

The Beach and East Toronto Historical Society

The Cox and Hinds Families – Five Generations in East Toronto

By Ken Cox

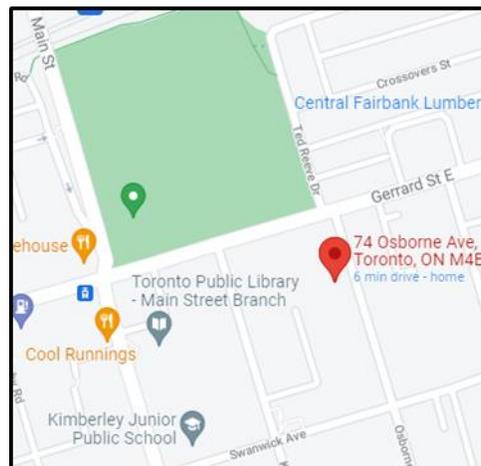
Additional research, transcribing and formatting by John Ellis and Barbara Myrvold

October 2021



Ken and Glenda Cox at their former home at 74 Osborne Avenue, Toronto

Photo: *Beach Metro News*



74 Osborne Avenue, Toronto

Home to the Hinds and Cox families, 1905-2021

Introduction by John Ellis

In August 2021, I followed up on a story published the previous month in Beach Metro News about Ken and Glenda Cox moving from 74 Osborne Avenue after the family had lived there for five generations.¹ I wrote to Ken to thank him for his long-standing membership in TBETHS and to wish him and Glenda well in their new home in Halifax. I also asked him if he had stories, genealogy and photos to share with us. Ken's response, sent in several emails, follows.

Ken Cox's story

We left for Halifax on July 7th.

I have an extensive genealogy of both my wife's family (Turcott/Murchie) and mine (Cox/Hinds/Cree). Mine goes back to the village of Rowley Regis (in what was then Staffordshire but is now a suburb of Birmingham, England) on one side and to Derbyshire, England on the other side; my wife's family goes back to the seventeenth century in Quebec.

Samuel Cox (my paternal great grandfather) and William Hinds (my maternal great grandfather) arrived in Canada in the 1870s or 1880s² Samuel was a tinsmith and William was a railroad fireman (eventually an engineer). Both at one point occupied houses on Gerrard Street, west of today's Victoria Park Avenue – William on the south side and Samuel on the north side. (Originally called Lakeside Avenue, the street was renamed Gerrard by East Toronto Council on 12 April 1888). These houses may have been owned by the railroad because both my great grandfather Hinds and my grandfather Cox worked for the Grand Trunk Railroad and, later, the Canadian National Railway.

William Hinds purchased the house at today's 74 Osborne Avenue in 1905 from William and Charlotte Maxwell for \$1,200. Maxwell was a carpenter who had decided to move out west. At that time, the house was located in the Town of East Toronto and Osborne was called Edward Street, so named when it was created in 1885, on Plan 635, "Plan of part of the Village of Benlamond". East Toronto Council changed the street's name to Osborne Avenue in 1907 when a new postal delivery system was introduced. It was named for Rev. Alfred Osborne, D. D. (1843-1910), who served as the rector of St. Saviour's Anglican Church from 1899 to 1909.

Samuel Cox and Mary Ellen Smith were married in Toronto in 1889 and had five children there. Their only son, James Gordon Cox (my grandfather), married Florence Hinds (my grandmother)

¹Alexandros Varoutas, "After more than 115 years, Cox family says final goodbye to house on Osborne Avenue, *Beach Metro News*, 12 July 2021. <https://beachmetro.com/2021/07/12/after-more-than-115-years-cox-family-says-final-goodbye-to-house-on-osborne-avenue/>

² *Ancestry.ca* records state that Samuel Cox immigrated to Canada either in 1878 (1901 census) or 1886 (1921 census) and that William Hinds came to Canada in 1886 or 1887 (censuses of 1901, 1911 and 1921).

in 1912. Their youngest daughter, Gertrude Cox, married Rupert Hinds, Florence's youngest brother, in 1923. Samuel and Mary Ellen's other three daughters never married.

In the time that I owned the house at 74 Osborne Avenue, I received some interesting family information, including a package of genealogy from a cousin I never knew; a letter from a family connection (addressed to my dad) who was making contact after being in a hospital since the end of the Second World War (my dad, Leonard Gordon Cox, had died in 1967, ten years before the letter arrived!); and a phone call from an elderly lady who wanted to know if I was the Ken Cox that she had spent the summer with, as a teenager, long before the war. Actually, it was my uncle Kenneth James Cox, who died in 1943 serving with the RCAF, whom she remembered.

