

Benjamin Cox Research Project

Prepared by Diana Elder AG®

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OBJECTIVE

The objective of this research project is to use DNA evidence and traditional genealogy research to explore the hypothesis that Benjamin Cox was the biological father of Rachel Cox. Benjamin Cox was born about 1791 in Ohio and died between 1870 and 1880 in Bell County, Texas. Rachel Cox was born about 1828 in Indiana and died between 1870 and 1880 in Falls County, Texas. Rachel married Hickman Monroe Shults on 4 July 1848 in Navarro County, Texas.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

No record directly stating the parents of Rachel Cox has been discovered. The first mention of Rachel in the records is her marriage to "Monroe Shoults" which took place in Navarro County, Texas, on 4 July 1848.¹ No witnesses are listed, but the marriage was performed by Thomas Wood, Ordained Minister C.C. On the same page of the marriage book is the marriage of Harriet S. Cox and Joseph P. Wood dated 24 July 1848.² These two marriage records raise some questions. Could Rachel and Harriet be kin? What is the connection between the Cox and Wood families? In 1848, Navarro County, Texas, was large and would eventually be divided into several counties. Discovering friends, associates, and neighbors of an individual can be beneficial in tracing families across county and state lines.

Also present in Navarro County in August of 1848 was Benjamin Cox, named in a list of road commissioners.³ That list included an M. Shoults, almost certainly the Monroe Shoults of the marriage record. Both men gave the report in November of 1848 regarding the portion of the road from

¹ Navarro County, Texas, Marriage Records V. A 1-3 1846-1880, Cox-Shults marriage, 4 July 1848, p. 9-10, "Texas, County Marriage Records, 1837-1965," FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 10 June 2019), FHL film #1034858, DGS film #7255691, images 14- 15.

² Navarro County, Texas, Marriage Records V. A 1-3 1846-1880, Cox-Wood marriage, 24 July 1848, p. 8, "Texas, County Marriage Records, 1837-1965," FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 10 June 2019), FHL film #1034858, DGS film #7255691, images 14.

³ Nancy Timmons Samuels and Barbara Roach Knox, *Old Northwest Texas : Historical, Statistical, Biographical* (Fort Worth, Texas : Fort Worth Genealogical Society, 1980), 110.

Corsicana to the Limestone County line. The two men would have known each other, and it is almost certain that Rachel Cox was connected in some way to Benjamin Cox. Was she a daughter, a niece, or another member of the extended Cox family? Research in the records and DNA evidence could provide evidence of a father-daughter relationship for Benjamin and Rachel Cox that the Navarro County, Texas, records hint at.

Spellings for Rachel’s married name include Shoults, Shultz, Schultz, and Shults. The majority of the descendants of Rachel and Monroe settled on the spelling of Shults which will be used throughout this report. When quoting a record, the spelling in the record will be used.

Rachel Cox and Hickman Monroe Shults

Following their marriage in 1848, “Rachael and H.M. Schultz” were enumerated on the 1850 census of Navarro County, Texas.⁴ The census reveals the name of their first child, “Wm. H. Schultz,” age 1. Rachel’s age of 21 establishes a calculated birth year of 1828-29 and the birthplace of Indiana is an important clue to her origins. Listed next to the young family is the household of “Sarah Schultz,” the probable family of “H.M. Schultz.”

7	7	H. M. Schultz	29	M.	Farmer	320	Inda
		Rachael Schultz	21	F			Inda
		Wm. H. Schultz	1	M.			Texas
8	8	Sarah Schultz	54	F		320	Inda
		Wade H. Schultz	11	M.			Inda
		Margia V. Schultz	17	M	None		

Figure 1 1850 Census, Navarro County, Texas

The FamilySearch FamilyTree listing for Rachel reveals the full name of her husband as Hickman Monroe Shults.⁵ The couple have not been located on the 1860 census yet.⁶ Searching the tax records

⁴ 1850 U.S. Census, Navarro County, Texas, population schedule, Navarro, p.103B, dwelling 7, family 7, H.M. Schultz household; digital image, *Ancestry* (<https://ancestry.com> : 1 Apr 2019); citing NARA microfilm publication M432, Roll 913.

⁵ *FamilySearch*, Family Tree, Rachel Cox (1827-1880) L7K9-4L3, (<https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/details/L7K9-4L3> : accessed 10 June 2019).

