

### Stephen Crews 1795-1846

Stephen was born during 1795 in the Beaufort District of South Carolina per Folks Huxford. Huxford also states he was a son of Alexander Crews by his 1st wife. Her name is unknown. However, there are those that disagree with this statement. There is an item of note in Judge Huxford's personal notes for Stephen that states he was a first cousin to Micajah. This author assumes that the cousin is the elder Micajah of Camden that passed away in 1823 and a possible brother to Alexander. The only other Micajah during this period is a documented son of Alexander born in 1810. If either is proven true, Alexander would not be Stephen and William's father. In any case, there is some question on the identity of Stephen's father. We do know beginning with the 1820 Census in Camden County, Georgia where Alexander is found, Stephen is often found residing close by. Stephen and Alexander are closely related but the actual relationship cannot 100% verified.

Stephen spent his boyhood and teenage years in South Carolina. During the year 1813, an 18-year-old Stephen was "drafted" and served a six-month tour of duty with Captain Haywood's Company of the South Carolina militia. Haygood's Company was stationed along the Savannah River at Sisters Ferry, SC, during the War of 1812. He was honorably discharged at that location during the same year.

About two years later, a now 20-year-old Stephen marries for the first time to Nancy Bradley (though his 2nd wife stated her name was Mary Bradley on her widow's pension request) on 30 Nov 1815 in South Carolina. Stephen's documented brother William, married a Sarah Bradley, likely a sister to Nancy. This marriage did seem to last very long possibly due to the death of the bride as there are no other records of Nancy in either SC nor Georgia

Between 1815 and 1816, Stephen relocates to Camden County, Georgia. Stephen's name first appears in Camden County records in a land survey as a "chain man" on May 20, 1816. Stephen was about 21 years old at that time.

It was in Camden where Stephen met and married his second wife, Elizabeth Larrisey, likely during 1817. The couple were married by a Justice of the Peace in Camden; a Mr. Robert Paxon. Elizabeth had a difficult time remembering the year of her marriage as she first states 1813/14 and later 1815 in her Widows Pension application. It appears neither was correct.

Folks Huxford states in Volume I of his Pioneers of Wiregrass Georgia book that "Elizabeth was born in 1800 and her parents were born in Ireland". However, Elizabeth's monument in the Boney Bluff Cemetery reads 1797, a date that is also reflected in her Widow's Pension application as well as the 1860 US Census for Echols county. The 1880 Census for Echols does state both Ms. Larrisey Crews' parents were born in Ireland).

By 1820, heads of their respective Crews families Alexander, Roger, and Micajah, as well as Stephen appear in the Camden County Census. Roger, Stephen and Alexander live next door to one another, with Micajah and his son Joseph, close by.

Stephen's enumeration data in the 1820 Census is incomplete. The only "mark" within Stephen's family line was that of a male child less than 10 (this would be 1st born, William B). No other data is indicated for his family due to an apparent reproduction error.

Stephen and Elizabeth were the parents of 10 children the first 6 born in Camden and the younger 4 born in Ware (now Echols):

1. William B. b. 11 Apr 1818 d. 23 Apr 1898, married Martha North 1840 in Ware County, GA
2. Mary b. 1820 d. 11 Sep 1884, married Benjamin L. Crews, a cousin
3. Stephen L. b. Mar 1822, d. 10 May 1908, married, Clarrisy Collier, 1856 in Hamilton County, FL
4. Nancy b 1824, d. 2 Jan 1880, m. James North
5. Joseph L. b. 1825, d. 6 Oct 1858, m. 1) Nancy North, daughter of James, Sr. 2) Lydia Crews daughter of William, 1 Jan 1853 (1st cousins)
6. John L. b. 1826, d, 1896, m. Maria Sears, daughter of Harrison.
7. Micajah b. 1835, enumerated in Clinch 1860. No additional records found.
8. Caroline b. 1839, m. James T. Padgett of Echols County.
9. Moses b. 1842, died young, after 1860.
10. James b. 24 Aug 1847, m. Lucy Burnett, daughter of John. Moved to New Smyrna, Florida.

Mr. Crews participated in the 1821 Land Lottery while residing in Captain Bates District of Camden County. He was awarded land in Monroe County, Georgia.

