

History of SouthWind and the Cox Family

**Note: This History was compiled by James Ziegler, SouthWind.
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Southwind is part of an original 1,000-acre land grant given by King Charles I to William Cox in 1640.

This land forms the middle of the three peninsulas that make up the southern shore of Kent Island, and was called Cox Neck.

The parcel changed hands in 1650, when it was purchased by Thomas Ringgold. Ringgold and his two sons settled the property, and it remained in this family for 246 years until 1896.

The southern part of Cox Neck was called the Long Marsh, and is bounded by Crab Alley Bay to the east, Cox Creek to the west and Eastern Bay to the south. From 1950 to 1980, the Southwind peninsula had only three houses, and was used for farming and as a fishing and hunting preserve.

In 1981, the Southwind Eastern Bay Partnership bought the 237 acre preserve for development into 97 home lots. They formed the Southwind Lot Owners Association in 1986, and began selling waterfront lots for about \$75k.



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ARCHIVES OF MARYLAND

JUDICIAL AND TESTAMENTARY BUSINESS

OF THE

PROVINCIAL COURT

1637-1650

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Editor



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PREFACE.

The Provincial Court at St. Mary's was the chief judicial body in the Province, being not only a court of first instance for all matters civil, criminal, and testamentary for the city and county of St. Mary's, but having also appellate jurisdiction over the county courts. It was composed, during the years embraced in this volume, of the Governor as presiding judge, and one or more of the members of the Council as associate judges. In the absence of the Governor, the councillor next in commission presided. The judges were sworn to give judgment according to the laws of the Province, and were disabled from sitting in cases in which they were personally interested.

During these years the Province was so sparsely settled, that we are justified in surmising that nearly all the judicial business was brought, in one form or another, before the Provincial Court. Unfortunately, the record is not complete, the part from February, 1644/5, to May, 1647, being lost; for which we may probably thank Ingle and his brigands.

While the contents of this volume cannot have the same general interest as the records of the Assembly and Council, there is much in them worthy of attention by students of Maryland's early history and institutions, who may here note how laws and principles of law that had grown up under very different conditions were adapted without violence to the needs of the infant colony.

One feature that cannot be overlooked is the singular absence of crimes of violence. Leaving out of view the little sea-fight at Pocomoke, the offences against the person consist of two homicides and one (unproved) battery. In the case of the homicides, both the victims were Indians; and it is interesting to see how careful the court was to allow no partiality to interfere with justice, a jury who doubted whether "pagans" had the same standing in the court as Christians being promptly dismissed and a new trial ordered.

The process against Lewis and others (p. 35) shows that "offensive speeches and unreasonable disputations about religion" had been forbidden by public proclamation more than eleven years before the passing of the "Act concerning Religion." We find also here (p. 189) the first reference to the importation of negro slaves, and (p. 304) perhaps the first recorded purchase of negroes. Probably the solitary recorded instance of a deodand occurs on p. 10. The "custom of the country," as it was called, or the outfit that a master was legally bound to give his servant at the expiration of his term of service, is here (pp. 361, 470) judicially defined.

Some light is also thrown, by depositions in various trials, upon the proceedings of Ingle and his raiders in "the plundering year," as it was long called, an adjective which exactly defines their acts and their purposes; as also (p. 458) a characteristic piece of strategy on the part of Claiborne.

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October 17, 1642 - William Cox (Report on 1641 military expedition against the Sasquesahanock Indians)

p. 39 Interrogatories to be administred on the behalfe of
m^r Giles Brent to the parties herevnder named.

1 did you at any time signifie your vnwillingnes to the designd
voyage against the sasquesahanocks to m^r Giles Brent or to
others in words importing that the going that voyage would
be the undoing of the people of Kent or dispeopling of it, or
in what words have you signified such vnwillingnes, or in what
manner have you heard others signifie their vnwillingnes, or
how many doe you think in yo^r conscience you have heard
expresse an vnwillingnes in some such sort, or had you your
selfe such vnwillingnes, drawn from such reasons as are above
rehearsed?

2 did you your selfe or have you heard any other and how
many were they as you remember, complaine to the said Giles
Brent or to others who might relate it to him in words to this
effect, that if he the said Giles Brent should take one pound
of powder & 5^l of shott for every one designd to the expedition
out of that present store of ammunition, many houses would
be left wholly destitute, and almost no one sufficiently furnished
with ammunition or what do you know of the then store of
ammunition to this effect or have heard others relate.

3 did yo^r selfe say or have you heard others? and how many
as you remember? that vpon the returne of that expedition the
enemy was to be expected to prosecute after them to Kent,
the lland being then disfurnished of ammunition or words to
some such effect or that therevpon was to be expected the
firing & destruccōn of their tobaccos losse of hoggs and cattell
killing of men in the woods, that men should not be able to
goe about their busines or what of these or to this effect have
you said or heard spoken, and by how many as you coniecture.

