

## Seminary Avenue - Hopewell Borough Barbers (1890s) (Cox, Cray, and Cronce)




Rev. 8/9/2020 x - D. Dixon

History of barbers in Hopewell Borough, 1890 - 1960's, with particular focus on Seminary Avenue, including Harry L Cox, Raymond L. Cox, Harry B. Cray, and George ("Dick") Cronce.

See extensive Appendixes at end with references including newspaper clippings and other sources.

[Dates: "=" reference in e.g., newspaper, 51..3 references in range, otherwise exact dates]

### Barber Shops on Seminary Ave.

 <p><b>21 East Broad</b> <b>Raymond Cox</b> 1947 Cox's Corner 1950s - R - A&amp;P groc L - Cox's Corner lunchonette (1947) R - Raymond Cox</p>	 <p><b>6 Seminary (alley)</b> <b>Harry L. Cox</b> 1906 - 1945 - H. L. Cox c1918/23+ - Cox &amp; Cray 1945 - H. L. Cox dies 1950-53 - Cronce &amp; Cray late 1950's? demolished</p>	 <p><b>8 L [10R] Seminary</b> <b>Barbers</b> by 1959 - mid/late 60's? George Cronce w/ Witkowski (to 1963)</p>
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### Early Barber Shops in Hopewell (1890s - 1950s)

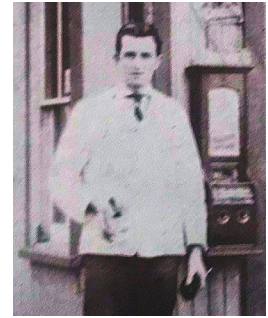
<p><b>Hopewell Barber Shop,</b> Main Street, Hopewell, N. J. <b>Paul Arnold, Proprietor.</b> <small>Shaving, Hair-Cutting, Shampooing, etc. Special attention given to ladies' and children's hair-dressing and shampooing at customer's home, or shop. Choice-line of Tobacco and Cigars.</small></p> <p><b>Hopewell Barber Shop</b> <b>Paul Arnold</b> [27 West] Broad, 1891 [1887..1907]</p>	<p><b>M. D. PUGLIA'S</b> <b>SHAVING - PARLOR</b> BROAD STREET, <b>HOPEWELL, N. J.</b> <small>Made Furnished For Parties, Balls, Etc.</small></p> <p><b>Puglia's Shaving Parlor</b> Cook's Block / Seminary/Broad, 1901 [1899..1901]</p>	<p><b>CENTRAL BARBER SHOP</b> <b>FRED. CRONCE, Prop</b> HOPEWELL, N. J. <small>Hair cutting, shampooing, shaving, etc Fine line of tobacco and cigars Sunday hours—7 to 12</small></p> <p><b>Central Barber Shop</b> <b>Fred Cronce, 1906</b> [1905..06]</p>	<p><b>HARRY COX</b> TONSORIAL PARLOR SEMINARY AVE. HOPEWELL, N. J. <small>Special attention given to ladies' and children's hair cutting, shampooing, etc Full line of tobacco and cigars Monday hours, 7 to 12</small></p> <p><b>Harry L. Fox</b> <b>Tonsorial Parlor</b> 6 Seminary, 1907 [1906-1945]</p>
<p><b>COX &amp; CRAY</b> <b>Barber Shop</b> Special parlor for ladies Seminary Avenue, Hopewell</p> <p><b>Cox &amp; Cray</b> <b>Harry Fox &amp; Harry Cray</b> 6 Seminary, 1927 [1918/23..1951]</p>	<p><b>Cox's Corner</b> <small>Restaurant Fountain Service Center East Broad Street and Seminary Avenue Phone 224</small> <b>Jane Logan Ice Cream</b> CANDY—CIGARS <small>OPEN 7 A. M. UNTIL MIDNIGHT KITCHEN CLOSED HOLIDAYS—LAWYERS SERVED LUNCHES 11:15 A. M. TO 1:15 P. M.—DINNER 4:30 P. M. TO 8:30 P. M. Serving Dinner Daily at Six O'Clock.</small></p> <p><b>Cox's Corner</b> <b>Raymond &amp; Ruth Cox</b> 21 East Broad, 1947 [1947..54] Cox Barber ??</p>	<p><b>CRONCE &amp; CRAY</b> <b>Barber Shop</b> 6 Seminary Avenue Hopewell, N. J.</p> <p><b>Cronce &amp; Cray</b> <b>George Cronce</b> <b>&amp; Harry Cray</b> 6 Seminary, 1950 [1950..53]</p>	<p><b>George Cronce</b> <b>w/ Bob Witkowski</b> 8 Seminary, 1959 [1959..63]</p>

