

Transcription of Sketch Written about Lewis Cox

Our subject is one of the thrifty and successful farmers of LaFayette County, whose success redounds not only to the splendid condition of the country, but to his own good qualities. Mr. Cox now resides on section 28, Dover Township. He is a native of this county, and was born in 1834. His father, Solomon Cox, who was born in Virginia, moved to Missouri in 1817. His mother was before her marriage, Deborah Collins, also a native of Virginia.

Mr. Cox passed his boyhood in his native place, laying the foundation of a good education in the public schools near his home. He was reared as a farmer's boy, with a practical knowledge of the duties incident to farm life. At the age of twenty-four he began farming on his own account, and since that time has been continuously engaged in general farming and stock-raising.

The tract of which our subject is the owner comprises three hundred and twenty-five acres of as good land as there is in the vicinity of Dover. It is all under cultivation, and well improved. While the gold fever was still at its height, in 1852, Mr. Cox went to California by the overland route, and after a long and tedious trip, in which, however, he saw more of the country through which he passed than it is possible to see in the present mode of travel, he reached the Golden State, where he spent eighteen months in prospecting. In 1854 he retraced his steps and returned to LaFayette County. That spring, however, he again went to California, and again remained two years, in 1856 returning to LaFayette County.

November 17, 1858, our subject was married to Miss Eliza Fletcher, a daughter of James Fletcher, a native of Virginia, and one of the earlier settlers of Missouri. The years that they have passed together since have been filled with the content that follows happiness. They have been the parents of nine children, there being four sons and five daughters, whose names are Rovella, Nancy D., Lillie B., May, William D., Charles, Fletcher, Frank and Pearl.

In his political views Mr. Cox gives the weight of his vote and influence to the Democratic party, and his fidelity has been demonstrated by the fact that he has been content to wait for years for their moment of triumph. In their religious preference, both our subject and his wife are devoted members of the Christian Church, and kindly in disposition and generous with their means, they have been found to be most helpful factors in the social part of the community.