4 were you pressed for that voyage and did you say or did
you heare any other that was pressed say that your or their
going at that time would be the losse of much of your or their
cropps in respect they were not yet housed, or to that effect,

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how many were they that did so as you think, and in how many of the pressed mens cases was this true to the best of your knowledge.

5 did you say if that voyage were made you must or would leave the Iland or words to that purpose, did you heare any others say such words and how many were they that said it as you think.

6 did you if you were pressed for that voyage or if any of your house was pressed, bring or send one pound of powder and five pound of shott to Kent according to the warrant for each man, or did you not complaine that you either had not so much or could not spare so much from yo^r necessary defence; or did you heare others say so, and how many as you think were they.

7 did you say any of the before rehearsed things if you have said any of them by instigation from the said Giles Brent, or because you had knowledge or opinion of the thing in yo^r owne vnderstanding.

parties to be examined whether these or some of them were not their owne allega^ons to m^r Brent or such as they have heard others make to him or to one another.

signed Giles Brent

Thomas Allen
m^r Cox
John Abbott
Andrew basha
John Smith
m^r Luddinton
John Gresham
william risbrook
rob^t Lake
Philip Connier
francis rabnett

Giles Basha
Leiut^t vaughan
m^r Purlivant
John Bennett
Rob^t huett
m^r Philpott
francis brooks
Edward tomson
nicolas polantine
m^r Rich. Tomson

April 10, 1643 - William Cox (sues Richard Thomson for debt)

William Cox of Kent demandeth of Richard Thomson of Kent 2700^l of tob, due by accompt.

Richard Thomson being called to come in & answere, appeared not, whervpon William Cox prayed damages & shewed that he hath beene from home & shalbe in his returne 2. weeks more very likely:

and the Court found that he should recover for his charge vpon the said Rich. Thomson 450^l tob.

April 11, 1643 - William Cox (sues Richard Thomson for debt)

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p. 95 Interrogatories administred to Rich: Thomson gent defend^t
on behalfe of William Cox pl^t

1. whether did you at some time in ffebr: 1641 or thereabouts, agree wth willia Cox, to quitt one another of all acc^{ts} whatsoever, & you to cleare him of all charges whatsoever vnto that time?

ans: to this Interrogatory he answered directly negative.

2. whether since this agreem^t aforesaid, did not you buy two serv^{ts} of will. Cox for the price of 1400^l tob viz 1000^l last yea. & 400. this yea. And is the said 400^l yet paid or no? And did you pay the said 1000. last yea: in pt of this debt?

answ he bought the serv^t for 1400^l tob & 1000. he paid last yea: the 400 he deteines for acco^t due to him from m^r Cox

3. did you not pcure Geo. brooks of virginea to draw a condition between you & will: Cox, w^{ch} the said william refused to sett his hand to; and what was the said condition, & what were the intents or effect of it to the best of yo^r remembrance?

he is appointed to leave the condition wth his attorney ans. they both procured the condition to be drawn.

4 whether did you agree wth the said william to pay the rent corne for the last yeare, & the next ending at xtmass next, and to find him his diett for the last yeare ending at xtmass last

answ. to this he answered, it was putt into the condition, but the condition was never concluded.

Jurat coram Giles Brent Esq, p appointm^t of Leiu^t gräll.

June 14, 1644 - William Cox (Cattle rustling ?)

14th June. Edward Packer sayth uppon his oath th^t sometime in May or June 1644, Symon Richardson then Sheriffe of the County of Kent, by war^t from Cap^t Giles Brent Esq then Gou^r of the Pro: of Mary-Land, did seyse certaine neate-cattle to the number of 27 then in the possⁿ of M^r Will^m Cox, being the whole number then acknowledged apperteyning to Cap^t Will: Cleybornes stock, for the use of the L^d Baltemore. And further he sayth, th^t he, hauing commisⁿ from the s^d Gou^r & the rest of the Commisⁿ for his L^m estate, to receaue all the s^d cattle soe seised as afore, into his possⁿ for the use of the s^d L^d Baltemore. And further hee sayth, th^t uppon the receite of the s^d cattle, 18 of them, were imediately brought away by this Dep^t from the howse of the s^d M^r Cox, to Kent howse, & th^t the other 9 (uppon the Petⁿ of the s^d Will^m Cox) were left by order from the s^d Gou^r in the poss^a of the s^d M^r Cox to be euer accomptable for them & their increase to the L^d Baltemore or his Agents when euer he should be called thereunto. And further he sayth not.

