

Brandywine Crucible Committee

On the Question of the Parents of our Common Ancestor, Solomon Cox: John Cox, Jr. & Mary Harlan?

Final Report
June 7, 2024

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This Report is offered in conjunction with a presentation of our findings to the Brandywine Crucible Cox Reunion at Lampasas, TX, June 2024.

The Assignment of the Committee

In the fall of 2023, the Board of Brandywine Crucible appointed our committee and presented us with the following charge:

The problem at hand is conflicting and/or uncertain information and conclusions concerning the parentage of Solomon Cox who married Naomi Hussey. Several family paper trail researchers have concluded that the preponderance of evidence indicates that John Cox, Jr., father of the aforementioned Solomon Cox, was married to Mary Harlan as his second wife, who was therefore deemed to be Solomon's mother. This position has become the conventional wisdom in this extended Cox family. *Recent research using DNA and paper trail research by a person previously unknown to Brandywine Crucible, however, has cast doubt on John Cox, Jr.'s marriage to Mary Harlan, instead pointing to Mary Garretson as the wife of John Cox, Jr., and mother of Solomon Cox, wife of Naomi Hussey. There is evidence supporting this conclusion but some uncertainty.*

As Brandywine Crucible is both a fraternal and a family history/genealogical organization, it is a requirement to be as accurate as we possibly can be in our assessments. Therefore, it is important to deal with this particular case and with similar ones that may arise.

Vice President Gary Sutton and I have the board of directors' approval to appoint a small committee consisting of board members and at least one family line liaison to review evidence from past researchers and the current ones who have presented new information. We will appoint a committee chair. We will choose members who have not had significant involvement in researching the issue at hand in the interest of as disinterested an approach as possible. The committee will have full access to the past and current researchers who have developed these differing conclusions and to the written materials that we are aware of. A by-product of this effort may be that additional researchers and additional materials may be discovered.

Keep these guidelines in mind:

Be influenced by your research only.

Use available information (we don't expect you to make trips to England).

Remember that DNA is as accurate as the current DNA data-base inputs. A split finding is acceptable (meaning that neither position can be 100% proved or disproved).

Put forth your best effort to conclude the project by the 2024 meeting.

Ask for additional guidance if you deem it necessary. That is your call; you are not constrained.

We will ask the committee to present its findings to the board prior to our 7-9 June 2024 annual meeting and reunion in Lampasas.

The committee met initially in early 2024, meeting weekly or bi-weekly through the subsequent months. Each committee member worked individually and brought his/her findings to the group. Our approach was to become immersed in the various written documents—online sources, published books, articles, Ancestry (and other) family trees, i.e., what might be called the “paper trail.”

This report is organized into the following sections:

- I. Significant Sources Review by the Committee -- a list of titles and authors reviewed
- II. Brief Summaries of Significant Sources -- key passages are cited; and what we believe to be important conclusions (or “takeaways”) of the author are summarized under the boxed sub-heading “We Should Note.”
- III. Our Findings

We gratefully acknowledge considerable input and guidance from Margie Romine, the DNA Project Manager for Brandywine Crucible. She participated with the committee on multiple occasions. Her understanding of all things DNA-related, and her detail-oriented work on the DNA groupings within the Cox lines from which we all descend were extremely valuable aids to the committee.

Significant Sources Reviewed by the Committee

Resources list (by chronology) and online source where available:

1912 – *The Cox Family in America*, Henry Miller Cox

[Available at familysearch.org]

1955 – *Descendants of Solomon Cox of Cole Creek, VA*, William E. Cox

[Available at familysearch.org]

1955 – *Joseph Cox, Ancestors and Descendants*, Stanley M. Cox

[Available at familysearch.org]

1957 – *Ancestors and Descendants of Jehu Cox*, Wayne D. Stout

[Available at familysearch.org]

Various -- Hussey Manuscript

[Available through various online sources accessible via Google]

1975 – *Joseph Cox, Ancestors and Descendants*, Stanley Cox and Gary Sutton

[Available at familysearch.org]

1977 – *Cox Family Outline*, Elizabeth Berry Buffa

[Available at familysearch.org]

1977 – *Cox Family Outline*, Eldon Cox

[Quoted extensively in Elizabeth Buffa's work cited above]

1998 – *Six Columbiana County, OH Pioneer Families, vol 5*, William Brooke Fetters

[Available at familysearch.org]

2005 – *John Cox, Jr & Mary Harlan*, Ada Stump

2008 – *The Cox Family: My Line with Allied Families*, LaVonne S. Oertel

[Available at familysearch.org]

2010 – *We Are the Branches*, Les Sutton

Miscellaneous/Online Sources:

WikiTree

Alan Cox letter

Brian Cox blog – “Forebears and Kinfolks”

[Available at forebearsandkinfolks.org]

Find-A-Grave posts – largely Claudia Davenport-Sullivan inputs

[Available at findagrave.com]

DAR files

Genealogy.com, Patsy-Seay Page

Genealogy.com, Claude R. Burton

Cox Heritage Newsletter

[Available at familysearch.org]

Brief Summaries of Significant Sources

1912 – The Cox Family in America, Henry Miller Cox

Perhaps the first widely-read summary of the early Coxes who arrived in the colonies in late-seventeenth and early-eighteenth centuries, this ambitious volume focuses heavily on the New England branches of the line. However, one chapter does explore the Quaker connection with which we are most interested. On pages 249ff, he writes:

“**John Cox**, of Warrington. First Generation. John Cox,--one of the early settlers at Warrington, now in Huntington Tp., York Co, probably a brother of Thomas Cox, who removed from Chester Co., to the same neighborhood, 1733; present 1740, at the marriage of Rebecca Cox, (daughter of Thomas), and James Frazier, at the house of William Garretson. Nearly all of the early Friends’ marriages in that locality, however, were celebrated at the house of John Cox, prior to the establishment of the Huntington Meeting in 1750. Nothing is positively known as to his parentage, but he is believed to have been a son of John and Rachel Cox, of New Castle Co., Del., m. Mary _____, perhaps the Mary Cox, daughter of Moses and Margaret Harlan, mentioned in the will of Moses Harlan, of Menallen Tp., 10, 10, 1747; children: *i. Sarah, ii. Benjamin, iii. William (?), iv. Samuel, v. Naomi, vi. Joseph (?), vii. Hannah (?), viii. Jacob, ix. Dinah*,--the two last named in the will of their grandfather, above referred to.

“Second Generation. Children of **John Cox and Mary (?) Harlan**:

- i. Sarah Cox – b c 1721, married Nicholas Wierman
- ii. Benjamin Cox – b c 1723, married aft 1745 Martha Garretson (d/o John Garretson)
- iii. William Cox – supposed to have been a son of John; b c 1725, married Naomi Garretson
- iv. Samuel Cox – b 1727; d c 1796, married Hannah Wierman
- v. Amy, or Naomi Cox – b 9, 27, 1729; d 5, 1792, married William Wierman”

We should note:

- 1) Henry Miller Cox's volume is the first source (chronologically) that we are aware of to assert Thomas Cox "the vintner of London" as the origin of our Cox line in America. This volume is also the first to posit the wife of John Cox as "Mary _____, *perhaps* the daughter of Moses Harlan." (emphasis added)
- 2) Henry Miller Cox identifies only one John Cox in the Quaker settlements of the early 1700s, while other sources identify three or more with that same name.
- 3) The author expresses clearly his reservations about the spouse of John Cox; note: "Nothing is positively known. . ."; "he is believed to have been. . ."; that he married "Mary _____, perhaps the Mary Cox, daughter of Moses and Margaret Harlan. . . ."
- 4) The author does not cite our Solomon Cox as the child of the John Cox and Mary _____ that he identifies here.

1955 – Descendants of Solomon Cox of Cole Creek, VA, William E. Cox

[This volume acknowledges reliance on work of Mary Lovering Holman of New England Historical Genealogical Society, who “made a search of all the records of the Cox family in Pennsylvania, Delaware, North Carolina, Virginia, [and] Ohio, . . . Including court records, and the Quaker Meeting records. . . .” Another acknowledgement: Mrs. Mary Patterson, genealogist at Swarthmore College, where many of the early Quaker records are kept.]

Like Henry Miller Cox, this author focuses primarily on Coxes outside of our interest area. However, there is some overlap with the Coxes who settled along Brandywine:

“Mary Holman in her research of our branch of the Cox family, concludes that the William Cox who was living in New Castle, Delaware as early as 1719, and perhaps much earlier was born about 1660, and that he probably had one or more brothers living in this country, and also that he was the father of the William Cox who was living near Hockessin, Delaware as early as 1726.”

“The Sedbury Meeting [England] records show that a William Cox was born in Gloucester County, England in 1657-8 a son of Samuel, and it is probably that this is the William that was living in New Castle, DE in 1719, as the record names a John Cox of the same meeting who was married in 1680 and a Thomas Cox of same meeting, who was married in 1689. This would seem to place them all in the same family group, and we find that a John Cox came to America in 1710, and a Thomas coming to America and bringing a certificate from the Sedbury Meeting dated 7-10-1713. . . .

“We conclude that these three: William, John and Thomas, to be brothers, and we have traced our ancestry back to the William who was living in New Castle, DE in 1719, and also that he is the father of the William who was living near Hockessin, DE, and from whom we can trace our ancestry through proven records.

“Further records on the John Cox who came to America shows that he married Alice Beal in 1680, and later in 1690 (12-22-1690) he married 2nd Elizabeth Taylor, prior to coming to America.

“There are so many Coxes by the name of John that it is impossible to follow him accurately from here on, but presumably he and Thomas both had children living in this country.”