My paternal grandfather, my father and I attended Kimberley Public School and Malvern Collegiate. I believe that my grandfather started at Malvern, then called East Toronto High School, around the time that it opened on today's Malvern Avenue in January 1906. My father, after public school, went to Danforth Tech. and his brother, Kenneth James Cox, attended Eastern Commerce. I started at Malvern but ended my high school career at Monarch Park and then did my Honours B.A. at York University and my Masters at University of Toronto.

After great grandfather William Hind's death in 1948, my parents moved into the house at 74 Osborne. Our children, Ashley and Kristian, would be the fifth generation to know the house and attend Kimberley Public School. Both my older brother Brian and daughter Ashley attended Malvern Collegiate Institute. Brian was in the original marching band at Malvern.

Between my grandmother and my mother, I have a huge collection of stories about the area. For instance, we never called the playing field 'Ted Reeve' but rather the 'Granny' because my parents and grandparents always referred to it as the Grand Trunk Playing Field. I always thought about writing a history of the area north of Kingston Road and environs, but just never got around to it. As kids, we used to joke about not belonging to the Balmy Beach Club and at one stage said we were the 'Proletariat of the area'. Hmmm.

The neighbourhood looks very different now from the one I knew as a boy. When we were kids, there was a police station at the southeast corner of Swanwick Avenue and Main Street (now home to Community Centre 55). The area east of Ted Reeve Arena, where there is now a residential subdivision, was still a train yard where my friends and I would spend our days climbing around and exploring. When we got up in the morning, our mothers would tell us to get outside and play, so we would take off on our bikes and we were *gone*.

Despite deep roots in the community, it was the dispersal of family that prompted our move to Halifax on July 7th. We hadn't seen our grand kids in over a year.

Let's keep in touch. I'll be pleased to share more of my remembrances. Stay safe.

Ken



Samuel Cox and Mary Ellen Smth Cox

My great grandfather, Samuel Cox (1860-1925), and my great grandmother, Mary Ellen (Smith) Cox (1860-1910), were born in the vicinity of Birmingham, England. Samuel became a tinsmith and Mary Ellen was in service. We still have the vase and a picture of the two girls she served as a domestic that was given to her before she left England. Samuel and Mary Ellen were married in Toronto on 1 May 1889, and over the next 12 years, all five of their children were born there. Mary Ellen died at age 49 of pulmonary phthisis (tuberculosis) and Samuel at age 63, 15 years later. They are buried together at St. John's Norway Cemetery, Toronto.



Grave Marker for Samuel and Mary Ellen (Smith) Cox
St. John's Norway Cemetery, Toronto

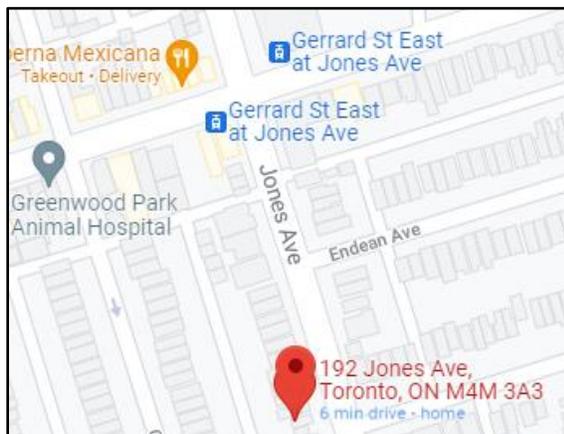
Automated Genealogy 1901 Census Transcription Project Page 1 of 1

Line #	Numbered in order of visitation		Personal Description								Page
	House	Family or Household	Name of each person in family or household on 31st March, 1901.	Sex.	Colour	Relationship to head of family or household.	Single, married, widowed or divorced.	Month and date of birth.	Year of birth.	Age at last birthday.	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
17		5	Cox Samuel	M		Head	M	May 5	1860	40	1
18		5	Cox Mary E.	F		Wife	M	Sep 2	1860	40	1
19		5	Cox Lucilla	F		Daughter	S	Jan 22	1890	11	1
20		5	Cox James	M		Son	S	Jul 12	1892	8	1
21		5	Cox Isabella	F		Daughter	S	Apr 24	1896	4	1
22		5	Cox Eveline	F		Daughter	S	Oct 10	1899	1	1