⁶ 1860 U.S. Census, Texas, population schedule, negative search for Hickman Monroe Shults, index *Ancestry* (<https://ancestry.com> : 1 Apr 2019).

for Hickman Monroe Shults could pinpoint a location and a page by page search of the county could be conducted.

By 1870, the family had moved to Falls County, Texas. The 1870 census shows 8 children added to the household and again reveals Rachel born in Indiana, with a calculated birth year of 1827, correlating with the 1850 census.⁷ Census ages often differ by a year or two depending on the informant.

Table 1. Hickman Monroe Shults and Rachel Cox Shults in 1870 Census

Locality		1870, Falls County, Texas							
Enumeration Date		20 March 1870							
Page	House/ Family	Name	Description		Occupation	Value of Estate		Birth Place	Remarks
			Age	Sex		Real	Pers.		
113	249/249	Monroe Shultz	50	M	Farmer		500	Ala.	
		Rachel	42	F	Keeping house			Ind	
		William	22	M	Farm labor			Tex	
		Martin Shultz	20	M	Farm labor			Tex	
		Apolonia Shultz	17	F				Tex	
		Lucinda Shultz	16	F	Attending school			Tex	
		Francis Shultz	14	M	Attending school			Tex	
		Delila Shultz	13	F	Attending school			Tex	
		Maria Shultz	10	F	Attending school			Tex	
		John Shultz	7	M	At home			Tex	
		William Shultz	5	M	At home			Tex	
		Andrew French	15	M	Farm labor			Ark	

⁷ 1870 U.S. Census, Falls County, Texas, population schedule, Precinct 5, p.113A, dwelling 249, family 244, Monroe Shultz household; digital image, *Ancestry* (<https://ancestry.com> : 1 Apr 2019); citing NARA microfilm publication M593, Roll 1584.

By 1880, Rachel had died and H. M. Shults was listed as a widower in the census.⁸ The household reveals the younger children aging appropriately with the older children having left home. Also listed is another daughter, Eliza, age 8. Is it possible that Rachel died with the birth of this youngest daughter? Eliza is marked as being blind which could have been caused by complications at birth.

Table 2. Hickman Monroe Shults in 1880 Census

Locality		1880, Falls County, Texas								
ED, Sheet, Line		Enumeration District 42, Sheet 261, Line 117								
Enumeration Date		7 June 1880								
Location		Name	Description		Relationship	Occupation	Birth Place			
House	Family		Sex	Age			Self	Fath	Moth	
121	126	H.M. Shults	M	59	Head	Farmer	Ala	Ga	Ga	
		Mary Shults	F	19	Daughter	House laborer	Tex	Ala	Ga	
		Johnny Shults	M	16	Son	Farm laborer	Tex	Ala	Ga	
		William Shults	M	14	Son	Farm laborer	Tex	Ala	Ga	
		Eliza Shults	F	8	Daughter	[blind]	Tex	Ala	Ga	

Death certificates were not required by the state of Texas until 1903, so no certificate would exist naming Rachel's parents.⁹ No cemetery record has been located for Rachel, but her husband, Hickman Monroe was buried in Mooreville Cemetery, Falls County, Texas, with his second wife, Serena.¹⁰ He had remarried a year after the 1880 census enumeration to "Mrs. Sarena E. Faulkner."¹¹

⁸ 1880 U.S. Census, Falls County, Texas, population schedule, enumeration district (ED) 42, sheet 216A (stamped), p.13 (penned), dwelling 121, family 126, H.M. Shults household; digital image, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 10 June 2019); citing NARA microfilm publication T9, roll 1302.

⁹ The Handybook for Genealogists (Draper, Utah: Everton Publishers, 2002), 647.

¹⁰ *Find A Grave*, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 11 June 2019), memorial page for Hickman Monroe "Houston" Shultz (13 Jun 1821–12 May 1899), Find A Grave Memorial no. 23392097, citing Mooreville Cemetery, Mooreville, Falls County, Texas, USA ; Maintained by Sherry Goolsby, Genealogical Research (contributor 47340731) .

¹¹ "Texas, County Marriage Records, 1837-1965," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QV14-X9JD> : 10 December 2017), H M Shults and Sarena E Faulkner, 22 Oct 1881; citing Marriage, citing Falls, Texas, United States, Texas State Library, Archives Division, and various Texas county clerks; FHL microfilm 985,641.

Newspaper research in the area surrounding Falls County, Texas, could be conducted in the future to search for a death notice for Rachel Cox Shults and a possible mention of her father.