## Hopewell Borough Barbers - Cox - Cray - Cronce

### Fred Cronce (c1885?)

1905-6 - Ran Central Barber Shop  
1909 - Employed Harry Cox, left 1909

Harry Fox  
c1906  
Shop at 6 Sem.



### Harry Lester Cox (1885 - 1945) - photo at 6 Sem

Birth 23 Dec 1885, New Hope, PA  
Death 14 Dec 1945 (aged 59), Trenton, NJ - Highland Cemetery  
Married 1906 - Larena E Morrell (1887-1977)  
Children - Raymond L. (1907-1996), Delbert M. (1910-1986)  
1906-45 - Built Tonsorial Parlor, #6 Seminary (Left Fred Cronce)  
1916 - "Shops of Cox and Cray"; 1916..21 - Employed George Cronce - Left to enlist in Navy  
1918 - Harry Cray injured in motorcycle accident - rejoins Cox  
1923..40 - Cox & Cray  
12/1945 - Harry Cox died [64], son Raymond "takes over"

### Harry B. Cray (1896 - 1960)

Birth 1896  
Death 1960 (aged 63-64), Highland Cemetery  
Married 1917, Eva Marie McGowan (1894-1994)  
1916 - "Shops of Cox and Cray"; 1918 - Harry Cray injured in motorcycle accident - rejoins Cox  
1923..40 - Cox & Cray, 6 Seminary  
1950..53 - Cronce & Cray barber shop, 6 Seminary

### Raymond L. Cox (1907 - 1996)

Birth 10 Jun 1907, New Jersey  
Death 1 Dec 1996 (aged 89), Highland Cemetery  
Married Ruth E. Phillips Cox (1908-1997)  
1947..51 - Opens Cox's Corner, Luncheonette - Ruth & Raymond Cox, [21] E Broad  
??? Barber shop at 21 E Broad  
12/1945 - Harry Cox died [64], son Raymond "takes over"

Geo. Cronce  
1920, Navy



### George ("Dick") Cronce (1907 - 1996)

Birth 10/4/1900, New Jersey  
Death 9/7/1986, Woodbridge, NJ  
Married c1920, Flemington, divorce 1945 Bronx, NY, Gertrude Gilbert Thompson (1903-1973)  
Children - 1922-25, Flemington, Camden - George Richard, Robert Earl, Violet Lillian, Jean  
Married 1946, Irene R Kasten (1913-1992), Mount Vernon, NY  
Children - 2 daughters, Hopewell - Davida, Pearl Anita 1950  
1916..19 - Worked for Harry Cox  
1919..21 - Enlisted in Navy, barber  
1942-45 - Drafted WW II - Navy, Queens NY  
1950..53 - Cronce & Cray barber shop, 6 Seminary  
1959..63+ - Cronce at 8 Seminary, Bob Witkowski joins 1959-63

