

**W. Kauffman**, Waldorf, Md.; my daughter, **Bonnie Jo Shannon**, who graciously used her talents to sketch Col. Cox for this article; **Senator James C. Simpson**; **Cindy Stewart**; **Sally Barley** and the **Southern Maryland Study Center**; **Garth Bowling**; **Librarians at the Charles County Community College** and the **Charles County Public Library**; the **Register of Wills** and the **Land Record Offices** at the Charles County Courthouse, and **Michael Mazzeo**, each of whom has provided me with information, advice, and assistance, without which this project could not have been brought this far; also to my **family, friends and co-workers**, who have supported me during this time of extensive research and work, each of whom has aided my efforts.

**Bibliography:** National Archives records; Hall of Records, Annapolis; Federal Censuses of 1790, 1840, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90; Cox and Robertson wills from 1786 to early 1900s; Administration Accounts; Inventories; Charles County Land Records; Index to Land Records; The Biographical Cyclopedia of Representative Men of Maryland and the District of Columbia; Encyclopedia Britannica; Maryland's Way; Cox family correspondence and notes; Mt. Rest Cemetery; Port Tobacco Times from 1844-1880; Cora Hawkins' notes; The Civil War by Geoffrey C. Ward, et al; Charles County, Maryland - Bicentennial Edition; History of Charles County, Maryland; The Maryland Directory of Doctors for 1878; Come Retribution; Blue and Gray Magazine, June 1990; The Maryland General Assembly legislative records, 1864; Slave Registers of 1850 and 1860; Charles County 1976 Tombstone Survey; The Place Names of Maryland, Their Origins and Meanings.

### In Search of Charles County's History

The Southern Maryland Studies Center is looking for portraits and pieces of Charles County furniture to be used as illustrations in a book to be published in October, 1992, on Charles County during the period of the American Revolution. The author is Jean B. Lee, a fellow at colonial Williamsburg; the book will be available in hard cover and paperback. If you know of any items dating from c. 1750 to 1810, in private hands or a public museum gallery collection, please notify Sally Barley, 301-934-2251, ext. 610 or write to her at the Charles County Community College, P.O. Box 910, La Plata, MD 20646.

### Genealogy Fair

The St. Mary's County Genealogical Society and the Root Cellar BBS are co-hosting a Genealogy Fair to be held October 19 and 20, 1991, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the gymnasium at Charles County Community College, La Plata, Maryland. The Continuing Education department of Charles County Community College is sponsoring the fair.

The fair will be conducted as a public service and will demonstrate:

- A computer bulletin board system (BBS).  
Access to BBSs by the public.  
Access to genealogy/historical conferences.  
Explanation of international computer networks.
- Genealogy software.  
Brother's Keeper (BK)  
Everyone's Family Tree (EFT)  
Personal Ancestral File (PAF)
- Hardware/Software required to access BBSs.  
Modems  
Communication software  
Computers (IBM and Apple will be available).
- Namelist databases
- International Genealogy Index. (The LDS Family History Center, Kensington, MD, has been asked to demonstrate the IGI, as well as Ancestral Files and Social Security Death Register).
- Genealogy book publishers
- Local area genealogy/history authors.
- Genealogy/history groups.

Invited are the DAR, National Archives, Library of Congress, and the National Genealogy Society to set up displays or provide display material.

**The Historical Society of Charles County**  
Post Office Box 261  
Port Tobacco, Maryland 20677



Mr. & Mrs. Michael J. Mazzeo, Jr.  
130 Wood Duck Circle  
La Plata, MD 20646



# The RECORD

Publication of The Historical Society of Charles County, Inc.

No. 53 October 1991

Mr. Michael J. Mazzeo, Jr., President

Mr. Garth E. Bowling, Jr., Editor



## SAMUEL COX of Charles County

by

**Norma L. Hurley**

Illustrated by

**Bonnie Jo Shannon**

*Easter Sunday, April 16, 1865, dawned tranquilly at Rich Hill in Charles County, Maryland. After breakfast, the plantation owner left the house, mounted his horse and rode around the premises of his property, following his usual custom. As he rode, Samuel Cox inspected, observed, noted tasks and considered the events of the last 24 hours.*

**Samuel Cox**, the second Samuel Cox to own Rich Hill, Charles County born and bred, was a hardworking planter, an educated gentleman, a leader in local and State politics, an innovator and progressive landholder, erudite, outspoken and well spoken, active in community and civic affairs, an optimist working toward improvements for his country, his state, his county, his town, his estate, his family, and for the generations to come.