Benjamin Cox

Based on the proximity of Benjamin Cox and Hickman Monroe Shults in Navarro County in 1848, when Rachel Cox was married to Hickman Monroe Shults, Benjamin Cox, is a likely candidate for her father. Examining the records of his life could reinforce this hypothesis. Benjamin followed a probable migration of Ohio > Indiana > Arkansas > Texas. Working backwards in time, each of these locations will be discussed and any records that connect Benjamin Cox to Rachel Cox Shults.

Texas Records

Various records place Benjamin Cox in the Texas counties of Navarro, Travis, and Bell Counties from 1846-1870. The state of Texas had been organized in 1845 and Benjamin Cox was first listed in a tax list index in 1846 in Navarro County.¹² The index does not give further details and the original tax list should be sought.

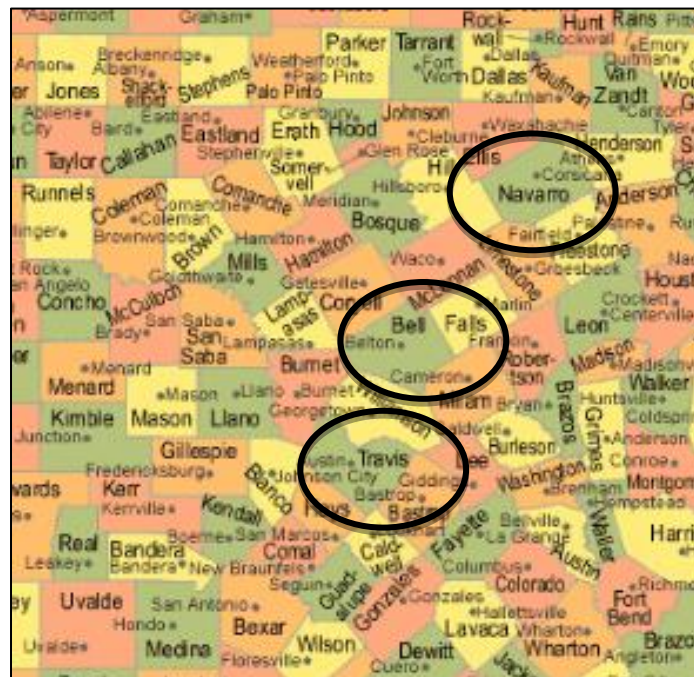


Figure 2 "Texas County Map with County Seat Cities" Geology.com

¹² "Texas, Compiled Census and Census Substitutes Index, 1820-1890," Benjamin Cox, Navarro County, 1846, not paginated, indexed record only, Ancestry (<https://ancestry.com> : accessed 1 Apr 2019).

As mentioned previously, Benjamin Cox was named in 1848 with "M. Shoults" as a road commissioner marking the "portion of the road from Corsicana to the Limestone County line, intersecting the road leading to Pine Blugg."¹³ Benjamin's stay in Navarro County was brief as he had moved his household southwest to Travis County, Texas, by 1850.¹⁴

The 1850 census was the first to record every name of the household. No relationships are listed but this census revealed Benjamin with a probable wife, Elizabeth. Also listed were several younger household members. Two of the young women, Hanah and Delila, have a birthplace of Indiana listed, correlating with the birthplace of Rachel Cox. Could these be her sisters? Also of interest is the listing of Joseph P. Wood and Harriett directly above that of Benjamin Cox. As mentioned previously, this couple was also married in Navarro County, Texas, in 1848 and their marriage license recorded on the same page as that of Rachel Cox and Monroe Shults.¹⁵ Because Joseph and Harriett Wood had also moved south to Travis County, Texas, and are living nearby, there was some connection to Benjamin Cox.

The 1850 census gives a calculated birth year for Benjamin of 1791, but no place is listed. The informant was likely Elizabeth, his wife who may not have known his birthplace. The informant detailed the various birthplaces of the children in the household, giving a possible migration of Indiana > Arkansas > Texas. Including the surnames of Sutton for James and William shows a probable blended family.

¹³ Nancy Timmons Samuels and Barbara Roach Knox, *Old Northwest Texas : Historical, Statistical, Biographical* (Fort Worth, Texas : Fort Worth Genealogical Society, 1980), 110.

¹⁴ 1850 U.S. Census, Travis County, Texas, population schedule, Travis, p.141A, dwelling 121, family 121, Benjamin Cox household; digital image, Ancestry (<https://ancestry.com> : 1 Apr 2019); citing NARA microfilm publication M432, Roll 915.

