

From England to the Florida A 300 Year Journey

Note: Due to not having actual accounts of the Crews family movements until they reached South Carolina, this section is conjecture based on a hypothesis derived from many highly regarded sources.

To understand why, and perhaps when, the Crews and other closely related families left England for America, we must first understand life in early England. We will begin in the 14th Century.

The Crews are an old family and can trace our descent from the ancient Cheshire, Devonshire, and Northamptonshire lines respectively. They were likely already established in western England when William the Conqueror arrived.

These determined souls were the survivors of the Great Famine, (1315 through 1317) which undoubtedly resulted in a great number of deaths. More devastating to the population was the Bubonic Plague. Known as the “**Black Death**”, the pandemic reached England in 1348, and killed, perhaps, half the population by 1349. During 1361–62, the plague returned to England, this time causing the death of around 20% of the population. The plague, continued to devastate the population intermittently throughout the 14th and 15th centuries. As a result of fewer numbers in the labor force, wages began to increase and there was abundant land.

As Europe transitions from the Late Middle Ages to the Early Renaissance, a cultural revolution begins. This change was felt in literature, philosophy, art, music, science, and, in particular, politics and religion. It was during the Tudor Period that the English Renaissance, truly begins.

Under the Tudor's, England experienced a growth in population and an economic upturn. However, accompanying this upturn, are various inflationary pressures. The high wages and abundance of available land seen in the late 15th century and early 16th century were replaced with low wages and land shortages. The gap between the rich and poor widens. The stage is now set for social upheaval.

The UK was troubled by the same kinds of problems as the rest of Europe - political, economic, and social tension is made worse by religious division. The English parliament, which should have been an instrument for peaceful change, often only made things worse. Even competent rulers and officials had trouble governing the country.

A particular problem for English was the growing population and changes in agriculture. England's population rose from 2.3 to 4.8 million in little more than a century between 1520 and 1630. This huge increase had serious and far-

reaching consequences. Rising prices and declining real wages led to a disastrous drop in the living standards of the poorer sections of society, while sporadic harvest failures and food shortages brought widespread misery throughout many parts of southern and central England. Poverty was reflected by the rapid rise in the numbers of poor in town and country alike, the spreading slums of cities, spiraling mortality rates, massive increases in vagrancy, and the movement of the young and out of work, from one part of the country to another, in search of subsistence. By the early seventeenth century, the plight of the poor had risen dramatically in some regions, particularly in woodlands and forests, manufacturing districts, and in the country's growing towns and cities, where as much as half the population lived on or below the poverty line.

Economic problems/changes led to social tension. Those forced off the farms tended to go to the towns and cities to look for work, and the large numbers of people competing for jobs put further downward pressure on wages. Naturally enough, working-class people were unhappy. The privileged had the same grievances as their equivalents in the rest of Europe. A rising middle class wanted more say in government, while nobles want to gain back some of their lost privileges.

Economic and social tension then meant political tension as well and there is always potential for civil war in England throughout this period.

The potential for religious trouble was also great. In his break from the Catholic Church, Henry VIII had created a very unstable religious situation. Henry had no doctrinal problems with the Catholics: he separated from the Roman church only to get a divorce from his first wife, Catherine. But the structural changes he made to the English church (the Anglicans) meant that the ruler of England now also was head of the church, and every time the ruler changed, there would be a change in the kingdom's predominant religion. Edward (his son) shifted toward the Calvinists. Mary (his daughter) then shifted toward Catholicism. Elizabeth (also his daughter) had no patience with either extreme. The result of Henry's changes: an Anglican/Catholic/Puritan split that eventually led to religious civil war.

During the rule of James I, the successor to Elizabeth, the Puritan religion grew in numbers. The Puritans wanted to "purify" the Church of England by removing all things associated with Catholic tradition. During the rule of James son Charles I, the Puritan movement grew even stronger.

Growing numbers of Englishmen, in particularly the poor, are turned off by the rules and rituals of both the Church of England and the Puritans. Now, during the year 1647 the Religious Society of Friends (Quaker) movement was founded by George Fox. The Friends were a nonconformist breakaway movement from English Puritanism. The Quaker religion and way of life grew quickly. In

response, The Society of Friends, are seen as dangerous heretics, subversive of social and religious order and traitors to England by the Puritans.

In the year 1649 - With the trial and beheading of Charles I on 30 January, Parliament proclaimed England a commonwealth under a Lord Protector, Oliver Cromwell, a Puritan. As a result, the Puritans now are in control the English Parliament. All other religions were declared to be illegal and dissenters are labeled as heretics and are considered traitors to their country. They were whipped, fined, put in jail, or driven out of the country. Some were forbidden to return to the UK. Whatever the reasons, be they socio-economic conditions or the denial of religious freedom many, including the Crews, began to leave England.

This was not a decision to be taken lightly. The length of the voyage could vary from 47 to 138 days. Sometimes ships that left London at the same time might arrive in America as much as eight or nine weeks apart. When a passenger left England, he really had no idea how long he would be on board the ship taking them to America. The ships were slow, although they could go as fast as eight miles an hour when there was a fair wind and a smooth sea, but never was this rate kept up for even twenty-four hours.

