

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE OSWALT-COX FAMILY

Neither Gerald, who was born in 1919, nor the next unnamed twin boys, survived infancy. Then, over the next two decades, eight more of us were born – the children of Minnie Irene Young-Oswalt and Samuel Hubert Miller-Cox.

Our mother died in 1946 when I was almost five years old, and our father died five years later in 1951 when we were in Bell County for our Grandmother Oswalt's funeral. She was the last of our grandparents.

I am the youngest, and my siblings did their best to help raise me. All of my failures are mine to bear and overcome, and I owe any successes to the love and forgiveness of my brothers and sisters and to the blessings provided by the physical, intellectual and moral gifts of our parents.

There were just the eight of us – bound together by grief. We were gifted with intelligence, burdened by depression and toughened by circumstance. We survived by working hard and by taking care of each other.

All of my brothers and sisters have now passed on, but together we had 25 children, and there is an ever-growing brood of grandnieces and nephews. Each generation has to confront new and difficult situations, and all can benefit from an understanding of the past.

Almost 14 years ago, I wrote a small book about *The Family of Minnie Irene Young-Oswalt and Samuel Hubert Miller-Cox* to share at a gathering of the Cox Cousins on August 2, 1996 in Lubbock.

The book was based on the recollections of some of my siblings and their children and upon the best information I could find at the time. There were a few mistakes – a picture of Mary Jean instead of Doris as a young girl, and some questions were left unanswered.

I have picked up the book from time to time over the years and have thought about bringing it up to date. Now, motivated by the 64th anniversary of our

mother's death and aided by the magic of the Internet, I have made another effort to fill out the branches of the family tree.

The Oswalts (Oaltwalt). My mother's Oswalt lineage extends back to the early 1700's when the Colonial government of South Carolina was actively encouraging the immigration of foreign Protestants to the Province by offering free land grants.

Large numbers of Germans began to arrive in the 1740's, and immigration peaked in 1752 with the arrival of more than 1,800 settlers on several ships.

Among the passengers of the ship Elizabeth was a farmer named Hanss (Johannes) Oaltwalt, who had been born in Söhnstetten, Germany in 1705, and his wife Magaretha Clauss. They were accompanied by their five children: Christopher (1726); Anna Catharina (1728); Hanss Jörg (1730); Matthäus (1733) and Michael (1735).

Hanss Jörg had married fourteen-year-old Anna Barbara Dickert (1736) in 1750 before they left Germany. She was the daughter of Hans Peter Dickert and Christinia Sophia Kallbrunner.

After arrival, Hanss Jörg Oaltwalt anglicized his name to John George Oswalt.

The families received free land grants and settled down to farm peacefully in the small German community; however, 20 years later, the Revolutionary War broke out in South Carolina. It is believed that John George and his brother, Matthäus were burned out or even killed as “loyalists,” or “Tories” by rebels.

John George and Anna Oswalt had at least five children, including the second, Martin, who was born in 1774. Little is known about Martin, including the name of his wife or the date and location of his death.

Martin's son, John Thomas was born in 1793 in Columbia, South Carolina and died in 1863 in Webster County, Mississippi, where the Oswalts had migrated. John Thomas married Nancy Weaver and they had 12 children, including Leebury Oswalt (b.1834-Mississippi; d. 1902-Bell County, Texas).

Leebury Oswalt married Mary Frances Lovett in 1855. Among their children was Christopher Edleman Oswalt (b.1867-Texas).

Christopher, who was known as Ed or C.E., married Amanda Young and they had five children: Minnie Irene, Lee Quentin, Clyde Edleman, Doyle “J” and Mary Imogene. Irene, the oldest, was our mother. She was born on June 30, 1899 in Bell County and died on January 19, 1946 in Lubbock, Texas.

Christopher Oswald moved his family to the High Plains near Lubbock to engage in cotton farming. I still have the oak axle of the horse-drawn wagon he drove up the Caprock. He died on May 4, 1932 in Lubbock County.