¹⁵ Navarro County, Texas, Marriage Records V. A 1-3 1846-1880, Cox-Wood marriage, 24 July 1848, p. 8, "Texas, County Marriage Records, 1837-1965," *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 10 June 2019), FHL film #1034858, DGS film #7255691, images 14.

120	120	Joseph P Wood	53	m	Labourer		Ind	1	
		Harriet "	19	f			Tenn	1	
121	121	Benjamin Cox	59	m	Labourer	200	Unknown	1	
		Elyzabeth "	50	f			Tenn	1	1
		Wanah "	17	f			Ind	1	
		Delila "	16	f			Ind	1	
		Tampa "	10	f			Ark	1	1
		Cynthia "	9	f			Ark	1	1
		James Section	17	m	Labourer		Ark	1	
		William "	15	m	Labourer		Ark	1	

Figure 3 1850 Census, Travis County, Texas

Harriett's birthplace of Tennessee on the 1850 census doesn't correlate well with the Indiana birthplace for Rachel, Hannah, and Delila, but her husband likely gave the information and may have been mistaken. Further research could investigate Harriet Cox and her possible connection to Rachel Cox.

The 1860 census reveals Benjamin Cox having moved to Bell County, Texas.¹⁶ The household is greatly reduced with only Tampa Cox listed with Ben and Elizabeth Cox. The Cox-Wood connection continued with Thomas Wood, clergyman, listed on the same page as Benjamin Cox. This is likely the minister of the gospel who married Rachel Cox and Monroe Shults in Navarro County, Texas in 1848.

Table 3. Benjamin Shults in 1860 Census

Locality		1860, Bell County, Texas							
Enumeration Date		21 July 1860							
Page	House/ Family	Name	Description		Occupation	Value of Estate		Birth Place	Remarks
			Age	Sex		Real	Pers.		
82	533/541	Benj. Cox	68	M	Farming	228	Ohio		
		Eliz. Cox	61	F			Ten		
		Tampa Cox	20	F			Ark		
82	537/545	Thos. Wood	64	M	Christ Clergyman		1200	Ken	
		Sarah Wood	63	F				N. Car	

¹⁶ 1860 U.S. Census, Bell County, Texas, population schedule, Belton, p.336, dwelling 433, family 541, Benjamin Cox household; digital image, Ancestry (<https://ancestry.com> : 1 Apr 2019); citing NARA microfilm publication M653, Roll 1288.

Locality		1860, Bell County, Texas							
Enumeration Date		21 July 1860							
Page	House/ Family	Name	Description		Occupation	Value of Estate		Birth Place	Remarks
			Age	Sex		Real	Pers.		
		Wm P. Wood	20	M				La	
	537/547	Elihu Wood	35	M	Farmer	200	300	Ind	
		Mary Wood	26	F				Ala	
		R. Wood	5	F				Tex	
		Thos B. Wood	2	M				Tex	

Marriage records of Bell County, Texas, revealed another Cox – Wood marriage: Cynthia Cox and Columbus P. Wood, married on 25 May 1860 by Thomas Wood, ordained minister of the gospel.¹⁷ It is likely that Benjamin Cox and Thomas Wood were associates who moved from Navarro County to Bell County Texas. Thomas Wood performed the marriage of one daughter of Benjamin Cox, Cynthia. He also performed the marriage of Rachel Cox, very possibly another daughter of Benjamin Cox.

The last census for Benjamin Cox was 1870, where he was still residing in Bell County, Texas.¹⁸ At age 79, his birthplace was given as Tennessee, yet another birth locality. Elizabeth Cox consistently was listed as born in Tennessee. The child, Cynthia, was likely a granddaughter.

Table 4. Benjamin Cox in 1870 Census

Locality		1870, Bell County, Texas							
Enumeration Date		6 July 1870							
Page	House / Family	Name	Description		Occupation	Value of Estate		Birth Place	Remarks
			Age	Sex		Real	Pers.		
10	66/66	Benjamin Cox	79	M	Woodworkman		200	Tenn	
		Elizabeth Cox	77	F	Keeping house			Tenn	

¹⁷ Bell County, Texas, Marriage Record, V. D-E 1868-1876, Cynthia Cox - Columbus P. Wood, 1860, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 28 Apr 2019); citing FHL microfilm 981,034, image 52 of 725.

¹⁸ 1870 U.S. Census, Bell County, Texas, population schedule, Beat 5, p.97B, dwelling 66, family 66, Benjamin Cox household; digital image, Ancestry (<https://ancestry.com> : 1 Apr 2019); citing NARA microfilm publication M593, Roll 1575.

