

## ELIAS HENDERSON COX

Elias Henderson Cox, born 19 Dec 1856, Union, Salt Lake County, Utah. Son of Elias and Martha Richards Cox. His mother died when he was 5 years old. His father took him to live with his grandparents, the Silas Richards family. Later he was taken to live with his other grandparents, Jehu and Sarah Cox, while his father went to St. George with Silas Richards to build a house for him as he had been called by the church to take his family and help settle the Dixie country.

Elias H. stayed with his grandpa Jehu until he was 15 or 16 years old. During that time, he was with his cousin Henderson and some other boys when the Indians drove off the sheep and he ran with them to give the news. His grandpa soon organized a posse and found the Indians. (which story Jehu tells about.) Elias H. was also one of the young men who stood guard during the Balck Hawk War.

When he was about 17 years old, he and his father worked on the railroad (as told by his father, Elias.) After the railroad was finished, they returned to Thistle Valley, where his father had some property and set about farming. Each summer the Indians came and camped, while they hunted, raised Indian corn and some other things which Indians lived on. There was plenty of natural grass for their horses and other cattle.

In the Spring of 1877, while his father, uncle and cousin were on their exploring trip, Elias H. was put in charge of the farms in Thistle while they were gone. When they returned in August and announced they'd found the perfect place to build a new community, in Castle Valley, they began preparing at once, to go there.

They arrived on the Huntington River, 15 Oct 1877 dug dugouts in the cutbanks to live in that winter, dug the North Ditch to bring water to the farms. Elias H. did the cooking for himself and father, also the housekeeping until his father married his second wife, Mary Elvira Sherman.

There was another group of settlers who arrived in November and decided to take out a ditch below the camp. They hired Elias H. to survey the route for them, as he had already put to work his knowledge learned at his railroad job by surveying the route of the North Ditch for his father's group.

The next summer Elias Henderson remained on the river, while his father went to Salt Lake City and purchased provisions for a store he had in one of the dugouts, also supplies for the community and a sawmill. When he arrived home, Elias H. helped his father set up the sawmill and began sawing lumber to shore up their dugouts until they were able to build homes. While his father was in Salt Lake City he got a plat of that city to see how it was laid out and use that information in laying out the Huntington townsite.

When the store was set up, his father left the store in the hands of his sister Martha Fenn and Elias H., while he returned to work at the sawmill.

Elias H. and his father, with the plat to go by, did a preliminary survey. However, the townspeople couldn't understand their markings, so Elias had a government surveyor come lay

$\frac{1}{2}$  of the Southwest  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the Southeast  $\frac{1}{4}$  of section 24, and the North  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the Northeast  $\frac{1}{4}$  of section 25, Township 17 South, Range 8 East.

Signed; Elias H. Cox, County Surveyor  
19 April 1884

This certification was later signed by Orange Seeley, Probate Judge for Emery County. About 1 year later it was recorded in the county records, in the recorders office, at the courthouse in Castle Dale, Utah, by Carl Wilberg, County Recorder.

On October 3, 1891, Huntington as a town was incorporated. It was almost 13 years to the day, since the first families arrived on the river. The population had grown by this time to about 800 people.

Don C. Robbins was elected "President of the Town Board" and Elias Cox Sr., was elected to serve on the town Board of Directors.

The Huntington ward was reorganized 14 Nov 1891, when Bishop Charles Pulsipher was released, and Peter Johnson was bishop in his stead, with Andrew J. Allen and James W. Nixon as his counselors. Elias H. was sustained to serve again as ward clerk.

This reorganization was directed by Apostle Francis M. Lyman. The former bishop, Charles Pulsipher was ordained a Patriarch.

When the new brick meeting house was being constructed, again it was the responsibility of Elias H. to keep records of the cost of construction etc. William J. Green made the adobe and burned them into bricks, at his brickyard on the river. A good many loads of brick was hauled by Elias to the construction site. The sandstone foundation rocks were quarried from a ledge in the hills west of town. Elias H. helped haul these and assisted in cutting the rocks to size.

On 6 April 1902, his wife Ellen Viola died and was buried in the Huntington Cemetery.

In 1902, the ward was reorganized again. This time James William Nixon was named bishop, Silas Young and Peter Neilson as counselors, with Elias H. as ward clerk.

