



# Brandywine Crucible Newsletter

A Non-profit Heritage Society

A chronology of the colonial families who settled on Brandywine Creek...  
... and those who come after them.

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Spring/Summer 2025

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## 2025 Brandywine Annual Meeting and Cox Family Reunion

June 6 through 8, 2025

For details and the upcoming reunion schedule, see page 3.



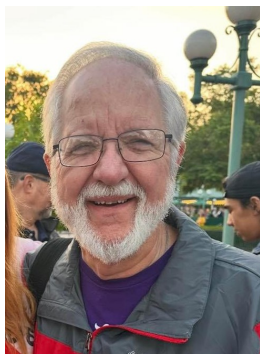
Connect online at

[Brandywine  
Crucible.org](http://BrandywineCrucible.org)



## Common Ground

Happenings near Long Meadows (pictured) and the surrounding Lampasas area history, page 4. *Photo of Long Meadows courtesy of Ryan Murray, Texas Cache Magazine.*



Steve Taylor,  
President and Chair

## President's Letter

By Steve Taylor

"What's the longest word I can make out of these seven letters: ITGEXDN?" Most nights that's the last thing my conscious mind is working on before sleep! That spelling game—along with Wordle, Quordle, and Connections—is part of my daily mental exercise regimen. I'm trying to use it, so I won't lose it, as they say.

Have you ever considered that doing genealogy—at least the kind of questioning,

investigative genealogy that many of us in Brandywine Crucible engage in—is another kind of mental exercise? I told someone once that being an amateur genealogist is something like being a "private detective!" Even the terms we find ourselves using sound like a B-movie gumshoe at work: finding clues, tracing leads, hitting dead ends or brick walls, getting your hands on that last piece of the puzzle that completes the whole picture! I almost feel like Columbo as all the pieces come together and I get that little thrill when my

*(Continued on page 2)*

# President's Letter (Continued)

(Continued from page 1)

glazed eyes focus on the microfilm screen and I realize that I'm looking at my great-grandfather's obituary for the first time. You can almost feel like Miss Marple when the library aide opens the dusty old book and shows you the century-old script that documents your grandmother's death record.

We're in the process of gearing up for the Cox Family Reunion in Lampasas, TX, just two months from now! It's June 6-8, 2025 this year (always the first full weekend in June), and I've come to think of the CFR as a meeting of fellow detectives, getting our heads together for a few days to "talk about the case"—to encour-

age each other, to share leads, to talk about what we've found, discuss the latest and greatest investigative tools. And maybe even argue (friendly like!) about what conclusions we've reached about our common ancestors.

At last year's CFR, we had an officially appointed committee of Cox Family detectives report on the question: who were the parents of our shared ancestor Solomon Cox (husband of Naomi Hussey Cox)? Speaking as one of the committee members, I can tell you that the tone of our Zoom calls and conversations was very "detective-like": "What evidence do we have? Do the various researchers/'witnesses' all say the same thing? If not, which ones do

we trust the most? What does the DNA tell us?" Our committee work didn't produce the "final answer" (like most detective shows on TV do), but we certainly came to understand the question and all the potential answers much, much better than before we started working.

Brandywine Crucible has been in the investigative and mental exercise business for years and years. Let's keep at it, fellow detectives!! See you in Lampasas in June!

Steve Taylor

President

## Upcoming Reunion Schedule

The following Cox reunions are currently scheduled for 2025. A complete list of known Cox reunions can be found anytime [on our website](#).

### 2025 Brandywine Annual Meeting and Cox Family Reunion

June 6-8, Lampasas, TX

We have reserved a block of rooms for Friday and Saturday nights (June 6 and 7) at a group rate of \$119 plus taxes per night.

Best Western Plus  
1504 South Key Avenue  
512-556-2001  
[gm@bwlampasas.com](mailto:gm@bwlampasas.com)

The group rate is guaranteed through May 23, 2025. State that you are with the Cox family reunion. Can cancel seven days prior to check-in. We hope to see you there!