We should note:

1. This author, William E. Cox, is focused on another branch of the Cox immigrant line, one primarily settled in Virginia. However, the reference to the William Coxes of Delaware and Hockessin, plus the connection to at least one John Cox, makes this citation of interest. Of course, the “impossibility” (author’s word) of following this John Cox and marriages and children born subsequent to coming to America means this source doesn’t directly address our question.
2. The author traces his own lineage from William Cox of Hockessin, DE (husband of Catherine Kinkey). But in the process he offers a lineage which is of interest to us: three brothers William Cox, John Cox, and Thomas Cox who immigrated from England, with his ancestor (William of Hockessin) being the son of the brother named William Cox.

1955 – Joseph Cox, Ancestors and Descendants, Stanley M. Cox

Author Stanley M. Cox offers this compilation of the lineage of his ancestor, one Joseph Cox:

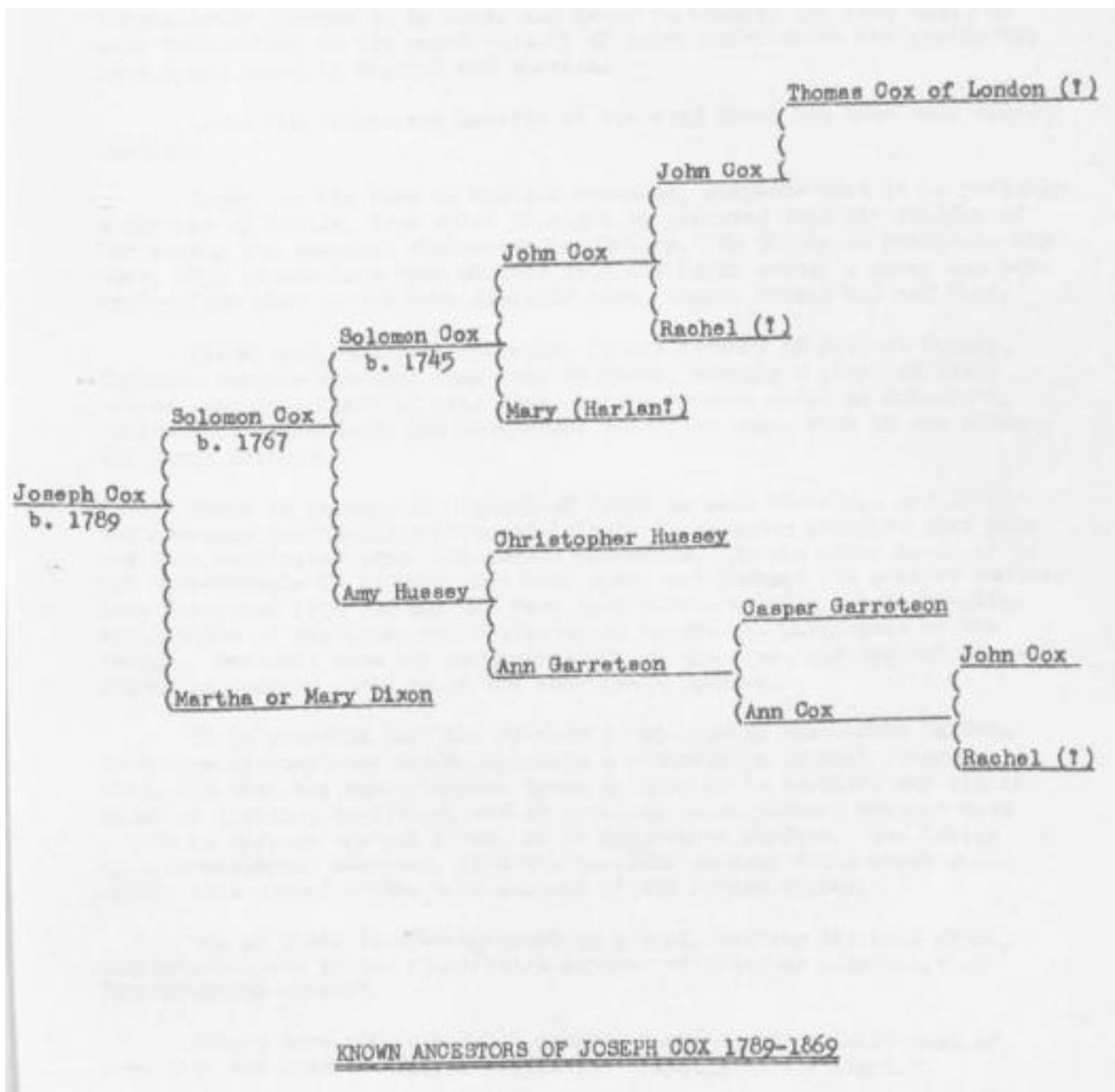
Opening paragraph:

“The Joseph Cox branch of the Cox family had its beginning in the United States in 1708, when John and Rachel Cox lately from England, probably London, were known to be living in New Castle County, Delaware. Shortly thereafter they appeared in the records of the Quaker Churches in Chester and York Counties, Pennsylvania. *It is thought that this John Cox was a son of Thomas Cox, a wine merchant of London, but this has not been proved.* Thomas Cox of London had extensive landed interests in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. His will, admitted to probate in 1711, devised eight hundred acres of land in the vicinity of Philadelphia to one of his sons, and four hundred acres on the opposite side of the Delaware River, in New Jersey, to his other son. *Thomas Cox was known to be a Quaker, and since John, Thomas and Richard were all Quakers, and their names appeared in the Quaker records of Pennsylvania about this time, it is assumed that they were sons of Thomas.*” (emphasis added)

We should note:

Italicized phrases above – “It is thought,” “this has not been proved,” “it is assumed that. . .” —all suggest some uncertainty about the assertions. Per Gary Sutton (who later worked with Stanley Cox to create the revision and updating of this volume), Stanley Cox did not retain his primary sources. Consequently, we can neither be sure of which primary sources he relied on, nor can we know what fed the uncertainty he seems to acknowledge. Gary Sutton also offered us the insight that Stanley Cox was a “stickler” for accuracy: he would not assert something to be true unless he was quite sure there was evidence to support it. This probably accounts for some of the equivocal expressions in the paragraph above (and elsewhere in this book).

In tree format, Stanley Cox offers the following look at his lineage:



Details of the John Cox line:

"John Cox (1)

Thought to have been a son of Thomas Cox of London. There are some facts indicating that John Cox was probably born in Drayton, Berkshire, England. John Cox and his wife Rachel arrived in New Castle County, Delaware, in 1708, apparently from England.

The Cox Family in America (Henry Miller Cox, 1912) suggests that he had brothers Thomas and Richard. Possibly there were others.

Children of John Cox (1) and Rachel Cox:

(2) John. Birthdate unk. Married Mary _____ [Harlan?]. May have married Hannah Jenkins first, ca 1720.

(3) Richard. Married Margaret Potts, March 26, 1712.

(4) Sarah. Married Thomas Leach, 1712.

(5) Joseph.

(6) William. Married Katherine Kinkey. They had a son, Solomon, who married Ruth _____. Quaker records indicate that this Solomon was received by the Quakers in Cane Creek, NC, on Oct 6, 1753.

(7) Ann. Married Casparus Garretson, 1713.

(8) Thomas. Married (a) Elizabeth Fincher, 1722.; (b) Mary Cooke, 1730.

(9) Amy. Married John Allen, 1719. John Allen was a witness to the will of William Cox (6), his brother-in-law.

There were possibly other children. Old records are not always complete.

John Cox (2)

Son of John (1) and Rachel Cox. Married Mary _____. Lived in Kennett, Pa., York and Chester Counties, PA. . . .

Jehu Cox (33) wrote that there were 15 children in the family of John and Mary Cox.

Children of John (2) and Mary Cox:

(10) Sarah. Born about 1721. Married Nicholas Wierman.

(11) Benjamin. Born about 1723. Married Martha Garretson in October, 1751.

(12) William. Born about 1725. Married Naomi Garretson in November, 1748.

(13) Samuel. Born about 1727. Married Hannah Wierman on October 22, 1747. Their son, Samuel, married Martha Cox (20), daughter of Solomon Cox (19) and Amy Hussey Cox.

(14) Naomi. Born Sep 27, 1729. Married William Wierman on Jun 8, 1753.

(15) Thomas. Born about 1733. Married Martha (Jenkins?).

(16) John. Born about 1735.

(17) Margaret. Born about 1737. Married Mr. Spencer, 1777.

(18) Mary. Born about 1739.

(19) Solomon. Born about 1745. Married Naomi (Amy) Hussey about 1766.

The above are the children which are recorded in the Quaker records. Apparently there were five more. The records indicate that possibly four of them were Joseph, Hannah, Jacob, and Dinah.

Solomon Cox (19)

Son of John (2) and Mary _____ Cox. Born about 1745, probably near Warrington, PA. Married Naomi (Amy) Hussey, about 1766. She was born February 29, 1742, in Warrington, PA. She died in 1779. This family moved from Pennsylvania to North Carolina, then to Virginia. Thought to have lived near Cane Creek, NC, when most of the children were born.

Children of Solomon (19) and Naomi Hussey Cox:

(20) Martha. Born about 1767. Twin of Solomon. Married Samuel Cox, a cousin.

(21) Solomon. Born about 1767. Twin of Martha. Married Martha or Mary Dixon.

(22) Mary. Born 1769. Married Mr. Mahan or Mahon.

(23) Ann.

(24) Christopher. Born 1773.

(25) Thomas. Born Dec 5, 1775. Married Rachel Carr.

(26) Absolom. Born 1777.

(27) Stephen. Born 1779. Twin of Naomi.

