

“My Cox Connection Through Hulda Cox Childress Connection”.

By Lady E. Dalton

At the Cox Reunion in Lampasas on May 16, 2009

My full name is Lady Elizabeth Marchant Dalton. I've been researching family connections since 1994. I met a man at a DAR meeting in December 1999 whose name was Russell Cox and he lived in Conroe, the town next to Montgomery where I had moved to in 1996. We discovered that we were distant cousins and shared Joseph Cox as a one of our great-grand fathers. He then told me about this Cox Reunion in Lampasas, I was invited and encouraged to attend, which I did in May of 2000. That reunion changed my retired life. I was able to attend the meetings until 2005 at which time, my membership in the Daughters of the Republic of Texas and becoming President of my Judge Nathaniel Hart Davis Chapter of Montgomery has kept me from attending this reunion since their annual convention is held the same week-end every year. I was so happy when Killeen was selected for this year's convention site and is so close to Lampasas that I was able to make plans to attend both. Our esteemed cousin, Joe B. Cox, has contacted me nearly every year to do a program and so here I am ready to tell my connection to our Cox family.

When Joseph Cox came to Bell County, Texas around 1851, at least 5 of his children came with him or followed him shortly after his arrival, some married and with their family members and some still single. Solomon Benjamin Cox, who was born December 18, 1809 in Ross County, OH, was his oldest son who had gotten married in 1831 on May 8th in Ray County, MO to Mary “Polly” Lile. She was apparently the daughter of Henry Lile, Sr. according to his will dated 15 May 1849 in Ray County, MO in which he bequeaths that “other slaves to be distributed to his children. Children: Lucinda Williams, Sophia Pinkerton, Martha Tapp, Henry W. Lile, and the children of dec'd. dau., Polly Cox.” Solomon Benjamin's wife was only in one census that being the 1840 Green Township, Livingston County, MO census which only gives head of the household and a broad range for births, hers being between 1810 and 1820. Therefore we can not establish an accurate birth or death date. We assume she died shortly after giving birth to their last son, John Wesley, who was born 23 Feb 1843. Solomon then married Martha J. Cox who was a distant cousin and they had one son, Andy Porter, who was born 14 Aug 1850 probably in Harrison County, MO. Andy was not counted on the 1850 District 37, Harrison County, MO census taken on the 20th day of November, that included Solomon, his new wife, Martha, and Solomon's children by Polly: James Henry, Hulda Ann, Elisha W. and William H.. Listed was also a Sarah Cox, age 71, born in VA, whom I assume was her mother who came to help with the new baby boy. In wondering where S. B.'s son, John W. was, I located him living in his grandfather Joseph's house in District 51, Livingston County, MO 1850 census, age 7.

On July 7, 1855 in Bell County, TX, Hulda Ann Cox, who was born in Chillicothe, Ray Co., MO on August 22, 1835, married Hugh Martin Childress, Jr., who was a native Texian born in Bastrop County on May 24, 1835. His father, H. M. Childress, Sr., came to Texas in April 1831 with his wife Susannah Watters Childress, both born in TN and married Dec. 5, 1823 in Perry County, AL. He also had with him a young son, Lemuel. H. M. received a league of land in Bastrop County and in late 1835, when the Texas Provisional Government was established and the Ranger Corps was formally created, he served as a first Lieutenant of the permanent Volunteer Company of Texas Militia. His first son, Lemuel, was killed accidentally before the siege began at the Alamo Mission in San Antonio in early 1836 and H. M., who was a rancher at the time, was so distraught from his son's death that he became a Episcopal-Methodist Circuit-Rider Preacher after the Independence from Mexico was won. He fought in many battles against the Mexicans and Indians and was part of the militia who helped the families escape the "Run Away Scrape" and missed the Battle at San Jacinto just by minutes, or so it is recorded. He fought in the Mexican American War, was at the Battle of Salado Creek, and received a land grant in Bell County for his service. He decided that Bastrop County was too full of Indians so he moved his family to Burleson County by the 1850 census. By 1860 census they were in Lampasas County, but the 1861 Tax Roll for Coleman County shows both H. M. & his sons there. Rev. Childress & his wife Susannah's final resting place is at the Historical Cemetery Atoka near Novice and he is mentioned on the Historical Marker. He was known as the "Bear Hunter Preacher" because he carried a shotgun and a six-shooter with him when making the rounds to the different homes in his circuit, as well as many other colorful stories about him.