### 2025 Cox Reunion, Descendants of Wm. Madison Tucker Cox & Fannie Lindsey Cox

June 21-22, San Antonio, TX  
(formerly in Fredericksburg, TX)

All family lines are welcome!  
Encino Park Community Center  
1923 Encino Rio  
San Antonio, TX  
78259

**New location!**

Contact Lisa Sullivan for more information.  
324 Meadowood Ln, Coppell, TX  
75019-2640  
210-275-5167  
[coxfamilyintexas@yahoo.com](mailto:coxfamilyintexas@yahoo.com)

### 2025 Cox Family Reunion, William Henry & Pernecia Sanderford Cox Family and Friends

July 25-27, Nolanville, TX

All family lines welcome.  
First United Methodist Church  
300 West Avenue I  
Nolanville, TX 76559

Friday visit 3-6 pm at the hotel. Saturday noon at NFUMC. Bring a covered dish and Cox history to share. Visit Pleasant Hill Cemetery. Sunday attend church together at 9 am.

Call hotel directly for reservations at Hampton Inn Harker Heights, 254-833-5523. Group Code: COX

Contact Zala Koym, 2202 Amberstone, Fredericksburg, TX 78764, 830-992-1432  
[ckoym@aol.com](mailto:ckoym@aol.com)



## Member Spotlight

### Joe B. Cox, Jr

Son of Joe B. Cox, Sr, Grandson of Francis Marion Cox, Great Grandson of Pleasant C. Cox

#### *How did you become interested in family history?*

I became interested primarily because of my father and my uncles Ernest Cox and John Thomas Cox, who tried for years when I was young to interest me in family history. Finally, probably in my late fifties or early sixties, I became interested. (Cousin Gary Sutton believes that in general someone becomes interested in family history in his or her fifties.) Then, shortly after I retired, coming back from the funeral of a cousin in Lampasas, and reflecting on family, its meaning and significance, I decided that my major retirement project ought to be establishing an annual Cox family reunion in Lampasas. Out of that decision came the founding of Brandywine Crucible, Inc., and its numerous projects.

#### *What have been your best sources for research?*

My best sources for my family history research have been discussions with and reading writings by my dad, Joe Cox, Sr., and his brother John T., and to a more limited extent his older brother William Ernest Cox. Of course, Cousin Arlee Gowen's "The Hussey Manuscript," based on both document research and extensive interviews with a wide range of family members, and the extensive research of cousins Les Sutton and Ada Stump have been invaluable. Other family researchers such as Betty Cox Wallace, Marie Polly, Marvalene "Missy" Cox Jones, and Gary Sutton, have been exceptionally helpful, providing very useful narratives of their respective branch's story.



Joe B. Cox, Jr., and the new generation of Cox cousins (his great grandchildren).

#### *What is your favorite thing Brandywine does?*

My favorite thing is Brandywine's dual emphasis on discovering, recording, and preserving family history and the wonderful fellowship we share at our annual meeting and reunion in Lampasas. It has been exceptionally rewarding to see cousins who knew one another but didn't know they were cousins discover their kinship—and become close friends over time. Brandywine has enhanced the concept of family in a meaningful way.

I also cherish my kinship and friendship with fellow Brandywine founders Arlee Gowen, Les Sutton, Bill Tarry, Ada Stump, Linda Atkins, and Betty Cox Wallace. I'm undoubtedly overlooking a few, but of those named, I knew only Bill Tarry (William Esteen Tarry), my first cousin, before Brandywine.

#### *What is your favorite family story?*

My favorite story concerns Pleasant Cox's son and my great uncle Bluford Cox, Uncle "Blu." Bluford has been described by one family member, probably accurately, as "just a dumb old boy who couldn't

stay out of trouble." Bluford shot and killed a man in the Lampasas area, allegedly for mocking Bluford's young nephew Willie Bybee, namesake of the earlier horse-hunter Will Bybee, because he stuttered. (The family story is that Willie stuttered because as an infant, he was left in a crib by a field while the family tended a crop, and a wild hog mangled one of his hands.) Bluford fled to Indian Territory, now Oklahoma. He was followed by county deputy sheriff George Doolittle, whom Bluford shot and killed. Bluford returned home to Lampasas County, and the story is that he was smuggled out of Central Texas to Arizona Territory under a wagon load of buffalo hides by his brother Jim Cox. This, of course, was to avoid trial. One family member recalled a letter thought to be from Blu referring to a prison in the Northwest. And Uncle Ernest spoke numerous times of hearing a man interviewed on a radio program in the late 1940s or early 1950s that led Ernest and his mother to believe that the speaker was Blu's son. Who knows? Various older family members recounted this story, and none ever knew for certain of a contact from Bluford once he left the Lampasas area.