Locality		1870, Bell County, Texas							
Enumeration Date		6 July 1980							
Page	House / Family	Name	Description		Occupation	Value of Estate		Birth Place	Remarks
			Age	Sex		Real	Pers.		
		Cynthia Cox	8	F				Tex	

Benjamin died before 1880. His widow, Elizabeth Cox was listed in the 1880 census in the household of her son, J.R. Sutton, along with his wife, children, and Cynthia Cox, niece. As suspected, Cynthia was a granddaughter of Benjamin and Elizabeth, her parents unknown. Further research could discover Cynthia's Cox father.

Probate records could name children of Benjamin Cox, but a search in the records of Bell County, Texas, did not find any mention of Benjamin.¹⁹

Arkansas Records

Several of the Texas records found for Benjamin Cox suggested a migration from Arkansas to Texas. The 1840 census reveals his residence in IZARD County, Arkansas, with a large household.²⁰ This census gives no names or relationships, and only a range for ages. Of note is that the name is listed as "Benjamin Cox & Alias" signifying that this was a blended household. Is there a female that would match

¹⁹ Bell County, Texas, "Index to Probate Minutes 1850-1930," negative search for Benjamin Cox, digitized microfilm, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 22 May 2019); citing FHL microfilm # 981010.

"Texas, Wills and Probate Records, 1833-1974," *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 22 May 2019).

Bell County, Texas, "Bonds of Administrators, 1858-1885; Accounts, 1856-1883; Will Records, Vol A, 1858-1882," negative search for Benjamin Cox, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 22 May 2019); citing FHL microfilm # 981028.

Bell County, Texas, "Exhibit of Estates, 1868-1879," negative search for Benjamin Cox, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 22 May 2019); citing FHL microfilm # 981025.

Bell County, Texas, "Probate Docket, 1874; Citations, 1866-1881; Inventories and Appraisements, 1800-1884," negative search for Benjamin Cox, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 22 May 2019); citing FHL microfilm # 981027.

Bell County, Texas, "Application Docket, 1859-1869; Miscellaneous, 1861-1880; Probate Record, Vol A., 1850-1856," negative search for Benjamin Cox, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 22 May 2019); citing FHL microfilm # 981029.

²⁰ 1840 U.S. Census, IZARD County, Arkansas, population schedule, p. 192 (penned), line 20, Benjamin Cox household; digital image, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : 1 Apr 2019); citing NARA microfilm publication 704.

Rachel Cox? Rachel's reported birth year in the various censuses ranged from 1827-1829. In 1840 she would have been 11-13 and listed as female 10 thru 14. Three females for this age range were present in the household, any of which could have been Rachel.

Free White Persons - Males - Under 5: 1
Free White Persons - Males - 5 thru 9: 1
Free White Persons - Males - 10 thru 14: 1
Free White Persons - Males - 15 thru 19: 2
Free White Persons - Males - 20 thru 29: 1
Free White Persons - Males - 40 thru 49: 1
Free White Persons - Males - 70 thru 79: 1
Free White Persons - Females - Under 5: 2
Free White Persons - Females - 5 thru 9: 2
Free White Persons - Females - 10 thru 14: 3
Free White Persons - Females - 15 thru 19: 2
Free White Persons - Females - 30 thru 39: 1

An 1837 marriage record for Benjamin Cox and Elizabeth Sutton explains the large household of the 1840 census.²¹ Married just 3 three years before the census, this was likely a second marriage for both individuals. Tax records of IZARD County list Benjamin Cox in 1839, 1841, and 1843.²² No land description is given, but land records could be search in the future to discover if Benjamin owned land in IZARD County, Arkansas and possibly determine the date of his arrival in Arkansas.

Indiana and Ohio Records

The census records from 1850-1870 for Benjamin Cox' household suggested possible residences in Ohio and Indiana, as well as Arkansas. Ohio was given as Benjamin's birthplace in the 1850 census of Travis County, Texas, and Indiana was listed as the birthplace of his probable daughters, Hanah and Delila Cox, born between 1831 and 1834 in the same census. This suggests a possible residence for the Cox family in Indiana. As shown previously, the ancestor, Rachel Cox, also has a calculated birth of 1827-1829 in Indiana.

²¹ Independence County, Arkansas, Marriage records, 1826-1867, Cox-Sutton, 1837, p. 49; digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 1 Apr 2019); FHL microfilm 1,288,645, image 37 of 532.