The Youngs. I was born in my Grandmother Amanda Oswald’s feather bed on her farm outside Lubbock on February 15, 1941. Among my earliest memories is spending the night at her house and watching her unroll and unbraid her long hair each night and brush it out.

Amanda Oswald had a striking appearance. She and her two sisters, Effie and Ethel were called the “three squaws” because of their high cheekbones and dark eyes.

Amanda’s father was Thomas Therron Young (b. 1838; d.1922). The oldest child of his family, Thomas was born in Georgia and his younger siblings were born in Alabama. Amanda’s mother was Emily Elizabeth Moorhead. Her lineage extends back to the 1700s.

Thomas’ father was Robert Lee Young (b. 1812-South Carolina; d. 1877-Stag Creek, Texas).

Robert Lee Young was married to Catherine Gamble. She was probably born in South Carolina in 1820, and her lineage also extends back into the 1700s.

I found questions on various ancestry chat boards concerning whether Thomas and Robert Young had a Native American background. I attempted to explore this possibility, and a DNA test did not reveal any such lineage.

The “Dawes Commission” was authorized on March 3, 1893 to convince the Five Civilized Tribes to agree to cede tribal title of Indian lands and to adopt the policy of dividing tribal lands into individual allotments. The use of the last name of Young by the “civilized” Native Americans was quite common as Commission reports that it negotiated with more than a thousand individuals with that last name.

The prevalence of the name, and particularly Robert Lee Young, was also shown in two separate proceedings that occurred after the death of Amanda’s grandfather Robert Lee Young in 1877:

- The Department of the Interior was ordered in September 1896 to include a Robert Lee Young as a member of the Chickasaw Nation by the United States Court, Southern District, Indian Territory at Ardmore, Oklahoma.
- On February 19, 1909, the U.S. Department of the Interior affirmed a recommendation that an application for membership in the Choctaw Nation be denied to a certain Robert Lee Young.

It is interesting that the Young lineage cannot be extended further back than the early 1800s. There are no photographs of Robert or Thomas Young, and for now, the mystery of their heritage remains unsolved.

The Coxes. Tracing the history of the Cox family is much like putting together a large jigsaw puzzle in which many of the pieces appear almost identical. Siblings were frequently married to siblings in other large pioneer families, such as the Husseys, Garretsons and Dixons, and they all used many of the same first names for their children in succeeding generations.

The Cox connection with the Quaker faith can be traced back to the 1709 will of Thomas Cox (Jr.) which includes “two tenements lately built in the Burying Ground of the People called Quakers.”

Quakers were discriminated against in England and they responded by emigrating to America in the “Holy Experiment.” The Congregation believed in the irresistible might of the meek. “Friends” were convinced that the spirit of God was present in each person and that no preacher or interpreter of God was required. Mutual assistance was fundamentally important to them as they attempt to return in Spirit to the state of grace of the primitive Christian communities.

Thomas’ son, John Cox (Senior) immigrated in 1708 with his wife Rachel Embree Carr and children, including John Cox (Junior), William C. Cox and Ann Cox. They joined the Quaker Congregation, first in Delaware, then at the invitation of William Penn they moved to York County, Pennsylvania. Later, most

of the family moved to a new Quaker settlement in Cane Creek, Orange County, North Carolina.

This is where it begins to get complicated and the interested reader should carefully consult the Cox family trees to trace the lineage.

John Cox Jr. was born in 1686 and outlived three wives, Mary Garretson (m.1713), Hannah Jenkins (m.1720), and Mary Harlan (m.1735), and fathered a total of 33 children before dying in 1754.

Ann Cox, the daughter of John Cox Sr. married Casporus Garretson, and their daughter, Ann Garretson married Christopher Hussey. Upon the death of Casporus, Ann Cox-Garretson then married Nathan Hussey, Christopher's brother. Thus, she married her son-in-law's brother.