(28) Naomi. Born 1779. Twin of Stephen. Married Thomas McMahan.

(29) Ruth. Birth date unknown. Married Joseph Johnson.”

We should note:

Spouse of John Cox identified only as “Mary _____(Harlan?)” However, he seems certain that our Solomon was the son of this union.

1957 – Ancestors and Descendants of Jehu Cox, Wayne D. Stout

The diary of Jehu Cox is the oldest extant first-person record of our Cox lineage. Author Wayne D. Stout is a descendant of our Solomon Cox, through his son Thomas Cox (father of Jehu) who was born in a Quaker community (Cane Creek, NC), Dec 5, 1775. Thomas' wife Rachel Carr was born Mar 4, 1771 in Cane Creek. They married 1795.

“Thomas Cox was number 6 in a family of ten. His father, Solomon Cox, was born about 1745 in Warrington, York County, Pennsylvania. Warrington—a live Quaker community—was the home of the Cox, Hussey, and Garretson families. These clans had stuck together for generations. Many inter-marriages had cemented the tribe into a solid unit. When Solomon was a lad of ten his father John joined the Hussey and Garretsons for a long move to Cane Creek, Orange County, North Carolina, a distance of 300 miles. These Quakers hoped to establish a new Zion amongst the slave holders of the South. . . . We next hear of Solomon, the youngest of the three [children of John Cox who with him made the move to NC], in 1766 when he married Naomi Hussey.”

“Jehu writes that Solomon was the fifteenth child of Solomon Senior. . . . [But] research has convinced us that his memory was faulty. A careful study of Quaker records force us to conclude that Solomon Cox was the son of John—not Solomon Senior. The latter did not exist. The proof for this conclusion is found in the fact that Martha Cox, the daughter of Solomon, was excommunicated (disowned) by the Quakers for marrying her first cousin—Samuel Cox. This Samuel was the son of Samuel Cox, Sr.—brother of our Solomon Cox. This Samuel Senior was the son of John and Mary Cox. Now, if this Samuel Senior was the son of John and Mary Cox, why couldn't Samuel's brother (our Solomon) be a son of John too?”

More on a certain John Cox:

“John Cox came to America with his parents (father: John Cox Senior) in 1708. . . . Born about 1685. . . . His father, John Cox Senior died 1711.

“It is the writer's opinion that John Junior married soon after his arrival in America probably about the year 1709. His wife's name could be Hannah Jenkins with whom he had about ten children. After her death he married a lady whose first name was Mary, maiden name unknown. With her he had several children, the last one was (our) Solomon. Who was that Mary? She may have been a Garretson, a Hussey, or even a Wierman. If Mary was the mother of five children then Jehu was right—Solomon was indeed the youngest of 15 children. If the reader disagrees with this

conclusion then let him come up with a more logical one. Meanwhile, after the first marriage, John Jr. moved to Warrington, York County, Pennsylvania, this is where most of the children were born. . . ." (emphasis added)

We should note:

Author Stout doesn't offer Harlan as a possible maiden name for John Cox's wife (and the mother of our Solomon). Instead, after saying her "maiden name unknown," he offers three possibilities: Garretson, Hussey, "or even" Wierman.

Various Dates - Hussey Manuscripts, 1361-1913

Key excerpts (provided by Zala Koym):

“Christopher Hussey, late of Hockessin (Delaware) and Ann Garretson, late of the same place” were married 5th, 9th month, 1736, according to records of Warrington Monthly Meeting in York, County, Pennsylvania where they subsequently located. Christopher Hussey was married to Ann Garretson, daughter of Casparus Garretson and Ann Cox Garretson “of New Castle County, Delaware.

Her (Ann Garretson’s) family was Dutch and had lived in New Amsterdam and Delaware since 1658. Ann Garretson Hussey was born in Hockessin (Pennsylvania) in 1715. Her father, Casparus Garretson, was born in 1676 in New Castle County and was married in 1713 to Ann COX, daughter of John Cox and Rachel Cox.” (John Cox and Rachel Cox are considered to be parents of John Cox Jr. in three other resources the committee reviewed.)

1735 John Cox, Jr. married Mary Harlan (Believed to be his second wife) at London Grove Monthly Meeting in Chester County, Pennsylvania.

Naomi “Amy” Hussey, daughter of Christopher Hussey and Ann Garretson Hussey, was born 29th, 2nd month, 1742-43 in Warrington, Pennsylvania. Naomi’ “Amy” Hussey was married about 1760 to Solomon Cox, the son of John Cox (Jr.) and the youngest of 15 children.

We should note:

This is consistent with the hypothesis that the Brandywine Crucible tree/database is built upon: that Solomon Cox is the son of John Cox Jr and his wife Mary Harlan.

1975 – Joseph Cox, Ancestors and Descendants, Stanley Cox & Gary Sutton

In this updating and revised version of the 1955 edition (by Stanley Cox alone), the following key changes should be noted:

1955 version reads “Children of John Cox (1) and Rachel Cox:
(2) John. Birthdate unk. Married Mary _____ [Harlan?]. May have married Hannah Jenkins first, ca 1720.”

*1975 version reads “Children of John Cox (1) and Rachel Cox:
(2) John, Jr. Married Mary Harlan, daughter of Moses Harlan about 1735. Believed to have married Hannah Jenkins first, ca 1720.

1955 version reads “John Cox (2)
Son of John (1) and Rachel Cox. Married Mary _____. Lived in Kennett, Pa., York and Chester Counties, PA. . . .

*1975 version reads: “John Cox (2)
Son of John (1) and Rachel Cox. Born about 1685 in England. Believed to have married Hannah Jenkins on 3/7/1720. Believed to have married Mary Harlan in 1735. There is some doubt that his second wife’s name was Harlan. There is good reason to believe that she could have been a Garretson.”

Solomon Cox (19)

Son of John (2) and Mary _____ Cox. Born about 1745, probably near Warrington, PA. Married Naomi (Amy) Hussey, about 1766. She was born February 29, 1742, in Warrington, PA. She died in 1779. This family moved from Pennsylvania to North Carolina, then to Virginia. Thought to have lived near Cane Creek, NC, when most of the children were born.

We should note:

1. John Cox (Jr) is identified as son of John and Rachel Cox.
2. John Cox (Jr) is described as “believed to be” husband of Hannah Jenkins, then Mary Harlan. But “there is good reason to believe that she could have been a Garretson.”
3. Our ancestor Solomon Cox is identified as a son of John Cox, but the maiden name of his mother Mary is left unspecified.

1977 – Cox Family Outline, Elizabeth Berry Buffa

Sources: Eldon Cox (correspondence)
Wayne Stout "Ancestors & Descendants of Jehu Cox"
Stanley Cox and Gary Sutton, "Joseph Cox, Ancestors and Descendants"

Despite leaving their parents unspecified, several Cox siblings are identified who are part of our lineage:

Siblings: John Cox (b 1688-90, England) – married c 1713 Mary _____
Richard married 1) Elizabeth Scarlett; 2) Mary _____
Sarah Cox – married Thomas Leach c 1712 (She may have been of this family)
Joseph Cox (may have been of this family)
William Cox – married Catherine Kinkey (d/o Harmon & Margery Kinkey)
Ann Cox (?) – married Casparus Garretson c 1713
Thomas Cox – married 1) Elizabeth Fincher, 2 Sep 1722; 2) Mary Cooke, 1730
Amy Cox – married John Allen c 1719

John Cox and Mary _____. Married ca 1713. (She may have been Mary Garretson, sister of Casparus and d/o John Garretson, but no proof (per Eldon Cox).)

1722-35 Lived London Grove, Chester Co., PA
1736-54 Lived Huntington, York Co., PA
1755-? Lived Randolph Co., NC

Children of this marriage, ordered by date of marriage (according to Eldon Cox):

- I. John – b ca 1714 M 8/9/1735 to Mary Harlan (d/o Moses Harlan)
- II. Sarah – b ca 1721 M 8/24/1745 to Nicholas Wierman (s/o Wm & Gertrude)
- III. Ann - M 8/23/1746 to William Ruddock

- IV. Samuel – b ca 1727 M 8/22/1747 to Hannah Wierman (d/o Wm & Gertrude – d ca 1796
- V. William - M ca 1748 to Naomi Garretson (1st cousin – dis. 1748)
- VI. Benjamin – M ca 1751 to Martha Garretson (1st cousin – dis 1751) – d 1817
- VII. Hannah - M ca 1752 to Daniel Winter (dis 9/30/1752)
- VIII. Amy (Naomi) - M 6/28/1753 to William Wierman (s/o Wm & Gertrude) . . .
- IX. Ruth – b ca 1733-35 M ca 1755-57 to Solomon Cox (s/o Wm & Catherine) – d ca 1805
- X. Thomas - M ca 1757 to Martha Jenkins; d ca 1771
- XI. Solomon – b ca 1735-38 M ca 1759-60 to Naomi Hussey – he died 1844

Children of John and Mary (Harlan) Cox (listed above as first son):

- A. Jacob – disowned 10/21/1758 – mentioned in will of his grandfather, Moses Harlan
 - B. Dinah - M Finley McGrew ca 1759 – mentioned in will of her grandfather, Moses Harlan
 - C. Rebecca – disowned 10/11/1760, for accompanying her sister, Dinah, in marriage.
- Probably more.

Solomon Cox – b ca 1745, York Co., PA; d after 1814, Ross Co., OH, M ca 1760 Naomi Hussey (d/o Christopher & Ann (Garretson) Hussey) Cane Creek. She was b 29 Feb 1742, in York Co., PA.

