

Small amount of the Cox History by W.S. Cox

Tradition, which seems to be reliable, says that the original Cox family came from England to what is now Chesterfield County, Virginia. Still pursuing the westward journey, one or more of them followed the “Old Trail” up the James River to near what is now Lynchburg and from there to Yadkin Valley in North Carolina. The route from James River to the Yadkin Valley is a matter of dispute and it is not essential to this sketch. At any rate “The Pioneer Trail” led into the Yadkin Valley and from that point “The Empire of the West” started.

Daniel Boone made his way from Pennsylvania into the valley and extended “The Trail” into Kentucky. It is said he and his companions “blazed out the wilderness trail”, after Colonel Henderson’s treaty with the Indians at Watauga.

Boone, it is said, made one of his first trips of adventure and hunting to what is now Fort Blackmore and perhaps one of the Cox’s was with him. (According to best information the name would be Blakemore). Here John Blakemore, Sr., John Blakemore, Jr. and Joseph Blakemore and another whose name has been lost in the ages past in 1774, established the Fort. Two or more of the Cox brothers came later. Tradition tells us, that one of them stopped and “settled” at Fort Blackmore and the others went to Kentucky. David C. Cox built one of the first houses outside of the stockade. It was located just north of where Mrs. Ava M. Davidson now lives. When Dr. James S. Cox married he built a house near what is known as the Old Spring, north of Dr. R. W. McConnell’s residence. Later he built another house farther west at the foot of what is locally known as “The Dumpling Hill” in top of which an Indian Burial Mound was built. This was the home of E.M. Cox.

This information was written by W.S. Cox – for the paper after S.L. Cox’s death.

Cox or Cocks Family

David C. Cox, Sr., born 1748, came with Daniel Boone from the Yadkin Valley area of North Carolina on one of his expeditions, along with other neighbors to what is now Scott County, Virginia. Married Jemima Leach and later settled at Fort Blackmore, where he died Feb. 28, 1828.

Thomas W. Carter in a letter to Dr. Lyman C. Draper, states that David Cox died at his home on Stoney Creek one half mile north of Fort Blackmore.

W. S. Cox, Attorney of Law, son of Emory and Elizabeth Mann Cox, in a statement dictated before he died in 1931 said the old Cox family Bible failed to give the date of his birth but gave the date of his death as being Feb. 28, 1828.

Tradition represents David Cox as having been at one time a companion of Daniel Boone; that he was captured in the neighborhood of Stoney Creek by the Indians; that he was carried as a captive into the North; that, after a period of from 2 to 4 years in captivity, he returned to his home on the Yadkin River, where he interested a number of persons in an attempt to make a settlement at the mouth of Stoney Creek.

In the spring of 1777, when Benge is represented as having made a visit to Fort Blackmore, it was David Cox, who, it was alleged, furnished Matthew Gray with an extra rifle, with which to shoot the gobbling Indian.

April 3, 1793, David Cox purchased 180 acres of land from Samuel Auxe. In 1817 David Cox, James Albert and John Duncan by paying delinquent tax on the Fort Blackmore tract of land, became owner of a tax claim against it. As an outcome of this transaction, James Albert became owner of "Blackmore's Old Fort" consisting of 300 acres. This same tract was then sold under a deed of trust to Goldman Davidson, who in turn sold it to James S. Cox.

Cocke or Cox Mill

The First Mill was located on Stoney Creek about 1 mile north of Fort Blackmore. It was owned by the first David C. Cocke, who married Jemima Leach. It was a large mill for wheat and corn, and had an overshot water wheel. It has been said that he built the mill and was the first Miller on Stoney Creek or Fort Blackmore. This mill was given to David L. Cocke, Jr., who married Rebecca Boggs. The second mill was bought by David C. Cocke, Sr., from Alexander Dunlap along with 40 acres land August 28, 1798. He had bought 200 acres from Samuel Oser on Stoney Creek where the first Mill was, February 23, 1795. This was part of the Henry Hamlin land he got from a grant.

The first Mill was operated until about 1905 or 1910, the second mill was operated until 1958 to 1960. These two mills were in the Cox Family for many years. The second mill was an under shot mill and was last operated by Floyd Cox, a son of Logan Cox, who was a son of Dr. James S. Cox, a son of the 1st David C. Cocke.

Note from Lucy Green White:

The burrs from the mill of David C. Cox (original spelling Cocke) are now in the possession of Dr. Lemuel Cox of Kingsport, Tennessee, a gr. gr. grandson of David C. Cox.