Stephen appears as a Juror in Camden County Inferior Court for the June Term of 1823 and again for the August Term of 1827.

Sometime between the later date and the 1930 Census for Ware County, Stephen and Brother William relocated to Ware County, Georgia (in the area that is now eastern Echols County). There was also an Edward Crews enumerated next to Stephen and William, likely another close family relation.

During this period in history, the Florida Indians often crossed into South Georgia conducting raids on property that sometimes result in the deaths of the White settlers in and around the Georgia/Florida line. Soon, the United States declared war once again on the natives and the Second Indian War, also known as the Florida War began (1835). Stephen and eight of his kin were enrolled June 22, 1836 in Columbia County by Capt. North's Company for a six-month hitch. Stephen and even more Crews spent most all of 1837 in the militia serving two consecutive 6-month terms starting 21 Jan 1837 and being discharged 18 Dec 1837. This unit was again under Capt. William B.

North of the 2nd Regiment, 2nd Brigade of East Florida Mounted Volunteers, commanded by Col William J. Mills and was ordered into service by Maj General Thomas Jesup. Next, Stephen served in Capt. W. B. North's company of East Florida Mounted Militia, ordered into service of the United States by Bt. Brig. General Taylor from the 12th day of July 1838 to the 12th day of January 1839. The Florida War would rage on until 1842 when hostilities ceased (for a while, anyway). But Stephen's participation ended in with his discharge at Camp Gilmer in 1839. He returns home to his family and a life of farming.

Stephen appears in the 1840 Federal Census in Ware County. This section of Ware county was cut into Echols in 1850. The couple lived near the Bethel, sometimes called Boney Bluff, Primitive Baptist Church. Stephen and Elizabeth Crews were among the founding members of this church beginning with an organizational meeting at his home on 30 Sep 1843. He was Received by Letter on this date and wife Elizabeth baptized the next day during 1 Oct 1843. Stephen was ordained a deacon of the church on December 1, 1843. Stephen was appointed Church Treasurer 12 Feb 1844. Stephen was continually active within the church minutes from 1844 until a final passage in December of 1846 "The sister church, Salem, was disappointed that Bro. Stephen Crews was sick and unable to go". No additional mentions of Stephen appear in the church minutes after this date. It appears Stephen never recovered from his noted sickness. Stephen's marker in Bethel Church Cemetery records the date of his death as 23 Dec 1846. He did not live to see his youngest child, James (24 Aug 1847).

Elizabeth survived Stephen by many years as she is found in the 1850 Census in Ware County along with children; Joseph 25, Stephen 17, Micajah 15, Caroline 11, Moses 8, and James 3. She is found within the 1860 Census for Echols County, Georgia along with children Caroline age 20 listed as a Seamstress, Moses age 16 Ploughman, and James 13.

Beginning in Sept. 1871, soon after the Act of 1871 passed, Elizabeth began filing for a Widow's Pension from Stephen's participation in the War of 1812. She continually filed for a pension through 1879. All her attempts were unsuccessful as Stephen could not be found on any Muster Rolls and she could not recall the actual date of her marriage to Stephen, nor had any paperwork supporting her claims. Within this document she described her deceased husband as "fair complexion, blue eyes, about 6 feet tall, square build".

Elizabeth is once again found in Echols during the 1880 as the Head of the Household with (grand)daughter Nancy Seares (Sears) and (great)granddaughter Emily Seares (Sears).

Elizabeth lived close to 40 years after the death of Stephen and passed away during 1885.

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Pioneers of Wiregrass Georgia, Volume I Compiled and published by Folks Huxford 8<sup>th</sup> Edition 1992, page 58.

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Camden County, Georgia Inferior Court Records Bryan-Lang Historical Library

1820 United States Census, Camden County, Georgia.

1821 Land Lottery Camden County, Ga Records Bryan-Lang Historical Library

1830 United States Census, Ware County, Georgia.

1840 United States Census, Ware County, Georgia.

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Excerpts from FLORIDA MILITIA MUSTER ROLES: SEMINOLE INDIAN WARS, VOL. 8

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<http://www.floridamemory.com/items/show/177256?id=10>. 1860 Clinch County, Georgia Census