

COX FAMILY HISTORY  
Willie Mae "Bill" Price  
Hand written letter dated 20 Nov. 2012

The story of great Grandmother's quilt top and our trip to visit her when I was nearly 6 years old. I would like to display the quilt at the Cox reunion. (Written at the top of the page before the salutation. JBC)

Dear Joe,

I hope you and yours are fine and have a good Christmas and happy 2013.

I hope that I can save up money to come to the Cox Reunion next year.

I have a quilt that great grandma Elizabeth Cox (*Elizabeth Johnston who married Solomon Cox*) pieced and I helped Mama (*Minnie Whitley who married Johnnie Albert Smth*) and Aunt Temp (*Temperance Whitley who married George Washington Wooten*) quilt it. Grandma Cord (*Cordelia Lucinda Cox who married "Bill" Whitley, a notorious outlaw*) said her mama saved all the good thread from worn out clothes and used it to piece quilts with.

When Grandma Cord came from Eden where g grandma was buried, she brought 2 quilt tops. Aunt Temp's son Odell (*b. 1921 d.1988 Burnet Co.*) and I, we were just children, drew straws for them. Odell got the best one, Grandma wanted me to get it she told since I was a girl but she then told me the story how Elizabeth saved every good scrap and thread from things to throw away and made things from them. Some are very small scraps. I have never used it and always put a great value on it. I don't know what happened to Odell's. As it is part of our history, I would show it. [Note: She is speaking of showing her quilt at the Brandywine/Cox reunion in Lampasas, Texas (JBC)]

Dad bought a new Baby Overland car when we lived in Bertram (*In 1908, John Willys bought the Overland Automotive Division of Standard Wheel Company and in 1912 renamed it Willys-Overland Motor Company. From 1912 to 1918, Willys was the second largest producer of automobiles in the United States after Ford Motor Company. It was the designer and first producer of the Jeep*) and we made a trip to Eden to see Aunt Hulda (*Hulda Margaret Cox who married Spencer Howell*) and took her & Rhoda (?) (*I cannot determine who Rhoda is.*) with us out to Grandma Elizabeth's farm. Aunt Laura (*Laura Etta Cox, who married "Will" Truelove in 1907 but he died before 1910*) and her son Lee lived with Grandma. Aunt Hulda had us to eat before we went because she said her maw wasn't very clean. I hadn't had my 6<sup>th</sup> birthday and all of this made a big impression that I will never forget. (*This visit would have occurred before 8/1/1924 and Grandma Elizabeth would have been about 84*)

Elizabeth was so glad to see us. She kept Mama when Grandma Cord worked in the big hotel in Lampasas that was famous for its bathes. People came from all over to take baths in the spring water. Mama went with Elizabeth to gather leaves, roots, & herbs to make medicine that Dr. Johnson, her kin, in Lampasas learned from the Indians. (*This*

*was probably Elizabeth's grandfather, Dr. Joseph Johnson Jr. b. abt 1780, d. abt 1873. I cannot place him in Lampasas. There was a J. Johnson b.1805 in Lampasas in 1880. We know the Indians touted the healing properties of this spring. Jack Cox's ancestors moved to Lampasas from bell County after hearing about these springs from Indians camped in Bell County.)* When Odell and I went lettuce hunting with Mama and Aunt Temp in the afternoons, Mama showed us the plants that were good for what was ailing you.

Grandma Elizabeth lived in a little house with a big room and shed room across the front and a kitchen and eating place across the back. She took us to see her well and told the story about the colt falling in it when she and Laura had it half dug. They couldn't get the colt out so had to fill in the well and start over again.

Lee was a big boy but played with me and sister Gladys, "Antie Over" the house.

Grandma Elizabeth went in, made hot biscuits, had Aunt Laura to bring in the butter from the rock milk cooler that was in the shed room where the chickens came and went.

Elizabeth took a snuff glass (&) added dipped up a glass of brown sugar from a large sack on the floor in the corner, wiped it off with her apron and placed it on the table. Mama whispered to Gladys and I that we had already eaten, but I loved brown sugar and when my dad sat on the bench next to the wall I crawled under the table and sat by him. Those hot biscuits, butter and sugar melting in them was as good a meal that I ever had. When Mama scolded Dad about eating, he said if Grandma, Laura, & Lee ate that all time, he didn't think it would hurt us, and he would not hurt Grandma's feelings for anything.

We spent the night, Gladys & I slept on a pallet on the floor and a hen woke us up cackling and had laid us an egg on our bed.

There were no screens on the doors or windows.

Grandma could have had James Christopher's \$30.00 a month pension from the Mexican War when he died but she was too proud to take it. They didn't get a divorce, she said they separated for good reason, didn't say the reason.

At 94 years old, I wish I had a time machine and go back to the many things I remember from my childhood. All my family and friends have gone on, and I am left with good memories.

Love to all,  
Bill

Transcribed by Joe B. Cox, Jr., in most cases exactly as handwritten. (1/18/2013)