- A. Martha (twin) – b 29 Jan 1761 – d 19 Mar 1845; M Samuel Cox (dis 1870 MOU)
- B. Solomon (twin) – b 29 Jan 1761 – d bef 1850 in MO; M 1) 1787 Martha or Mary Dixon; M 2) Mary Williams 23 Aug 1812; M 3) Temperance Hendricks 20 Dec 1831
- C. Mary – b ca 1766-68; M Thomas Mahan 8 Sep 1800, Knox Co., KY
- D. Ann – b ca 1771; died young
- E. Christopher – b 1773; M 1) Lydia Carter 1795; M 2) Hannah Johnson
- F. Thomas – b 5 Dec 1771; d 1845; M Rachel Carr 1795 Monroe Co., IN
- G. Absolom – b ca 1777; M twice – lived in Posey Co., IN 1820

H. Stephen (twin) – b 1779; M Mary _____
I. Naomi (twin) – M Thomas McMahon
J. Ruth – b ca 1780; M Joseph Johnson
K. Nathan

Miscellaneous notes from Eldon Cox correspondence:

Confusion exists on the early history of this Cox family due to scarcity of early records and to the number of people by the same name in Chester Co., PA before, say 1740.

There were at least 3 and possibly 5 or 6 by the name of John Cox.

There were at least 2 by the name of Thomas Cox.

There were at least 2 by the name of Richard Cox.

There is no general agreement as to which belonged to our Cox family and which entries in the records pertain to them. There is even less agreement as to their children. . . .

There is no book that includes anything like a complete record of this Cox family during those early years.

We should note:

- 1) Author Buffa makes the claim that a John Cox married in 1713 to a Mary, possibly Mary Garretson, but she acknowledges Eldon Cox's comment that there is no proof of this pairing.
- 2) Buffa avoids the Garretson versus Harlan question by having the senior John Cox married to (possibly) Mary Garretson. That couple then have several children, the first of which is John Cox (Jr) who marries Mary Harlan (daughter of Moses Harlan). The last child of the senior John and Mary Garretson Cox is our Solomon Cox (h/o Naomi Hussey). So, in this view, John Cox (h/o Mary Harlan) is the brother—not father—of Solomon Cox (h/o Naomi Hussey).

1998 - Six Columbiana County, OH Pioneer Families, Vol 5, William Brooke Fetters

Author Fetters has written a six-volume review of his primary ancestral lines, one of which is the Garretson family that settled in Brandywine valley. The Cox family overlaps with the Garretsons in various places.

Fetters' first mention of the Coxes is a Sarah Cox, wife of Richard Leach (one of his primary ancestors). Sarah Cox is the daughter of John and Rachel Cox, names that we frequently encounter in Cox trees. John and Rachel are described as Quakers who immigrated from Drayton, Berks, England, around 1707, settling in Kennet, Chester Co., PA.

The author is confident that John and Rachel are not in our ancestral line. He identifies their children as:

Sarah – mentioned above, w/o Richard Leach

Joseph

Richard

John – (Fetters believes that this is the John who married Hannah Jenkins)

The next mention of the Cox Quakers is as they marry into the Garretson line, specifically marrying two of the children of Jan Garretson (b 1635 – d 1694) and wife Ann _____ (b 1655-d aft 1694). As shown in the list below, the two Garretsons who married Coxes are Casparus Garretson, husband of Ann Cox, and Mary Garretson, wife of John Cox (according to Fetters, these are parents of our Solomon Cox).

The children of Jan and Ann Garretson are:

1. Garrett Garretson – b 1678 – d ca 1758, h/o Content Hussey
2. Cornelius Garretson – b ca 1688 – unmarried
3. Casparus Garretson – b 1684 – d 1726 – h/o Ann Cox - their children were:
 - a. Rebecca – w/o Andrew Rodgers
 - b. John – h/o 1) Content Hussey; 2) Jane Carson; 3) Phebe (Elliott) Frazier
 - c. William – h/o Mary Frazier
 - d. Ann – w/o Christopher Hussey [These are parents of Naomi Hussey Cox]
 - e. Joseph – h/o Mary Mills
 - f. Naomi – w/o William Cox [son of John and Mary Cox, below]

- g. Martha – w/o Benjamin Cox [son of John and Mary Cox, below]
- 4. (?) Mary Garretson – b ca 1692, d 1745 in Huntington, York Co., PA – w/o John Cox, married 1713 [Her husband John is believed to be the brother of Ann Cox, w/o Casparus Garretson, Mary's brother]

We should note that Fetters fully acknowledges the uncertainty surrounding Mary Garretson and her spousal connection to John Cox. Quoting at length:

“There is no proof . . . that [John Cox's wife, Mary, was Garretson], or that one of Jan and Ann Garretson's daughters was named Mary. The major arguments in favor of the hypothesis involve opportunity and naming patterns. The opportunity for John to marry a Garretson, of course, existed because John's sister [Ann] married Casparus Garretson about the same time that John also married. Therefore, if Casparus had a sister, John certainly was acquainted with her. Furthermore, there was a strong tendency at that time for parents to name the first two children of each sex after their grandparents. Thus, in the honor of his parents, Casparus named his first son John and his second daughter Ann. Similarly, John and Mary Cox named their first son John and their second daughter Ann, which is evidence in support of the hypothesis that Mary's parents were named John [Jan] and Ann.

“A major reason for skepticism concerning the hypothesis that Mary was a Garretson is that Cornelius Garretson's 1765 will mentions several offspring of each of his two brothers, but none of any sister. While there were many close associations between the Casparus Garretson and John Cox families over a period of many years, they can be explained simply by the fact that John Cox and Ann (Cox) Garretson were siblings. Nevertheless, . . . (1) Mary may have been Casparus's sister, (2) John undoubtedly was Ann (Cox) Garretson's brother, and (3) two of John and Mary's sons married daughters of Casparus and Ann.”

Regardless of Fetters' argument about whether John Cox Sr. actually married Mary Garretson, he seems convinced that his son John Cox Jr. did in fact marry Mary Harlan. Fetters' list of John Cox Sr.'s children begins with John Cox Jr. and ends with our Solomon Cox (h/o Naomi Hussey):

1. John Cox – b.c. 1714 – married 1735 Mary Harlan, d/o of Moses & Margaret (Ray) Harlan; married 2nd 1751 Sarah Oldham.
2. Sarah Cox – b.c. 1716 – married 1745 Nicholas Wierman
3. Ann Cox – b.c. 1718 – married 1746 William Ruddock
4. Samuel Cox – b.c. 1720 – married 1747 Hannah Wierman

5. William Cox – b.c. 1722 – married Naomi Garretson (d/o of Casparus and Ann (Cox) Garretson
6. Benjamin Cox – b.c. 1726 – married 1751 Martha Garretson (d/o of Casparus and Ann (Cox) Garretson
7. Hannah Cox – b.1. 1730 – married 1752 Daniel Winter
8. Naomi (or Amy) Cox – b.c. 1728, married 1753 William Wierman
9. Ruth Cox – b.c. 1732 – married 1756 Solomon Cox (s/o William and Catherine (Kinkey) Cox
10. Thomas Cox – b.c. 1734 – married 1757 Martha Jenkins
11. Solomon Cox – b.c. 1736 – married Naomi Hussey (d/o Christopher & Ann (Garretson) Hussey. Solomon and Naomi's mothers were first cousins.

Based on significant circumstantial evidence—i.e., dates of birth and naming patterns common in Quakers of the day—Fetters believes that the following family is the original immigrant group for our Cox family line:

William Cox and wife Rebecca _____ (perhaps Duskin) had these children:

1. Ann – w/o Casparus Garretson
2. William – h/o Catherine Kinkey
3. Amy – w/o John Allen
4. John – h/o Mary Garretson – [parents of our Solomon Cox]
5. Thomas – h/o Elizabeth Fincher
6. Richard – h/o Elizabeth Scarlett

We should note: (Emphasis added in quoted sections)

1. Feters makes a strong, well-supported argument for the John Cox-married to-Mary Garretson hypothesis; although he leaves room for alternate interpretations of the facts and records he cites: *“There is no proof . . . that [John Cox’s wife, Mary, was Garretson], or that one of Jan and Ann Garretson’s daughters was named Mary.* The major arguments in favor of the hypothesis involve opportunity and naming patterns. The opportunity for John to marry a Garretson, of course, existed because John’s sister [Ann] married Casparus Garretson about the same time that John also married. Therefore, if Casparus had a sister, John certainly was acquainted with her. Furthermore, there was a strong tendency at that time for parents to name the first two children of each sex after their grandparents. Thus, in the honor of his parents, Casparus named his first son John and his second daughter Ann. Similarly, John and Mary Cox named their first son John and their second daughter Ann, . . . evidence in support of the hypothesis that Mary’s parents were named John [Jan] and Ann.

“A major reason for skepticism concerning the hypothesis that Mary was a Garretson is that Cornelius Garretson’s 1765 will mentions several offspring of each of his two brothers, but none of any sister. While there were many close associations between the Casparus Garretson and John Cox families over a period of many years, they can be explained simply by the fact that John Cox and Ann (Cox) Garretson were siblings. *Nevertheless, . . . (1) Mary may have been Casparus’s sister, (2) John undoubtedly was Ann (Cox) Garretson’s brother, and (3) two of John and Mary’s sons married daughters of Casparus and Ann.*”

2. Regardless of Feters’ argument about whether John Cox Sr. actually married Mary Garretson, he seems convinced that his son John Cox Jr. did in fact marry Mary Harlan. Feters’ list of John Cox Sr.’s children begins with John Cox Jr. and ends with our Solomon Cox (h/o Naomi Hussey). *By this analysis, our Solomon is the son of John Cox Sr and wife Mary, perhaps Garretson, or perhaps another surname, but not Harlan. Instead, Solomon’s brother John Cox Jr is the spouse of Mary Harlan.*
3. Feters also offers a different genealogy of the Cox family’s English source: rather than Thomas Cox (the vintner) or John/Rachel Cox (born in England and immigrated to America), he identifies William Cox and his wife Rebecca (Unk) as parents of the first John in our line, who is the father of our Solomon Cox.

