



# Brandywine Crucible

## Newsletter

December 2013

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## REUNION NEWS

### Hello Cox Cousins: Les Sutton

We had an excellent 2013 annual meeting of Brandywine Crucible coupled with our Cox Family Reunion at Lampasas. For all who missed it, **we missed you** and you missed a lot of fun, fellowship and education.

The Inn of Lampasas is already accepting reservations under our Cox Reunion group rate for June 6 & 7, 2014. The rates are King or Queen room \$86, King Suite \$96 and Family Suite \$106. Call them at [512-556-9292](tel:512-556-9292). If you later learn you cannot make it, you can cancel until 4PM June 3.

One of the precious times at our meetings is the gathering for hamburgers and hotdogs under the grove of trees at the Inn of Lampasas on Friday evening. It is the best time for leisurely visiting and catching up on all the news.

Also there is an urgent need for golfers to play the beautiful Hancock Park Course on Friday and bring more competition for the trophies which have been won far too easily the last couple of years.



Golfers Pictured: Steve Atkins, OK, and Scott Cox, TX.



The cookout was fabulous as always.





## WEDDING NEWS



*My grandson (Linda Cox Atkins), Brandon M. Winkler and Melissa Stein were married on November 9, 2013, in Norman, OK.*

## BABY NEWS



A new Okie, born September 11, 2013 – Kevin Adams – Mother Chelsea Adams,

Grandmother – Vanessa Cox  
Great Grandfather - William Donald Cox,  
Great Great Grandfather – Lemmie Cox  
gggGrandfather – John Cox  
gggg-Jahu Cox

## OKLAHOMA COX FAMILY TOUR 2013: LINDA ATKINS

I would like to share with you some of the highlights of the Oklahoma Tour.

We did a meet and greet at the Marriott and from there we went to Bricktown and rode the Canal Ride. Following that excursion we dined at Mickey Mantle's Rest. Next day, the reunion was held at Goldsby, OK. Lots of family and food.



Pictured: Sitting, Diana Cox McCage, Standing left to right: Earlene Cox Plemons, Thelma Cox Burchfiel, Linda Cox Atkins, Ada Cox Stump. All five sisters are daughters of Lemmie and Irene Cox, Noble, OK.

Sunday, we toured the Oklahoma City Murrah Building Memorial after a great Church Service



Marjory and Les Sutton, Nell Turner, Steve Atkins, Helen and Joe Cox

Dinner at Cattlemen's Steakhouse, traveled on to Purcell and Lexington to show the group the Land Run of 1889 and the homesteads of John Cox and the McJimpsey Brothers. Monday: Cowboy Hall of Fame, what more can I say. As our tour group said many times, "you can't come to Oklahoma without seeing the Cowboy Hall of Fame."



Lunch break at the Cowboy Hall of Fame

I hope the tour group enjoyed it as much as I did. It was a treasured memory for me. I am ready to make some new memories for our next family tour. Get ready!



## Letter to Arlee Gowan:

Dear Cousin Arlee,

I'm writing this letter to say "thank you" on behalf of the Board of Directors and the membership of Brandywine Crucible, Inc., which you named and then helped found in 1997, serving as one of the three members of the initial board of directors. When we started the Lampasas reunion in 1996, the address list that you provided constituted a big part of our initial mailing. We are grateful for your contributions to our Cox and related families that make up the Brandywine Crucible family and deeply regret that personal circumstances precluded your accepting another term on the board.

We know that your extensive family research predated the establishment of Brandywine, and your willingness to share the fruits of that research has contributed greatly to Brandywine's success. Your wise counsel as a director has been invaluable and will be keenly missed, although we will certainly call upon you for advice and counsel and will look forward to your continued involvement as a researcher and as a member of the Archives and Publications Committee.

The "Hussey Manuscript" will be a seminal source for family researchers down through the years. That alone is sufficient to ensure your standing as one of the most significant of our numerous accomplished family researchers, without consideration of your many other contributions.

Arlee, we also sincerely appreciate your service to our country in WW II as a member of "The Greatest Generation."

For your service to our family and to the Brandywine Crucible organization, we are proud to forward to you the enclosed plaque as a token of our esteem for you and Bonnie and in appreciation for what you have meant – and mean – to the Brandywine family.