## Hopewell Borough Barbers - Summary Chronology

- 1887 - [Fowler Map #9] - "**Paul M. H. Arnold, Barber Shop**", 27 W Broad [R side]  
 "Arnold was Spanish and he married a black.  
 Allena Arnold, their daughter, was a fine hairdresser." [*Hopewell's Past*, Betty Gantz, 1987]
- 1891 - Harry Sloop, barber, now working for E. Kennedy
- 1891..1907 - **Hopewell Barber Shop, Paul Arnold**, Broad St.
- 1893 - New Barber Shop - Frank Kelly, Tedbadell House, Near Depot
- 1899..1901 - **M. D. Puglia's Shaving Parlor** - Cook's Block (1899 fire), Seminary, Broad (by 1901)
- 1905-1906 - **Fred Cronce, Central Barber Shop** - bought business of Zephania Stout
- 1906 - **Harry L. Cox builds 6 Seminary, Tonsorial Parlor** (leaves Cronce) - 1907, 1909 additions
- 1906 - John E. Stacey of Trenton takes over shop of Fred Cronce
- 1909 - Fred Cronce leaves Cox
- 1909 - Harry L. Cox new addition**, new part in rear of his old shop, waiting and reading room
- 1910 - Chas. Titus at Cox
- 1916-17+ - **George Cronce with Harry Cox** - apprentice, employee
- 1916 = Shops of **Harry L. Cox and Harry B. Cray**
- 1917 - **Harry B. Cray owner of Central Barber Shop** on Broad
- 1918 - Harry Cray injured in motorcycle accident - rejoins Cox
- [1919..21 - George Cronce with Harry Cox - enlists in Navy]
- 1920 - H. L Cox addition** to barber shop - another pool table
- 1922 - Trudel's barber shop new in building where Robert P. Blackwell has opened dry goods
- [1920's - George Cronce m. Gertrude Gilbert Thompson, 4 children - Flemington, Camden]
- 1923..1940 - **Cox & Cray** at [6] Seminary - 1923 improvements (Cray back 1918?)
- [1942-45 - George Cronce drafted - Navy - WW II]
- 12/1945 - **Harry Cox died [64], son Raymond "takes over"**
- [1946 - George Cronce m. Irene R Kasten, NYC]
- c 1946 ? - Raymond Cox** left to open shop in Pennington
- 1946..1951 - Joseph Cataldo, barber of Railroad Place
- 1947..51 - Opening of **Cox's Corner, Luncheonette - Ruth and Raymond Cox**, [21] E Broad & Seminary
- 1951-54 - Cox's Corner under new Management [1954 Mike]
- 1950 - Paul Helleis, barber in the employ of Joseph Kuhn
- 1951 - **Cox & Cray** [?] hours
- 1950,51,53 - **Cronce & Cray** barber shop - 6 Seminary [1950=George Cronce children in Hopewell]
- 1950..1954 - **Joe's Barber Shop**, Railroad Place - Two barbers and Freida's Beauty Shop
- 1960 - Harry B. Cray died
- **Cronce & Cray** at #6 Seminary through at least 1953 --
- **Cronce** at #8 Seminary by 1959 -- Witkowski joins
- 1947..50..54 = Cox's Corner Luncheonette, 21 East Broad - Ray & Ruth Cox
- 1959 ? - Raymond Cox at 21 East Broad**
- R side - Cox barber shop
- L side - luncheonette (Cox's Corner)
- 1959 - **Bob Witkowski joins Cronce** - 8 Seminary
- 1963 - **Bob Witkowski - Mr. Haircut** - opens in 45 W. Broad (R) - Charlie Lemendola?
- mid/late 1960s? - George Cronce retires - d. 1986 Woodbridge
- 1972 - **Bob Witkowski - Mr. Haircut** - opens at 19 Seminary - renovation - shop on front

## Appendix - References

### Newspapers References - Hopewell Herald & Trenton Evening Times

Hopewell Herald [HH] & Trenton Evening Times [TT]

1891 - Harry Sloop, the barber, now working for E. Kennedy in Hopewell [TT 3/22/1891]

**1891-93,95,99,1901-05,07 - Ad: Hopewell Barber Shop, Paul Arnold**, Proprietor [HH 12/23/1891]  
- Main St. (to 1893, Broad by 1895) [...HH 2/27/1901]

1893 - Ad: New Barber Shop - Frank Kelly, Prop., Tedbadell House, Near Depot, Hopewell

**1899 - Cook's Block fire 7/11/1899 - M. D. Puglia barber shop** - opened on Seminary in building largely occupied by **George Green as a meat market**

1900 - Harry Cox gone to Heightstown to work in the shirt factory [TT 12/3/1900]

**1901 - Ad: M. D. Puglia's Shaving Parlor**, Broad St. [HH 2/27/1901]

1906 - Harry Cox will occupy [George] Greens' house on Broad Street [HH 11/14/1906]

1905 - **Fred Cronce** bought barber shop and business of Zephania Stout [TT 1/16/1905]

**1906 - Harry Cox will erect at once a new shop on Seminary avenue** near Morrell Bros' store. **Harry Cox** resigned from Fred Cronce barber shop, will start business for himself in near future. [HH 6/26/1906]

1906 - Harry Cox commenced erection of a new barber shop on Seminary avenue [TT 7/18/1906]

