

Alexander Crews, Junior

Alexander Junior was born during 1802, in the Colleton District of South Carolina. Early South Carolina land records indicate Alex's father had acquired 213 acres of land on the Little Salkehatchie River in, what was formerly known as, the Charleston District. It would be in this location that Alexander Junior would spend his early years.

The family was enumerated within the 1810 United States Census for the Colleton District of South Carolina.

Sometime after the family was enumerated in the 1810 Colleton, South Carolina Census was taken and before brother Stephen's 1816 marriage, Alexander and family relocated to Camden County, Georgia. It was in Camden that the teenage Alex grew to maturity and later married.

Alexander appears to have been enumerated in the 1820 Camden County Census in the household of his parents. He would be around 18 years of age.

Alex would marry in Camden County about 1826 to Georgia born Sarah Jones. She was born 1803/4. Sarah is probably a previously unidentified daughter of James Jones as the Jones family lived within the same area of Camden as Alex Sr during the very early 1800s and both families had children of the same ages.

Alexander and Sarah had seven children:

Hester	b. 1827 in Camden County, Georgia	m. Sarah b, 1845
Mary A.	b. 1829 in Camden County, Georgia	
Stephen	b. 1832 in Alachua County, Florida	
Samuel	b. 2 Jun 1835 in Alachua County, Florida	
Harley	b. 1840 in Camden County, Georgia	
Sarah J.	b. 1842 in Columbia County, Florida	
Newman	b. 1843 in Columbia County, Florida	

There is a record in the 1823 Camden Inferior Court minutes that an Alexander Crews was summoned and selected for Jury Duty during the January Term. It is not known if the subject or his father as both was resided in Camden at this time.

After the birth of Mary in 1829 and before the 1830 Census, the Alexander Crews Junior family relocated from Camden County, Georgia to Alachua County, Florida. The area the family was enumerated within later becomes a part of Columbia County, Florida.

After about fifteen years of an uneasy truce, if there really ever was a truce, between the United States Government and the Seminoles in Florida, hostilities were renewed in 1835.

Like many other Crews' in the Wiregrass area, Alexander left his farm and family behind to serve in the conflict between the two peoples.

Alexander volunteered as a Private for Captain James Green's Company of the 1st Regiment of Florida Volunteers, commanded by Col. John Warren. He was received into service of the United States by Major General Thomas. S. Jessup from the 3rd day of August to the 31st day of December 1837. The Company was enrolled at Jacksonville, by a Lt. Waters for 6 months. All traveled a distance of 80 miles to the place of rendezvous and 80 miles home from place of discharge.

Private Alex Crews and his sorrel horse rejoin Captain James Green's Company of the 1st Regiment, for an additional tour of duty, from the 3rd day of August to the 2nd day of February 1838. Again, the Company was mustered in and out at Jacksonville.

Alexander returns home to Alachua/Columbia after the second enlistment. However, his stay in Florida did not last very long as he was enumerated in Ware County, Georgia in 1840 living near brother William and nephew William B. Crews. He may have lived briefly in Camden before moving on to Ware as son Harley was stated to have been in Camden (1840).

Alex apparently moved back to Florida likely Columbia County, sometime after his enumeration in Ware and before the birth of his youngest two children, Sarah and Newman. The 1850 Census for Columbia County, Florida indicates both the younger children were born in that state during 1842 and 1843 respectively.

Alexander was still living in Columbia County when the Third Florida War commenced. The 50+ year old Alex is now a Sergeant in Captain Lucius A. Hardee's Company of the Florida Regiment of Mounted Volunteers, commanded by Col. S. St. George Rogers. The Company was called into service of the United States at Ocala, Florida (the place of General Rendezvous) on the 20th day of July 1857 to serve for the term of 6 months, from the date of enrollment, unless sooner discharged, to the 20th day of January 1858. The Company was organized by Capt. L. A. Hardee at Jacksonville in the month of July 1858 and marched thence to Ocala, Florida, a distance of one hundred miles. Alex is listed as 50 years of age in the Muster Sheet, though he is at least 5 years older than stated. This time his sons Harley and Samuel join him in the Militia.

In the "Descriptive Roll of Captain Lucius A. Hardee's Company", the following descriptions of these three were recorded. NOTE: This muster is divided into nine columns as follows: (1) Name, (2) Town/County of Birth, (3) State/Kingdom of Birth, Height: (4) feet (5) inches, (6) Color: Complexion, (7) Color Eyes, (8) Color Hair, and (9) Occupation.

CREWS, Alexander, Colleton, SC; 5 '10"; light- blue-light; farmer.
CREWS, Harley J., Camden, GA; 5' 6"; light-grey-light; farmer.
CREWS, Samuel D., Alachua, FL; 6'1"; light-grey-light; farmer.

Sometime before the end of the 1850s Alex and Sarah relocated once more. This time their residence is in Duval County, Florida as indicated in the 1860 census for that Florida County.

The final resting place for Alexander and Sarah is unknown at this writing though it seems likely they were interred in Duval or Nassau County, Florida.

References:

Pioneers of Wiregrass Georgia, Volume I.
Pioneers of Wiregrass Georgia, Volume II.
Folks Huxford's Personal Notes, Huxford/Spear Library, Homerville, Georgia
South Carolina Archives Online – Miscellaneous Crews Land Records.
Camden County, Georgia Inferior Court Records Bryan-Lang Historical Library
1810 United States Census, Colleton County, South Carolina.
1820 United States Census, Camden County, Georgia.
1830 United States Census, Alachua County, Florida, Census Place: On Sundance River, St Marys River, Lusty Creek, and St Afee River, Alachua, Florida; Page: 44; NARA Series: M19; Roll Number: 15; Family History Film: 0006711.
1840 United States Census, Ware County, Georgia.
Excerpts from FLORIDA MILITIA MUSTER ROLES: SEMINOLE INDIAN WARS, VOL. 4
1850 United States Census, Columbia County, Florida.
1860 United States Census, Duval County, Florida.
1885 State of Florida Census, Putnam County