Sincerely,

Joe B.Cox, Jr.  
Chair and President  
Brandywine Crucible, Inc.

## ARLEE'S REPLY:

Hi, Joe,

Christmas came a little early this year!!!

Your package containing the beautiful plaque arrived this morning and was the nicest surprise I have ever received. Thanks ever so much.

I had no idea when I began the pursuit of our bewildering ancestors in April 1941 that the endeavor would bring such pleasure to me 72 years later. Your kindness makes all those long hours in the archives, in the library, in the cemetery and on the Internet worthwhile.

It was no individual effort on my part that produced such a collection of Coxiana. Surveying my correspondence files I have found that over 600 researchers have contributed their work to the effort. My appreciation of them is increased by the fact that many of their letters and journals were laboriously and painstakingly written by hand and that many of these writers are no longer with us today.

You will be interested to know that every sheet of this research which now fills three filing cabinets will be preserved. Dr. William Tyderman of Southwest Collection, a section of Texas Tech University Library has requested that these files will eventually be placed in that repository.

Thanks again for your kind remembrance. Your plaque will have a prominent place in my office alongside the portrait of James Christopher Cox, my great-grandfather.  
Good huntin'

Arlee

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## War Veterans



Dr. Joseph A. Cox receiving an award.  
Past National President 2009-2010  
U.S. Submarine Veteran of WWII





## Amazing story of an American POW's prized gold ring comes home after he gave it away for food during World War II

<http://www.foxnews.com/us/2013/08/19/american-world-war-ii-pow-prized-gold-ring-comes-home-after-70-year-journey>

RALEIGH, N.C. – After a year and a half behind barbed wire as a prisoner in World War II, 2nd Lt. David C. Cox had just about reached his breaking point.

The U.S. Army bomber co-pilot and his fellow POWs were subsisting on scanty rations of bug-infested soup and bread. Cold and hungry, the North Carolinian made a difficult decision. He slipped the gold aviator's ring — a gift from his parents — off his finger and passed it through a fence to an Italian POW, who handed back a couple of chocolate bars. He would never again see the ring. But it did not disappear. Last week, family members and friends gathered in the living room of David C. Cox Jr.'s Raleigh home and watched as he slit open a parcel from Germany. The 67-year-old son dug through and carefully removed a little box.

"And here it is," he said as he pulled out the ring. "Oh, my goodness. ... I never thought it would ever happen. "He thought it was gone," he said of his late father.

The story of how the ring made it back to the Cox family is a testament to a former enemy's generosity, the reach of the Internet and the healing power of time.

Following the December 1941 Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, the elder Cox left college and enlisted. The Army Air Corps accepted him on his second application.

He graduated from flight school on July 26, 1942. That same day, he married his high school sweetheart, Hilda Walker.

To celebrate his commission, Irvin and Connie Bell Cox presented their middle son with a gold signet ring, the oval emblazoned with a raised propeller and wings. Engraved inside were the words, "Mother & Father to David C. Cox Greensboro, NC," and the numbers 10-4-18-42 — his birthday and the current year.

Cox was assigned to the 305th Bomb Group, 364th Squadron — part of the "Mighty Eighth" Air Force. By October, he was in England.

As a co-pilot in the B-17 "Flying Fortress," Cox flew more than a dozen bombing missions over occupied France and the German heartland. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for helping to get his burning plane back to England from a May 1943 raid that cost the lives of half his 10-man crew.

On July 28, 1943, Cox's plane was shot down over Kassel, Germany. He parachuted, was taken prisoner, interrogated and then shipped to Stalag Luft III, the POW camp made famous in the Steve McQueen film, "The Great Escape."

He was there until Jan. 1945, when he and the other Allied officers were force-marched three days through the snow, then packed into train cars for another three days before ending up at Stalag VII-A near Moosburg, northeast of Munich.

As Hitler's Third Reich collapsed upon itself, POWs from all over found their way to Moosburg. By the time Cox arrived, conditions there went from bad to worse. It was at Moosburg that he traded the ring for the candy bars.

On April 28, 1945, Gen. George Patton's 14th Armored Division liberated the camp, and Cox, who was promoted to 1st lieutenant and on his way back to North Carolina. He started a company with his brother, and raised three children with wife Hilda.

Cox didn't discuss the war much, only to tell his children to clean their plates and how he went hungry and the story of his lost ring.