Now that you've heard some of the Childress back ground and you know of the Cox Quaker back ground, I'll tell you what little I know of Hulda and "Mart" as H. M. Childress, Jr. was known as. My grandmother, Minnie Landsaw, who was born on the 6th of September 1890, rarely spoke of her grandmother, Hulda, who died in Grant County, New Mexico on the 20th of December 1889, when Minnie was 9 years old. She once told me that her mother, Tabitha Frances Childress Landsaw, who was born May 12, 1861 in Coleman County at the beginning of the Civil War, had been raised in the Quaker ways. Tabitha, who on the 5th of February 1878, married Harmon Hurst Landsaw, a ranch hand employed by her father, who was born in Kentucky in 1850 on the 10th of February. She raised her 7 children very much the same way, although they were members of the Methodist Church. Several of their children married into the Church of the Latter Day Saints families and are still Mormons today. I thought this was an important thing to tell you about because of the cousins to Joseph who broke off from the Quakers and became Mormons many years earlier.

Littlefield, Texas.
Box 623,
May 14, 1947

Mrs. T. J. White,
410 W. Elm
Coleman, Texas.

Dear Mrs. White:-

I take the liberty to write you. I know you will be surprised to get a letter from a stranger but since I read the write up that was put out in the Ft. Worth paper for your ninetieth birthday, I have wanted to talk to you for I like to read the description of ones life like yours for I too am a pioneer of Coleman County. I was born in the Colorado Post in 1861, lived there until I was 10 years old. Attended the first school taught there after the war of 61. My father had the contract to furnish beef to the soldiers that was stationed there at the Post. There were 2 little girls that attended the school there by the name of Graves, Mary and Pinky Graves who was my second cousins. Their father was a brother to my grandmother. Her name was Childress. My Grandfather was a Methodist preacher, preached there and Comanche for years and other towns near the post. We lived in the Post for protection from the Indians so did this family of Graves.

The Indians were so much on the war path we didn't dare do other wise. They got so bad my father, H.W. Childress, moved the family to Felton, Texas. to put we children in school. He still kept his ranch in Coleman, County. While we were absent the Indians burned up the house and everything we had left in it. My father drove his beef cattle to market. While he was absent they took advantage and burned everything even his pasture fence.

I am 86 years old to-day, you see I am just 4 years 6 mo. younger than you so we could talk of many things that happened years ago. I have never been as active in clubs as you have for I raised a family of 7 children. I did as much as I could in my church for I was raised to attend Sunday School and Church and family prayer 3 times a-day. While we were Methodist we were firm believers in God and Jesus Christ.

I would like to come to see you as that is my old home but I am not able to travel such now. I had an operation last October and have been almost down with Rheumatism since. Keeps me from being as active as I always have been. If you should visit your daughter in Lubbock soon, I would be glad if you would call me up. Our phone number is 316R, Littlefield, Texas. I have wondered if your father and my father were first cousins. He went by the name of Bert Childress I hope to get a reply.

Yours sincerely,

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Dictated to her granddaughter, Ila Sewell, to mail for her. ^{Childress} TA is: Thas and saw
to mail for her

This was dictated to Tabitha Childress Landsaw's granddaughter, Ila Sewell, to mail for her. The unreadable line in paragraph 2 is "We lived in the Post for protections from the Indians..."

