

MATTHEW COX

Matthew Cox was born about 1732 and was a Revolutionary War Soldier from the State of Virginia. He was at the Battle of Great Meadows in Pennsylvania, and he received a land grant from Virginia for his service. Matthew had previously served under General George Washington in Captain Peter Hogg's Company of Virginia during the French and Indian War in 1754.

In North Carolina, Matthew married Nancy Ann Smith, a daughter of Alexander Smith, also a Revolutionary War soldier, who died before 1784. Nancy Ann Smith Cox received land grant #1352 for 640 acres of land in Sumner County, Tennessee for her deceased Father's service. The land was later sold in 1785.

Matthew and Ann came to what would become Greene County, Tennessee by 1783. The Cox were highly respected and prosperous citizens of early Greene County. They farmed 900 acres of land on Roaring Fork in Civil District 12. Matthew was a Justice of the Peace, appointed by Governor John Sevier. Matthew and Nancy Ann had seven children.

Matthew's Will was probated on 2-23-1807. The administrators of his Estate were Daniel Carter, William Cox a son of Matthew Cox, and James Gooden (Goodin), a son-in-law of Matthew Cox. Matthew's widow, Nancy Ann Smith Cox, died in 1831.

Matthew and Nancy Ann are believed to be buried in Old Kidwell cemetery near their farm. A land deed in 1810 indicates the Cox and Kidwell families had adjacent farms, and as of that date, the Kidwell Meeting House (and Cemetery) already existed. Matthew Cox, a Revolutionary War soldier, may have been among the first persons interred in this old, historic Cemetery located near today's Baileyton Road.

After the Kidwell Meeting House burned, the successor church became Hardin's Chapel. The Cemetery became unused and fell into a state of neglect. A restoration and clean-up by the Men's Bible Class at Hardin's Chapel Church was led by Matthew's descendant, Mr. T. Elmer Cox, in the 1980's. T. Elmer Cox relished Greene County history, and became the first appointed Greene County Historian.

WILL OF MATTHEW COX

[TRANSCRIPTION BY W.P.A. FROM THE GREENE COUNTY COURT RECORDS]
TUESDAY, 28TH APRIL 1807

The last Will and Testament of Matthew Cox Deceased, was produced to Court for probate, whereupon came Isaac Armitage and John Ross two of the subscribing and concurring evidences thereto, and made oath, that they each saw the said Matthew Cox Sign, Seal, publish and declare the same to be his last Will and Testament, and he was at the time of signing and publishing the same, of sound and perfect mind and memory to the best of their knowledge &c whereupon it was Ordered, that the Same should be recorded, and is as follows towit "In the name of God amen, I being of parfect mind and sound of memry tho afflicted in body I made this my last Will and Testament &c that this my last Will shall revoke all Will or Wills that hath been maid by me heretofore, and that this to be my last Will and Testement &c after I resighn my Soul to God who give it & my body to a decent

burel by my Executors then after all my just Debts is paid, I will unto each one of my Dere & loving children, to be paid by my Executors out of my estat as they shall come of age One horse Sadle & Bridle, to be valued to One hundred Dollars, One feather Bed & Furniture, my Daughter Leah & my Son Eliakam & my Daughter Ann, then I will & bequith to my beloved Wife Ann, the remainder of all my property that God hath given me boath rail and persenel for her support so long as she remains my widow, then to be put to sail by my Executors & then the money equely divided to my loveing children Only my Son Wm hath receved eighteen pound Seven Shillings more than the others hairs, which to be paid when the money is divided & Lemuels colte is to be fed at the expence of the estate till fall insuing this date these are the names of the Legetees, Wm Lamuel, Eliakim my sons, Jene, Leah, Mehalah Ann my Daughters. I Do hereby appoint Danel Carter, William Cox & James Gooden as my Executors to execute this my Will, I do hereby acknoledg this to be my last Will & Testament, whereunto I set my hand & fix my Seal this 23 day of Febery 1807.

Matthew Cox Seal

Isaac Armitage - John R. Ross "his mark" - William Jones

Whereupon came Daniel Carter, William Cox and James Goodin, named in the said Will and having taken A Oath well and truly to execute the Same, It is thereupon Ordered, that Letters testamentary issue to them accordingly.



"Founded c. 1800"