2005 – John Cox, Jr. and Mary Harlan, Ada Stump

This work is a significant compilation for Brandywine Crucible, building as it does on the work of Les Sutton, Gary Sutton, and Stanley Cox. In the Preface, Ada acknowledges these and many other sources upon which she has relied. And of course, as any intelligent genealogist will insist, Ada anticipates “a [future] researcher will find a new record proving outdated info wrong,” “differences may exist on research” which need to be acknowledged, etc.—and she offers this compilation with the hope that “this remains a work in process by future generations.”

In the Harlan half of the book, Mary Harlan is introduced as the daughter of Moses Harlan and wife Margaret Ray, birth date unknown, death “before 1753,” and married to John (Cocks) Cox on 9 Oct 1735. In the note at the bottom of page 57: “John Cox and Moses Harlan were neighbors in 1735, both were of the Quaker faith and John’s wife, Hannah, had recently passed away.”

The children of John Cox and Mary Harlan Cox are given as (p.57):

1. Jacob – named in his grandfather, Moses Harlan’s will.
2. Eamey – married John Wierman, Jun 28, 1753 – her mother *assumed* deceased at this time.
3. Dinah – married Finley McGrew, 1759
4. Rebecca

In the “Cox half” of the book (pp. 192-3), Ada offers this list of the children of John Cox and wife Mary Harlan Cox:

1. Joseph – b c 1736 (“prematurely” per parents’ wedding date)
2. Jacob – b 1737
3. Dinah – b 1738 – m Finely McGrew
4. Naomi “Amy” – b 27 Nov 1739 – m John William Wierman
5. Rebecca – b 1741 – m John Blackburn
6. Mary – b 1743 – m Elijah Nickle
7. Solomon – b c 1745 – m Naomi “Amy” Hussey, married 1760 in N

On page 194, a Marriage Certificate is included, reading in part:

“John Cocks, son of John Cocks, of Londongrove in ye County of Chester in ye Province of Pennsylvania & Mary Harlan, Daughter of Moses Harlan. . . .”

The parents of the bride and groom are listed here as: “Moses Harlan and Margaret Harlan And Jno. Cocks and Mary Cocks”

We should note:

1. Here and in other citations of the John Cox-Mary Harlan wedding in 1735, the parents of the groom are identified as John and Mary Cox, not John and Rachel, which suggests one of a few possibilities: that the parents of the groom were in fact John and Mary (perhaps maiden name Garretson?) Cox; or that the groom’s mother is deceased and the groom’s father is in attendance with a sister or sister-in-law; or that neither of the “parents of the groom” are in fact their parents, but just other Cox relatives bearing the given names John and Mary!
2. In the list of children above taken from pp 192-3, our Solomon Cox (h/o Naomi Hussey) is noted as the son of John Cox (Jr) and Mary Harlan. However, on p. 57 and as noted on the preceding page above, Mary Harlan is introduced as wife of John Cox, but only four children are named--Jacob, Eamey, Dinah, and Rebecca--and our Solomon Cox is notably missing.
3. Sadly, Ada’s death prevented the committee from pursuing a question about her findings. For the record, here is that question: What were her primary sources of the John Cox-Harlan connection? Among the sources she cites in the introduction are Henry Miller Cox, and Stanley Cox & Gary Sutton. However, recall that Henry Miller Cox (1912) leaves John Cox’s spouse’s name a question mark, and although Henry Miller Cox acknowledges that Harlan may have been wife Mary’s surname, he doesn’t list Solomon as a child of this John and Mary Cox. And Stanley Cox (1955) does the same: i.e., leaves the name of John Cox’s spouse with a question mark or blank. In their 1975 revision, Stanley and Gary Sutton say: John Cox is “believed to have married Hannah Jenkins on 3/7/1720. Believed to have married Mary Harlan in 1735. There is some doubt that his second wife’s name was Harlan. There is good reason to believe that she could have been a Garretson.” So the bottom line question, perhaps now unanswerable, is what information did Ada access that made her more confident that Mary was in fact Mary Harlan?

2008 – The Cox Family: My Line with Allied Families, LaVonne S. Oertel

Another researcher who has arrived at the belief that John Cox married Mary Garretson. She also pursued the parents and grandparents of John Cox, believing his father to be William Cox (of Gloucester, England). Ms. Oertel reviewed an impressive list of early and more recent sources which she cites in forming this conclusion. Some of her findings:

First Generation

1. William Cox was born c 1657 in Gloucestershire, England. He died c 1742 in New Castle Co., DE. . . . He is found living in New Castle, DE by 1719.

Children:

2. Richard Cox – b c 1686 – married Elizabeth Scarlett
3. John Cox – b c 1688, died c 1753
4. Ann Cox – b c 1690 – married Casparius Garretson, son of Jan vanderhof Garretson & Ann _____. Her second marriage was to Nathan Hussey.
5. William Cox – b c 1692, died on 20 Jan 1767
6. Thomas Cox – b c 1694 – married first Elizabeth Fincher; second wife was Mary Cooke
7. Amy Cox – b c 1699 – married John Allen

Second Generation

2. John Cox (William) – married Mary Garretson, d/o Jan (John) Garretson Jr and Ann, c 1713. Mary was born 18 Dec 1690.

Children:

8. John Cox – b c 1714 in Chester Co., PA – married Mary Harlan
9. William Cox – b c 1716 in Chester Co., PA – married Naomi Garretson (d/o Casparius Garretson & Ann Cox
10. Benjamin Cox – b c 1718, d c 1817 – married Martha Garretson (sister of Naomi above)
11. Ann Cox – b c 1723 in Chester Co., PA – married William E. Ruddick
12. Samuel Cox – b c 1725 – married Hannah Wierman (d/o William Wierman & Gertrude Sietman)

13. Sarah Cox – b c 1727 – married Nicholas Wierman, brother to Hannah
14. Amy Cox – b 27 Sep 1729 – married William Wierman (s/o William & Gertrude Wierman)
15. Thomas Cox – b 1733, died in 1771 – married Martha Jenkins in 1757

Garretsons: First Generation

1. Jan (John) Garretson – born in Holland – arrived from Holland at New Castle 21 Apr 1657

Second Generation

2. Jan (John) Garretson Jr – born c 1650, died in 1694-5 in New Castle Co., DE – married Ann _____ c 1763 in New Castle Co., DE. Ann was born c 1655. She died after 1685 in Mill Creek, New Castle Co., DE

Children:

3. Garret Garretson – b c 1674
4. Casparius John Garretson – b in 1676 and died in 1726
5. Rebecca Garretson – b in 1683
6. Cornelius Garretson
7. Mary Garretson – born on 18 Dec 1690. She died in 1753 in PA – married John Cox in London Grove, Chester County, PA>
8. Charity Garretson – b c 1692

We should note:

This is another researcher who has the John Cox born circa 1688 as husband of Mary Garretson, and then cites them as parents of a second John Cox who marries Mary Harlan. The author's line does not descend from these families, which likely explains why she does not include the children of John Cox and Mary Harlan in her compilation. Our Solomon Cox is not mentioned in this volume.

2010 – We Are the Branches, Les Sutton

As the chart below (next page) shows, Les believes that the most likely line of descent to our Solomon Cox is as follows:

Thomas Cox & Christian Matthew are parents of:

John Cox Sr. who marries Rachel _____, who are parents of:

John Cox Jr. who marries (1) Hannah Jenkins, with whom he fathers:
William, Benjamin, Samuel, [and perhaps others]; AND

John Cox Jr. marries (2) Mary Harlan, with whom he fathers:
Solomon (h/o Naomi Hussey)