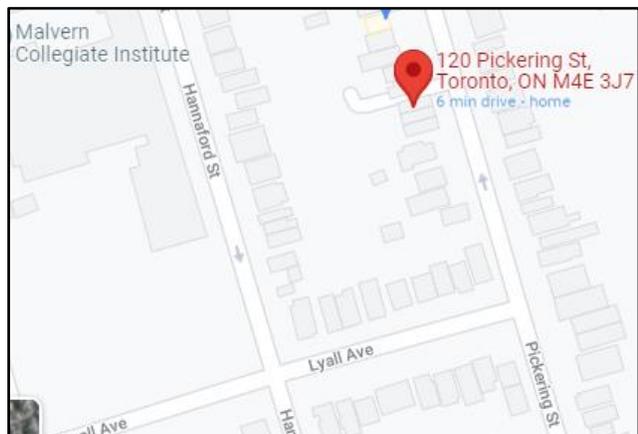
Entry for Samuel Cox household in Canada Census for Toronto East, 1901 (transcription)

In 1901, the Cox household included Samuel Cox (1860-1925), wife Mary Ellen Smith (1860-1910), son James Gordon Cox (1892-1970) and daughters Drusilla Florence Cox (1890-1968), Isabel Mary Cox (1896-1966) and Evelyn Cox (1899-1953). The 1901 census recorded that Samuel and Mary were born in England and immigrated to Canada in 1878 and 1880 respectively. Samuel worked as a tinsmith in a factory and earned \$500 a year. According to the 1901 Toronto city directory, Samuel Cox was a "tinner" at the Piper Railway Supply Company, located at 314 Front Street West; he resided at 192 Jones Avenue. All of the Cox children were born in Toronto, including the youngest daughter, Gertrude Ellen Cox, on 19 April 1902.

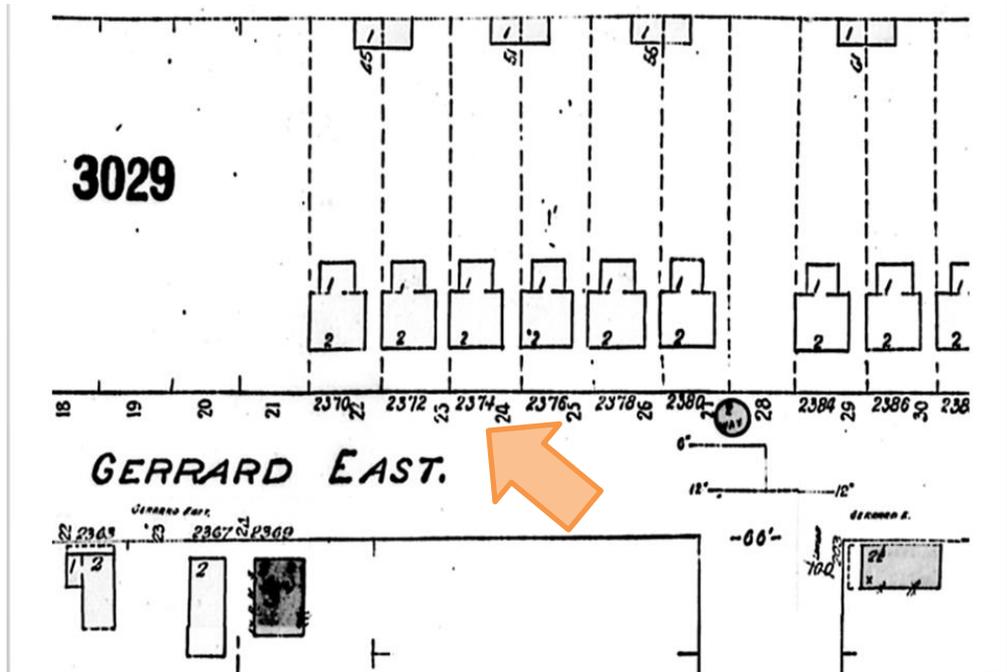
Within a few years of Gertrude's birth, the Cox family moved to East Toronto, residing in a frame house at 2374 Gerrard Street East for about a decade (see page 6). By 1916, the family lived at 120 Pickering Street, recorded in the 1921 census as a six-room, brick, semi-detached house. Samuel became a metal worker for Fred F. Bowell at his sheet metal and tinsmithing business on Parliament Street, Toronto.