Aside from farming and his church work, Elias H. sometimes would do some freight hauling from Price to Huntington, but he was never far away and never allowed anything to interfere in his church duties.

In 1910, Bishop Nixon and his counselors were released. Antone Neilson was made bishop, Don C. Woodward and Ulysses W. Grange as counselors. Elias was again ward clerk, but due to his failing health, he was soon released and James P. Johnson was named ward clerk.

In 1912 he became very ill and on 21 Nov 1912, he passed away, age 56 years old. He was buried beside his wife in the Huntington Cemetery.

Children of Elias Henderson and Ellen Viola Sherman Cox; Martha Ellen b. 7 May 1883 m. William John Marshall; Lyman Henderson b. 10 June 1884 m. Hannah M. Jones; Angus Elias b. 16 Feb 1886 m. Louisa Clement; Mary Alice b. 26 Nov 1887 (b. deaf and dumb learned to read, write and talk sign language) m. Harvey Morris (also deaf and dumb) div. after 2 years marriage; Geneva Viola b. 19 May 1889 m. Andrew L. Allen Jr.; Silas Elmer b. 19

of the town councilmen.

About this time the "Huntington Co-op Merchantile Association," was organized and Elias sold his store to Abe Hammond and Bill Floyd and invested his money in shares in the Co-op.

All this time, Elias operated his sawmill, but in 1884, Bishop Pulsipher bought in with him and they moved the mill farther up the canyon, near the "Forks."

After he sold his store, he moved to his farm, adjoining the townsite on the west and built a large sawed log house, in which he lived for the rest of his life. However, he went on operating his sawmill for many years, furnishing lumber for the community and employment for some of its citizens. When the flour mill was being built, he and Bishop Pulsipher moved the mill to town and set it up behind the flour mill. They sawed lumber for it. The logs were hauled to town from the canyon on wagons. In this way Elias and Bishop Pulsipher created employment for the people of the town.

Elias served on the Emery Stake Board of Education for many years.

Elias, now getting old, was obliged to slow down, so he spent the rest of his life working on his farm.

People who knew him, said; "Elias can say more in six words than most men can say in six hours." They claimed that he used the best judgement of anyone they ever knew. He was a fearless leader and possessed great understanding, using wisdom in the smallest details. He could handle his family affairs, so each one would realize their own faults and thus compromise without hard feelings.

Elias died 8 May 1917, age 82 years, buried in the Huntington Cemetery.

After his death, his wife Elvira sold the home and farm and bought a new brick home from Monte Mangum, across the street and east of the Public Square. Here she lived the rest of her life. She died just two days short of her 82nd birthday, July 4th 1937.

Child of Elias and Martha Richards Cox; Elias Henderson b. 19 Dec 1856, d. 12 Nov 1912 m. 22 May 1881 Ellen V. Sherman.

Children of Elias and Mary Elvira Sherman Gillespie Cox; Albey

Elias b. 10 Aug 1881, d. 28 Nov ? m. Edith E. Hardee; Jehu b.

9 Feb 1883 d. 9 Aug 1949; William E. b. 5 Sept 1884 d. 19 June

1969 m. Margaret Black; Marion Royal b. 12 Oct 1886 d. 20 Mar

1962; Sarah H. b 12 March 1888 m. Alvin Black; Orlo b. 26 Mar

1890 d. 14 Jan 1919 m. Mary Emily Lemmon; Margaret B. b. 17 Nov

1892 m. Justin Black; George Francis b. 9 Jan 1895 m. Jessie E.

Fox; Grace C. b. 25 Aug 1897 m. Peter Christensen; Thomas F. b.

9 June 1900 m. Anna Anderson.

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location and set it up. This was done in the fall of 1878, and in the Spring of 1879, the mill began to operate, with plenty of power to drive it.

The Spring of 1879, after the snows had melted, Elias turned the management of the sawmill over to Charles, while he and his son, Elias Jr., went to Salt Lake City, to get merchandise to start a small store. They were accompanied by his brother Jehu, as far as Thistle. Jehu had become discouraged with the country and was returning to Fairview with his family.

Elias arrived back on the river in June and set up his little store in a dugout, near where he lived. Then returned to the canyon to work at the sawmill. He left the store in charge of his sister, Martha Fenn with Elias Jr., helping, while he was away.