1906 - Ad: **Central Barber Shop, Fred Cronce** [HH 4/17/1906]

**1906 - Fred Cronce has gone out of the barber business** in Hopewell, closing up his shop and taken a position in Trenton as a plumber's helper. The shop vacated by him has been rented to John E. Stacey of Trenton, who will open up tonight for business. [HH 11/14/1906] [TT 11/17/1906]

1906 - Ad: Barber Shop vacated by Fred Cronce [HH 11/28/1906]

**1906 - Harry Cox will keep his barber shop open** all day tomorrow, Thanksgiving day. [HH 11/28/1906]

**1907-09 - Ad: Harry Cox, Tonsorial Parlor, Seminary Ave.**

**1907 - Harry Cox has had an addition built to the rear of his barber shop.** [HH 8/14/07]

**1909-10 - Ad: Does Your Barber Suit You?** If not try Harry L. Cox

1909 - Fred Cronce has accepted a position in Heightstown [TT 11/6/1909]

**1909 - Harry L. Cox has just had completed a new addition** to his tonsorial parlor on Seminary avenue, which makes it the largest and finest intown.... The new part is built in the rear of his old shop and is in the form of a waiting and reading room,... . [HH 11/10/1995]

**1909 - Mr. Cox has also secured the services of a first-class barber** to take the place of **Fred Cronce**, who had taken a position in Hightstown. [HH 11/10/1995]

1909 - Harry L. Cox, 3rd anniversary, Seminary [HH 7/7/1909]

**1910 - Tonsorial artist Harry L. Cox is happy father of baby boy**, born last Saturday morn [HH 6/1/1910]

**1910 - Chas. Titus...** resume labors at Harry L. Cox's barber shop [had rheumatism] [HH 11/2/1910]

**1916-17 - Ad: Does Your Barber Suit You?** If not try Harry L. Cox

**1916 - Ad: New Barber Shop Hours - evenings - H. L. Cox, H. B. Cray** [HH 10/18/1916]

**1916 - George Cronce** is apprentice in tonsorial parlor of H. L. Cox - Boy Scouts [HH 6/28/1916]

**1917 - George Cronce** an employee in barber shop of Harry L. Cox [HH 3/14/1917]

1917 - **Harry B. Cray owner of Central Barber Shop on Broad** - Cray marries Eva Marie McGowan [HH 7/11/1917]

**1917 - The barber shops of H. L. Cox and Harry Cray** will be closed all day on July 4th [HH 6/27/1917]

1918 - Harry Cray, barber, kneecap injured in motorcycle accident [TT 11/20/1918]

1919 - Harry B. Cray in hospital with injured knee [1/1/1919]

1919 - **George Cronce barber with Harry Cox** for last 5 years, son of Richard Cronce, enlisted in Navy, [sp Crouce], [TT 11/16/1919] [HH 11/12/1919]

- 1920 - George Cronce charge of Navy barber shop in Newport RI - photo [TT 5/23/20]  
**1920 - H. L. Cox has built an addition** to his barber shop on Seminary avenue and installed another pool table. [5/5/1920]  
**1921 - George Cronce, of Navy, furlough at home of father Richard Cronce [HH 5/25/1921] ac**  
*1921 - George Cronce marries Gertrude Gilbert Thompson of Flemington [TT 12/17/1921]*  
**1922 - Ad: Does Your Barber Suit You?** If not try Harry L. Cox  
**1922 - Trudel's barber shop** recently occupied building - Robert P. Blackwell has opened dry goods [4/5/1922]  
**1923 - Cox & Cray making extensive improvements** - Seminary - mirrors, chairs [HH 5/20/1923]  
1925 - "Flirting With the Angels" - experience at Harry Cox [HH 3/18/1925]  
1925 - [4/1] - Harry Cox says that he bobs ladies hair and guarantees satisfaction. If you're not satisfied, he will return the amputated hair. [HH 4/1/1925]  
1926 - "Barbers Raided Their Shaves" - prices up 25 cents [HH 5/19/1926]  
**1926-27,30-35,38-40 - District 1 voting** - Rear of Cox [& Cray] barber Seminary [HH 10/6/1926]  
**1927,34 - Ad: Cox & Cray Barber Shop** - Special parlor for ladies - Seminary Avenue [HH 2/9/1927]  
1927 - Thanksgiving Day - local businesses [HH 11/23/1927]  
1931 - John Greco, a former Hopewell barber - convicted on disorderly charge [HH 4/15/1931] [3/1932 Lindbergh]  
1939 - Harry Fox receives letter from Connie Mack taking for birthday congratulations [HH 1/4/1939]  
1945 - "Hot Stove Card Club" in back room of Cox & Cray barber shop on Seminary [HN 12/4/1945]  
**1945 - Harry L. Cox died 12/14/1945, ~appendix. Son Raymond now in shop and will carry on;** was at GM plant in Trenton. Over 100 of shop's customers were in the armed services during the war. [HN 12/26/1945]  
**1946 - Joseph Cataldo**, barber of Railroad Place [HH 12/4/1946]  
*1947 - Opening of Cox's Corner, Soda Fountain Luncheonette - Ruth and Raymond Cox [HH 9/3/1947]*  
*[21] East Broad and Seminary*  
*1947-48..50 - Ad: Cox's Corner [HH 9/10/1947]*  
*1951-54 - Ad: Cox's Corner - Under new Management [1954 proprietor Mike] [HH 5/9/1951]*  
  