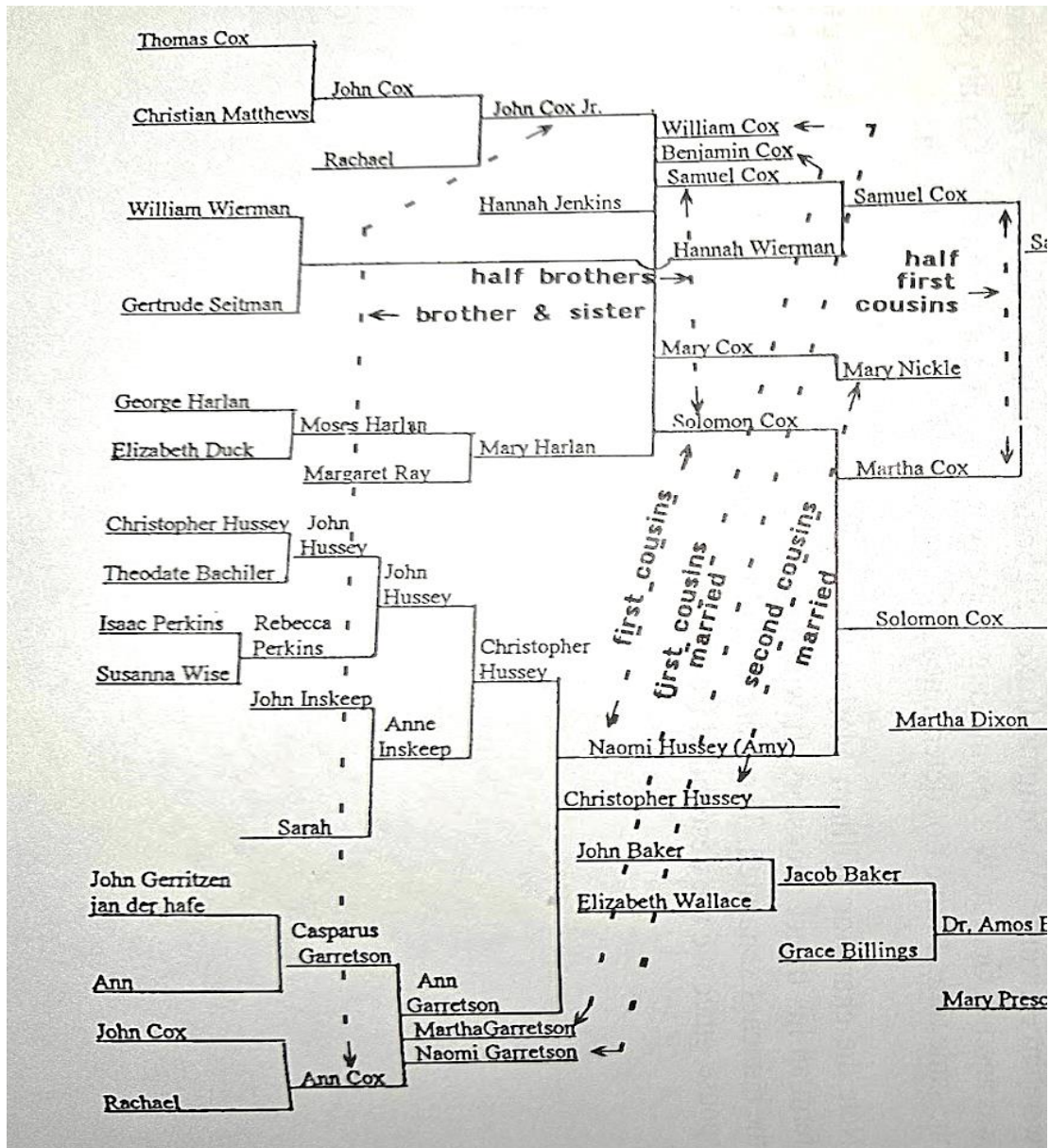
John Cox Sr & Rachel are also parents of:

Ann Cox Garretson (w/o Casparus Garretson), with whom she mothers:

Ann Garretson – who marries Christopher Hussey – parents of
Naomi Hussey Cox

Martha Garretson – w/o Benjamin Cox (s/o of John Cox Jr and
Hannah Jenkins)

Naomi Garretson – w/o William Cox (s/o of John Cox Jr and Hannah
Jenkins)



Les Sutton acknowledges possible ties between the John & Rachel Cox family and other Coxes:

“Other Coxes were living in the area. A William Cox, believed to be a cousin was born in Newcastle County in 1692. His father, also named William, was probably John’s brother, although some believe him to be a cousin.”

A possible tie between John Cox Jr and Mary Garretson is acknowledged here:

“John Jr. married Hannah Jenkins on November 5, 1720, and by the time of the birth of their first child, William in 1721, were living in London Grove Township, South Chester County. . . . Seven additional children were born to John and Hannah over the next 13 years.

“Presumably Hannah died, because in about 1735, John Jr. apparently married Mary Harlan. *Some researchers believe that John Jr’s. second wife is a Garretson,* a family that had a close and continuing relationship with the Coxes and the Husseys. . . . (emphasis added)

“By 1745 John Jr. had moved to what is now Huntington Township, Adams County. . . . Most researchers believe John Jr. died here shortly after the birth of his last son Solomon.”

Later Les writes: “. . . Hannah [Jenkins] died and in about 1735 John Jr. married Mary Harlan. Some researchers think that John’s second wife was a Garretson; however most believe she was Mary Harlan. John’s sister Ann Cox had married Casparus Garretson. Two of John’s sons married Ann’s daughters and Solomon married Ann’s granddaughter. With so many John Coxes and the clipped way the Quaker records were written, it is easy to become confused.”

We should note:

1. Although he leans clearly toward Mary Harlan as the second wife of John Cox Jr, Les acknowledges that “some researchers” (probably the minority) think that she was a Garretson.

Alan Cox Summary Letter (dated 8/8/2023) – Key Passages

Alan Cox, a member of Brandywine Crucible, recently reported to us his view of the Cox-Harlan-Garretson puzzle:

“I lean toward the idea that John Cox Sr and Mary Garretson are probably the parents of John Jr, Sarah, Ann, Samuel, William, and Benjamin based on the following.

“I believe the John Cox parent [named] in the four Quaker marriage records is John Sr. The one for Ann Cox and husband William Ruddick even records it as “John Cox Sen” in the typical witness/parent’s position (right under the groom and bride names). Each of the records for Ann Cox and for the marriage of Samuel Cox includes a second John Cox witness, and I believe that is likely John Cox Jr.

“In addition to that, the marriages of William Cox to Naomi Garretson, and of Benjamin Cox to Martha Garretson were both recorded in Quaker records to have been “married by a priest”; they were also first cousins. I think Martha and Naomi Garretson were both daughters of Ann Cox and husband Casparus Garretson. [Believing] Ann Cox Garretson to be a sister of John Cox Sr, and Ann’s husband Casparus to be a brother of Mary Garretson Cox, this [makes the spouses William Cox & Naomi Garretson Cox and Benjamin Cox & Martha Garretson Cox] first cousins by both parents.

“Delia Garretson Cox, in 1869, documented her interview with her father-in-law Jeremiah Cox (1790-1880), the grandson of Benjamin Cox and Martha Garretson Cox. She indicated that Benjamin is son of John Cox and Mary Garretson.”

Alan’s conjecture as to the children of John Cox Sr and Mary Garretson Cox:

1. John Cox Jr – h/o Mary Harlan
2. Sarah Cox – w/o
3. Ann Cox – w/o William Ruddick
4. Samuel Cox -
5. William Cox – h/o Naomi Garretson
6. Benjamin Cox – h/o Martha Garretson
7. Thomas Cox –
8. Mary Cox -
9. Hannah Cox -

10. Naomi Cox -
11. Joseph Cox -
12. Ruth Cox -
13. Solomon Cox – h/o Naomi Hussey

“If it’s accurate, as Jehu Cox claims, that Solomon Cox (h/o Naomi Hussey) was the youngest of 15 children, then there must have been 14 other siblings born before 1740. [The simplest explanation?] . . . Reasoning through these marriage records and the witnesses, and cousins marrying cousins, and keeping Jehu’s claim that our Solomon is the youngest of 15 children, . . . perhaps they are all children of John Cox Sr and Mary Garretson, and that [would mean that] John Cox Jr is Solomon’s brother [rather than his father] instead.”

Bottom line for Alan Cox: *John Cox Sr is h/o Mary Garretson - John Cox Jr (who married Mary Harlan) is a brother of Solomon h/o Naomi Hussey.* “This view seems to fit better with the small amount of available records we know of. In the end, I’m hoping the DNA analysis will all sort this out . . . And we can adjust our trees accordingly.”

We should note:

1. Citation of one extant interview from 1869 asserting the accuracy of the John Cox married to Mary Garretson hypothesis.
2. Author offers a plausible explanation of the ages of birth of the children of John Cox (Sr) which accounts for both Mary Garretson and Mary Harlan having married men named John Cox.

Brian Cox blog – “Forebears and Kinfolks,” November 2021

This writer is convinced that his 6th GG is one William Cox, sometimes referred to as William Cox of Hockessin (or Occason). He was the son of another William Cox (his 7th GG) and wife Amey. Author Cox lists the six children of William and Amey Cox as follows:

1. William Cox (of Hockessin) – married Catherine Kinkey
2. Thomas Cox – married Elizabeth Fincher in 1722 at Marlboro Meeting in Chester County, PA. The marriage was witnessed by John & Mary (Garretson) Cox and Richard Cox. Following the death of Elizabeth in 1729, Thomas married Mary Cooke in 1730. . . .
3. Richard Cox – married Elizabeth Scarlet on Dec 15, 1726 at Chichester Meeting in Pennsylvania. The marriage record states: “Richard Cox, yeoman of London Grove to Elizabeth Scarlet, spinster of Chichester.” (William and Thomas Cox are among the witnesses.)
4. John Cox – [this would be our John Cox Sr.] - administered the estate of his father William Cox in 1743. He was married to Mary Garretson, daughter of Johan/Jan and Ann Garretson. One of their children was a daughter named “Emey.”
5. Ann Cox – married Casparus Garretson (brother of Mary above) in 1713 at Hockessin Meeting. Casper’s brother Cornelius Garretson is mentioned in the 1743 estate documents of William. Ann & Casparus Garretson also had a daughter Emey who married first cousin William Cox in 1748 in York County, PA. (William’s parents were John Cox and Mary Garretson, sister of Emey’s father Casparus.) . . .
6. Emey (anglicized to Amy) Cox – married John Allen (1694-1771) and is recorded by Kennett Meeting May 2, 1719. . . .

We should note:

1. Another contemporary researcher advocating John Cox (Sr) as spouse of Mary Garretson.
2. Brian also builds on an England-based lineage centered on William Cox (father of John Cox) and this William’s father, also named William Cox.