Back in the early part of 1878, Orange Seeley had been appointed Bishop of all Castle Valley. He came to the dugouts and organized a branch of the church, known as the Huntington Branch of the Sanpete Stake of Zion. Elias was made the branch President, Anthony Humble 1st Counselor, William Avery 2nd Counselor and Elam McBride branch clerk.

There had been talk of laying out a townsite, so when Elias was in Salt Lake City for merchandise, he visited the city hall and obtained a copy of the plat, which was used in laying out Salt Lake City, and brought it back with him. He also requested a government surveyor to come to Huntington, to search out the section corners and identify them. The area had already been surveyed and corner stones placed, but the markings on them were not understood by the settlers. This request was granted and a deputy surveyor from the "A. D. Ferron Survey Camp," which was in the south end of Castle Valley, was sent for this purpose. The surveyor was Henry Fitzhugh.

After he had found and identified the section and quarter section corners and put their location on paper, he went back and joined his surveying party.

Many more settlers came to the Huntington River that summer and fall. By now there were enough people in the area, to warrant organizing a ward.

President Canute Peterson, of the Sanpete Stake, on 7 Oct 1879, along with some other church authorities, including Orange Seeley, came to the Huntington dugout community and organized the branch into a ward, with Elias Cox as Bishop and a newcomer to the area, Hyrum Oscar Crandall 1st Counselor, William H. Avery 2nd Counselor and Elias H. Cox as ward clerk. Elias' nephew Benjamin Jones, was selected as the ward chorister.

In the Spring of 1880, Emery County was organized and Elias was elected one of the County Selectmen. Just prior to this, he had been appointed Probate Judge for the valley. It is interesting to read the minutes of those early meetings. They always begin; The meeting came to order, with Judge Elias Cox in the chair. The other two county selectmen were; Justus Wellington Seeley from Castle Dale and Charles S. Hollingshead from Huntington. The county clerks name was Mr. Peterson. Elias served in this capacity for many years.

Under their direction, the townsite was laid out and completed by December 1880, and drawings were held for the lots. Each

to shovel a roadway into the bottom and another to get out on the southwest side. This took quite awhile. The road came out near the west end of another string of hills. After rounding the point of these hills, they continued on southwest across another gravelly flat, until they reached Cedar Creek, which had good water flowing down its channel. Here, they watered their animals and refreshed themselves before crossing the stream. After crossing the creek, they continued southwest until they rounded the west point of another string of hills, turned south to the Huntington River, about a half mile away.

When they reached the Huntington River, there were some high cutbanks, caused by the river many years ago. The river had changed its course and the old river bottom was a luscious grass covered meadow. They camped for the night and next morning they held counsel and decided this was the best place for them to spend the winter. They each found a spot where they could dig a dugout in the cutbank for temporary shelter. They unloaded the wagons and next morning they started back to pick up the goods they'd left near Miller Creek. Being empty, the wagons made good time going back. They got there in the early afternoon, ate dinner, loaded their belongings into the wagons, ate supper, camped for the night and retraced their route to the Huntington River, arriving the next day. On the next day, they began to dig their dugouts. It was now October 15, 1877.

When the dugouts were completed, Elias and the others, who had been with him on the exploring trip, began checking into the possibilities of establishing farms along the river. So he led them upriver to a place where it made a big bend to the south and west and swinging slightly back to the north. It was a large area which could be leveled easily and made ready for planting. The men drew straws to see which piece of land each should claim. Heber Jones drew the land nearest the McHadden property and Benjamin Jones drew the land adjoining it on the east. Jehu Cox drew the land adjoining Benjamin on the east where the river bottom was narrower. Henderson Cox was next and Elam Cheney the next. Elias and his brother-in-law Frederick Fenn took up land near the dugouts.

Under the leadership of Elias, they began digging a ditch to bring water from the river to irrigate the land. Here the surveying experience gained while he and his son were working on the railroad came in handy, for they were able to use the surveying instrument they had brought along with them, to survey the ditch route.

They had just started to dig the ditch, when another company of settlers, under the leadership of William H. Avery, arrived and began to dig their dugouts along side of theirs.

Those arriving were; William H. Avery and his wife Eliza; Elam McBride and his wife Rilda and her young daughter, just a child; Anthony Humble and his wife Olive; Charles Hollingshead (a married man, but without his wife and family,) David and Thomas Cheney (bachelors.)

