

## **Education**

Cox earned a baccalaureate degree in mathematics from the University of Indiana in 1917. He then served in the U.S. army in France during World War I. Following the war he followed in his father's footsteps by teaching mathematics at public schools in Henderson, Kentucky. He then got a position at Shaw University in Raleigh, North Carolina. He did such an excellent job he received the Eratus Brooks Fellowship, which allowed him to pursue a graduate degree. He began his graduate work at Cornell University in 1922. His advisor was William Lloyd Garrison Williams. Williams is an interesting character. His phenomenal support of Cox's situation is discussed with the Multicultural Issues section of this page. Also go to the Mathematical Genealogy section of this page to see some of the famous mathematician's that are linked Williams and Cox. In 1925 Cox received his Ph.D. thus becoming not only the first African American to obtain a Ph.D. in Mathematics in the U.S. but also in the world.

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