

John Crews II 1800-1875

As with many of the records for the older Wiregrass pioneers, John Crews' are inconsistent, at best. Judge Huxford, in his *Pioneers of Wiregrass Georgia* book Volume 5 reports John Crews (II) was born in the Beaufort District of South Carolina (1). However, son John III states his father was born in Georgia (2). Depending on which census is viewed, his birth date is either 1800 or 1805. With his son John being referred to as John III and his grandson John IV, it is safe to say he is John II and is a son of John Crews I (1).

Judge Huxford states John and his brothers, Joseph Crews and Samuel Crews, and possibly others of his family, came to Camden County, Georgia in their early adulthood, where they married (1). These brothers and likely their mother were counted here in 1830. A closer look at the below 1830 Census record seems to support the Judge's statement. There are four adult males and one female that appears to be a generation older. This could be John, 1790 Samuel, 1805 Joseph, and another late arrival to Camden County, Elias and perhaps their mother. Huxford has shown three were born in Beaufort County, SC. The fourth, Elias, is unknown however, there is no record of Elias until his 1831 marriage to Mary Beasley in Camden.

Name: John Crews (2)

Home in 1830 (City, County, State): Great Satilla River, Camden, Georgia

Enumeration Date: 1830

Free White Persons - Males - 20 thru 30	2	1800-1810
Free White Persons - Males - 30 thru 40	2	1790-1800
Free White Persons - Females - 50 thru 60	1	1770-1780
Number of Persons - Engaged in Agriculture		
Free White Persons - Under 16	0	
Free White Persons - Over 25	5	
Total Free White Persons	5	

John Crews married Catherine Prevatt, born 1807 in McIntosh County, daughter of James D. Prevatt who was an early settler of Wayne, later moving to Hamilton County, Fla. The couple's marriage occurred sometime after the 1830 Census for Camden County; GA was taken.

To John and Catherine Crews were born eleven children:

Mary	b. 1831, Ga., never married.
Ann	
Samuel	b. 1834, Ga. m. (unknown)

Lydia Ann	b. 1836, Ga., m. (unknown)	
David W	b. 1839, Ga., m. (unknown)	
Henry Clay	b. 1840, Ga., m. (unknown)	
William B	b. 1841, Fla., m. Celia	
Sarah Ann	b. 1843. Ga., m. 1st, Freeman Sweat	2nd Elias Williams, Baker Co. FL
John III	b. 1845. Ga., m. Sarah Williams, daughter of John D	
Joseph	b. 1848, Ga., m. Anna Williams, daughter of John D	
Elias	b. 1850, Fla., m. 1st. Honor C. Green	2nd Martha, daughter of Alfred Sapp, all of Bradford Co., FL
Roger	b. 1855, FL., m. Missouri Thompson	

John Crews and family lived in Camden County in 1840.

Name: John Crews (3)

Home in 1830 (City, County, State): Great Satilla River, Camden, Georgia

Enumeration Date: 1840

Free White Persons - Males - 5 - 10	1	1830-1835	Samuel
Free White Persons - Males - 10 - 15	1	1825-1830	?
Free White Persons - Males - 30 - 40	1	1800-1810	John
Free White Persons - Females – under 5	4	1835-1839	Lydia Ann ? ? ?
Free White Persons - Females – 5 -10	2	1830-1835	Mary Ann
Free White Persons - Females – 10 - 15	1	1825-1830	?
Free White Persons - Females – 30 – 40	1	1800-1810	Catherine

Huxford states the family moved briefly into Columbia County (now Baker), Florida (1) after the 1830 enumeration. There seem to be no records to support this statement.

About a year later they moved back into Georgia and settled in the 13th land district of what was then Ware County, now Echols, living near Bethel Church on the west side of the Suwannee River. The family seems to have lived at this location for several years as John's military records in the 2nd Florida War indicate he traveled eighty miles to Jacksonville to the August 1837 Muster and eighty miles back. The Baker County locale is much closer than the reported eighty miles and is close to the Echols location.

John Crews fought in the Indian War in 1837-39. His bounty-land application executed in Columbia County, Fla., May 27, 1852, showed that he was a 2nd Corporal in Capt. James Green's company, 1st Regiment, Florida Volunteers,

from Aug. 3, 1837, to Dec. 31, 1837, and again Nov. 1, 1838, to Jan. 31, 1839. His application was granted (7) (1).

The family seems to have moved back to Camden after John's two hitches in the Florida War as the next records uncovered for his family report Mr. and Mrs. Crews were members of the Bethel Primitive Baptist Church. Records of Bethel Church above referred to show they were received Jan. 7, 1844, by letter from Baileys Branch Church in Camden County, and were dismissed by letter, having moved back to Florida. Their later church membership has not been traced. Their oldest daughter, Mary Ann, was a member of Bethel also, but did not move her membership from there until May 5, 1876.