Cox was born November 22, 1819, to Hugh Cox and Margaret Cox; his mother was the daughter of Samuel and Sarah Cox, the first Coxes to own Rich Hill. It was ultimately through his mother, Margaret, that Rich Hill eventually was passed to Samuel Cox, with acreage significantly increased through the efforts of his father, Hugh Cox.

Samuel Cox, the grandfather, bought Rich Hill in 1807 from Catherine Brown and Richard Brown for Pounds 1250. It was noted that, in the grave place, excepted for use as such, was buried Dr. Gustavus Brown who had bought Rich Hill in 1714.

Besides Samuel, four other children were born to Hugh and Margaret Cox before Margaret's death.

Hugh Cox remarried -- Mary Ann T.T. Cox -- and three more children were born of his second marriage.

Samuel Cox, named for his maternal grandfather, and born at Rich Hill, attended the country pay schools in his neighborhood until he was 15 years old; he was then sent to Charlotte Hall School in St. Mary's County where he studied for three years.

He returned home about 1838, at 18. In 1842, at about 22, Cox married his cousin, Walter Ann Cox, 21, the only child of Walter Cox, Esq., and Lucy B. Cox. Walter Ann, named for her father, was born in Washington, D.C., on June 9, 1821.

After completing his schooling, Cox embarked on his "farming" career which lasted for about 37 years, to age 55. Agriculture then was a most important activity, not only in Charles County, but throughout Maryland and in many other states. Week in and week out, newspapers carried multi-column page-one articles on how to improve production of nearly every crop, vegetable, livestock and poultry then raised. Classified ads and long articles expounded on the fine points of different kinds of guano, imported for fertilizer and so vital for crops, especially tobacco.

A Society for the Promotion of Agriculture and Rural Economy was first organized in 1805 and led by the most illustrious members of Maryland society and politics. In 1818, this group organized the Maryland Agricultural Society, with Curators for both Eastern and Western Shores. Except for a lapse during the Civil War, the meetings have continued without interruption until the present day.

Local agricultural societies were also formed and the Charles County Agricultural Society was an active civic group with a large membership who put much time and effort into agricultural affairs. In 1848, Cox was elected to the Executive Committee, served as secretary pro tem, and at the 1848 Annual Agricultural Exhibition in November, was awarded a premium for best ewe.

After he inherited Rich Hill following his father's death in 1849, his hard work during the next decade brought him many awards and Rich Hill prospered accordingly.

In 1852 he judged on the Jacks and Mules Committee and won best brood sow, while his wife won third



best quilt. From 1853-1860 he served as a vice president of the society. His agricultural expertise increased and his awards multiplied; in 1853 he won best jack, best brood mare--common breed and best buck sheep--common breed. In 1854, he won a certificate of merit jack, best calf-improved cattle, best slaughtered mutton, and his wife won best flannel--homemade cloth.

In 1857 he won best 3-year colt--Grey Medock, best pair of carriage horses, best pair of draft horses, best 2-year old mule colt, best sow, best sow and pigs, best pork hog, best acre of corn yielding 18 bbls., 1 bu. and 2 pecks, while his wife won 2nd best homemade wheat bread.

The 1858 Annual Agricultural Exhibition was canceled because of an outbreak of scarlet fever, but 1860 was another good year for Cox; he won best sow, best pork hog, best pair mules, and best single-harness horse, while his wife won best ½ bu. parsnips, best ½ bu. carrots, best lot vegetables, best lot fresh butter--5 lb., best potted butter--5 lb., best lot pickles and 2nd best homemade wine.

**The Coxes were slave holders** as were most Charles County property owners in those years. Under Samuel's proprietorship, the slave population increased from 6 in 1850 to 37 in 1860 (a 600+% increase), a decade of significant growth at Rich Hill agriculturally. It has been estimated that the slave population may have reached about 50 at its peak. No slaves were listed as fugitives under Samuel's proprietorship, a good indicator that they received humane treatment and were not brutalized.