Returning from the war, Cox had an exact duplicate made of his prized ring — right down to the inscription. When he died in 1994, the replica passed to his son, David Jr., who wore it until it finally broke in the middle.

Now fast-forward to today and the tiny Bavarian village of Hohenberg, a picturesque collection of stucco and half-timbered houses.

Mark and Mindy Turner moved there about a year ago so he could take a job as an air traffic controller at the nearby U.S. Army installation in Ansbach. Earlier this month, the couple accepted a dinner invitation from their neighbors, Martin and Regina Kiss.

A 64-year-old master church painter by trade, Martin Kiss is also a skilled artist, and after dinner he showed his visitors around his studio. Then he mentioned he had something else he'd like them to see.

Kiss disappeared into the living room and returned with a gold ring — then told a story.

The Kiss family was Hungarian — the name is pronounced "KISH" — and comes from an area in the northern part of present-day Serbia. They ran a small pub near the Danube River.

A Russian soldier on his way home after the war traded the ring to the family — presumably in exchange for room and board, Kiss' grandmother told him. His "Oma" gave it to him when he moved to Germany in 1971 — for luck, or in case he needed some quick cash.

Kiss wore it proudly on his pinkie. He realized it must have come from an American soldier, but didn't know how to trace its owner — especially in a new country that wasn't all that eager to talk about the war.

Worried it might get damaged as he worked, Kiss placed the ring in a corked glass bottle with an old coin and a gold chain. Still, he never stopped thinking about the original owner — and now, with two computer-savvy Americans in his home, he decided it was time to try and find him.

Mark Turner went online when he got back home. Within 20 minutes, he'd hit pay dirt.

He found a 2005 master's thesis from North Carolina State University. One focus of Norwood McDowell's 219-page paper was the war diary of his wife's grandfather, David C. Cox Sr. — the name on the ring's inscription.

And there, on page 179, was the anecdote about the chocolate bars. After all those years, this epic ring cycle had ended within a two-hour drive of where it began.

"It just seemed like it couldn't be true," says Turner.

Turner emailed McDowell a photograph of the ring and its inscription.

"That's it for sure," an ecstatic David Cox replied when McDowell forwarded the picture.

"Well, praise the Lord!" Mindy Turner wrote back. "We are so excited for your family!"





After a few more emails and phone calls, the ring was on its way to the United States.

Cradling it in his hand after opening the package Friday, the pilot's son was struck by the original's condition, compared to its replacement. His sister, Joy Wagner, walked over and took the ring in her hands.

"Gosh, it's beautiful," she said as tears welled in her eyes. "Oh, that's so special." David Cox said holding the ring gave him goose bumps.

"I feel his presence," he said of his father. "I wish he was here." Kiss — whose own grandfather spent several years in a Soviet camp during and after the war — said in a phone interview with The Associated Press that his only regret is that David Cox Sr. and his grandmother weren't alive to share the "happy ending."

Refusing to accept even reimbursement for the shipping, he added, "You know the old saying: 'It's better to give than to receive.'"

Lienage: John Cox, Jr. and Samuel Cox

## OBITUARIES



1913 ~ 2012

Our beloved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and great-great-grandmother, Marie Cox Meeks, 99, passed away Wednesday November 14, 2012 in West Valley City, Utah from causes incident to age

She was born June 11, 1913 in St. George, Utah the 9th of 11 children born to Warren and Mary Etta Lee Cox. She lived in St. George and attended Dixie High School. On March 15, 1933 she married Athe Meeks in the St. George LDS Temple. In 1946 she was a soloist on the State Capitol Steps for the USS Utah. She sang for the Navy Mothers of America, Chapter 21. Her song won an award. She sang "Little Boy Blue of My Heart" the words are by Alice N. Graves and the music was by June M. Meyer. She was active in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. She was an accredited Genealogist. She belonged to the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers. In 1932 she

was part of the first group that entertained at Bryce Canyon National Park. She sang with the musical group called the Three M's with Mary McGregor and Mona Reber. She was born musically inclined and started playing the piano fluently at the age of three.