Claudia Davenport Sullivan: Find-A-Grave Pages for John Cox and Mary Garretson

In the past two years, Claudia has performed extensive work in sorting out the various Coxes who settled in the Brandywine area. She has relied almost exclusively on primary sources (deeds, wills, censuses, Quaker records), making her work particularly credible. The committee made the effort to reach her directly for an interview or conversation but without success. Thankfully the results of a lot of her work is found on the Find-A-Grave pages for John Cox, Mary Garretson, and other related family members. A sampling of that work follows:

FAG Page for Mary Garretson

(b. 18 Dec 1690, New Castle County, Delaware) is the daughter of Johan/Jan and Ann Garretson. She married John Cox circa 1713. John and Mary Garretson Cox had eight children:

1. John Cox - married Mary Harlan (refer to note below)
NOTE: Contrary to "Cox Family in America," p. 249 that states John married Mary "thought to be Harlan" and removed to York County. This is **incorrect**. John Cox (Sr) married Mary Garretson as noted above; his son, John Cox Jr married Mary Harlan in 1735 at New Garden Mtg, Chester County.
2. Sarah Cox - married Nicholas Wierman
3. William Cox - married Emey Naomi Garretson - they were 1st cousins; William's mother Mary Garretson Cox was the sister of Emey's father Carparus Garretson. On 11mo/Jan 21 1748/49, each wrote an acknowledgment of their misconduct of marrying as first cousins which Warrington Meeting accepted as satisfaction. Both papers are extant.
4. Benjamin Cox - married Martha Garretson, who was the sister of Mary Garretson, both daughters of Casparus & Ann Garretson. On 9mo 16, 1751, Warrington Mtg complained of Benjamin Cox who "hath married his first cousin by the assistance of a priest".
5. Samuel Cox married Hannah Wierman

6. Amy/Emey Cox married William Wierman

7. Ann Cox married William Ruddick

8. Thomas Cox married Martha Jenkins

FAG for John Cox (Sr), husband of Mary Garretson:

John Cox – b 1684, Delaware, d unknown, Delaware (year of birth and death approximate)

***Note:** This John Cox is not to be confused with John Cox husband of Rachel (possible Embree Carr), nor is he to be confused with John Cox b 24 Sept 1675 d. 2 Nov 1763 son of Thomas and Christian Cox. *These are three separate John Cox from three separate Cox families and there are existing records that confirm this.*

John Cox is the son of **William Cox** . He married Mary Garretson the daughter of Johan/Jan Garretson and wife Ann. (Mary is John's only wife)

Note: John Cox's sister Ann Cox married Mary Garretson's brother Casparius Garretson.

We Should Note:

1. Not only has Claudia added a credible, researched-based voice to those advocating a John Cox-Mary Garretson union, she has performed a valuable service in sorting out the various John Coxes of the day, using available records and Quaker MM notes (both in England and in the colonies).
2. Note her Notes! She is insistent that John Cox Sr married Mary Garretson, and their son John Cox Jr married Mary Harlan. Anything to the contrary is an error!
3. The author has not placed our Solomon Cox in a family unit, to date.

[The following page has the biographical entry for John Cox Sr which Claudia attached to the FAG entry.]

John Cox

BIRTH: abt 1688, New Castle co, DE

DEATH: abt 1753, York co, PA

- FATHER: William Cox (abt 1657 - 1742)
 - MOTHER: Amy ----
 - SPOUSE: Mary Garretson (18 Dec 1690 - abt 1753) daughter of Jan Garretson Vanderhof (abt 1632 - abt 1694) and Ann ---- (abt 1654-?)
- MARRIAGE: about 1713, Chester County, Pennsylvania

Children:

1. John Cox, b. about 1714 in Chester County, Pennsylvania Married: 9 8M 1735 (Oct) in New Garden Monthly Meeting, Chester County, Pennsylvania, to Mary Harlan (abt 1713-?) daughter of Moses Harlan (1683-1748) and Margaret Ray
2. William Cox, b. about 1716 in Chester County, Pennsylvania; d. about 1794 in York County, Pennsylvania; Married: about Nov 1748 in York County, Pennsylvania to Naomi Garretson (abt 1724-?) daughter of Casparius Garretson (ca.1676-ca.1726) and Ann Cox
3. Benjamin Cox, b. about 1718 in Chester County, Pennsylvania; d. about 1817 in Orange County, Pennsylvania; Married: about 1752 in York County, Pennsylvania, to Martha Garretson (abt 1726-?) daughter of Casparius Garretson (ca.1676-ca.1726) and Ann Cox (Martha was a sister to Naomi, wife of Benjamin's brother, William.)
4. Ann Cox, b. about 1723 in Chester County, Pennsylvania; Married: 23 8M 1746 (Oct) in Sadsbury Monthly Meeting, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, to William E. Ruddick (abt 1723 - abt 1805) son of William Ruddick (ca.1691-ca.1754) and Alice
5. Samuel Cox, b. about 1725 in Chester County, Pennsylvania; d. about 1796 in York County, Pennsylvania; Married: 22 8M 1747 (Oct) in Sadsbury Monthly Meeting, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, to Hannah Wierman (abt 1726-?) daughter of William Wierman (ca.1700-?) and Gertrude Sietman. (Hannah was a sister to two of Samuel's sibling's spouses: Sarah's husband, Nicholas, and Amy's husband, William).
6. Sarah Cox, b. about 1727 in Chester County, Pennsylvania; Married: 24 8M 1745 (Oct) in Sadsbury Monthly Meeting, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, to Nicholas Wierman (abt 1724-?) son of William Wierman (ca.1700-?) and Gertrude Sietman (Nicholas was a brother to Hannah, wife of Samuel Cox as well as to William, Amy's husband).
7. Amy Cox, b. 27 9M 1729 (Nov) in Chester County, Pennsylvania; d. May 1792 in York County, Pennsylvania; Returned to Warrington Monthly Meeting in York County, Pennsylvania, from Cane Creek Monthly Meeting in Orange County, North Carolina in 1784. Married: 28 Jun 1753 in Warrington Monthly Meeting in York County, Pennsylvania, to William Wierman (10 8M 1729 (Oct) - May 1802) son of William Wierman (ca.1700- ?) and Gertrude Sietman (William was a brother to two spouses of his siblings, Sarah's husband, Nicholas, and Samuel's wife, Hannah)
8. Thomas Cox, b. about 1733 in Chester County, Pennsylvania; d. about 1771; Married: about 1757 in Rowan County, North Carolina to Martha Jenkins (abt 1736-?) daughter of Thomas Jenkins (ca.1708-ca.1771) and Lettice

Notes:

-Genealogical data based in part on *Cox Families in America*

-Most of the early meetings at Huntington, York County, Pennsylvania, [now Adams County, Pennsylvania] were convened in the home of this John Cox and were subordinate to Sadsbury Monthly Meetings per A. C. Myers Immigration of the Irish Quakers.

Patsy-Seay Tree – genealogy.com

Central claim: John Cox (h/o Mary Harlan) was a brother of Solomon Cox (h/o Naomi Hussey – and both John and Solomon are sons of John Cox Sr and Mary Garretson Cox

Mary Garretson (d/o John vander Hoff Garretson and Ann Thayer) was born 18 Dec 1690 in Huntington, York, PA, and died 1753 in Randolph Co., NC. She married John Cox on 1713 in London Grove MM, Chester, PA; he was son of John Cox, Sr and Rachel Embree Carr.

Children:

Benjamin Cox – b 18 Feb 1723/24, London Grove Twp, Chester, PA, d 1817
Randolph Co.

Ann Cox – d. date unknown

Hannah Cox – b 1734, Chester, PA, d 1772, Randolph Co.

John Cox – b 1714, PA, d 1762 Adams, PA

Sarah Cox – b 1721, d date unknown

Amy Naomi Cox – b 27 Sep 1729, York, PA, d 1792

Thomas Cox – b 1731, York, PA, d 1771, Randolph Co

Ruth Cox – b 1733, York, PA, d 1805, Ross, OH

Margaret Cox – b 1737, d date unknown

Solomon Cox – b 1745, York, PA, d 1819, NC

A Question Posted to Genealogy.com -- Responder cites Gilbert Cope research

JOHN COX, 1688/1690, NEW CASTLE NJ

By [genealogy.com user](#) November 14, 1999 at 02:20:48


I am researching an ancestor, John Cox, 1688/1690 from New Castle NJ. When I go into the LDS website and look up IGI and Ancestral Files I find numerous records on this John Cox. The problem I am running into is determining his correct spouse and date of marriage. There are records that show he was married to Mary Harlon in 1713, Mary Garretson in 1713/1720, Jane Phillips on 25 Sep 1717 and Hannah Jenkins in 1709/1720.

I have discounted the records for Jane Phillips and Hannah Jenkins because they don't show any children. The records for Mary Harlon and Mary Garretson show most of the same children and birthdates. The pedigrees for Mary Harlon and Mary Garretson both show completely different ancestors which I would expect. However I am convinced that one of these spouses is wrong and I don't know how to determine the correct one. Has anyone researched this John Cox and solved the mystery yet?

We Should Note:

The response to this question by an unknown poster attributes the information to Gilbert Cope, perhaps the earliest and most respected genealogist specializing in the history of the Brandywine area. He was the curator of the Quaker collection still maintained at Swarthmore College. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gilbert_Cope

Response: [Retyped below for legibility:]



Genealogy.com

FORUM

Home > Forum > Surnames > Cox

RE: JOHN COX, 1688/1690, NEW CASTLE NJ

By [genealogy.com user](#) March 13, 2000 at 07:01:05
In reply to: [John Cox, 1688/1690, New Castle NJ](#)
11/14/99

Material I found at Swarthmore Collegewhich was from a search in Oct l983 of Quarterly Meeting records of English meetings and abstracted by Gilbert Cope in EEngland in l921 give John Cox b. ca l688-90 in England; mar. about l713 to Mary Garretson.He lives in London Grove Township l722-35; Huntington Township, York Co (PA) from l736-l754 and removed to Randolph Co, NC in l755.Ththeir children were John b. ca. 1714 who married Mary Harlan 9 Oct l735; ; Sarah, b. ca l721; Samuel b. ca l723; William b. ca. 1727; Benjamin; Hannah; Amy (Naomi) b. 26 Nov. 1729; Ruth b. ca. 1733; Thomas who married Martha Jenkin ca. 1757 and from whom I am descended; and Solomon b. ca. 1735-38.