Naomi Hussey, daughter of Christopher Hussey, first married Solomon Cox, who was the son of William C. Cox. They had nine children together before he died. She then married a second Solomon Cox (I), who was the son of John Cox Jr. The two Solomon Coxes were cousins in that the father of the first was the uncle of the second, and they were both grandsons of John Cox Sr.

Naomi Hussey plays a pivotal role in that she is both the matriarch of the subsequent Cox Clan and the connection to the ancient Hussey lineage.. Among her children with the second Solomon Cox (designated as Solomon I in the following tables) were the twins, Solomon Cox II and Martha Cox.

Martha Cox fell in love with her cousin, Samuel Cox II. John Cox Sr. was the grandfather of both, and therefore, they were technically first cousins, even though they had different grandmothers. His father, Samuel Cox I's mother was Hannah Jenkins, and Martha's father, Solomon Cox I's mother was Mary Harlan.

Nonetheless, Martha's marriage in 1788 caused her excommunication from the Quaker Congregation and her father Solomon Cox I was excommunicated for allowing it.

Even so, Solomon Cox I had already been excommunicated because of his patriotic service on behalf of the revolution. He is listed by the Daughters of the American Revolution under number A027084, which allows membership by his descendants.

The bridegroom, Samuel Cox II had also been excommunicated for militant activities, and he is listed by the DAR under number A205252.

The marriage of Samuel and Martha Cox resulted in two separate diverging lines of the Cox family: the Samuel and Fleming Trigg Cox branch descended from their marriage; and the Solomon and Joseph Cox branch descended from the marriage of her twin brother, Solomon II to Martha Dixon.

The two branches of the Cox family were brought together in 1853 when Joseph Cox's youngest child, Nica Jane Cox (who was descended from Solomon Cox II, twin of Martha Cox) married her distant cousin Samuel Hampton Cox (who was descended from the marriage of Martha and Samuel Cox II through their son, Samuel Cox III and grandson Fleming Trigg Cox).

Samuel Hampton Cox served in the Confederate Army as a member of the 18th Regiment of Darnell's Texas Cavalry.

Nica Jane and Samuel Hampton Cox had 13 children. Their eighth, Christopher Columbus Alonzo (Lonzo) Cox was born in 1869. He was my father's father.

Prior to his death in 1943 while visiting in East Texas, he lived for a time on our farm in a small house. I cannot remember him, but I vividly recall a subsequent visit by my Aunt Myrtle who described finding him dead, in a reenactment in which I was required to lay on our kitchen floor.

Lonzo Cox married Narcissa Miller in 1887 and they had 11 children, including my father, Samuel Hubert Cox, who was born on August 2, 1897.

Hubert Cox was 20 years old in 1917 when the United States entered World War I. He was attending bible college in preparation for the ministry; however, when he heard that Irene Oswalt was being courted by someone else, he "lost religion" and hurried to Bell County. They were married shortly thereafter on April 16, 1918.

Hubert was an active Freemason and did not often attend church. He sometimes thought about things he had learned in school and wished he could have continued. He experienced visions about the world he lived in and developed a fairly complex philosophy based upon hard work and telling the truth.

Around about the time I was seven or eight, I can remember sitting under the old cottonwood tree in the back yard with our father cleaning freshly pulled carrots. He wondered if there was life among the stars and was trying to explain how the earth and moon moved in relation to the sun.

One of the last days of our mother's life was January 13, 1946 when her entire extended family gathered on our farm to celebrate the end of the war and the return of the soldiers.

Irene was scheduled for "female" surgery the next day in Lubbock, and near the end of the day, she changed into her good black dress for the trip.

She gathered with her four daughters for the photograph that is on the front cover. Although all of her daughters are smiling for the camera, her eyes are cast down.

My very last memory of our mother is also memorialized with a photograph. As she prepared for the trip to the hospital, she drove our old Ford pickup to the gas pump and filled the tank. Our father drove her to the hospital, and I never saw her again.