# Lampasas History Happenings



Ryan Murray of [Texas Cache Magazine](#) recently published two articles on the history of the Lampasas area, including Long Meadows, where Thomas Isaac Cox first trapped horses and which was eventually homesteaded by Pleasant Cox.

The first article describes the ruins of an abandoned Spanish mission presidio complex and can be found in the Brandywine archives [here](#). The second depicts how the same ruins were used as a trap for wild horses captured for the American Revolution and can be found [here](#).

Ryan Murray lives near Lampasas and would be pleased to meet with anyone interested in the area's history. He can be contacted as follows.

Ryan Murray  
P.O. 324, Briggs, Texas 78608  
[texascachemag@gmail.com](mailto:texascachemag@gmail.com)  
Ph. 512-867-5070

Features of the Long Meadows horse trap, including the natural Arroyo Caballo horse trap (**above**) and a constructed stone fence (**below**). Photos courtesy of Ryan Murray with Texas Cache Magazine.





## Cox History in Spanish Colonial Texas

The early Cox Family history is featured in a book recently published with the title of "Spanish Colonial Times in the Lampasas Area." Author Peggy Smith Wolfe has been called an honorary Cox Family member and cherishes the association, even though no real kinship has been found.

Several years ago, Harold Harton, late historian of Lampasas, published a short article on Terreros activity in the Lucy Creek area of what is now Lampasas County. This article returned to Peggy's mind when she saw the remains of Spanish construction near the sacred springs near Lampasas as shown on the cover. She decided to learn more.

The Indian situation in place at the time of early European contact is discussed in this book, as well as the effects of the Spanish mission and mining activities; the early expeditions of the Cox family and its mustang drives. Also addressed are the early settlement and the Indian Trading Post at Long Meadows on Lucy Creek; and how the mining activities of Jim Bowie and others fit into the story.

Peggy studied both the Brandywine website and the Hussey Manuscript, along with a list of sources containing many books and articles pertaining to the subject and including such names as Weddle, Gilmore, Yarbrough, West's translation of Bonilla's history of 1772, Gowen, Dobie, Burton, Desmond, Cox, and over a hundred others. She is proud to be able to include manuscript and maps furnished by Joe Cox from the Cox family archives. Editor Ryan Murray of *Texas Cache* furnished information from his studies of the Cox family history.



**Top:** Peggy Wolfe and D. Hodges by Arroyo Caballo, near Lampasas. *Photo courtesy of Ryan Murray with Texas Cache Magazine.*

**Right:** The cover of Peggy Smith Wolfe's book, which is available on Ancestry, Barnes and Nobles, Lulu.com, and various places in Lampasas.

## Spanish Colonial Times in the Lampasas Area



Peggy Smith Wolfe



Visiting the Lampasas Terreros Presidio ruins during the 2021 Cox Reunion were (from left) Peggy Smith Wolfe, author; Marty Burnett; Bill O'Neal, former Texas State Historian; Pat and Chuck Parsons; Joe B. Cox, Jr; and Gary Sutton.

# DNA Project Report

By Margie Romine

We have not had any new yDNA testers in quite a while, so I thought it might be useful to review where we stand with the BigY testing. BigY testing reveals single nucleotide mutations in yDNA, genetic material which is found only in men. These mutations are then passed down through every subsequent generation of males in that line. When BigY tests from two males reveal the same mutation, the mutation is assigned a new haplotype and added to the tree of mankind. This data benefits research being done to understand the migration patterns of our ancient ancestors and relationships among modern day populations.

