

3-9 GEORGE COX. 1920

George Cox was born in Guernsey county, Ohio, March 9, 1839, and died at his home in Deep River, March 1, 1920, just eight days before his eighty-first birthday. In 1854, with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ephraim Cox, he came to Poweshiek county, and lived upon a farm of 400 acres which the elder Cox entered near Deep River. The deceased assisted his father in making a home on the frontier and in cultivating the land. When the father died George Cox managed the farm for his mother, later farming on his own account, having purchased 240 acres of raw prairie, on a part of which the town of Deep River was later built. From time to time he added to his holdings until he owned 420 acres.

In 1870, with a brother-in-law, E. M. Funk, he engaged in general merchandising at the old town of Dresden, but in 1884, when the railroad was built through that section of the county he moved the stock to the little village, now the town of Deep River. From that time to the day of his death he was not only interested but a potent factor in the development and growth of the town. In later years he gave up his business activities and the store was taken over by his son, C. N. Cox, and conducted as it is today under the firm name of C. N. Cox & Co., a very large and prosperous mercantile establishment.

Mr. Cox did not confine his interests solely to the store. In 1884 he purchased an elevator at Brooklyn, which he moved to Deep River and until 1900 conducted a grain, coal and lumber business. He was also interested in the banking business of his home town and had large investments in rice lands in Louisiana.

In 1866 Mr. Cox was united in marriage with Miss Catharine Funk, who came to Poweshiek county with her parents in 1854. To this union were born four children: C. N. Cox, merchant of Deep River; Erwin, who died when two years old; Mrs. George Grier of Iowa City, and Mrs. Walter Light of West Liberty. The bereaved wife, son, two daughters and relatives have the sympathy of all in their sorrow.

Funeral services were held at the home, Wednesday afternoon, at 2:00 o'clock. —Montezuma Republican.

COX, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Cox, residents of Pow. Co. since 1854, having come as boy and girl with their parents who settled in Deep River twp.

COX, George. b. Guernsey Co. O. 1839, son of Ephraim and Margaret (Christy) Cox, the father b. in O. 1801, and the mother in Pa. same year. The paternal grandfather Christopher Cox was a trader with the Indians in O. The maternal grandparents were natives of Scotland. Ephraim Cox m. Margaret Christy and lived in O until 1854 when he came to Pow. Co. Mr. Cox m. 1866 Catherine Funk, b. Ogle Co., Ill., in 1848, and came with her parents, Michael and Adeline (Newcomer) Funk to Deep River in 1854. The parents, both natives of Washington Co., Md., the father b. 1823 and the mother 1824.

POP 2 p 154

GEORGE COX.

POP 164

Although George Cox is now practically living retired he is still financially interested in the mercantile enterprise conducted under the style of C. N. Cox & Company at Deep River, one of the largest concerns of its kind in this section of Poweshiek county.

He was born in Guernsey county, Ohio, March 9, 1839, a son of Ephraim and Margaret (Christy) Cox, the father born in Ohio, in 1801, and the mother in Pennsylvania in the same year. The paternal grandfather, Christopher Cox, was a trader with the Indians in Ohio. The maternal grandparents were natives of Scotland but emigrated to the new world in an early day, making a location in Pennsylvania. Ephraim Cox was reared in the Buckeye state and was there married to Miss Margaret Christy, making his home in that state until 1854, which year witnessed his arrival in Poweshiek county. He here entered four hundred acres of land in Deep River township and at once began to develop and improve his property, and it eventually became very valuable. In his home place he had one hundred and forty acres, and he also made many improvements on



GEORGE COX



MRS. GEORGE COX

this land. He and his wife reared a family of eight children: Nancy, who became the wife of George Huffman, and who died in Indiana; Robert, who makes his home in Deep River; Mary Jane, the widow of William Cochran, a resident of Fort Collins, Colorado; Samuel, who lost his life by the explosion of a boiler in a sawmill in 1856; Christopher, a resident of Nebraska; Mrs. Sarah Ann Farmer, who departed this life in Kansas; Mrs. Margaret Wherry, a resident of Guernsey, Iowa; and George, whose name introduces this review. Both the parents have long since passed away, the father dying in 1862, and the mother in 1877. They were numbered among the worthy pioneers of this section of Poweshiek county. The old home in Deep River was situated on the old stage line between Iowa City and Grinnell and was the stopping place for travelers in 1857-61.

