

## Samuel Crews 1835 – 1875

Samuel was born during Andrew Jackson's second term in office. His date of birth is 1835 in Georgia. He was the eldest child of Joseph Crews and Sarah Johns. Sam was enumerated in the 1850 census for Ware County in the household of his father at age 15. He moved to Clinch County, Georgia in 1859, about three years after the death of his father.

Shortly after, during 1860, his mother passed away and the children were taken in by neighbors and raised to maturity. Samuel as well as brothers Alexander and Joseph are listed as living with James North during the 1860 census. Samuel married Morgiana "Annie" Waldron daughter of Elias D., about 1867. To Samuel and Morgiana were born three children though only two of the three are known. The known children are:

1. Sarah - b. January 25, 1868, d. 1939, m. Bryant Cowart 6/1884
2. Samuel - b. November 1870, d. November 26, 1913, m. Sallie Carter 12/22/1901.
3. (Name Unknown)

In 1868, the Clinch County Tax Digest for GMD 1141 indicates Samuel owns no real estate and has "other property" valued at \$420. In 1869, the Clinch County Tax Digest for Georgia Military District 1141 indicates Samuel owns no real estate and has "other property" valued at \$143. In 1870, the Clinch County Tax Digest for Georgia Military District 1141 indicates Samuel owns no real estate and has "other property" valued at \$161. The 1870 Census for Clinch County shows Sam as the head of the household, age 30, married to "Annie" age 25, has a daughter Sarah age 2. Sam's baby sister Julia, age 15, is also enumerated in the home. Samuel's occupation is listed as "farmer" during the 1870 census.

From 1871 through 1875, the Clinch County Tax Digest for Georgia Military District 1141 has no reference to Samuel. In 1876, Elias D. Waldron acts as an "agent for Mrs. A. Crews and children" (other property at \$153). This leads one to believe that Samuel had passed away sometime during 1875 as stated by Judge Huxford.

Samuel is likely buried in an unmarked grave at Bethel Church cemetery in Echols. It appears Samuel and Annie may have lived briefly in Echols, hence the missing tax records. Also, Ramah Primitive Baptist Church minutes state that on June 20, 1876 Annie joins Ramah. "... Crews is received by letter from Bethel church Echols County Georgia..." She and the children likely moved back to her parent's home after Samuel's passing.

Annie, now residing in Clinch, filed taxes in 1877, 1878, and again in 1879 in that county.

In 1877, the Clinch County Tax Digest reports Mrs. Annie Crews declared her other property was valued at \$125. In 1878, the Clinch County Tax Digest shows Annie's brother, Asbury Waldron, as an agent for Mrs. Annie Crews.

The Ramah meeting minutes dated Oct 12th 1878 state "the church test Anna Crews and with Drawed her fellowship unanimously". Per Dr John Crowley the church "test", although an unusual use of the word, meant that they either questioned her, or themselves as to their feelings for her. They must not have liked her responses as the church excommunicated her.

In the 1879 Clinch County Tax Digest, William Combs acts as the "agent for wife and children." So, Annie remarried during 1879. The 1900 census indicates William and Annie were married for 20 years

Now, on Jan 17<sup>th</sup> 1880, Annie and husband William Combs both applied for membership at Ramah. William was "Received by Confession of Faith" and Annie was restored to the churches fellowship.

Feb 23rd 1884, William was granted his letter of Dismission from Ramah. It was after this date that William, Annie, Sarah and Samuel relocated to Echols/Lowndes County border area from Clinch.

The 1900 census for Lowndes County, Lake Park District, lists William Combs as head of the household, Annie Combs as his wife, Samuel Crews as his stepson and Sarah as his stepdaughter. George Combs was also enumerated in the household. The same census states Annie had 3 children, with 2 of the 3 living as of 1900.

Annie is interred in the Carter Family Cemetery next to Sardis Baptist Church in western Echols County, GA. Though she is not identified by name, the inscription on her headstones states, "Mother of Sam and Sarah Crews."

#### References:

Judge Folks Huxford's Personal Notes on file in the Huxford Genealogical Society Library

1850 US Census Ware County, Georgia

1860 Mortality Census Clinch County, Georgia

Clinch County Tax Digest 1868, 1869, 1870

1860 US Census Clinch County, Georgia

Ramah Primitive Baptist Church Meeting Minutes 1876, 1878

