



Mrs. G. M. Cox, National Bank President

By Karl Sanford Kabelac

GERTRUDE M. MYERS, A NATIVE OF VIRGINIA, WAS BORN ON October 5, 1878. On June 20, 1894, she married Iraton (Ira) Everett Cox. Some ten years her senior, he was a graduate of the law school at the University of Kansas. They began their married life in Independence, KS where he practiced law.

In 1902, they moved to Anadarko, Oklahoma Territory, where he helped organize The Citizens National Bank and became its cashier. Anadarko, in southwestern Oklahoma, is the county seat of Caddo County. It is in former Indian land which was opened for settlement on August 6, 1901. The community had two banks by opening day, both chartered in July 1901. The earlier was The First National Bank of Anadarko (charter #5905). By 1910 its population was 3,500; a century later it is 6,000.

In 1904, Mr. Cox also became associated with The First National Bank of Anadarko. For awhile he served as cashier of both banks, before the Citizens bank was liquidated in 1908 and its business merged into The First National Bank of Anadarko. He continued to serve as cashier of The First National Bank of Anadarko until June 1917. Then, because of ill health he became the president, which was considered to be a less demanding responsibility. But, sadly, he was not able to serve long in that capacity because he died after surgery in Oklahoma City on October 21, 1917.

Mrs. Cox was then elected president of the bank and served in that role for nearly a quarter of a century, through the Roaring '20s and the Depression years of the '30s until the bank closed on January 17, 1941. She died on March 29, 1954, and was buried in Memory Lane Cemetery in Anadarko with her husband.

Sources and acknowledgements

A long obituary for Ira E. Cox is found in the Anadarko newspaper, *The American-Democrat* for October 25, 1917. Mrs. Cox's election as president of the bank is found in the same newspaper for November 1, 1917. An article on the bank from an Anadarko newspaper of June 30, 1940, is found in *Anadarko, Days of Glory*, 1999, p. 67, which is a reproduced compilation of newspaper clippings. The assistance of the Caddo County Genealogical Society is gratefully acknowledged. ♦

A Series 1929 note with the facsimile signature of Mrs. Cox, who signed as G. M. Cox as president of the bank. (Courtesy Heritage Currency Auctions)

Newspaper account of the appointment of Mrs. Cox as bank president in October 1917.

**MRS. COX BECOMES PRESIDENT
OF FIRST NATIONAL**

**Elected To Position Held By The
Late I. E. Cox**

At a meeting of the stockholders of the First National Bank, following the death of I. E. Cox, Mrs. I. E. Cox, the widow, was elected to the presidency of the institution, the position held by her husband at the time of his death.

Mr. R. Ben Popejoy, until two years ago connected with the bank, which he served for a number of years, was elected as the active vice-president of the bank.

The balance of the personnel of the bank remains as before.