True Adventures. As an appendix to my original book, I included a short story about Thomas Isaac Cox (I), who had served in the Spanish Army in 1756 and helped establish the first Texas fort near what is now Lampassas. He was enlisted as Tomas de la Cocques.

The story told how Thomas later returned to Texas and rounded up wild horses for the use of Washington's Continental Army and later for the Lewis and Clark Expedition. I included the story even though I was unable at the time to make a direct connection with our branch of the Cox family.

During my current research, I was able to document that the original Thomas Isaac Cox was the great uncle and namesake of Thomas Isaac Cox, who was the son of Solomon Cox I and Naomi Hussey, and the brother of Solomon Cox II.

The adventures of Thomas Isaac Cox I (who was later accompanied by the younger Thomas Isaac Cox II) and his sons Solomon and Benjamin, include not only supplying horses to George Washington and the Lewis and Clark Expedition, but also to having delivered the last supplies to the Alamo before it fell to the Mexican army in the Texas Revolution.

Both of the Thomas Isaac Coxes had sons named Solomon and Benjamin, which makes it difficult to keep everyone straight; however, it seems clear that it was Solomon, son of Thomas Isaac Cox II, who married Elizabeth Johnston on June 20, 1819.

There is probably a family relationship between Elizabeth Johnston and Sarah Bush Johnston, Abraham Lincoln's stepmother. Lincoln's father returned to Kentucky after the death of Abraham's mother and married Sarah, and it was she that Abraham Lincoln referred to when he said, "All that I am or ever hope to be I owe to my angel mother."

What is known is that Solomon and Elizabeth's youngest son, also named Thomas, studied law in the offices of Lincoln and Herndon in Springfield, Illinois. Thomas Cox returned to Arkansas where he practiced law until his death in 1871 at age 41.

The Hussey's. Solomon Cox I married Naomi "Amy" Hussey, the matriarch of the Cox Clan in 1760. In the earlier book, I established that she was descended from ancestors who immigrated with John Winthrop at the founding of Massachusetts, and that an earlier Hussey ancestor was an English knight who had been beheaded for treason by King Henry VIII.

With the advantage of the Internet, I learned that Naomi's great grandmother was Theodate Bachiler, the daughter of Reverend Stephen Bachiler, a controversial 17th Century New England minister.

Bachiler was an steadfast proponent of the separation of church and state. He incurred the hostility of the Puritan theocracy by casting the only dissenting vote against the expulsion of Roger Williams, who later founded Rhode Island.

Theodate Bachiler was married to Captain Christopher (Esq.) Hussey, who was admitted as a "freeman" by John Winthrop after his arrival in Boston on June 5, 1632 aboard the ship William and Francis.

Christopher (Esq.) Hussey was one of the first settlers in Hampton, New Hampshire and served several terms as its representative.

Christopher's son, John Hussey (designated as Sr. in the following tables) was baptized as a Quaker in 1635 and married Rebecca Perkins. They rebelled against Puritan practices and were fined for failing to attend Puritan services and for

working on fast days. John Hussey Sr. was also fined for “using reproachful speeches against Mr. Cotton [a leading Puritan minister and grandfather of Cotton Mather] and his doctrine.”

It is now possible to confirm our Hussey ancestry back more than a thousand years. Ancient chronicles describe the surname “Hussey” to be of Norman origin and appears to be derived from “de Houssaye”, or “Houssay”, meaning either “one who wears hose” or “one who came from Houssay (holly grove).” The name was recorded differently by different scribes and its spelling changed over the years.

The most ancient direct ancestor we can establish for Naomi Hussey is Hugh Hussey (or de Husse) who was born in 990 A.D. He was married in 1014 to Helen of Normandy, the daughter of the third Earl of Normandy. She was a first cousin of William the Conqueror. They had at least four sons, William, Walter, John and Hubert.