A statement from a grown child of former slaves on the Cox plantation says, regarding Cox, "The slaves worshipped him, for all he was so onery. They wouldn't want him or Mis Watta Ann to get hurted. He was a good man accordin' to his believin's. Good to his slaves if they mind they business. Wouldn't stand for no foolishment, though. You talk back to Marse Sammy, he smack you in the mouth. But the negroes had good quarters and plenty to eat. Looked after if they was sick. Were never whipped or abused like some. They were a different class of colored people. Didn't steal and run around.

"Marse Sammy was very tall, slender and gray. Jes as up-to-date! Rich man! Had the biggest kind of hay-stacks! Used to hide arms there. Bout the smartest man around there! Folks outside thought he was a bad man, but it was jes his way -- bossy and biggety!...He was about as important as the president is now!"

Apparently the negro children on the Cox, Neale and Chapman plantations played together, and the older negroes could visit with each other. If they went anyplace else, the "paddyrollers" were on their trail.

Because of unrest among many slaves, patrols were

formed to prevent problems. Cox was not spared from this duty either. Samuel Cox and F. Stone placed the following notice in the newspaper regarding the patrol they led: "It is strongly recommended that no person within the limits of our Patrol permit his Servants to leave his premises at night without a pass. All found without pass will be rigidly dealt with. December 11, 1856." Many such notices were found in the newspapers during these years.

**Cox bred horses and donkeys** and received recognition, not only through awards at the Agricultural Exhibitions, but as one of only two or three who advertised stud services. In 1849 he announced his jack, Rough and Ready (which he sold in 1850); then his jack, the award-winning Knight of Malta, advertised from 1852 through 1859; his award-winning Canadian horse, Grey Medock, advertised from 1857 well into the Civil War; and a jack, Arrago, first advertised in 1861. He was especially proud of Grey Medock, and kept him under saddle during the winter. Following the war, no advertisements appeared for these animals and they may have been lost during the war.

**Cox was a Freemason** and it is conjectured that he named his jack, Knight of Malta, to celebrate a level he had achieved in the organization, that of the Knights of Malta.

**Volunteer military service** also claimed its share of Cox's attention; Governor Ligon commissioned him as Captain of Company 1, 1st Regiment M.M., in 1854. Additional military service included the Captaincy of the Charles County Mounted Volunteers, formed in November, 1859, and disbanded about May, 1861. He led 58 noncommissioned officers and privates, including a nephew (likely Henry Robertson). His volunteer surgeons were Doctors S. W. Dent and George Mudd; the company met weekly to drill and to study cavalry tactics.

A man in Captain Cox's troop, John Benedict, died of exposure along with a long-existing disease of the heart, in his father's house, on the 19th of May, 1861.

In June, 1861, about a hundred Federal soldiers marched to Rich Hill from Chapel Point and forced Cox to surrender the arms of his disbanded company which he had hidden.

In May, advertisements in the newspapers included items as widely divergent as parasols and military rifle caps, bridles and French hats, lead and balls, and plaster, imported dress goods and Colts Pistols. The country was at war but the people, while preparing for war, were trying to maintain "normal" everyday life.

**Death was a frequent visitor** in the 1800s in

continue the Rich Hill legacy. His nephew, Samuel Robertson, born February 8, 1847, had lived with Cox for some years at Rich Hill and was educated in the neighborhood. Young Samuel was the child of Cox's sister, R. and John R. Robertson. Following local schooling, he was sent to Charlotte Hall School in St. Mary's County, Cox's alma mater, for further instruction.

On February 11, 1864, the General Assembly of Maryland passed an Act to change the name of Samuel Robertson, of Charles County, to Samuel Cox, and he was "to enjoy all the rights, privileges and benefits that he could have enjoyed had his name not been changed by the provisions of this act." He was then 17 years of age.

Cox, Jr. had returned home two days before Easter, on Friday, April 14, 1865, not necessarily for Easter, but to go with Capt. Cox on Monday, April 17, to Petersburg, Virginia, to assist in nursing his only brother, and Capt. Cox's nephew, Henry Robertson, 24, who had been wounded in the battle of Hatcher's Run on the 2nd of April, 1865, and who was then with a private family near Petersburg, Virginia. (His oldest brother, Hugh Robertson, born November 12, 1835, and employed as a school teacher, had died July 19, 1862, at age 26.)

The plans to go to Petersburg were circumvented by the assassination of President Lincoln and the arrival of his assassin, John Wilkes Booth, at Rich Hill at about 1 a.m., Easter Sunday, April 16.

