

SANFORD COX comes to Crawfordsville in 1824

Samuel Cox to Crawfordsville in 1824

Note: The 3 spellings of Cox's first name (it IS Sanford)

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In 1824 Sandford (sic) C. Cox started through the Wabash Valley to seek a home. On their way through the country they visited at Fort at the Falls of Fallcreek. The first was enclosed with logs place on end in the ___ about 16' high, forming an enclosure around the fort about 8 rods square. Inside the enclosure was a guard house where sentinels were stationed. Stanford (sic) spent the night near the guard house and started the next day for Crawfordsville 60 miles distant. At this time the road from the Falls by way of Strawtown where they crossed White River, then by the ___ road to Thorntown and down Sugar Creek to the Crawfordsville settlement. After staying all night under the friendly protection of the guards, Stanford started out and arrived that evening at ___ Ford on White River, where he campe for the night. The next morning he crossed the river and took ___ Strawtown road. By hastening he was able to reach a stream at Brown's Wonder by night. The next day he was able to Clayroot ? spring, near the wite of Thorntown.. The town was at that time a large Indian and French village which sent its hundreds of braves to the battlefield. When Stanford arrived the inhabitants were all about on a hunting expedition. Wigwams composed of poles and bark covered many acres of this beautiful plain on which Thorntown is now situated. After reaching Thorntown he soon found Sugar Creek and followed the northern bank to Wisehart's thence to John Dewey's about a mile and a half east of Crawfordsville. At that time Crawfordsville was the only settlement between Terre Haute and Ft. Wayne. There was a land office here and Major Whitlock was receiver and Judge Dunn register. Major Ristine kept a tavern in a two-story log house and Johnathan Powers had a little grocery. There were two stores. Smiths near the land office and Isaac C. Elston's near the tavern. Thos. N. Curry and Magnus Holmes were the only physicians and Providence M. Curry the only lawyer in town. John Wilson was clerk of the court and David Vance was sheriff. William Nicholson had a tannery and shoe shop. Scott had a calmet shop and George King was the black smith.