One of the best records that I've collected are copies of the Childress Family Bible of Hulda and H. M. Childress, Jr. that has been handed down in the family with many additional records recorded in it through the years. Hulda and Mart had 4 children, Lemuel, Solomon Benjamin, Tabitha Frances, and Belle. Solomon Benjamin lived just short of a year and there are 2 accounts of his death on the 2nd of July 1859, one that he drowned in a wash tub and the other that he was run over by a wagon. According to the 1870 Mortality Census, Coleman Co., TX, he drowned in a wash tub. All of their children were born in Coleman County before it became Lampasas County. In a copy of an old Lampasas city map there is a lot for H. M. Childress and within a few blocks is John Cox, Hulda's baby brother. It has always been family lore that Joseph was visiting Hulda, his granddaughter, in Lampasas when he died and that his son, Hulda's father, Solomon Benjamin Cox, came to get Joseph's horse to take back home. It really saddens me that no one has been able to find where he was buried.

All the men in my family were Masons and I'm not sure if Hulda was in Eastern Star, but her daughter, Tabitha, was. As a young girl, my grandmother, Minnie, was in Jobs Daughters and later became an Eastern Star member. I was so impressed with Minnie's Eastern Star memorial service that as a young woman, who had been in Rainbow for Girls, I joined Eastern Star and served as Worthy Matron and later as Mother Advisor for Rainbow for Girls. I have copies from the book "Freemasonry in Brownwood, A Centennial History of Brownwood Lodge No. 279, A. F. & A. M." of H. M. "Mark" Childress being one of two of the first to receive the degree as a Master Mason in the Lodge on May 8, 1869. His father, H. M., Sr., was a member of Lampasas Lodge No. 232 and also a Royal Arch Mason of Belton Chapter No. 76, R. A. M.. I've never found any record of Solomon Benjamin Cox being a Mason, but I've never really researched for those records.

I don't know much more about Hulda Ann Cox Childress except that no one in the family has been able to locate her or her husband's grave site. Those few relatives dedicated to research have been unable to find them. Many of us have gone up and down several old cemeteries in Silver City and Pinos Altos, New Mexico looking for them with no luck. Just a note of interest: William Bonney (1859-1881), aka Billy the Kid, was born and raised in Silver City which makes the rest of this story rather interesting. From here on I will be taking liberty to quote from several books and newspapers that tell you about Hulda's famous and some time notorious husband, Hugh Martin Childress, Junior, aka Mark, Matt, Mart Childers or Childress, who has been written about since the 1870's, not by just family members doing research, but by historians, western writers, reporters, and personal accounts by friends and enemies.

Hugh Martin Childress, Jr. was a cattle dealer and trail driver. “By 1856 the family had settled near Camp Colorado in Coleman County. Hugh, Jr., entered the stock business in Lampasas and Brown counties and in 1859-60 won contracts to supply beef to Camp Colorado. In 1861 he started a ranch at Post Oak Springs in western Coleman County and was taxed for 400 cattle valued at \$2,000. During the Civil War^{qv} Childress served with J. J. Callan's minutemen and in Company B under Henry Fossett at Camp Colorado. In January 1865 he fought in the battle of Dove Creek^{qv} against Kickapoo Indians bound for Mexico. In April he collected cattle to drive to northern markets but lost his horse herd to Comanche raiders. A year later, with his holdings increased to over 8,000 head through purchase and consignment, Childress piloted a small herd from Coleman County to central Iowa. In June 1866 he started 2,500 cattle to Colorado over what became the Goodnight-Loving Trail,^{qv} but lost both cattle and horses to Indians before reaching the Pecos.

He regularly sent herds to Kansas between 1867 and 1869 and in 1870 was a preeminent drover in West Texas. He trailed more cattle than John Hittson, John Chisum, or Charles Goodnight.^{qv} By this time he also had suffered \$42,680 in stock losses. In 1872 Childress joined Hittson and others in sweeping the ranches along the Pecos near Las Vegas, New Mexico, and recovered 11,000 stolen cattle and 300 horses. The next year in several drives he took 10,000 head to Kansas, found no market, and turned his herds loose to graze with wandering buffalo^{qv} herds; he later hired hunters to round them up. ‘There are few more widely known and persistent drovers tha[n] H. M. Childress,’ wrote cattle entrepreneur Joseph G. McCoy in his classic *Historic Sketches* (1874). But times were changing. When the Comanches burned his headquarters in 1874 in Coleman County, Childress left the trail and settled on a small ranch in Throckmorton County.