By the time the 1850 census is taken, the John Crews (Cruse as it is spelled in this Population Schedule) is enumerated in Columbia County, Florida. An interesting note is John and Catherine are living next door to Samuel and Elizabeth Cruse (Crews)

Name: John Cruse
Event Type: Census
Event Date: 1850
Event Place: Columbia county, Columbia, Florida, United States
Gender: Male
Age: 45
Birthplace: Georgia
Birth Year (Estimated): 1805
House Number: 339
Family Number: 339
Line Number: 32
Affiliate Publication Number: M432
Affiliate Film Number: 58
GS Film number: 6714
Digital Folder Number: 004193083
Image Number: 00139

Household	Gender	Age	Birthplace
John Cruse	M	45	South Carolina
Catherine Cruse	F	43	Georgia
Mary A Cruse	F	19	Georgia
Samuel Cruse	M	16	Georgia
Lidea Cruse	F	14	Georgia
David (Daniel) Webster Cruse	M	11	Georgia
Henry Clay Cruse	M	11	Georgia
William B Cruse	M	9	Georgia
Sarah A Cruse	F	7	Georgia
John Cruse	M	3	Georgia
Joseph Cruse	M	2	Georgia
Elias	M	0 (1 month)	Florida

The 1850 Slave Schedule for Columbia shows John has one black male age 45, 1 black female age 15, and a female mullato age 5 months (6).

With the proximity of Samuel, John appears to be living in what will later be Baker County, Florida.

On 1 May 1855, John Crews of Columbia County, Florida obtained forty acres of land from the Federal Government (8).

It is not known how much longer the family lived in Columbia but, by 1860 they were enumerated in the 22nd District of St Johns County, Florida. John had some familiarity with this area as he was mustered in for his second hitch in the War with the Seminoles (1838) in St Augustine, FL He was mustered out in Jan of 1839 from the same location.

Name: John Crews (5)

Age in 1860: 60

Birth Year: abt 1800

Birthplace: South Carolina

Home in 1860: Division 22, St Johns, Florida

Gender: Male

Post Office: St Augustine

Household Members:

John Crews	60
Catherine Crews	44
Samuel Crews	26
Jane Crews	27
Lydia Ann Crews	23
Daniel Webster Crews*	21
Henry Clay Crews*	21
William Prester Crews	19
John Crews	13
Joseph Crews	12
Elias Crews	10
Roger Crews	5

* *Twins*

About six years later they moved back to Columbia County, Fla., and lived for a few years in the part made about 1858 into Bradford (now Union) County (1).

Mr. and Mrs. Crews spent their last years in present Columbia County where they died; John on 7 March 1875 (9) and Catherine about 1877. They are buried at Oak Grove Baptist Church in Columbia county, north of Lake City. Florida.

Source Citations:

(1) Pioneers of Wiregrass Georgia Volume 5. pgs 86-87. 1982, Compiled and Published by Folks Huxford.

(2) "United States Census, 1880," index and images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/MNZM-X3K> : accessed 04 Jul 2014), John Crews, Precinct 1, 2, And 3, Columbia, Florida, United States; citing sheet 347D, NARA microfilm publication T9.

(3) United States Census, 1830," index and images FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/XHPF-9LZ> : accessed 04 Jul 2014), John Crews, Great Satilla River and Settlement Near It, Camden, Georgia; citing "1830 United States Federal Census," Ancestry.com; p. ??, NARA microfilm publication M19, roll 16, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington D.C.; FHL microfilm 0007036.

(3) "United States Census, 1840," index and images FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/XHBC-18J> : accessed 04 Jul 2014), John Crews, Great Satilla River, Camden, Georgia; citing "1840 United States Federal Census," Ancestry.com; p. 10, NARA microfilm publication M704, roll 38, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington D.C.; FHL microfilm 0007042.

(4) "United States Census, 1850," index and images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/MFHD-XV9> : accessed 05 Jul 2014), John Cruse, Columbia county, Columbia, Florida, United States; citing family 339, NARA microfilm publication M432.

(5) "United States Census, 1860," index FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/M6CS-LJ6> : accessed 05 Jul 2014), Henry Clay Crews in household of John Crews, 22nd Division, St. Johns, Florida, United States; citing "1860 U.S. Federal Census - Population," Fold3.com; p. 16, household ID 116, NARA microfilm publication M653; FHL microfilm 803109.

(6) "United States Census (Slave Schedule), 1850 ," index and images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/MV8J-38L> : accessed 05 Jul 2014), John Cruse, Columbia county, Columbia, Florida, United States; citing NARA microfilm publication M432, line number 3, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington D.C.; FHL microfilm 442885.

(7) <https://archive.org/stream/floridamilitiamu04morr#page/n23/mode/2up>

(8)

http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov/details/patent/default.aspx?accession=FL0370_459&docClass=STA&sid=x5ls5bhf.czb#patentDetailsTabIndex=1

(9) <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=pv&GRid=23684075&Pipi=57170303>