

Joseph M. Crews  
1783 – 1848

Currently, nothing is known about the parentage of Joseph M. Crews (often referred to as Joseph Senior to differentiate him from another, younger Joseph Crews, in Camden County, GA. I suspect that he is another in the long line of Crews that came out of South Carolina Lowcountry. His date of birth was 1783.

Joseph married Elizabeth Smith Hazzard, born about 1780. She was a daughter of Richard Hazzard III and his 2nd wife, Jeanette McCloud therefore, a half-sister of Isabella Maria Hazzard Floyd. Elizabeth was from Beaufort, SC .

The earliest official records of Joseph's whereabouts begin with an entry (year unknown) in the Camden County Inferior Court Minutes. The was a judgment. against Joseph Crews for six hundred twelve dollars and twenty cents bringing the amount of the County and Poor Tax for the years 1805-6 and 1807.

Joseph was a Deputy Sheriff in Camden County in 1808. In this capacity, Joseph conducted a public sale on January 5th for Lot #4 in St Marys to Robert Stafford and his siblings. This lot was later sold in 1822 to a shopkeeper named Sylvester Silva.

Camden County Superior Court minutes note Joseph was appointed Receiver of Tax Returns during January 5, 1808.

A newspaper article from the Savannah Advertiser indicates Joseph was indicted for perjury by the Camden County Grand Jury, along with David G. Jones, Joseph Powers, and John Ross (the latter was a Justice in Camden Inferior Court). An anonymous writer, in a letter to the editor in the Mar 20, 1809, to the same newspaper, laments "the sad spectacle of men prominent in the public affairs of the county stooping to swearing falsely".

Joseph does not appear in Camden Co 1820 census, though we know Joseph was in the county during this period. There were a few boarding houses in St. Marys during this period and would likely has been enumerated there. For an example, Isaac Crews boarding house had 7 males in Joseph's age range. enumerated there in 1820.

Joseph was called for Jury Duty in the Camden Inferior Court during June 1825 (as both Jr and Sr were on this jury) and again possibly 1826, though it cannot be determined which Joseph was called for the 1826 session.

Joseph and Elizabeth do appear in Camden Co 1830 census in the Floyds Neck area. He is listed as Joseph Crews Sr. No children were enumerated within this household.

Records in Camden County reflect Joseph M. Crews being eligible for the 1832 Gold Lottery and the 1832 Land Lottery (as a soldier)

Sometime during 1832, Joseph offers Probate the will of an Isaac Hatcher.

Crews, Joseph M. acquired 200 acres of pine land on the Satilla River in Camden, November 17, 1837. Camden records indicate he paid taxes on same. Joseph apparently did not own any land previously as earlier Camden Tax records have him only paying Poll Tax.

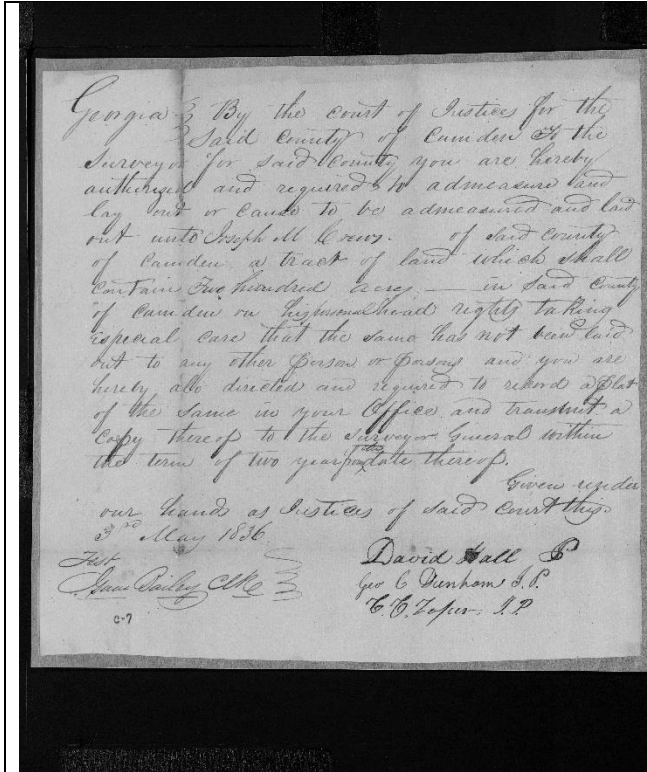


Figure 1 Land Assessment 3 May 1836

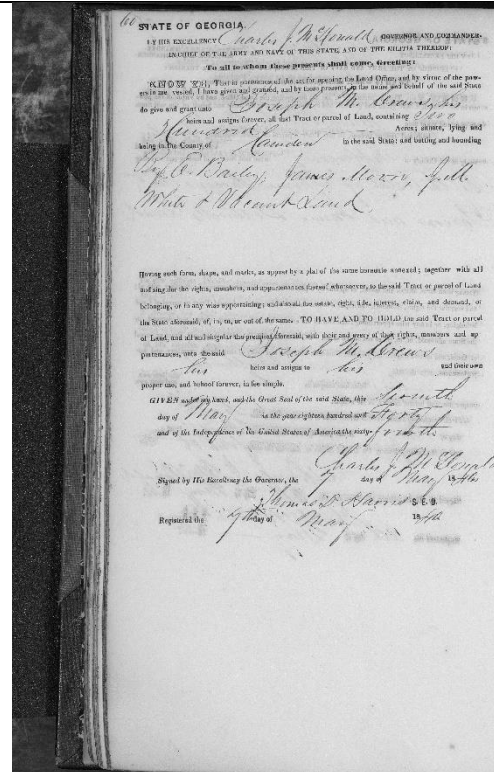


Figure 2 7 May 1840

Joseph and his wife were enumerated on this land in the 1840 Camden census in the Great Satilla River area. No others are in this household.

Elizabeth died 15 June 1841 "at Bellevue" Plantation, Camden County Georgia and was interred in the Floyd Family Cemetery.

Joseph returned to South Carolina after Elizabeth's death where he died 11 Jan 1848. His age was listed as 65 making his birth 1783. He died of Cancer in City of Charleston.

Works Cited:

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