²² Desmond Walls Allen, *IZARD County, Arkansas Tax Records 1829-1866* (Conway, Arkansas : Rapid Rabbit Copy, 1986), 52.

The 1830 census could reveal Benjamin Cox in Indiana. A search of that census discovered a likely household in Monroe County, Indiana with a male of appropriate age for Benjamin, born 1791.²³ Bolded is a female that could represent Rachel.

Free White Persons - Males - Under 5: 1
 Free White Persons - Males - 30 thru 39: 1
Free White Persons - Females - Under 5: 1
 Free White Persons - Females - 5 thru 9: 1
 Free White Persons - Females - 10 thru 14: 2
 Free White Persons - Females - 15 thru 19: 1
 Free White Persons - Females - 30 thru 39: 1

Additional research in Monroe County, Indiana could include court, land and tax records. This could identify possible friends, neighbors, and associates of Benjamin Cox that would tie him more conclusively to Benjamin Cox of Arkansas and Texas.

The 1820 census could reveal Benjamin Cox in either Ohio or Indiana. A survey of all Benjamin Coxes in either locality of the appropriate age found 2 possibilities, shown in the following table in bold: Benjamin Cox of Delaware County, Indiana, and Benjamin Cox of Pickaway County, Ohio. Other men of the same name were ruled out based on their locality in 1830 and 1840 or household information. The following table details the various Benjamin Cox listings showing the possible listings in bold.

Table 5. Census Listings for Benjamin Cox, born 1791

1820 Census location Benjamin's age about 29 ^a	1830 Census location Benjamin's age about 39 ^b	1840 Census location Benjamin's age about 49 ^c	Comments
Dubois County, Indiana Male 26-44	Dubois County, Indiana Male 20-29	Dubois County, Indiana Male 50-59	Probably the same individual, age mismarked in 1830.
	Tippecanoe, Indiana Male 30-39	Boone County, Indiana Male 50-59	Age correct, bordering counties, could be the same individual
	Hendricks, Indiana Male 30-39	Boone County, Indiana Male 50-59	Age correct, bordering counties, could be the same individual
	Morgan County, Ohio	Morgan County, Ohio	Age correct, but location in Ohio

²³ 1830 U.S. Census, Monroe County, Indiana, population schedule, p. 170 (penned), line 2, Benjamin Cox household; digital image, Ancestry (<https://www.ancestry.com> : 1 Apr 2019); citing NARA microfilm publication M19, roll 30.

	Male 30-39	Male 40-49	in 1840 eliminates him
	Perry County, Ohio Male 30-39	Perry County, Ohio Male 40-49	Age correct, but location in Ohio in 1840 eliminates him
Hamilton County, Ohio Male 26-44	Butler County, Ohio Male 20-29	Butler County, Ohio Male 40-49	Age correct, bordering counties, could be the same individual; household information does not match known possible children on online trees
Shelby County, Ohio Male 26-44		Champaign County, Ohio Male 30-39	Age correct, bordering counties, could be the same individual; household information does not match known possible children on online trees
Delaware County, Indiana Male 16-25	Monroe County bordered the south end of Delaware County in 1820		Possibly too young, but this census page also has two Barbees: Daniel and Olliff; household information matches known possible children on online trees
	Monroe County, Indiana Male 30-39		Age correct; household information matches known possible children on online trees
Pickaway County, Ohio Male 26-44	No results in neighboring counties		Age correct, Pickaway County just north of Ross County, the marriage location of Benjamin Cox and Casiah Barbee
<p>a. 1820 U.S. Census, population schedule, search for Benjamin Cox, indexed database, <i>Ancestry</i> (https://www.ancestry.com : 22 May 2019).</p> <p>b. 1830 U.S. Census, population schedule, search for Benjamin Cox, indexed database, <i>Ancestry</i> (https://www.ancestry.com : 22 May 2019).</p> <p>c. 1840 U.S. Census, population schedule, search for Benjamin Cox, indexed database, <i>Ancestry</i> (https://www.ancestry.com : 22 May 2019).</p>			

Benjamin Cox married Casiah Barbee on 10 April 1813 in Ross County, Ohio.²⁴ The 1810 census could list Benjamin Cox in Ross County, Ohio, but all census returns for Ohio were lost with the exception of Washington County.²⁵ In the absence of the census, tax lists are valuable for showing residence as well as possible family members.