It is likely that Hugh’s son, Hubert Hussey participated in the Battle of Hastings on October 14, 1066, which was the decisive military engagement in the Norman Conquest of England.

Our lineage is traced through another son, William Hussey, who is listed in the Domesday Book as being in possession of a manor in Somersetshire in 1080.

The Plantagenets. Sir John Hussey, Baron of Sleaford, was born in 1466. Despite a lifetime of service to King Henry VIII, he was beheaded on January 29, 1537 for treason, because he refused to identify those who may have been plotting against the King.

Sir John Hussey had been married in 1509 to Lady Anne Grey, whose great grandmother was Elizabeth Plantagenet (1364 - 1426), the daughter of John of Gaunt.

John was the son of King Edward III and the father of King Henry IV. Thus, Elizabeth was the granddaughter of a king *and* the sister of a king.

The royal lineage of Lady Anne Grey was traced back through the Plantagenet kings of English history to King William I, known as The Conqueror.

Because the royal and noble lineages are so well documented, rather complete family trees were developed to also include Welsh, Scottish, Spanish, Flemish, Swiss, and French royalty.

The House of Plantagenet was founded by King Henry II, who was the son of Geoffrey V of Anjou and Empress Matilda, the daughter of King Henry I. Matilda’s lineage includes Scottish royalty and Bethoc, the mother of King Duncan of Alba. Bethoc was the daughter of King Malcolm II and the sister of Mac Bethad mac Findlaích, known to us as Macbeth.

King Henry II’s wife was Eleanor of Aquitaine, one of the most fascinating and heroic women in history.

Upon the death of her father she became the Duchess of Aquitaine at age 15 and shortly thereafter married Louis VII, becoming the Queen of the Franks. She accompanied her husband on the Second Crusade, and upon their return agreed to a divorce.

Eleanor then married the Duke of Normans, and when he reclaimed the throne as King Henry II, she became the Queen of the English.

Eleanor was later imprisoned by her husband for supporting her son Henry’s revolt against his father. When Henry II died, another son, Richard the Lionheart became King and released her from prison before departing on the Third Crusade.

By the time of Eleanor’s death, she had outlived all of her eight children except for King John and Eleanor, Queen of Castile.

We are descended through King John and his wife Isabella of Angouleme. It was King John who sealed the Magna Carta, which limited the power of kings and is recognized as an early step in the development of constitutional government.

The Normans. Empress Matilda’s father, Henry I, was the fourth son of William the Conqueror. Henry succeeded his older brother William II as King of England, and he was known for his scholarly interests and for the reforms he brought to the law, finance and government.

It was Henry I’s intention that he be succeeded by his daughter, Empress Matilda; however a period known as the Anarchy prevailed until his grandson, Henry II was able to reclaim the crown.

Henry I's father, William the Conqueror was the illegitimate son of Robert, the Duke of Normandy. According to legend, the young Duke saw a tanner's daughter known as Herleva walking barefoot trampling leathers into the dying liquid. Becoming aware of the Duke's attention, she reportedly raised her skirt higher than was necessary to keep it dry.

Upon being summoned by Robert, she agreed only if she could enter the castle on horseback through the front gate, not through the back door as a commoner. The Duke lustfully agreed and she later gave birth to his son, William.

Robert declared William to be his legitimate heir in his will, and upon his death, William became the Duke of Normandy. After winning other battles in Brittany, William invaded England in 1066 at the head of an European army, which included members of the Hussey family.

The Norman conquest of England dramatically changed the course of English history, usually considered for the better.

As near as I can figure, William the Conqueror was my 30th great grandfather, and my 27th great grandmother was his cousin, Helen of Normandy, the wife of the first Hugh Hussey.

The blood lines may have become a bit diluted over the centuries, but the spirit of adventure remains strong, at least in my imagination.

For Now. My genealogy work is done for yet another while. May my family continue to prosper and to live in a world at peace...

William John (Billy Jack) Cox
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