*Returning to his home after his early morning ride, Easter Sunday, April 16, 1865, and passing under the ailanthus trees which shaded the front of the house, trees he had planted years ago, Samuel Cox set in motion a series of events which would forever alter Charles County's history and involve his family and others in a conspiracy of silence.*

Cox, Jr. has written a letter containing an accounting of events at Rich Hill on April 16 and thereafter; in addition, he corrected some inaccuracies in a book written by Thomas A. Jones on the subject. (Henry Robertson subsequently died of his injuries.)

**By 1868, the Mounted Volunteers** were meeting again and drilling, as noted, on August 1, October 31, November 30, and the notices regarding the meetings were now co-signed by Samuel Cox, Jr., O.S. The adopted son had replaced the father in these activities.

**Captain Samuel Cox must have felt great pride** when Samuel Cox, Jr., Esq., was admitted to practice at the Bar of Charles County Circuit on Wednesday, December 3, 1868, at age 21, having completed his studies in law. Capt. Cox also lived to see his adopted

son serve in the State Legislature.

**At the time Col. Cox wrote his will in 1872,** only he (from his father's first marriage) and his half-brother William (from his father's second marriage) remained of the eight children of Hugh Cox.

**The inventory at Rich Hill** listed 16 horses and mules, many named, one yearling and one ox. [Interestingly, a brown horse was now named Sam.] Among household furnishings was a piano valued at \$85 -- the most valuable piece listed, and a French bedstand (\$20). The **Cox Station** inventory included basic furnishings relative to a hotel's needs, with nothing of great value. The total Rich Hill inventory was \$1316.50 and Cox Station, \$1484.

His estate was left to his wife, Walter Ann, for her lifetime use and then to his adopted son, Samuel Cox, Jr. He left money to finish paying a debt to his brother William plus \$2000 additional if it would not embarrass the Rich Hill estate, also Cox's Station land of 103.5 acres.

**Col. Cox died January 7, 1880,** at age 60. He had lived a life of more consequence and achievement than most. The heir to a considerable estate, he worked to preserve and prosper it. He served his community in many offices and positions, never shirking any duty or call on his time and talents. He provided for his family well at his death, as he had during his life.

He faced the difficulties of a reversal of fortune during his middle life following the war and worked hard to overcome it; he succeeded, as his increasing financial reports on the censuses show. He did not have an heir of his own issue, but provided one in the person of his nephew, his sister's son, and thereby carrying Samuel's family blood. He succeeded at each enterprise which he attempted and he worked at many; when faced with difficulties, he persevered and turned them into triumphs.

**Col. Cox's grave is surrounded by those of his family** in Mt. Rest Cemetery at La Plata, Maryland, at the top of a hill, under an old cedar tree. He risked himself for others, and his strong convictions guided his life.

*The foregoing excerpts are from a biography of Samuel Cox which is currently underway. Since many of the research sources are incomplete, Col. Cox undoubtedly achieved much more than one would ever be able to discern. Even using incomplete information sources, the record of what he accomplished outweighs most whose records are intact.*

*There were at least five Samuel Coxes living during the years 1820-1880. Great care was taken to separate Col. Cox's information from the others.*

**Special thanks** are offered to my **Heavenly Father, Ricky Robinson, Wash., D.C.; James O. Hall, McLean, Virginia; Michael**

Charles County, and on December 12, 1849, Cox's father, Hugh Cox, died, at age 70, and the ownership of Rich Hill passed to Samuel Cox. His stepmother, Mrs. Mary Ann T.T. Cox, the wife of the late Hugh Cox, Esq., died Monday, January 28, 1856, at 1 p.m. And on Saturday, April 16, 1859, Elisha Jones, 72, died at Rich Hill after a long and painful illness of paralysis. [Marlboro papers were instructed to copy this item.]

**Cox participated in widely varying civic duties**, which included education, jury duty and road maintenance. His contributions to **education** culminated in his election as President of the Board of School Commissioners for four years. **Jury duty** included service on the Petit Jury in 1848 (along with his father), and 1856, and on the Grand Jury in 1851, 1852, 1858 (as Foreman) and 1868.

Roads in the county were numbered and assigned to individuals for maintenance and inspection as there was no centralized maintenance available. In 1850, Cox was named a **road supervisor** to maintain road No. 22 in his district.

