

INDEX CARDS

Greer County
Mountain Home
School Teacher

BIOGRAPHY FORM
 WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
 Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

Field Worker's name Ethel B. Tackitt
 is report made on (date) April 16, 1937

Name Mrs. Parolee Cox

Post Office Address Granite Oklahoma (City)

Residence address (or location) In the town (no street number).

DATE OF BIRTH: Month December Day 23 Year 1868

Place of birth McClain County, Kentucky.

Name of Father W. H. Shelton Place of birth not given

Other information about father W. H. Shelton Born 1841

Name of Mother Mary Jane Wright Place of birth Kentucky

Other information about mother Born Oct. 6th, 1845

Reared twelve children.

Notes or complete narrative by the field worker dealing with the life and
 story of the person interviewed. Refer to Manual for suggested subjects
 and questions. Continue on blank sheets if necessary and attach firmly to
 this form. Number of sheets attached 4.

RECORD OF A WELL KNOWN OKLAHOMA
EDUCATOR OF PIONEER DAYS.

My husband, Professor K. C. Cox, was born December 4, 1859, and was educated at Lebanon, Tennessee. He taught at Cape Girardeau and other points before we came to Oklahoma which was in the year 1893. At that time the schools were unorganized and very little equipment was to be had. Two years following our coming Mr. Cox taught school at Willow Vale, south of Mangum. In 1895 we moved to Granite, which was then called Mountain Home. That year he taught the school which was only a four months term and his salary was forty dollars per month. At the end of the term he continued with a subscription school for four months longer, making altogether an eight months term, and his salary the last four months amounted to \$80.00.

In 1896 he was elected County Superintendent of Greer County. At that time the county was undivided. We then moved to the county seat, which was Mangum, and remained there until 1899. In the summer of 1896, Mr. Cox, together with Professor Jones, Mr. Horace Simpson, O. P. Elliott and other persons over the country who were interested in education, arranged for the first summer normal school ever conducted in Mangum. During

the time we lived in Mangum, Mr. Cox was very much interested in church work of all kinds, as well as educational work. He, assisted by Mr. Ashley Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Gilliland, who are now living in Oklahoma City, together with many other pioneer families, raised money and built the first Methodist Church to be erected in Mangum. This was in 1899. This church was later moved to North Mangum to make room for the beautiful brick church which now stands in Mangum.

In 1900 when the Rock Island Railroad was coming through Greer County we moved back and a patent was issued by the Government to us for the land which Mr. Cox cut up into town lots and which became the Granite Townsite. He gave lots on which to build churches to the Methodist, Baptist, Christian and Presbyterian Churches.

He organized a stock company with J. N. Olds, Mr. Tuttle, W. F. Collins, S. H. Tittle, John Trotter, George Briggs and many others whose names I do not recall, and they built the first high school in Greer County. This was before either Mangum or Altus had a high school, and the lumber was hauled from Quanah, Texas.

In 1910, he, with others, made great effort to bring the Southwestern Teacher's College to Granite and were so positive of their success that ^asite was located and five thousand dollars in bonds were voted by the city of Granite with which to beautify the grounds. But the Governor was changed and the S.W.T.C. went to Weatherford, Oklahoma. The bonds were never sold. They were sent to me from the Capitol two years ago; for what reason I do not know; but I will turn them over to the Indian-Pioneer History Project if they so desire, and will give me a proper receipt. I think this best, so that I can show where they were placed, in case I should be asked.

Mr. Cox served as representative from Greer County in 1910, and we moved to Oklahoma City. I spent all of my time attending the sessions of the House and Senate. I never enjoyed anything in my life so much. After his term of office expired he returned to Granite and was manager of the Granite Rock Quarry, which was a stock company. He was also interested in the State Guarantee Bank of Granite.

He passed away on November 24, 1924.