192 Jones Avenue (2020) Google Maps



120 Pickering Street (2020) Google Maps



Residence of Samuel Cox and his family, c.1904-c.1915

2374 Gerrard Street East, north side, west of Lawlor Avenue, Toronto

Detail, *Goad's* fire insurance plans, v. 9, sheet 907, Toronto, late East Toronto, revised to March 1916.
<https://mdl.library.utoronto.ca/collections/geospatial-data/toronto-fire-insurance-plans-volume-9/index>.



2374 Gerrard Street East (centre), Toronto, c.2020?

This house has been replaced with a three-story building.



Florence Ellen Hinds, age 16, 1902

My grandmother was born on 5 June 1886 in Sheffield, Yorkshire, England, and came to Canada at age 2. When this picture was taken, the Hinds family lived on Gerrard Street in East Toronto. In 1907 Florence Hinds married Balter Shewman. He died in 1911 and is buried near Brighton, Ontario, near his family's farm. A year later, Florence Ellen married my grandfather, James Gordon Cox (1892-1970). Florence died in 1965 at the East General Hospital in Toronto and is buried with her second husband, James Cox, at Resthaven Memorial Gardens in Scarborough.

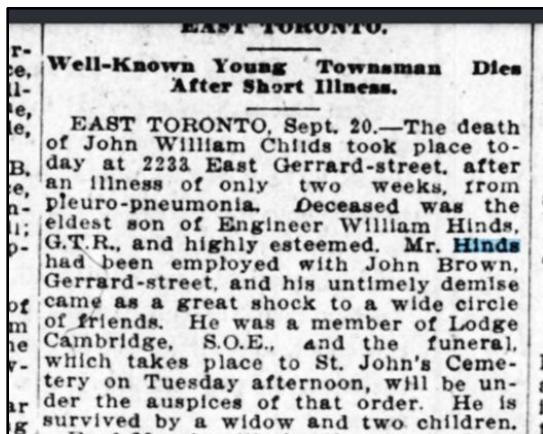


William Hinds family outside 74 Osborne Avenue, East Toronto, c. 1907

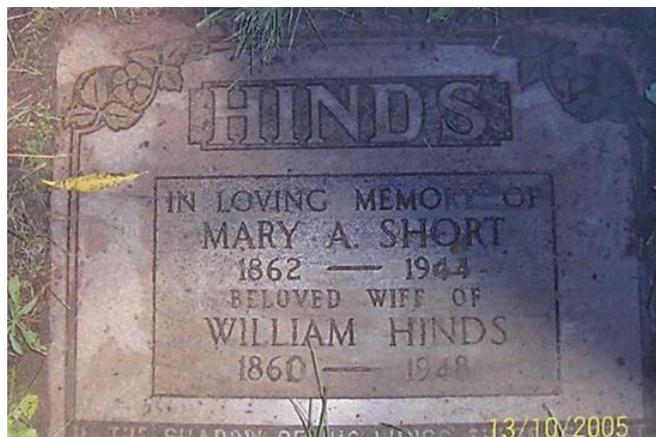
Back Row: Thomas Walker Hinds (1889-?), Robert Hinds (1892-1965), Sydney Hinds (1890-1969) and my grandmother's first husband, Balter Shewman (1884-1911)

Front Row: Rosa Hinds (1888-?); Nellie Hinds (standing, 1897-?), Mary Ann Short Hinds (my great grandmother, 1862–1944), Rupert Hinds (standing, 1896-1973), William Hinds (my great grandfather, 1860-1948), Florence Ellen (Hinds) Shewman (my grandmother, 1886-1965), with Merza Hinds (1904-2000) seated in the foreground.

Not included in this family photograph is John William Hinds (1884-1908), the eldest son. He died in September 1908 at age 24, leaving a young wife and two small daughters.



Obituary for John William Hinds
Toronto World, 22 September 1908



Grave Marker for William and Mary (Short) Hinds,
St. John's Norway Cemetery, Toronto