**Socially, Cox was popular** among his friends and acquaintances. Horse racing was a popular sport, and Maryland jockey clubs were numerous. The Port Tobacco Jockey Club elected Cox president in 1850; their races were then held at Farrall's race course near Port Tobacco.

*The Port Tobacco Times* served not only to provide news, but also communication between people and places, humor and entertainment. Cox "starred" when the December 2, 1858, edition printed a PIGEON SHOOTING Challenge to any Ten Gentlemen of St. Mary's, Prince George's and Charles Counties, in a match to test their shooting skills against any ten others, signed, ostensibly, by Samuel Cox and nine others, with the losers to treat to a supper and trimmings at Posey's Hotel in Port Tobacco.

The December 9 edition printed a tongue-in-cheek rebuttal letter from Samuel Cox in which he disclaimed any honors as the author of the challenge, but said he would be willing to join in the sport. On December 16, it was reported that St. Mary's was interested in the match.

On December 23, it was noted that gentlemen from St. Mary's County had accepted the challenge and a committee composed of Cox, Wm. Campbell and Dr. Smoot was asked to meet a committee from St. Mary's to make the arrangements; in addition, a challenge from Prince George's to Charles, St. Mary's and Prince George's for a partridge shooting was issued.

The January 6, 1859, issue included a lengthy letter on the humorous side which stated in part, protesting

the match: "In the name of bird, beast, and sinner, gentlemen, ground your arms. Play 'Mill Stalks,' 'Hurley Burley,' 'Leap Frog,' 'Sorcerer,' 'Puss gi' me corner,' 'Shoo Turkey,' and 'Chicken me, chicken me, craney crow' or, if you must shoot, blaze away at ... a soft crab ... a raw oyster, anything scarcely vital -- but cross not, we pray you, the threshold of the dove-cot ... we appeal to you in the name of Pythagoras ... that grand old Pythagorean doctrine of 'transmigration,' or the passing of the soul into another body. Suppose, gentlemen, ... that he who shoots Pigeons, is murdering perhaps the great uncle of his great-grandfather ... who knows?"

The matter was ended in the January 13, 1859, edition with a letter from Samuel Cox and his committee stating that they had met but that no one from St. Mary's County had appeared, and they surmised that the damp and rainy weather had rusted their meat house key and from extreme debility, they [St. Mary's] were unable to ... be present ... or they had had a nervous panic come upon them and said 'This is not the way for St. Mary's boys to act,' and [Cox concluded] that the Charles County committee would excuse them.

And so, even on the threshold of the Civil War, the citizens continued to engage in repartee, good for themselves and all who had followed the six-week drama.

**Cox's active service in politics began** shortly after his marriage when he was named a delegate to the County Whig Convention in 1845, representing Allen's Fresh. There he was elected a delegate to the Whig Convention to be held at Bladensburg. He was appointed a Justice of the Magistrates Court for Charles County, in 1845, by Maryland Governor Pratt and served four years in this capacity.

His political activities continued as he served as a secretary of the Whig County Convention in 1847. In 1850, he was again a delegate to the Whig district meeting and was nominated on the Whig Ticket as a candidate for the State Assembly in 1853. He was elected and served on the Committee of Ways and Means as a delegate, and with distinction. He was also Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture, serving during the sessions of 1853 and 1854.

He accepted an invitation in the *Times* in 1855 to again be a candidate for the next House of Delegates.

During a public speech which forcefully expressed his political philosophy, Cox left no doubt as to his convictions. On October 30, 1860, at a meeting of the friends of Bell and Everett at Allen's Fresh, "Mr. Samuel Cox, being loudly called for, took the stand and addressed the meeting in a strong, patriotic and practical speech, in behalf of the Union candidates. He was particularly severe in his reprobation of the Southern Democracy, in arrogating to themselves the claim of being the exclusive champions of Southern



rights. He deprecated the feeling attempted to be excited by passionate appeals to 'Southern chivalry,' and proclaimed that no one would sooner resist Northern aggression upon the Constitutional rights of the South, than himself or the candidates whom he supports."

As the threat of war came ever closer, Cox's support of Union candidates demonstrated his regard for the importance of maintaining the Union and avoiding a war which could only hurt all involved. He foresaw more clearly than many the consequences to all of a civil war.