As members of the Cox clan, we benefit by learning how we are related to each other, especially when literature research alone is unable to

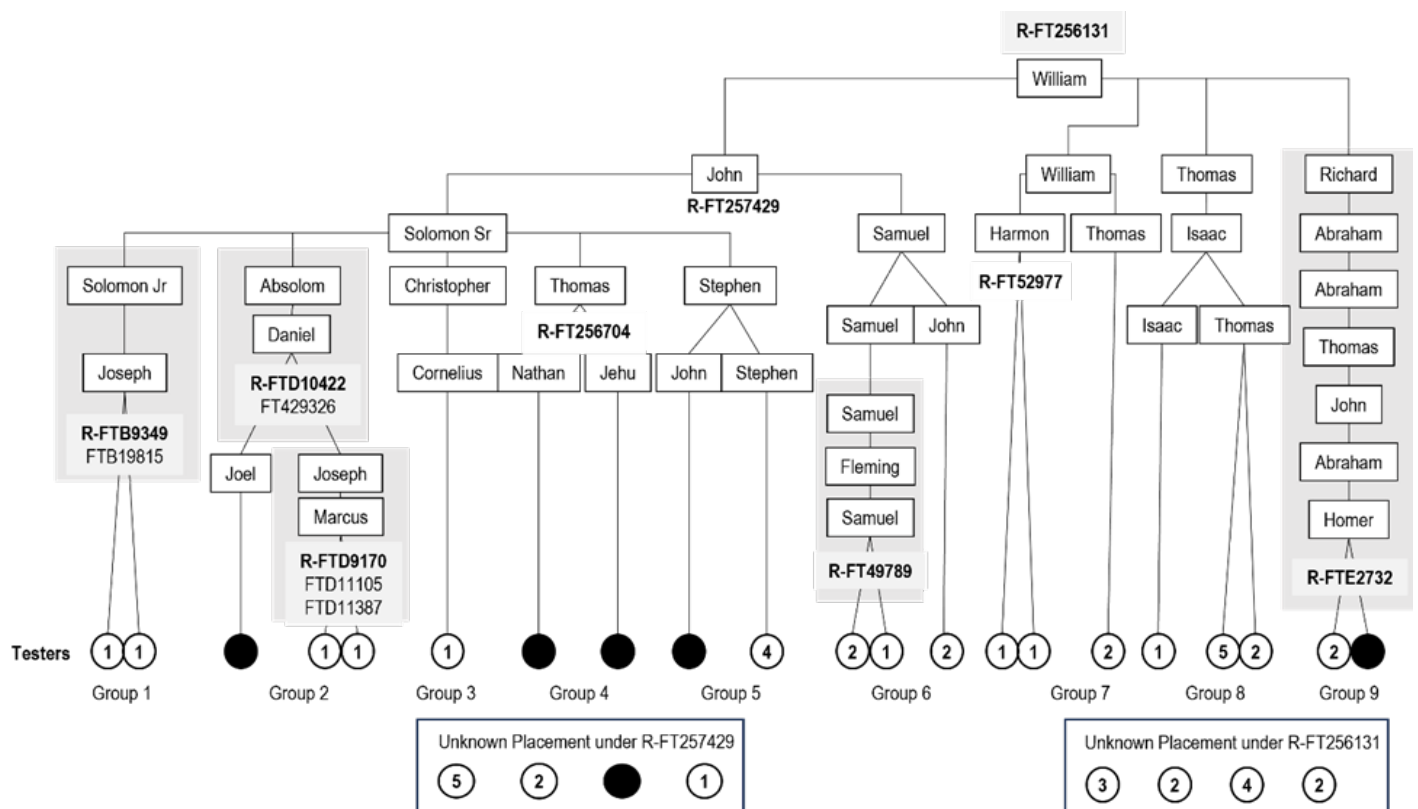
provide us with the information we need. Ideally, we hope to identify all haplotypes that have arisen in our early ancestors (a mutation does not arise in every ancestor) so that we can map as many male descendants as possible to an early Cox ancestor. At some point soon this effort will become impossible because no direct living male ancestor remains in these lines.

## Why yDNA?

Most of our DNA is a mix from each of our parents, but men have yDNA passed directly from their father. This makes yDNA a useful tool for studying a paternal line.

With the 29 men that have tested at the BigY level so far, we have been able to define nine new haplotypes (unique mutation shared by at least two men) and four public variants (a second or third mutation shared by two men). Three of these haplotypes (R-FT257429, R-FT256704, and R-FT52977) have been assigned to a specific ances-

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The Cox paternal line traced back to William Cox. Grey boxes indicate the narrowed ancestral sources of haplotypes and public variants listed there. An additional 47 mutations are unique to a single tester (numbers in circles at the bottom).