Jurat. Corā Gou^r

Sig: Edward Packer

September 7, 1647 – Richard Cox (Will – Verbal testimony)

Sep^r 7th The will of Richard Cox approued by Anthony Rawling, and the Adm: committed vnto the s^d Anthony: haueing made oath to bring in Inventory in 10 dayes, and accoⁿt afore the first of decemb^r next; vnless further tyme giuen by the Gouverno^r And to cause the estate to be praysed by the oath of 2 men:

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Liber A. Sept: 7th Ralph Crouch aged 29 or thereabouts made oath that he was p^rsent when Richard Cox made his will in his last sickness: the 4th of Septemb^r being the day before he died videliz. in manner following by Word of Mouth: I do giue and bequeath unto Anthony Rawling, all my corne now growing, wth all the pease beanes and pumpkins, that are in the feild. I doe further giue vnto the sayd Anthony fower hundred pounds of tobb, dew unto me from Captaine Tho: Cornwallis as a deed p. 84 of guift from the sayd Captaine and further this deponent sayth that in his hearing the sayd Richard Cox gaue all that he had besides vnto the sayd Anthony: and further he deposeth not
Teste me Robert Clarke Clk

Addam Stanele being present at the same tyme, deposeth the same

Teste Rob: Clarke Clke

October 14, 1647 – William Cox (Written Will)

Octobr: 14th The last will and Testament: of William Cox^e deceased In the name of God Amen:

I William Cox^e being sicke in body, but perfect in memory thanks be to God; doe make this my last will and testament: ffirst I bequeath my Soule to God, and my body to the ground to be buried in a decent manner, and my worldly estate I dispose of in manner following, after my debts are satisfied.

Imp^rmis: I desire that both my shallops with all the rigging, belonging to them both, except the sayles of the small shallop: one Bull, and one oxe, to be sould at an outcry, to the payment of such debts, due to Cap^t Vaughan, as he can make iustly appeere from mee:

Itm I giue all my ffemale cattle to my Children, that I am now possest wthall, to bee equally deuided between them:

Itm I giue to my wife all the male cattle, I haue or that shall fall betweene this and the tyme my Children, bee of age for the bringing of them vpp:

Itm I giue all my lands vppon the Ile of Kent, vnto my sonn:

Itm. I giue all my hoggs, and howsehold stuff in generall vnto my wife

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January 4, 1648 - William Cox (Details of Estate)

Anthony Rawlins brought in acc^t of the estate of Rich: **Coxe** deceased.

Imp ^r To a winding sheete	1 Tob.
It To 2 cheises	100
1 ^l Sugar	080
To a graue making	027
To praying the estate	020
To an iron pott & skillett	040
16 weekes dyett & his tendance in his sick the last winter	080
To tending him in his last sicknes & dyett	300
To 1 barrell of Corne by Bill	300
To gathering of his Corne & tending of it	100
To his Leuy	100
To M ^r ffenwick for 2 ^l powder.	030
To Court charges.	040
	120

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January 26, 1648 – Will of Francis Cox (gentlewoman)

Jan 26^o

In the name of god Amen. I ffrances **Coxe** of the Iland of Kent, in the prouince of Mary-Land in the parts of America gentlewoman, being of sownd memory & sences, thanks be to god therfore doe make & ordaine this my last will and Testament in the manner & forme following.

ffirst I bequeath my sowle into the hands of Jhesus Christ my Redeemer from whence I receiued hope through his meritts & the meritts of his passion to obtaine remission of my sinns, & saluation of my soule, att the day of my birth. As for my Body I bequeath it to the earth from whence itt was taken, & to receiue decent & Christian Buriall according to the discretion of my Exequuto^r

2^{ly} As for my wordly estate (my debts & funerall rites being really & faythfully discharged in the first place. I doe make Cap^t Rob^t Vaughan, now being absent from the Iland my lawfull Exequuto^r for the children. If in case th^t he bee not well, or any casualty be befallen him. I make Henry Morgan the exeq^r for my children hole & sole. This is my last will & Testam^t wittnes my hand The x mrk of wittnes ffrances **Coxe**.

Will^m Lant

ffrancis Lumbart.

The p^ties attested these to be their hands, & th^t the p^ty was of sownd memory att the making hereof.

Before me

Record. Will^m Bretton Clk.

Signe

Giles Brent.

June 14, 1648 – William Cox (Cattle Rustling ?)

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Court and Testamentary Business, 1648.