George Cox was reared in Ohio until he reached the age of fifteen years when, in 1854, he accompanied his parents on their removal to Poweshiek county. He here assisted his father in making a home on the frontier and in cultivating his land until the time of the latter's death, when he undertook the management of the farm for his mother, so continuing for four years. He then began farming on his own account, purchasing two hundred and forty acres of raw prairie, on a part of which the village of Deep River now stands. He added to his original holdings from time to time until he became the owner of four hundred and twenty acres, but he has sold off some of this and now has four hundred acres, on which he erected a fine modern home three years ago. In 1870, in connection with his brother-in-law, E. M. Funk, he engaged in general merchandising at the old town of Dresden but, in 1884, when the railroad was built through the village of Deep River, he moved his stock of goods to this place and has been interested in the enterprise from that time to the present. He is, however, now living practically retired, the business being managed by his son, C. N., the firm being known under the style of C. N. Cox & Company. In the years that have passed they have built up a splendid trade and this is one of the large and important concerns of this part of the county. In addition to this Mr. Cox also had various other interests for, in 1884, he also purchased an elevator at Brooklyn, which he moved to this place, and until 1900 conducted a grain, coal and lumber business. He also had considerable stock in the bank at Deep River. Mr. Cox, during the years of his active connection with business affairs, amassed a considerable amount of money, which he has invested in Louisiana lands, owning today fifteen hundred acres which he rents for the cultivation of rice. From this investment he derives a substantial income that enables him to spend the evening of his days in practical retirement, and he now merely gives supervision to his financial interests.

Mr. Cox was married in 1866 to Miss Catharine Funk, who was born in Ogle county, Illinois, in 1848, her natal day being October 27. She came with her parents, Michael and Adaline (Newcomer) Funk, to Deep River in July, 1854, and has lived here from that time to the present. The parents were both natives of Washington county, Maryland, the father born March 16, 1823, and the mother, February 15, 1824. They were reared and married in that state and in 1847 came north, establishing their home in Ogle county, Illinois. In 1854, as above stated, they came to Poweshiek county, and for many years the father

worked in the store with his son-in-law, Mr. Cox. In 1888 he went to Louisiana, where he engaged in the mercantile business and was also appointed postmaster at Roanoke. He eventually returned to Poweshiek county, however, and passed away here November 20, 1899, when he was seventy-six years of age. The mother, surviving him for only a few months, departed this life June 2, 1900, at the same age. Their family numbered six children, namely: Catharine, now Mrs. Cox; Henry, a practicing attorney of Rogers, Arkansas; Emanuel, an attorney of Rogers, Arkansas; George, who is a Congregational minister of Fort Worth, Texas; Martin, who died at the age of eighteen months; and Lee, a merchant of Iowa, Louisiana.

The union of Mr. and Mrs. Cox has been blessed with four children: C. N., a merchant of Deep River; Erwin, who died at the age of two years; Alma, the wife of Hon. George E. Grier, of Deep River; and Hattie, the wife of Walter Light, a resident of West Liberty.

Mr. Cox cast his first presidential vote for Abraham Lincoln in 1860 and has voted for every republican candidate for the presidency since that time. He has been called by his fellow townsmen to fill some township offices, but has never aspired to public position. He is a member of the Presbyterian church, in which he has served as a trustee for the past ten years. His fraternal relations are indicated by his membership in the Masonic order and in the Modern Woodmen of America. He has ever been alert—quick to note and improve opportunities for advancement—and coming to this section at an early day he exercised sound judgment in the investment of his capital, which has been thereby greatly increased and now leaves him in comfortable circumstances. He has not directed his attention to one line but has ventured into various fields, and in all these directions his efforts have been crowned with success—the success which may always with safety be predicted as the reward of steady, strong and well directed energy, and the results of his life work are being left as monuments to his activity.