## DNA Project Report (Continued)

(Continued from page 6)

tor. The ancestral sources of the remaining haplotypes and public variants have been narrowed to a shorter list of ancestors (grey boxes). An additional 47 mutations are unique to a single tester (numbers in circles at the bottom of the diagram).

Because we have so few haplotypes to date, we are still unable to place eight of these testers in the Cox tree (in boxes at the bottom). The yDNA of four of these testers has R-FT257429 and thus are descendants of John Cox. Testers with unknown lines under R-FT256131 could descend from siblings of John Cox or even siblings or uncles of William Cox, the hypothetical ancestor at the top of our tree. I've been trying to use results from autosomal testing to identify their ancestors, but it has been quite challenging due to all the intermarriages between the lines and errors in tester trees.

My top priority is to match ancestors in grey boxes with a haplotype. Sorting haplotypes in grey boxes requires testing of descendants to siblings of currently tested ancestral lines. For example, in group one we need a tester that descends from a sibling of Solomon's son Joseph. I expect them to have either R-FTB9349 or FTB19815; whichever one they have would then be assigned to Solomon and then the other to Joseph. Furthermore, the public variant FTB19815 would be given a haplotype.

My second priority is to identify additional haplotypes belonging to the earliest ancestors. A second

### 23andme Bankruptcy



In March 2025, the DNA testing company 23andMe filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy, which has led to concerns about how the company will handle its customers' data.

Margie Romine recommends the following:

If you have tested with 23andMe, download your DNA test results and upload them at FamilyTreeDNA, GEDmatch, and MyHeritage. All these actions are free and allow you to continue to use your results to find ancestors. At FamilyTreeDNA and GEDmatch, you can join our Cox projects as well, which helps us do research on your Cox line. If you can download your tree as a gedcom file as well, you can upload those to GEDmatch and MyHeritage. Then you can export the tree from GEDmatch and transfer it to Family Tree DNA. Again, all of this is free of cost and enables you to save your work and test results.

tester in the lines of tester that has a unique mutation would be expected to yield a new haplotype. For example, in group 6 the tester of John's descendant has two unique mutations so another tester in that line has a good likelihood of assigning a haplotype to one of those mutations.

We still have funds to cover a few of the priority tests so please contact me if you are willing to take a BigY test and need help paying for your test. The next sales on the cost of testing at FamilyTreeDNA would likely be around Father's Day.

### Brandywine Membership

We ask for annual dues for all who wish to contribute to our programs and activities.

Dues may be \$15, \$100 or any amount that you feel called to contribute. There is no distinction whatever in the different dues, and if you choose not to pay dues, you will still receive our newsletter and reunion notices, have access to the website and our family history database, and be warmly welcomed at our annual meeting and reunion.

In short, you will be just like everyone else in the family.

Dues may be submitted [online](#) or by mail to our treasurer.

Joelen Sutton, Treasurer  
Brandywine Crucible, Inc.  
P.O. Box 897  
Melvin, TX 76858-0897

## Celebrations

### Congratulations, Graduates!



Benjamin Trigg Fitzgerald is graduating from Highland Park High School in Dallas, TX. He will attend Oklahoma University in the fall.

Benjamin is the grandson of John Y. and Susan Cox.



Brady Ouellette, granddaughter of Sadie Cox Kilmer, will graduate from high school this May.



Tori Porubsky, daughter of David and Catherine Cox Porubsky, granddaughter of Billy and Marilyn Greger Cox, great granddaughter of Jimmie C. and Catherine Parmer Cox, and great great granddaughter of James C. and Ellen J. Murphy Cox has graduated from Texas A&M with a degree of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine on May 7, 2025.

Tori is from Temple but plans to practice in Ava, Missouri.

## Birth Announcements



### Oliver Scott Sanabria: August 30, 2024

Oliver Scott Sanabria was born on August 30, 2024 to Pablo and Alyssa (Cox) Sanabria of Abilene, TX.

His grandparents are Scott and Jane Anne Cox, and his great grandparents are Joe and Helen Cox.