After their camp was established, they looked around for farm land. They went across the river to the south and found a big flat, covered with prickly pear and decided to make their farms on the east end of this flat. There was a low place, in the hill

themselves as to the best route to follow on their return, with their teams and wagons (and other people,) they decided to go back through White River Canyon, to see if it was possible to get through it with wagons. They found this canyon very narrow and filled with large boulders along the river bed, making it impossible to bring wagons through.

When they arrived at the west end of Soldier Park, they decided to do some further exploring, so they followed the left fork of the White River (now the Price River) to see where it came from and see if it could be made passable. They soon found themselves in another mountain top valley, which later became known as "Pleasant Valley." (The Scofield Reservoir now covers this valley.) From here, they followed the main stream, which came through a canyon on the west side of this valley and again on another mountain top valley, which was already known to them as "Gooseberry Basin." It had a road leading into it through Fairview Canyon (Cottonwood) and from Fairview a road had been constructed to take the sawmills to the mountains and to haul the lumber back down which was produced by the sawmills.

They followed this road to Fairview, and home. After Elias gave his report to the church authorities, he was called to lead a party of settlers to the Huntington River, in Castle Valley. The following men and their families were called to go with him; His brother, Jehu Cox Jr., and his second wife Edith and their 7 children; his nephews, Heber Kimball Jones and Benjamin Jones, their wives and families; His sister and brother-in-law Frederick Fenn and their 4 children; Elam Cheney (he was married, but didn't take his wife at this time.) Elias' son Elias H., and Jehu's son by his other wife, named Henderson. Jefferson Tidwell was also called, but declined to go at this time.

After the wild hay was put up and the grain harvested, these people began making preparations for their move to the Huntington River. They loaded their wagons with food, seeds, camping equipment and their crude farming tools. The wagons had canvas covers to protect them from the weather. Elias, his son Elias Jr., and Elam Cheney each had an ox team, while Jehu, Benjamin, Heber and Frederick Fenn had teams of horses. Making 7 teams and wagons in the company. Henderson Cox was the herd boy, going along to drive the cows and other livestock.

About the last of September 1877, they were ready to go. The first day they went to Elias's farm in Thistle Valley, camping there that night. The next day they traveled down Indian Creek, to Spanish Fork Canyon and turned up Soldier Fork, they followed Soldier road, but it was difficult to travel, because the soldiers had only made the road good enough for them to get over. They camped a short distance above Thistle Junction, the second night. Then trudged up the canyon for about 10 miles and camped again, the 3rd night.

Five days out of Fairview, they reached Soldier Summit and in 10 days reached the head of Soldier Canyon.

The next day, as they were going down Soldier Canyon, there was nearly a catastrophe. Heber Jones was walking beside his wagon, driving his team, while his wife Rosannah and the children were in the wagon. Their daughter Emily was standing in the

When Johnson's Army was on its way to the Salt Lake Valley, Elias and his younger brothers volunteered to go with the men in holding the army back from entering the valley as long as possible. (Johnson's Army was finally allowed to pass through to Camp Floyd, without incident.)

Martha gave birth to a baby boy 19 Dec 1856, they named him Elias Henderson. Martha was never well and on the 6th of May 1861, she became so ill, Elias hitched the team to the buggy, helped her in and started for the doctors in Salt Lake City, 16 miles away. They hadn't gone far when Martha slumped over and passed away. Elias took her home. Her parents were called and she was laid out in preparation for her funeral and burial. This was a very sad time for Elias and his 5 year old son.

Elias left his son with the boys grandparents (the Richards family) for awhile. When Silas Richards was called by the church to go to St. George, in Southern Utah, to help settle the area and build a Temple, in the Spring of 1862. He hired Elias to go with him, to build a house for his family. Elias then took his son to North Bend, to his parents new home where he left him in their care. He was present when John F. Wakefield got his eye put out.