²⁴ "Ohio, County Marriages, 1798-1951, Vol A-B, Ross County, Casiah Barbee - Benjamin Cox marriage, 1813, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org>: 16 April 2019), FHL microfilm 281, 637, image 152 of 352.

²⁵ William Thorndale and William Dollarhide, *Map Guide to the U.S. Federal Censuses, 1790 - 1920*, (Baltimore : Genealogical Pub. Co., 1987), 269.

Benjamin Cox was located on the tax lists of Jefferson township, Ross County, Ohio, in 1810, 1817, 1818, and 1819.²⁶ He is not present on the tax list of 1820, evidence that he had moved – either to Pickaway County, Ohio or to Delaware County, Indiana. The 1810 tax list reveals a possible relative – John Cox. Both men were taxed for land with the original proprietor of John Graves. The land description was: Range 20 Township 8 Section 35 SW. Also present in the tax lists of Jefferson Township, Ross County, Ohio were the following Cox men, probably kin to Benjamin Cox: Nathan, Joseph, Nicholas, Solomon.

Further research in Ross County, Ohio, court, land, and probate records could discover more about Benjamin Cox and possible Barbee connections.

DNA Cox Connections

Autosomal DNA matches can prove a hypothesized ancestor, so matches between the descendants of Rachel Cox Shults and Benjamin Cox were sought. Ancestry DNA's ThruLines tool identified several possible matches of relatively small segments.²⁷ Each match was contacted with two individuals replying to date.

One of the matches, M.R., had uploaded her raw DNA to the third-party website, GEDmatch. Because ThruLines showed this match as 1 segment of 8cM and there is danger of false matches with small segments, Diana Elder's kit was phased against that of her mother to create a new phased kit of only her paternal matches on GEDmatch. This reduces the number of false matches.

Running a one-to-one comparison using the phased paternal kit, it was found that the DNA of Diana Elder matched that of M.R. on chromosome 16, 13.9 cM.²⁸ Another individual, John, also

²⁶ Ross County, Ohio, "Tax Duplicates, 1808, 1810, 1816-1819," Vol. 1155, 1816, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 27 May 2019), FHL microfilm 528,391, image 242.

Ross County, Ohio, "Tax Duplicates, 1808, 1810, 1816-1819," Vol. 1156, 1817, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 27 May 2019), FHL microfilm 528,391, image 366.

Ross County, Ohio, "Tax Duplicates, 1808, 1810, 1816-1819," Vol. 1157, 1818, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 27 May 2019), FHL microfilm 528,391, image 493.

Ross County, Ohio, "Tax Duplicates, 1808, 1810, 1816-1819," Vol. 1158, 1819, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 27 May 2019), FHL microfilm 528,391, image 664.

²⁷ AncestryDNA "ThruLines for Diana Elder," matches through Benjamin Cox (1791-1880), *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 12 June 2019.)

²⁸ GEDmatch Genesis, "Autosomal One-to-one DNA Comparison," *GEDmatch* (<https://www.gedmatch.com> : accessed 11 June 2019), kits nos. A279720P1 and JH3304066, 1 matching segment on Chr. 16, 13.9 cm, (start-stop points 79,519,633-84,295,943).

matched both Diana Elder and M.R. on Ancestry DNA ThruLines. He has not responded to messages and hopefully in the future will agree to upload his DNA to GEDmatch for segment triangulation.

The family tree of DNA match M.R. was viewed to verify the proposed connections to Benjamin Cox.²⁹ The following table details the comparison between the tree of Diana Elder and M.R.

Table 6. Family Tree Connections Between Diana Shults Elder and M.R.

Benjamin Cox (1791-1870) and Casiah Barbee	
Rachel Cox (1828-1880) born Indiana	William Thomas Cox (1825-1912) born Texas
William Henderson Shults (1848-1884) born Texas	George Riley Cox (1856-1935) born Texas
William Huston Shults (1887-1956) born Texas	Nancy Bethina Cox (1879-1962) born Texas
Charles Leslie Shults (1904-1996) born Oklahoma	George Duey Elkins (1911-1987) born Texas
Bobby Gene Shults (1927-2011) born California	M.R. (living) 4C 1R Ancestry DNA 8cm
Diana Shults Elder (living) 4C 1R Ancestry DNA 8cm	

Viewing the Ancestry tree for M.R., the sources included several census records that identified the birthplace of William Thomas Cox as either Ohio (1850) or Indiana (1870, 1880, 1900, 1910). William settled in Limestone County, Texas, which borders Navarro County and is near Bell and Falls County – other locations for Benjamin and Rachel Cox. Further research is needed to verify the connection between William Thomas Cox and Benjamin Cox. Other possible common ancestors between M.R. and Diana Elder also need to be ruled out.