14th June. Edward Packer sayth uppon his oath th^t sometime in May or June 1644, Symon Richardson then Sheriffe of the County of Kent, by war^t from Cap^t Giles Brent Esq then Gou^r of the Pro: of Mary-Land, did seyse certaine neate-cattle to the number of 27 then in the possⁿ of M^r Will^m Cox, being the whole number then acknowledged apperteyning to Cap^t Will: Cleybornes stock, for the use of the L^d Baltemore. And further he sayth, th^t he, hauing commisⁿ from the s^d Gou^r & the rest of the Commisⁿ for his L^{ns} estate, to receaue all the s^d cattle soe seised as afore, into his possⁿ for the use of the s^d L^d Baltemore. And further hee sayth, th^t uppon the receite of the s^d cattle, 18 of them, were immediatly brought away by this Dep^t from the howse of the s^d M^r Cox, to Kent howse, & th^t the other 9 (uppon the Petⁿ of the s^d Will^m Cox) were left by order from the s^d Gou^r in the possⁿ of the s^d M^r Cox to be euer accomptable for them & their increase to the L^d Baltemore or his Agents when euer he should be called thereunto. And further he sayth not.

Jurat. Corā Gou^r Sig: Edward Packer

November 23, 1647 – Francis Cox (death of)

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Court and Testamentary Business, 1648–9.

p. 242 The Depⁿ of Henry Morgan aged 33 yeares &c.
That sometime in Octob^r last M^{rs} Cox sent for him to her howse, shee being dangerously sick, hee heard her say, th^t the Calfe th^t caused her husbands hand to bee cutt, M^{rs} Bradnox should haue it, as her husbands will was. before w^{ch} hee gaue it to the s^d M^r Bradnox before & th^t shee would p^rforme his will & further shee deposeth not.

Sig
Henry Morgan

Jurat. Corā Phil: Conner.

The Depⁿ of Phillip Audrey taken 23th Nouemb^r 1647.

This Dep^t sayth th^t in the last sicknes of M^{rs} Cox lately deceased hee being p^rnt shee gaue an yeareling heighfer to M^{rs} Bradnox for the care & paynes shee had taken in their sicknes about her, & her child : w^{ch} shee appoynted to bee out of her owne stock of cattle & further hee deposeth not.

Jurat Cora Giles Brent.

The Depⁿ of Phillip Conner aged 32 yeares &c:

That about the time th^t M^r Cox went downe to S^t Maries hee heard the s^d Cox say That hee gaue M^{rs} Bradnox the calfe w^{ch} caused him to cutt his hand & &c:

Phillip Conner.

Jurat Cora Rob^t Vaughan Co^mder.

March 13, 1648 – Francis Cox (death of)

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The Depⁿ of Margarett Winchester &c:

Liber A.

Sayth That some 2 dayes before M^r Cox dyed This Dep^t heard M^r Cox say th^t shee would giue to M^r Bradnox one yeareling heighfer of a cleare stock, for the care & paynes shee tooke about her. & further &c:

Sig.

Marg: Winchester

Jurat Corā. Phillip Conner.

The Depⁿ of Edw: Ebbs &c:

This Dep^t sayth th^t the calfe w^{ch} caused M^r Cox his hand to bee cutt was att Cap^t Vaughans, after the Gou^r & Cap^t Brent carryed away the Cattle & was hers, untill the 27th of Decemb^r & further hee deposeth nott. Only the calfe was undermarked wth a little white under the flank. Being a Cow Calfe. further &c.

Sig.

Jurat Cora Phil: Coner.

Edward Ebbs

December 4, 1648 (Suit against Estate for a Calf)

Mary the Wife of Tho: Bradnox demandeth out of the Estate of Will^m Cox of the Ile of Kent deceased That Cow calfe, whereby his hand was occasioned to bee hurt, w^{ch} s^d Calfe the s^d Will^m Cox gaue unto the s^d Mary att his comming downe to S^t Maries for her paines taken, in indeauouring the cure of his hand. And also an yeareling heighfer w^{ch} ffrancis the wife of the fores^d Will^m Cox, also deceased, gaue unto the s^d Mary one of her owne proper stock, for her paines likewise taking in curing her childes mouth & tending her in her last sicknes w^{ch} shee the s^d ffrancis gaue unto the s^d Mary, in considraōn as afore, as shee shall make appeare.

Summons to Cap^t Vaughan to bee att the Cou^rt att S^t Maries. 8^o Jan.

July 17, 1649 – Francis Cox - Will

Administrar of the widdow } Cecilius &c To Cap^t Robert Vaughan
Coxes estate to Capt Vaughan } Commander of the Ile of Kent within
our said Province of Maryland Greeting. Wee doe hereby
committ vnto you the Administracōn of all the rights goods
and chattells within this Province of Maryland w^{ch} were of
ffrances **Coxe** late of the said Island of Kent widdow deceased
charging you by vertue of your oath made in that behaulf that
you cause a true and pfect Inventory of all the said rights debts
goods and chattells soe farr as you may to bee made in the
presence and by the discrecōn of two able psons to bee
approved of and sworne by one of our Comissioners within
the said Island for the time being with the iust value of the
said goods by appraisem^t of the said psons as aforesaid and
exhibited into the Secretaries Office sometime before Christmas
next if you may vnles further time bee given you by our Sec-
retary And that you pforme the Will and pay all and onely