**1950 - Paul Helleis**, barber in the employ of Joseph Kuhn  
**1950-51 - Ad: Cronce & Cray Barber Shop**, 6 Seminary Avenue [HH 12/12/1951]  
1951 - Barber Prices Are Raised - at Cronce and Cray and Joe's Barber Shop - now 50 cents [HH 1/17/1951]  
**1951 - Cox & Cray and Joseph Cataido barber shops** closed from July 20 to August 4. [HH 7/18/1951]  
*1951 - Raymond L. Cox, 21 East Broad - administrator Edward R. Whitehead [HH 11/7/1951]*  
**1953 - Baseball Club meet at barber shop of Cronce & Cray** on Seminary Avenue [HH 5/6/1953]  
**[1950,]1954 - Joe's Barber Shop - 25 Railroad Place** - Two barbers [HH 9/2/1954]  
-- **Cronce & Cray** at #6 Seminary through at least 1953 --  
-- **Cronce** at #8 Seminary by 1959 -- Witkowski joins --  
**1959 ? - Raymond Cox at 21 East Broad**  
R side - Cox barber shop  
L side - luncheonette (Cox's Corner)  
1959 - **Bob Witkowski joins Cronce** - 8 Seminary  
1963 - **Bob Witkowski - Mr. Haircut** - opens in 45 W. Broad (R)  
mid 1960s? - George Cronce retires - d. 1986 Woodbridge  
1969 - Business Opportunities - A-1 Barber Shop - 8 Seminary - 466-1388  
1972 - **Bob Witkowski - Mr. Haircut** - opens at 19 Seminary - renovation - shop on front

### Oral History - Raymond Cox [HVHS 1993]

born in Hopewell, father born in Pennsylvania. mother born in Hopewell  
married ~1929 Ruth, lived with Ruth's parents less than a year,  
then Ruth had beauty parlor on South Main in Pennington, across from Doc Abey  
had until after the war - bought before the war, \$10,000  
worked at General Motors during the war.  
father died in 1950 [45!]. came back to Hopewell, sold house \$13,000

Harry Cray born Hopewell, five years younger than my father, born about 1890  
learned trade with father, left and opened shop down below John's store, below drugstore, did well  
motorcycle accident at Ewing Hotel - crippled him up; went back with father - partners until the end  
haircuts were probably 35 when I started. And of course, they did a lot of shaving in the barbershop.

original movie house was on Seminary, Two doors down where the architects are now, same building  
Not a big theater, had bake shop in back. Hill's Bakery.  
When Columbia Theater built, 1935, '36, father run them movies and took theater to Columbia Theater.  
WPA built the Creamery Pond - Daniel P. Northrup owned

### Bios - Find A Grave / Ancestry.com

Fred Cronce [c1885]

#### **HH - Fred has son 1905**

**Fred Cronce** - Central Barber Shop 1905-6, w/ Cox to 1909

[not George Frederic 'Fred' Cronce - 11 October 1891 - 18 August 1917 - Wisconsin]

#### **Harry Lester Cox**

Birth 23 Dec 1885 New Hope, Bucks County, Pennsylvania

Death 14 Dec 1945 (aged 59) Trenton, Mercer County - Highland Cemetery

m. Larena E Morrell Cox, 1887-1977 (m. 1906)