She is survived by two children: Larry Athe Meeks and Rose Marie Rowley; daughter-in-law, Sue Anne; 9 grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren, 19 great-great-grandchildren, and many step-great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband; her parents; son, Kent Cox Meeks; daughter-in-law, Edith Meeks; grandson, Dennis Larry Meeks; 5 brothers and 5 sisters: Paul Raymond Cox, Warren Lee Cox, Areta Church, Melvin Eugene Cox, Lida Prince, Leona Atkin, Vinal Loraine Cox, Kenneth LaVon Cox, Irene Brooks, Noma Bentley. The Family would like to thank the staff at RMC/Hunter Hollow Care Center and Rocky Mountain Hospice for their loving and compassionate care of our mother.

Funeral services will be Saturday, November 17, 2012, 2:00 p.m. at McDougal Funeral HomePublished in Salt Lake Tribune on November 15, 2012

### In Loving Memory of Melva Sue Gardner

A cousin of the Oklahoma delegation, Linda Cox Atkins ,Ada Cox Stump and Dottie Smart: Melva Sue garner, 62, of Norman, OK, passed away at her home on Sunday, March 3, after a long battle with cancer. Melva was born in Norman on February 12, 1951 and was the youngest child born to Lester and Willie Mae Harmon. Melva was a graduate of Norman High School and worked for NPS for several years. She married Larry Gardner on April 27, 1970 and he survives her. Melva and Larry raised two daughters, Jennifer and Angie. Both daughters graduated from Norman High and the University of Oklahoma. Melva was also the grandmother of five grandchildren. Melva was preceded in death by her mother, Willie Mae Harmon. She is survived by her father, Lester Harmon; brothers, Jerry (wife Marilyn) and Bob Harmon; sister, Sharon Edmonds (husband Joe); several nieces and nephews; her husband Larry Gardner; daughters, Jennifer Burk and Angie Blackwell; five grandchildren, Justin Burk, Jackson Burk, Abbie Blakwell, Tess Blackwell and Miles Blackwell. Melva had a strong faith in Jesus Christ and a belief that death is not the end, but the beginning of an eternity in heaven.

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## SUPPORTING AND DOCUMENTING COX HISTORY THROUGH MEMBERSHIP

Brandywine Crucible has made significant progress in discovering, documenting and preserving Cox family history. You can see some of the results on our website at:

<http://homepages.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~brandyw/i/index.html>

To continue these efforts, we need your financial support. Up to now, Brandywine has been supported by a group of loyal members who have renewed their memberships year after year and many of them have made significant contributions over and above membership fees. You can join by clicking Join and Support Us! on the website.

However, you do not need to join to support our efforts financially. Brandywine Crucible, Inc. is a 501c-3 corporation, so all contributions are fully tax deductible. If you are willing to support continued discovering, documenting and preserving Cox family history, send a check to Brandywine Crucible c/o Ada Stump P O Box 20294, Oklahoma City, OK 73156-0294

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

We had another very good annual meeting and reunion in Lampasas this past June, with excellent speakers and the usual great fellowship. We were pleased to have several first-time attendees, including four from Michigan, our first from that state. Sadly, our preeminent family historian and founding director Arlee Gowen and wife Bonnie could not be with us, and Arlee chose to retire from the directorship. We honored him with a very nice plaque designed by director Ada Stump. John Cox of Dallas was elected to the Board of Directors to replace Arlee. Our projects continue to progress, and I will mention only a few. We continue to need your family stories and autobiographies and biographies of family members. Also, we want to emphasize our new project to restore or replace damaged or worn headstones of family members. Forms and instructions are posted on our web site and are also included in the May 16, 2013, newsletter. Also noteworthy was the Oklahoma reunion held in Goldsby this October hosted by Linda and Steve Atkins, Ada Stump, and Thelma Burchfiel, with help from numerous others. There were attendees from several states, with great fellowship and food, and Brandywine added a number of names to our mailing list from attendees. Finally, we hope to see all of you at our Lampasas, Texas, reunion and annual Brandywine business meeting June 6-8, 2014. One of the highlights will be the dedication of another marker at Long Meadows Cemetery listing the names of all who are buried there. The Inn of Lampasas is now accepting reservations; say that you are with the Cox reunion.

Yours for preserving the history of a great family!  
Joe Cox, November 5, 2013

## Do You Have Indian Blood?

By Les Sutton

Over the years many have asked me about testing for American Indian heritage. Until now, there has not been a very definitive test for this. Part of the reason is that American Indians are the most reluctant group in the entire world to agree to DNA testing.