**Particulars to be filled in by the
person solemnizing**

Marriage

I Hereby declare that I Married

<i>Name of Husband</i>		<i>Name of Wife</i>	
James Gordon Cox		Florence Ellen Shewman	
On the 10 ¹² day of July 1912			
at the City of Toronto			
in the County of York			
<i>Husband</i>		<i>Wife</i>	
<i>Place of Birth</i>	Toronto	<i>Place of Birth</i>	Yorkshire England
<i>Nationality</i>	B	<i>Nationality</i>	W
<i>Bachelor or Widower</i>	✓	<i>Spinster or Widow</i>	✓
<i>Age</i>	21 Years	<i>Age</i>	24 Years
<i>Religious Denomination</i>	Anglican	<i>Religious Denomination</i>	Anglican
<i>Residence of Husband</i>			
2374 Concord St E			
<i>Residence of Wife</i>			
74 Osborne Ave			
<i>Name in full of Father of Husband</i>			
Samuel Cox			
<i>Name in full of Father of Wife</i>			
Wm Hinds			
<i>Rank or Profession of Father of Husband</i>			
Tramway			
<i>Rank or Profession of Father of Wife</i>			
Engineer			
<i>Name and Maiden Name of Mother of Husband</i>			
Mary South			
<i>Name and Maiden Name of Mother of Wife</i>			
Anne Short			
<i>Names and Address of Witnesses</i>			
Walter Hinds			
74 Osborne Ave			
Theresa Marion			
81 Kimmsley St			
<i>Signature and Address of Person solemnizing Marriage.</i>			
Walter Hinds			
26 Heyworth Ave			

Marriage certificate, James Gordon Cox & Florence Ellen Shewman (née Hinds), 12 July 1912



Sgt. Rupert Hinds, 1915

In 1915, my great uncle volunteered for the Canadian Expeditionary Force. He served in France with the Canadian Machine Gun Corps Army, winning the Distinguished Conduct Medal and losing a leg in the process. He returned to Canada in 1919, and married my grandfather's sister, Gertrude Cox, in 1923. He died in Toronto in 1973, and is buried at Resthaven Memorial Gardens, Scarborough.



My grandparents, James Gordon Cox and Florence Ellen (Hinds, Shewman) Cox, c.1920

At this time, my grandfather was an office assistant with the Grand Trunk Railway. When its management was taken over by the Canadian National Railway in 1923, he joined the successor company and became the chief clerk for Toronto.



Kenneth James Cox (1915-1943) at Danforth Station, Toronto, on route to Europe, c.1942

My uncle volunteered to serve with the Royal Canadian Air Force on 10 December 1941. At that time, he was an underwriter with Canada Life and lived with my grandparents in an apartment at 2362 Queen Street East. He became a flying officer (navigator) with 410 Squadron, but was accidentally killed on 26 November 1943 during air operations. He is buried in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England.

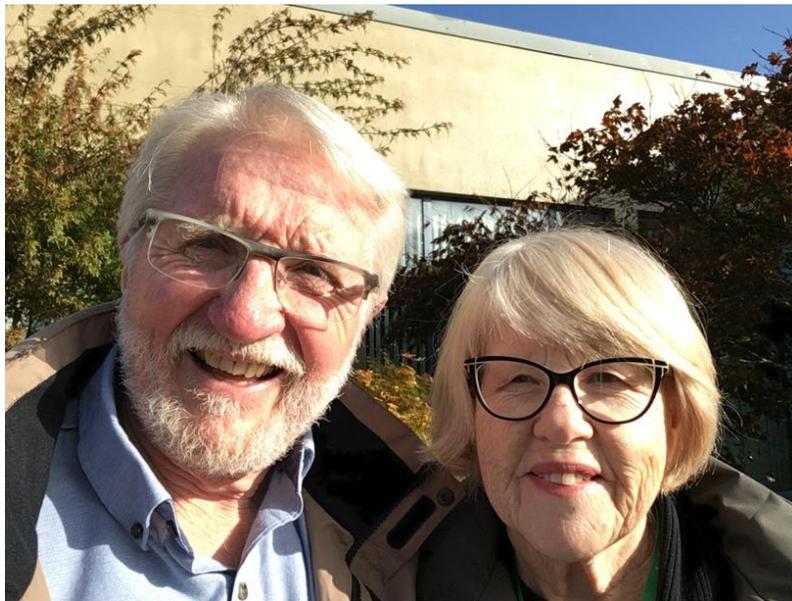


Four Generations of the Hinds-Cox Family, back yard of 74 Osborne Avenue, Toronto, c.1947

L to R: My dad, Leonard Gordon Cox (1917–1967); my grandfather, James Gordon Cox (1892-1970); my great grandfather, William Hinds (1860-1948). In the foreground, my brother, Brian Leonard Cox



**My mother, Marion Shanks (Cree) Cox (1918–2000) and my brother, Brian (born in 1943)
at 74 Osborne Avenue, Toronto, c.1951**



Me and Glenda, 2021