Children Raymond L. Cox, 1907-1996, Delbert M. Cox, 1910-1986

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/147627405/harry-l-cox>

#### **Raymond L. Cox**

Birth 10 Jun 1907 New Jersey

Death 1 Dec 1996 (aged 89) - Highland Cemetery

m Ruth E. Phillips Cox, 1908-1997

[https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/46907447/raymond-l\\_-cox](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/46907447/raymond-l_-cox)

#### **Harry B. Cray**

Birth 1896

Death 1960 (aged 63-64) - Highland Cemetery

m 1917 - Marie M. Cray, 1894-1994 [Eva Marie McGowan]

[https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/9285832/harry-b\\_-cray](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/9285832/harry-b_-cray)

George "Dick" Cronce (1900 - 1986)

**parents - Richard S. Cronce (1860-1932) - Carline Hagaman Cronce (1864-1921)**

10/4/1900 - 9/7/1986 - SSN 059-01-0771

1919...21 - barber in Navy, was with Harry Cox

c 1920 - m Gertrude Gilbert Thompson - Flemington, divorce 1945

- Children 1922-25 - George Richard, Robert Earl, Violet Lillian, Jean

1940 - Census - Queens NJ - barber - sons George, Robert

1942-45 - Drafted - Navy

1946 - m Irene R Kasten (1913-1992), Mount Vernon, NY

1986 - died - Woodbridge, NJ

<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/117263949/person/330164502412/facts>

**parents - Richard S. Cronce (1860-1932) - Carline Hagaman Cronce (1864-1921)**

Highland - <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/45202425>

[other Children - Howard 1883, Joseph Hagaman 1885, Alva C. 1887, Jeness 1894

[father - Asa J Cronce(1825-1881), Hunterdon --

1915 - NJ Census - Hopewell - Richard S. Cronce 1860(-1932), Driver, Caroline Cronce 1864

Children - Hazel 1894, [C]Katherine 1896, Anna 1898, George (age 15) 1900

1915 - 1918 - WW I - U.S. 1917

1919 - George Cronce, son of Richard Cronce, enlisted in Navy, barber with Harry Cox

1920 - US Census - Hopewell - Richard Cronce 59, laborer, street work, Caroline Cronce 55,

Children - Hazel 25, **George 19 barber**

1921 - Hw - Richard & Caroline Cronce - 3 dau & Richard, Alvah, Joseph [TT 1/4/1921]

1921 - George Cronce, of Navy, at home of father Richard Cronce

1921 - mother died - Caroline "Carrie" Hagaman (1864-1921)

1922 - Birth of **son George Richard** Cronce(1922-1992), Flemington

1923 - Birth of **son Robert Earl** Cronce(1923-1985)

1924 - Birth of **daughter Violet Lillian** Cronce(1924-2000), Flemington

1925 - Birth **daughter Jean** Cronce(1925-), Camden County

1939 - 1945 - WW II - U.S. Pearl Harbor 12/7/1941

1940 - US Census - Queens NY - George Cronce 39 barber, (no spouse), sons George, Robert

1942 - Draft Card (1897-1921) - Queens NY - George Cronce, age 41 - Maples Barber Shop 15 W 27th - D.

Coritor - ref Mrs. Anna Paul, Hopewell - 2/15/1942

1942-45 - Navy - George Cronce, 10/4/1900 - 9/7/1986 - Enlist 9/29/1942 - 6/5/1945 - Service # 227-79-89 - [Veterans Death Record]

1945 - Divorce - **Gertrude Gilbert Thompson [later Kraut]** (1903-1973), Bronx, NY, 9/14/1945

1946 - Marriage **Irene R Kasten** (1913-1992), Mount Vernon, NY, 6/29/1946

1950 - Daughter **Paerl Anita** Cronce born - 2nd child [HH 8/2/1950]

1986 - Obit - Allentown, NJ - George "Dick" Cronce, 85, d 9/7/1986 [paper 9/11/1986]

Navy WWII, Legion 339, wife Irene, children Davida, Pearl, Jean - 1st - Violet [Robert 85, Geo?]

buried Woodbridge - Messenger-Press (Allentown, NJ) 11 Sep 1986, Thu Page 8