Marjory and I attended the annual FTDNA conference last November. Dr. Spencer Wells, National Geographic's Explorer-in-Residence discussed NatGeo's new Geno-2.0 Project. For five years, National Geographic has been collecting DNA samples all over the world to better understand our ancient heritage. FTDNA has processed those samples.

Dr. Wells, with assistance from FTDNA and other genetic scientists has developed a new genotyping chip that will analyze almost 150,000 DNA markers, specifically designed to provide deep ancestry related information.

You can order the kit at:

<http://shop.nationalgeographic.com/ngs/product/genographic-kits/geno-2.0---genographic-project-participation-and-dna-ancestry-kit> (If this does not work, search for geno 2.0)

Scroll down that website to read the overview with clickable links for more detail.

The test is a bit pricey at \$199.95, but as you can tell from the overview, NatGeo is using this to continue to fund their genetic research.

While it is not for everyone, hopefully it may help some of you decide if your "high cheek bones" really mean you have Indian blood. They expect it to identify as little as 1/64<sup>th</sup> Indian heritage (which I supposedly am.)

## BRANDYWINE CRUCIBLE, INC.

Is a non-profit educational education Corporation that has collected and preserved thousands of stories, articles, facts and tidbits of information about the Cox family and related families. It maintains a large database of information which traces the history of this family back to CHARLEMAGNE and beyond. Most of this information is available at the annual reunion held in Lampasas, TX each year. It is also permanently archived in [the Southwest Collection at Texas Tech and at the Center for American History at the University of Texas in Austin, Texas.](#)

# Brandywine Crucible Newsletter

December 26, 2013

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**Note.** See our website (type Brandywine Crucible, Inc., homepage in your search engine) for the following: (1) A schedule of all Cox and related family reunions that we know about. (2) Entry form and instructions concerning our youth essay contest. (3) Forms and instructions for our cemetery headstone project.

## Brandywine Crucible Officers

President:	Joe B. Cox
Vice President:	Ada Stump
Secretary:	Les Sutton
Treasurer:	Ada Stump
Asst. Treasurer:	Thelma Burchfiel

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If you are interested in subscribing to the Brandywine Newsletter or if you have a new email address, a new mailing address, or with any update please contact Les Sutton, 254 Old Spring Rd., Houston, TX 77015-2042  
Or [lesSutton@aol.com](mailto:lesSutton@aol.com)



Genevieve Ruth Hamilton, beloved wife, mother, grandmother and great grandmother passed away at the age of 86 on October 18, 2013. Genevieve was born June 3, 1927 in Castana, Iowa. After attending high school in Iowa, she moved to Vaughn, New Mexico where, at age 18, she met John Hamilton, who soon after would become her husband of 68 years. In their marriage, John and Genevieve lived around the world . . . Albuquerque, New Mexico, El Paso, Texas, Fairfield, Connecticut. Germany and France. In 1961, John retired from the army and they settled in New Mexico where they lived in Santa Fe, Belen and Albuquerque. Genevieve was extremely bright, hard working and built her career with the State of New Mexico in Santa Fe for over 20 years. After a long and successful tenure, she retired in June 1982 as Fiscal Bureau Chief. After they both

retired, John and Genevieve toured the country in their motor home. Genevieve was a member of Highlands Baptist Church where she sang in the choir. She enjoyed playing the piano and harmonica and loved working in her Rose garden. Her other interests were garden club and her sorority, Epsilon Sigma Alpha International, Chapter Gamma Delta. At the end of her life, Genevieve and her family waged a long and difficult battle with Alzheimer's. Genevieve was preceded in death by her mother and father, brothers, Alton and Dwayne, her son, baby John and her dog Nana. She is survived by her loving husband, John Hamilton, daughters, Cheryl Hamilton and Joni Trumbull, son-in-law, John Trumbull, two granddaughters, Shawna Hamilton Doster and Marisa Hamilton Botros, grandson-in-law, John Botros, and four great grandchildren, Thomas and Hamilton Doster and Jack and Henry Botros. Genevieve also leaves behind two sisters, Evonne Nepper and Gloria Torres, brothers, Jim Chandler and Vernon Chandler, many more nieces and friends and her dear little white dog, Patrick.

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John Hamilton descended from  
Christopher Cox and Hannah  
Jackson Cox.