members of fourteen other families rest here - horse hunters, cowboys, soldiers, out-laws and gun slingers, and others, who for one reason or another, visited the old Long Meadows Trading Post. Many herds came up the trail from 1855 until 1875, and many cowboys, card sharks and broken hearted lovers in his group who came to Long Meadows Pens and Trading Post.

Two of these graves contain the remains of two boys who rode for Print Olive, the Williamson County cattle baron, who later became known as the Nebraska "Man Burner" in Wayne Knodel's "Story of the Sand Hills".

Old Uncle John Cox, the Texas Ranger and eldest son of Pleasant and Martha Bybee Cox, once remarked to a visitor at the old cemetery, "Those graves out here are occupied by citizens of many countries." When asked how these bodies got buried here, he replied, "The first man buried was Will Bybee, he was buried in New Spain on October 22, 1822. Trey Dodd was buried in Mexico, James Cox buried May 6, 1842 was buried in the Republic of Texas. On December 16, 1947 Bob Huffman was buried in the United States of America." And Uncle John was right - they were sleeping in many different lands.

Charlie Boyd of "Shanghai" Pierce trail driver, and "Stumpy" Watson who rode for Burk Burnet in 1874 shot it out. They were taken to the Pleasant Cox home where they were nursed by Martha Jane Cox for twelve (12) days. Charlie Boyd died at sunrise the morning of December 22. When Mrs Cox told Stumpy Watson that Boyd had died, he promptly replied, "Thank God, I am ready to die." A lot of humor buried here.