He pioneered in driving herds from west central Texas to Kansas markets as early as 1866 and was a major cattle dealer and drover for more than a decade after the Civil War. He dealt regularly with other stalwarts of the trade, and like many of them he abandoned the trail by the mid-1870s. He was never active in church work or politics.....In 1888 Childress left Texas, settled on a small ranch in Grant County, New Mexico, and pursued his Indian-depredation claims, most of which were later paid. After he was accused of murdering ranchman Ed Moss, he fled into the Gila wilderness. He was killed by a sheriff's posse on the White House Ranch near Cliff on September 23, 1897.

BIBLIOGRAPHY: Compiled by Tabitha L. Morgan and Frank D. Jenkins, *Two Texas Pioneers Called Hugh Martin Childress* (Ballinger, Texas, 1978). Story taken from Handbook of Texas Online.

“Martin Childress was a convivial, jolly fellow, always full of fun and folic, with a heart as large as that of an ox. He would walk boldly into death's jaws to relieve or avenge a friend; he had a nerve of iron and was cool and collected under

fire. He was a deadly pistol shot and did not hesitate to use one effectively when occasion required; yet he would always rather avoid a quarrel than to seek one. He would not shrink from facing the most desperate characters. To his enemies he presented, in anger that peculiar characteristic of smiling demoniacally while he was plainly and openly maneuvering to shoot them through the heart. On the other hand many of the finest traits of the true gentleman were his. He was generous, scrupulously honorable and honest. He was never so happy himself as when he could make his friends happy, by performing generous acts of kindness.(32, 48)”
BIBLIOGRAPHY: Tabitha L. Morgan and Frank D. Jenkins, comps., *Two Texas Pioneers Called Hugh Martin Childress* (Ballinger, Texas, 1978), page 11.

On of those kind deeds got him in trouble with the law for a short time. The Headline in the Silver City Enterprise, Silver City, New Mexico, 1891 Booklet was “AN AGED RANCHMAN ELOPES WITH HIS NEIGHBOR’S WIFE, ACCOMPANIED BY THE CHILDREN.” “The news of the elopement created something of a flutter, as the people are well known in this vicinity, and the disparity in the ages of the parties at interest, made the case assume a somewhat sensational character.” To make a long article short, an arrest warrant was sworn out by a C. C. Smart, a former neighbor of Hugh M. Childress, who claimed that Childress had eloped with his wife, Mrs. Maggie Smart. An arrest was made, but it was difficult to prove anything damaging to either party especially when Mr. Childress was rather non-committal and stated that the facts would come out later. Mrs. Smart was 22 years of age and Childress was 60 and one of his remarks to the reporter was,” What would an old man like me want with a young woman like Mrs. Smart?” During the investigation Mrs. Smart admitted she was leaving her husband for good and she had asked for Mr. Childress’ help in traveling to Lordsburg to catch the train to California. Since he had recently disposed of his property on the Gila and was leaving for Arizona to seek a new place to live, he obliged her wishes.

There were several articles written in the Silver City Enterprise about the murder of Edward Moss and who was responsible. Mart Childers and John Tally, aka “Red John” and John Gully, were the two men believed to have killed Moss and assaulted John Miller and an arrest warrant was made for Childers for assaulting Miller. One article was printed in *Two Texas Pioneers Called Hugh Martin Childress*, compiled by Tabitha L. Morgan and Frank D. Jenkins, page 28 & 29 and I would like to read them to you. (7/8 & 8/8) It was considered the obituary of Mart Childers. When I finish I will be glad to answer any questions you may have if I can and I have brought my research if any of you are interested in copying some of it.