## In Remembrance

### Wesley Edwin Smith, Sr: September 18, 1959 – November 16, 2024

LINEAGE: Wesley Edwin Smith, Sr > Bobbie Lon Cox Smith > Robert Schuler Cox, Sr. > Christopher Columbus "Alonzo" Cox > Samuel Hampton Cox & Nica Jane Cox (Joseph Cox > Solomon Cox, Jr > Solomon Cox & Naomi Hussey) > Fleming Trig Cox > Samuel Cox, Jr > Samuel Cox > John Cox, Jr & Mary Harlan

Wesley Edwin Smith was born to Lawrence Hugh Smith and Bobbie Lon Cox Smith on September 18, 1959. Wesley attended San Benito High School. After high school, Wesley married Virginia Wirnick. They had two children—Burnadette and Tabitha Lon. Wesley and Virginia divorced. Wesley joined the military. Wesley served six years in the military including deployment to Korea. Wesley married Donna Pinkerton. Their marriage gave them three children—Wesley Edwin Smith II, Ashley Smith and Cody Smith. Wesley worked as a truck driver for many years. Wesley and family resided in Willis, Texas for the greater majority of his life. Wesley was given his angel wings on 16 November, 2024. Wesley has 16 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren.



### John Edgar Cox: February 5, 1944 – February 16, 2025

LINEAGE: John Edgar Cox > Henry Edgar Cox > Stephen Melvin Cox > Pleasant Isaiah Cox > John Cox > Daniel Cox > Absalom Cox > Solomon Cox and Naomi Hussey

John Edgar Cox died peacefully of natural causes in his home in Evansville, IN on February 16, 2025. He was born to Henry Edgar "Ed" Cox and Mary Magdalene Price on February 5, 1944, in Indianapolis. He lived in Indiana virtually all of his life, although his work as a master carpenter took him to other parts of the country for temporary work assignments. As the accompanying picture attests, John was often mistaken in public for "Uncle Si," of Duck Dynasty fame; he was frequently asked for a picture, even after explaining that he was not "the guy." John is survived by two step-daughters, one daughter, Melissa Ann Cox Rojas of Indianapolis, and by nine first cousins. John's DNA was added to the Cox Family Project a few years ago, as a direct descendant of our line.

## In Remembrance (*Continued*)

### Vada Francis Sutton: June 23, 1934 – February 28, 2025

LINEAGE: Vada Sutton is a cousin of Les and Gary Sutton.



Vada Francis Sutton, a dedicated public servant, a beloved sister and aunt, and a cherished member of the Bell County

community, passed away peacefully on February 28, 2025, at the age of 90. Born on June 23, 1934 in Cedar Knob, Texas to Nallie and Cora Mae Sutton, she lived a life marked by unwavering commitment and deep connection to those around her.

For an extraordinary 52 years Vada served the residents of Bell County in many different positions of county government. She started her career in the Bell County District Attorney's office, she was a court reporter, the administrative assistant to many County Judges until being elected by a record setting 98% of the vote to the office of Bell County Clerk. Generations of Bell County residents knew her as the constant reliable presence, source of knowledge, and beacon of helpfulness. She had a way of making you feel that you had her undivided attention to help with your problems no matter who you were. She was honest, fair, and just and believed the law was the same for everyone.

Vada was a graduate of Salado High School and an alumnus of Mary Hardin-Baylor College. While attending Salado High School she was a member of the state winning basketball team. Outside of her office, Vada had many accomplishments. She helped found the Bell County Historical Society where she served many years on the board of directors. She was a 50+ year member of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Daughters of the Republic of Texas. She served on local state and national committees for both organizations. She served on the Bell County Bail Bond Board. She was a lifelong Democrat and the last elected Democrat official in Bell County. When interviewed and asked when she was going to switch parties like all the other Bell County officials, she replied when hell freezes over. Vada was a lifelong member of the Belton Church of Christ. Her accomplishments are too many to list. She will be sorely missed by her family and friends.

She is survived by her sister, Zelda Sutton Allen, and her niece and constant companion, Amanda Allen, both from Belton, Texas; two nephews, Beauford Lackey Jr., and Lee Lackey Sr., both from Pendleton, Texas; many great nieces and nephews; great great nieces and nephews; and many, many friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Nallie and Cora Mae Sutton of Belton, Texas, and sister, Edna Arlee Sutton Lackey of Pendleton, Texas.

