

**Monday April 1, 1940  
Alton, Illinois**

**Frank Cox dies In Los Angeles;  
Noted Painter**

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**Former Altonian Succumbs to Heart Trouble at Age of 80**

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**Associated With Brother**

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**Decorated Theaters:  
Body May Be Cremated, Ashes Brought Here**

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Word was received yesterday of the death of Frank Cox in Los Angeles, Calif., Saturday night at 9:50 o'clock. The message was received by Mrs. H.G. Powell of Webster Groves, Mo., a sister of Mr. Cox. Mr. Cox was 86 years of age.

His death was due to heart trouble from which he had been a sufferer the last two years. Up to the time his heart attack developed he had been in the best of health and only a short time before he had undergone a physical examination which doctors said would have been creditable in anyone 30 years his junior. Blindness had darkened his life during the period of his illness, Mrs. Powell had been summoned to California to be with her brother and after a two-week visit with him had returned to her home just one week before she was notified her brother had died.

Frank Cox came of a family who long resided in Upper Alton. His parents were Mr. and Mrs. J.C. Cox. It was a family of great artistic talent, every one of the members being distinguished for ability in some form of arts. The Cox brothers were painters and were long in the business of decorating theaters and other places of amusement. Fifty years ago when Temple Theater was being finished the Cox brothers painted the drop curtain, the stage settings and the interior of the theater. The brothers then associated with Frank were Clark and Eugene Cox. Eugene who lives in Antioch, Ill. Is the last of the brothers, and Mrs. Powell is the last of the sisters. For years some or all of the Cox brothers did all the theater decorating in Alton for W.M. Sauvage.

The first wife of Mr. Cox died [actually the second wife—they forgot about Clara Atkins, the mother of his children] and about 14 years ago he remarried and his wife survives. There are two children, Mrs. George Leonardi of Covina, Calif. and Mrs. Zella Karet of New Orleans, also two grandchildren.

Mrs. Powell said that until Mr. Cox went blind he continued to devote his time to painting and delighted doing water colors. He had long before given up the business of theater decorating, but even when he was past 80 he was still doing exquisite little water colors as an expression of his artistic passion.

Mrs. Powell said she was uncertain about funeral plans but that the body of her brother probably would be cremated and the ashes sent back for interment in the Cox family lot in Oakwood Cemetery.

*(transcribed by Ron Ritchie from the "SCRAPBOOK" of Mary Ann Cox.)*

**Tignal Franklin "Frank" Cox**

[www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSvcid=261743&GRid=81895156](http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSvcid=261743&GRid=81895156)

Eldest of eight children born to James Clayton Cox and Mary Ann *Nicholson* Cox

Birth: February 17, 1854 in Flat Rock, Shelby Co., Indiana

Death: March 30, 1940 in Los Angeles County, California at age 86 from a heart attack

Married (1): June 21, 1876 to Clara Atkins in Streator, La Salle Co., Illinois; they divorced 1883-1884; two children

Married (2): 1884-1885 to Ada Walser, who died in 1918; no children

Married (3): August 5, 1926 to Ida Marie Glanzer in Los Angeles Co., California; no children