THE KILLING OF MART CHILDER

About two weeks ago a prospector that was camped at JOHNSON's Cienaga near Duck Creek unexpectedly came upon two men with Winchesters who told him to get out of the vicinity, he immediately started away. He had gone a short distance when he met Shorty MILLER and another man riding the range. To these men he detailed, his experiences with the two mysterious armed men who had ordered him to leave. It was once thought that the men were Martin CHILDERS and John GULLY, the two men suspected of the murder of Ed MOSS. It was naturally supposed that the men were receiving food and aid from Lem CHILDERS, son of the accused man who was foreman for the L. C. Company at the White House Ranch. Sheriff McFEE was notified and a posse consisting, of Hinton MOSS, Ben CRAWFORD, and Loosely HARRINGTON were detailed to watch the White House Ranch. The former named deputies are brother and uncle of the deceased, Ed MOSS, who CHILDERS and GUILLY were accused of murdering. About midnight Tuesday the 21st inst. the Deputies secretly left Silver City. At Duck Creek they were joined by Will WITT, Ed HEAD, Melvin TAYLOR, and Shorty MILLER. On Wednesday night the posse of seven men lay in wait about the White House to capture either of the refugees from justice who might seek ingress from the White House. About 4 o'clock Wednesday morning, September 23rd, a moving object was discovered coming towards the White House. At first it was supposed to be a horse but soon the outlines of a human form were recognized. According to the testimony given at the inquest deputy sheriff Dan CRAWFORD, commanded the man three times to halt, then gave the posse orders to fire. Three shots were fired and the human target fell uttering a last piercing cry. The body fell into a deep cut made by the recent rains and the posse fearing a ruse to get a shot at them did not approach the place but called to LEM CHILDERS who was awakened and came out having heard the shot in the house. They asked CHILDERS to go ahead of the posse and ascertain to the certainty who the person was. He went to the ditch and stooping over discovered the dead body of his father. On the bank of the ditch the gun of the deceased was found without any cartridge in the chamber and a piece of gunny sack stuck in the muzzle. If the deputies called at the man three times he evidently meant to make no resistance or he would have thrown the cartridge into the chamber of his gun, had he heard the challenge. But one ball struck the deceased entering the right breast and taking a diagonally downward course coming out on the left side on the small of the back. The course of the bullet show that the man was walking with his head down picking his way in the semi-darkness. Any animal as well as man will involuntarily throw the head up when suddenly surprised with the sound of a human voice and the posture of CHILDERS body when struck by the bullet as shown by the course of the ball demonstrates the fact that the man heard no such challenge or command to halt. That CHILDERS was one of the two men implicated in the murder of Ed MOSS, circumstances seem to point with little doubt but he had never been proven guilty, had never been legally accused. That seven men could not arrest one man without

shooting him first is incomprehensible. Especially this true where there is no indications that the deceased had made an attempt at resistance by loading his gun. An inquest was held by Justice GIVENS of this city who went to the scene of the killing for that purpose only.

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Territory of
New Mexico
County of Grant

Inquest

The following is the finding of the coroner's jury.

We the undersigned justice of the peace and the jury who sat upon the inquest held this 23rd day of September A. D. 1897, upon the body of Hugh Martin CHILDERS found in Precinct 7 of the County of Grant and the Territory of New Mexico find that the deceased came to his death by the gun shot wound at the hands of Benjamin F. CRAWFORD and the posse while trying to make an arrest of the said Hugh Martin CHILDERS charged with the intent to murder Frank MILLER on the 19th day of August A. D. 1897 and the said Benjamin F. CRAWFORD being in charge of the said posse as deputy sheriff at the time said shooting occurred in the discharge of his duty as an officer.

Isaac GIVENS
Justice of the Peace Precinct No. 3

Jurors
R. WINKLER
Charles FARNSWORTH
E. SEITHER
D. H. HUNTER
M. H. RYLIE
J. F. PIERCE

There will be a church service at the Pinos Altos next Sunday, Oct. 3rd at 7:30 P. M. Good Music. All are cordially invited.

O. C. UIZURE

(The Silver City Enterprise, Silver City, New Mexico" 28 September 1897. This obituary was copied from an original copy in the newspaper office. The name Childers should be Childress.)

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(8/8)