Vada was truly one of kind and cannot be replaced. Like the bumper sticker said, "I don't know ask Vada."

Visitation was Friday, March 14, 2025, from 6 to 8 pm at Harper-Talasek Funeral Home in Belton, Texas. Funeral services were held Saturday, March 15, 2025, at 10 am at Belton Church of Christ, followed by graveside services at the Pleasant Hill Cemetery in Nolanville, Texas.

Other remembrances for Vada Sutton published in the Temple Daily Telegram included a remembrance and two letters to the editor from Becky Ann Garth and former Bell County Judge Jon Burrows. These articles can be found on our archives [here](#).



## In Remembrance (*Continued*)

Dorothy N. Jackson Elder of El Paso, TX shared this photo of the beautiful new tombstone on the grave of her grandmother Ruth Cox Pehl, daughter of Joshua Hugh Cox.

Dorothy writes:

“Some years ago, my sister and I went to see our grandmother’s grave and we knew she had no tombstone. When she passed, my mother and her remaining family could not afford a tombstone. My sister and I bought one and had it installed. We also got her into the Daughters of the Republic of Texas. We now have a medallion which we will glue on her tombstone in May.”



### Essay Contest

To discover and document more family stories and create more interest in family history among younger generations, Brandywine sponsors an essay contest for young family historians!

Submission instructions are available online at <https://www.brandywinecrucible.org/essay-contest.html>.

The deadline for next year’s entry is May 1, 2026.

Please direct inquiries and submissions to:

Joe Cox  
800 Franklin Drive  
San Marcos, TX 78666  
[jandhcox55@gmail.com](mailto:jandhcox55@gmail.com)  
512-392-2097

### *Do you have a family story?*

We would love to hear from you! Please share stories, journals, photos, and more as follows.

Family History Database: Steve Taylor, [staylor72348@aol.com](mailto:staylor72348@aol.com)

Newsletter: Katelyn Le, [kwernerle@gmail.com](mailto:kwernerle@gmail.com)

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# Leadership Directory

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Gary Sutton, Archives and Publications Committee  
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## Leadership Directory (Continued)

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Children of Solomon Cox, Sr. and Naomi Hussey

### Thomas Isaac Line

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[digfor9@att.net](mailto:digfor9@att.net), 405-745-5054

### Martha and Solomon, Jr., Line

Melinda Lambaren

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[melrlamb@att.net](mailto:melrlamb@att.net), 209-477-3209

### Christopher Line

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7615 Creek Glen Drive

Houston, TX 77095

[c.tovar@sbcglobal.net](mailto:c.tovar@sbcglobal.net), 713-899-3276

### Stephen, Naomi (Amy), Mary, Ann, Ruth, Ab-salom Lines

Ladean Bowman

12206 Natchez Park Lane

Humble, TX 77346

[turtleladyladean@gmail.com](mailto:turtleladyladean@gmail.com), 281-852-7878

For more information on the various family lines of Solomon Cox, Sr. and Naomi Hussey, please contact one of the family line liaisons listed above.

Additional information can be found on the Brandywine Cox Family Tree Database at: Brandywine Cox Family, Descendants of Solomon Cox & Naomi Hussey

<https://lessutton.tribalpages.com>



# Brandywine Crucible Newsletter

A Non-profit Heritage Society

A chronology of the colonial families who settled on Brandywine Creek...  
and those who come after them.

Volume 21, Issue I

Spring/Summer 2025

**FROM: BRANDYWINE CRUCIBLE, INC.**

800 Franklin Drive  
San Marcos, Texas 78666

TO:

## 2025 Brandywine Annual Meeting and Cox Family Reunion

WHEN: June 6-8, 2025

WHERE: Tyson's Corners Retreat Center, Lampasas, TX

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Submissions to the Brandywine Crucible Newsletter can be made to Katelyn Le at [kwernerle@gmail.com](mailto:kwernerle@gmail.com).

For questions regarding newsletter subscriptions, please contact Lisa Sullivan at [coxfamilyintexas@yahoo.com](mailto:coxfamilyintexas@yahoo.com).