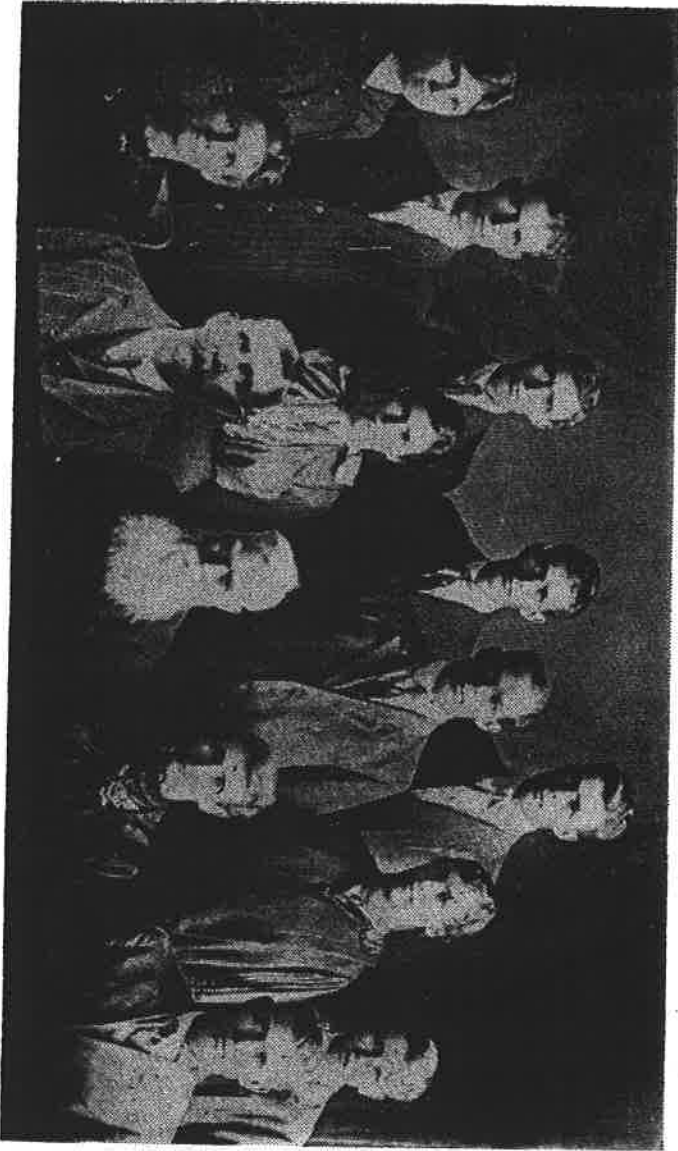
Then he joined his father-in-law and they set out for St. George. When they arrived, Silas gave him \$130.00 to finance the building of a house for him. Silas returned to Union, to get his family, leaving Elias to build the house. When Silas returned to St. George, Elias had finished the house and he'd gone to Kanab, where his brother Isaiah had moved his family the year before. Elias visited with him for some time before returning to North Bend.

The Cox family sold their farms in Union, so Elias stayed with his parents, helping them operate their farm in North Bend and assisting his brother-in-law Warren Brady with his sheep.

In the Summer of 1863, the people of North Bend, petitioned for a Post Office. The Postal authorities weren't pleased with the name "North Bend," so one of the early settlers observed that North Bend gave a fairview of the valley to the south, so they called the town "Fairview." It still goes by that name.

Elias served in the Black Hawk War and after peace was declared, he settled in Thistle Valley, where he took up a small farm. In the 1870's, Elias went to Salt Lake City, taking his young son with him and was employed by the railroad being constructed between Salt Lake City and Ogden. Here Elias and his son gained a meager knowledge of surveying.

When the railroad was finished, they came back to Thistle Valley to make their home, but not for long. In the Spring of 1877, Elias was called by the church authorities to go on an exploring trip east of the Wasatch Mountains. His brother Jehu Jr., Elam Cheney and Jefferson Tidwell, were called to go with him. In June 1877, the men set out on their journey. Each had a good saddle horse and a pack animal to carry their camp equipment and food. They left Fairview on a bright sunny day and rode to the forks of the canyons, of Indian Creek and Soldier Fork, which was the main Spanish Fork Canyon. Here a battalion of soldiers had come from the east, to assist in the Black Hawk War and they had made a road from near Denver, Colorado, to



ELIAS COX and Family — about 1911.

Sitting: Mary Gillispy (step-daughter), Elias Henderson, ELIAS, Mary Elvia Sherman Cox, Albey Elias.  
Standing: Blanche, George Francis, William Edgar, Sarah Elizabeth, Marion Royal, Jehu, Orlo, Grace Carnelia,  
Thomas Franklin.