Additional comparison and analysis of the DNA matches between Diana Shults Elder and possible Cox DNA matches is needed to prove the hypothesis that Benjamin Cox is the father of Rachel Cox Shults.

CONCLUSION

This research project was very successful in detailing the documentary research that points to Benjamin Cox as the father of Rachel Cox Shults. The proximity of both individuals in Navarro County, Texas, in 1848 gives credence to this theory. Benjamin Cox worked as a road commissioner with Hickman Monroe Shults, the husband of Rachel. Their marriage in 1848 in Navarro County was

²⁹ Ancestry Public Trees, “Elkins-Cox Family Tree,” M. Romine, William Thomas “Billy” Cox Dr., *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : 11 June 2019).

performed by Thomas Wood and another marriage on the same page of Harriett Cox and Joseph P. Wood reveals another Cox-Wood connection.

The 1850 census continues the Cox-Wood connection with Harriett and Joseph P. Wood listed above Benjamin Cox. In 1860, the daughter of Benjamin Cox, Cynthia, and Columbus Wood were married by Thomas Wood, the same minister who married the ancestor Rachel Cox and Hickman Monroe Shults. This is strong evidence of kinship between Benjamin Cox and Rachel Cox via Thomas Wood as an associate of both individuals.

Benjamin Cox was traced back to Izard County, Arkansas, where the 1840 census, tax records and a second marriage to Elizabeth Sutton were documented. A female of appropriate age for Rachel Cox was noted in the 1840 census. Next the 1830 census was searched for a likely record for Benjamin Cox in Indiana. With Rachel Cox and his other probable daughters giving Indiana as a birthplace, he was likely there by 1830. The most probable census record for Benjamin Cox was that of Monroe County, Indiana, which also had a likely female of appropriate age for Rachel Cox.

Next the 1820 census was searched for a possible mention of Benjamin Cox. Several possibilities were located and eliminated based on age or comparison to the 1830 and 1840 census records. The most likely census was that of Delaware County, Indiana, which also listed Daniel and Olliff Barbee, possible brothers of Benjamin's first wife, Casiah Barbee.

The marriage record for Benjamin and Casiah Barbee revealed a location in Ross County, Ohio. Tax records put Benjamin in the county from 1810 to 1819, but he was not listed on the 1820 tax list, evidence of his move out of the area by 1820. Several other Cox men were identified on the tax lists of Ross County, Ohio, and can be used to connect Benjamin to other locations as family often migrated together. Because of the many research locations in Ohio and Indiana, there is much room for further research in the early years of Benjamin Cox.

Viewing autosomal DNA matches between Diana Shults Elder, a direct descendant of Rachel Cox Shults and a descendant of another hypothesized child of Benjamin Cox found a positive match with M.R. on chromosome 16 of 13.9 cM.

Although much remains to be done with both DNA analysis and traditional research, the hypothesized relationship between Rachel Cox Shults and Benjamin Cox continues to be highly probable.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE RESEARCH

- Research Harriet Cox, married to Joseph P. Wood on 24 July 1848 in Navarro County, Texas. Explore possible relationship to Rachel Cox.
- Research Thomas Wood and his connection to Benjamin Cox in Texas.
- Search tax records of Texas for Hickman Monroe Shults to establish a residence between 1850 and 1870, then search the 1860 census page by page for that location.
- Conduct newspaper research in and around Falls County, Texas, for a death notice for Rachel Cox Shults between 1872 and 1880.
- Locate the original tax list for Benjamin Cox, 1846 in Navarro County, Texas.
- Discover the parents of Cynthia Cox, living with Benjamin and Elizabeth Cox in 1860, and with Elizabeth Cox in 1870, named as the niece of J.R. Sutton.
- Search land records of Izard County, Arkansas, for Benjamin Cox, 1830-1850.
- Search land, tax, and court records for Monroe County, Indiana for Benjamin Cox.
- Search land, tax, and court records for Delaware County, Indiana for Benjamin Cox and Barbee relatives.
- Search land, court, and probate, records of Ross County, Ohio, for Benjamin Cox and Barbee relatives.
- Research other Cox men listed in the tax lists of Ross County, Ohio.
- Continue to contact DNA matches and analyze DNA evidence for a Cox connection.