“Material I found at Swarthmore College, based on a search in October 1983 of Quarterly Meeting (Quaker) records in England, abstracted by Gilbert Cope in England in 1921, indicates:

John Cox (b.ca 1688-90 in England) – married about 1713 to Mary Garretson. He lives in London Grove Township 1722-35, Huntington Township, York Co (PA) 1736-1754, and removed to Randolph Co., NC in 1755.

Their children were:

John Cox – b ca 1714, who married Mary Harlan 9 Oct 1735

Sarah Cox – b ca 1721

Samuel Cox – b ca 1723

William Cox – b ca 1727

Benjamin Cox

Hannah Cox

Amy (Naomi) Cox – b 26 Nov 1729

Ruth Cox – b ca 1733

Thomas Cox – who married Martha Jenkins ca 1757

Solomon Cox – b ca 1735-38”

Claude R. Burton, Genealogy.com

Posted to Genealogy.com in 1998, the poster credits Claude R. Burton, named as a descendant of John Cox II and Rachel Embree Carr. [Unfortunately, we don't have knowledge of any sources reviewed by Burton.] He lists the following children born of this union:

1. Richard Cox – b 1688 in England; married 1) Margaret Potts, 2) Elizabeth Scarlett, and 3) Mary Unknown
2. Sarah Cox – b 1692 in England; married Thomas Leach
3. Joseph Cox – b 1694; married Mariam Vanderveer
4. William C. Cox – b 12/11/1692 in England; d 1/20/1767 in Orange Co., NC; married Catherine Kinkey (in Hockessin, DE)
5. *John Cox II – b 1699 in England; d 1755 in NC; married 1) Hannah Jenkins 11/5/1720 in Chester Co., PA; married 2) Mary Garretson c 1731 in Chester Co., PA; and married 3) Mary Harlan 10/9/1735 in New Garden MM, Chester Co., PA*
6. Ann Cox – b 1694 in England; married 1) Casparius Garretson 1713 in New Castle, DE; married 2) Nathan Hussey 3/16/1727 in Kennet, Chester Co., PA
7. Thomas Cox – b 1702 in New Castle, DE; married 1) Elizabeth Fincher; married 2) Mary Cooke
8. Amy Cox – b 1697 in New Castle Co., DE; married John Allen

We should note:

1. This is the only source we've found that offers a "three wives" hypothesis for John Cox II. Although this posting doesn't list the children of John Cox II attaching them to specific wives, presumably the date of marriage to Mary Harlan (1735) and the date of birth typically given for Solomon Cox (late 1730s to early 1740s) are consistent with Mary Harlan Cox as mother of our Solomon.
2. The birthdates of the parents given in the post (but not cited above) are questionable. John Cox (husband of Rachel Embree Carr) is noted as born 9/24/1675 in Drayton, Berks, England. Multiple sources have this 1675 date as the birthdate for John Cox husband of Rachel. But this birthdate means that his first son Richard is born when John is only 13! Rachel's birthdate is given only as "about 1665," which means she is 10 years older than John. These facts suggest at least one reason to question whether this is "our" John Cox.

Margie Romine's Response to Committee Questions

Question 1: As we reviewed Claudia Davenport's notes, particularly on Find-A-Grave, she has the Cox line in question starting with William and wife Rebecca (Unk), followed by their son John Cox who married Mary Garretson, and their son John Cox who married Mary Harlan. Does Claudia believe that our Solomon (h/o Naomi Hussey) is the son of John and Mary Harlan Cox? Or does she share the belief of some that Solomon is a son of John and Mary Garretson Cox, and therefore a brother of the John Cox who married Mary Harlan? From one standpoint, this is especially significant since if Mary Harlan's husband is a brother of our Solomon, then presumably our lineage doesn't actually intersect with the Harlan line.

Right now in Claudia's tree she has not guessed at the parents of Solomon. She lists the following individuals as the children of John Cox/Mary Garretson.

- John Cox h/o Mary Harlan
- William Cox h/o Naomi Garretson
- Ann Cox w/o William Ruddick
- Benjamin Cox h/o Martha Garretson
- Samuel Cox h/o Hannah Wierman
- Sarah Cox w/o Nicholas Wierman
- Emey Cox w/o William Wierman (note she has alternative parents)
- Thomas Cox h/o Martha Jenkins

She has our Solomon in a different tree all together and has no parents for him.

I agree with you about the significance of this if true. **Personally, I do not think we descend from the Harlan line. If Solomon was born to Mary Harlan before 1749 when Mary's father (Moses Harlan) died, then Solomon should have been listed in Moses Harlan's will. Instead, he states that Mary has only one male heir, Jacob Cox.**

2. On a related point, is there any DNA-evidentiary support for either the Harlan or the Garretson connection with our Cox ancestors? Or is that more of a "paper documentation" question?

Determining whether a Harlan or Garretson is in our direct line is out of reach for autosomal testing. We would need someone that has John Cox as a 4th gg. Right now we are doing good to find people that have him as a 5th gg. Garretson is even harder to prove since so many Garretsons have married into our line.

Our Findings

We return to the charge given to the committee by the BC board, with some key passages highlighted in bold:

“The problem at hand is conflicting and/or uncertain information and conclusions concerning the parentage of Solomon Cox who married Naomi Hussey. Several family paper trail researchers have concluded that the **preponderance of evidence** indicates that John Cox, Jr., father of the aforementioned Solomon Cox, was married to Mary Harlan as his second wife, who was therefore deemed to be Solomon’s mother. This position has become the **conventional wisdom** in this extended Cox family. Recent research using DNA and paper trail research by **a person** previously unknown to Brandywine Crucible, however, has cast doubt on John Cox, Jr.’s marriage to Mary Harlan, instead pointing to Marry Garretson as the wife of John Cox, Jr., and mother of Solomon Cox, wife of Naomi Hussey. **There is evidence supporting this conclusion but some uncertainty.**”

1. We believe there is solid reason to question the phrase “preponderance of evidence” in support of the John Cox / Mary Harlan hypothesis. While several earlier researchers supported this view, the majority left the question unanswered, or at the least, just “leaned toward” the Harlan connection as the final answer. Either way, we do not find support for a statement that the “preponderance of evidence” supports Harlan.
2. “Conventional wisdom” – we’re not sure why the Harlan answer seemed to have prevailed over time, especially in light of the expressed uncertainty by the early researchers. We tried to find something about what earlier researchers Stanley Cox and Ada Stump based their Harlan hypothesis on, but their original sources weren’t available to us. As the notes in the preceding pages of this report indicate, both of those researchers had some doubts or expressed uncertainty about the Harlan connection.
3. Margie Romine has helped us understand that DNA evidence is not available to settle this question. We were hopeful that the “argument” between various

researchers on the paper trail could be settled by something more definitive and certain, like DNA findings. This is simply not the case.

4. We note that the alternate hypothesis (i.e., John Cox married to someone other than Mary Harlan) is not the view of one or two individuals essentially crying in the wilderness. We were surprised to find many researchers and compilers (some old, some new) who support an alternate view, i.e., that John Cox is husband of Mary Garretson, and they are parents of Solomon Cox. Among them are Gilbert Cope, William Feters, Elizabeth Buffa, Claudia Davenport Sullivan, Alan Cox, and Brian Cox.

Added to these who propose and argue for the John Cox – Mary Garretson hypothesis, we note above that several of those who settled on the Harlan position expressed uncertainty or “room for doubt” in that argument.

5. We came to realize that there are two, potentially distinct, questions in play here: 1) who did John Cox (Sr) marry?, and 2) who are the parents of our Solomon Cox? Allowing for John Cox marrying Mary Garretson does not preclude a second John Cox from marrying Mary Harlan: perhaps the senior John Cox marries Garretson; then their son John Cox Jr marries Mary Harlan. But if this alternate interpretation is true, it still doesn't resolve who our Solomon Cox's parents are. He could be the youngest son of Cox-Garretson, and therefore a brother of John Cox Jr (husband of Mary Harlan); or he could be the son of Cox-Harlan. And we are unable to resolve that puzzle with anything approaching complete surety.
6. The BC board's charge to the committee includes this direction: “A split finding is acceptable (meaning that neither position can be 100% proved or disproved).”

We are convinced that, as of right now, neither position can be 100% proved or disproved. However, we have chosen to allow each committee member to state his/her individual confidence levels (expressed as a percentage, or “betting odds”) relative to the respective hypotheses. So, we have arrived at a “split finding.”

Steve: 80% support for the Garretson hypothesis, i.e., John Cox is husband of Mary Garretson, and likely they are parents of Solomon Cox (h/o Naomi Hussey)

Ladean: Unfortunately, and despite all we can do to try to find absolutely true information, we do not have fact. Based on the evidence we've reviewed, I'll go with the 80% confidence figure for the Cox-Garretson hypothesis. That is my vote and statement.

Connie:

Zala: In researching the parents of our Solomon Cox and his wife, Naomi "Amy" Hussey, I found repeated documentation that the parents of Solomon Cox were John Cox, Jr. and Mary Harlan Cox, John's 2nd wife. This ancestor's line may never be proven 100%, but I am thankful to know as much as we do about our early ancestors, and learn how they persevered to survive and grow our heritage.