The political climate during this period was heating up and Charles County's leanings were more pro-South than pro-Maryland, the State eventually choosing to support the Union. The newspaper was filled with notices of organization and reorganization of volunteer groups, such as the Smallwood Riflemen, Nanjemoy Rifle Company, Mounted Volunteers at Port Tobacco, Bryantown Minute Men, and the Mounted Volunteers of Charles County.

Samuel Cox wrote a long letter to the "People of Charles County" which was also signed by many other men; it was published in the January 3, 1861, paper and said in part: "...Our lot has been cast in troubled times. Our Union is already broken, whether rightfully or wrongfully, the deed is now done...From all parts...comes the sound of military organization...The Secretary of State, Treasury and War have resigned...Every Southern State, except one, has spoken...Maryland alone is as voiceless as the grave...She, who is to bear the brunt and burden of the battle, if the battle comes, is unprepared; unarmed and unorganized...Do the people of Charles County...intend to wait until the great struggle is over...the Governor...has refused [to convene the Legislature]..."

"In the days immediately preceding the Revolution a Convention sat again and again in Maryland without any authority...except directly from the people themselves...Great emergencies alone justify the use of this great reserved power..."[The letter went on to detail a recommendation to meet and elect representatives to a State Sovereign Convention.]...[He ended] Let the voice of the people be fully and fairly heard. Now is the time for old Maryland to speak---to speak calmly, wisely and firmly. She may yet reunite the broken band, or failing in that, she may still avert the horrors of a civil war by a just mediation, and failing in all, she will still have the proud consciousness that she has done her duty.

[signed by] SAML. COX

F. STONE

W. MITCHELL et al"

The Editor did not print the names of all 27 signers and the January 17, 1861, issue contained a short letter from Samuel Cox urging that all names be printed. He said readers felt the first letter had been conceived in party spirit only and did not represent the

total community, irrespective of their political proclivities. The names were then printed: Samuel Cox, F. Stone, W. Mitchell, Wm. Hamilton, P. Davis, Barnes Compton, Joseph Stewart, J.G. Chapman, A.H. Robertson, Edward Hatcher, Griffin Carter, P.H. Muschett, Wm. H. Matthews, M.S. Robertson, Hugh Mitchell, Robert G. Nevitt, Wm. Boswell, Thomas K. Jones, Peter Williams, R. Johnson, E. Wells [the editor himself], Daniel W. Hawkins, Z.V. Posey, Wm. H. Brawner, J.H. Button, John L. Shackelford, Robert Digges, Sr., Rufus Robey, W.B. Stone, Townly Robey.

A Convention was set for January 21, 1861, in Charles County and delegates were elected, including Samuel Cox for the 2nd district.

Following the war, Samuel Cox was a delegate to the Congressional Nomination Convention in Ellicott City, in September, 1868, and was a member of the County Commissioners' Committee to Redistrict Charles County.

In 1859, Cox, 39, and other leading citizens began negotiations designed to **secure a railroad** to run from Baltimore to a point on the Potomac, passing through Charles County.

With the onset of the Civil War, decisions regarding the extension of the railroad were necessarily eclipsed by matters of a more urgent nature. However, in 1864, the war was beginning to wind down; Maryland freed its slaves on November 1 under a new Constitution. Cox and others raised the **railroad issue** again and following the end of the war, they succeeded in gaining a charter for a railroad from Baltimore to the Potomac.

At the Railroad Annual Meeting in September, 1868, Capt. Samuel Cox was a teller and was unanimously elected to be a Director of the Company.

Money was subsequently appropriated by the State Legislature, \$175,000, for "internal improvement" to the County of Charles. After fighting efforts to divert the proposed railroad elsewhere and to divide the appropriation and give part to another railroad, its terminus was determined to be Pope's Creek on the Potomac. In 1878, the railroad extended from Baltimore to Pope's Creek with a branch to Washington, D.C.

At the terminus of the railroad, Cox began a settlement which he called **Cox's Station**; he donated 50 acres for the site and laid out the plat. He built a hotel, a store, and several private dwellings. He offered land free, one-acre lots, to mechanics and laborers wishing to settle there and build. By 1878, Cox's Station had a population of 25 and a doctor, B.A. Jamison, in residence. In the early 1890s, Cox's Station was renamed Bel Alton, meaning beautiful old town.

**Cox and his wife, Walter Ann**, had no children who lived, and he undoubtedly desired an heir to