The Mayflower, for example, took sixty-six days to cross and was actually more than 300 miles off course when it made landfall. It is believed they actually sailed hundreds of miles in the wrong direction; a big mistake when the boat is only moving about 5 mph. The Gulf-Stream route used even today, was not discovered until the 18th Century.

There was very little light or fresh air in the passenger/cargo holds. Often water would pour in through cracks of the deck drenching passengers and their belongings. There were no bathrooms onboard, sanitation existed in the form of buckets. If you wanted to wash, you had to wash in salty water from the sea. Most everyone wore the same clothes for the entire voyage.

Meals usually consisted of salted meat (salted lamb, pork, horse or fish) and hardtack (a hard, dry biscuit). No ice or refrigeration meant all "meat" to be eaten in route, was taken alive and slaughtered. There were dried peas and beans, cheese and butter to eat, until it became too moldy.

A large amount of water was taken on board, but after standing in barrels for a while, it was neither pleasant nor safe to drink. This is why a lot of Rum and Beer was consumed, as it lasted longer and was safer to drink then the water.

In the mid 1600's storms would have seemed more dangerous than they are now. At that time, ships were not built as they are today, and there was no weather forecasting or any understanding of hurricane season. Today, a hurricane can wreak havoc on a mammoth steel hull boat. In the 1600s, they

were relegated to wooden ships.

Sickness was also a major problem. Even a minor illness could quickly spread among passengers and crew alike. Serious illnesses, often called ship's fever, killed many passengers. Further, because there was a serious drain on the amount of meat the captain could afford to take with him as part of cargo, there were often concerns of scurvy. Also consider the lack of fresh water – dehydration was most likely a big problem as well. Rats and fleas (and the diseases they carry) were probably also a major problem on these ships. These three concerns coupled with one sick person could cause a major epidemic onboard the ship in a matter of days. On many of these voyages as many as half the passengers died before they reached they reached America.

In spite of the risks, our ancestors left friends and family for an unknown, but hopefully better, life in the colonies. The Crews were among the earliest families to migrate to Virginia. The point of departure for many Crews' was likely from Bristol, the second largest city in England, though some may have departed from London, Plymouth, or perhaps Gravesend. Some documented Crews among the early Virginia arrivals were:

1621: Randal Crew came on The Charles.
1623: Robert Crew came on The Marmaduke.
1623: Joshua Crews came on The Marmaduke.
1624: Joseph Crews came on The Marchmont.
1635: Marie Crewe came on The Faulson.
1635: Rebecca Crews came on The Faulson.
1638: Roger Crews arrived.
1642: John Crews arrived.
1649: John Crew arrived.
1652: Anne Crewe arrived.
1652: Thomas Crew arrived.
1681: Robert Crew arrived.

As we can see by the aforementioned dates, not all Crew/Crews were "Quakers" escaping religious persecution. The arrival of the Crews' between 1620 and 1645 to Virginia, indicate these settlers were likely brought into the country as indentured servants. An indentured servant was typically a young, unskilled laborer contracted to work for an employer for a fixed period of time. Typically, they were indentured for a period of three to seven years; in exchange for transportation, food, clothing, lodging and other necessities during the term of their indenture. They included men and women; most were under age 21, and most became helpers on farms or house servants. They were not paid wages.

The peak period of English emigration occurred within a single generation, from 1630 to 1660, but the rapid growth of the tobacco industry created a continual demand for cheap labor in Virginia. By the 1630s, 1.5 million pounds of tobacco

were being shipped out of the Chesapeake Bay every year and almost 40 million by the end of the century.

Three-quarters of all English settlers arrived in Virginia as indentured servants. They came from a wide variety of regions and communities: London and its environs, southern and central England, the West Country and, in fewer numbers, from northern counties.

While these earlier arrivals came individually, the "Friends" likely arrived in family groups or from a common location. It is estimated that about 23,000 Quakers left England in this migration, about 80 percent of them from the North Midland counties of Cheshire, Lancashire, Yorkshire, Derbyshire, Staffordshire, and Nottinghamshire. About 10 percent were from Wales and Ireland and the rest from scattered counties in England. Our Quaker ancestors settled in the Tidewater/James River area of Virginia in and around Charles City, Henrico, and New Kent counties.

People found, upon arrival, that life in Colonial Virginia was difficult too. Half the people born in early Virginia did not survive to celebrate their 20th birthday. Reasons for such a short lifespan include disease, warfare, hunger, and the occasional hurricane.

In addition to the previously mentioned hardships, the Friends also endured religious persecution, again, only this time, it was in Virginia. During the years between 1659 through 1661 Virginia passed several anti-Quaker laws. Beginning in 1659 Virginia enacted anti-Quaker laws, including the death penalty for refractory Quakers. The General Assembly passed a law restricting Quakers in Virginia. In March, 1660, the General Assembly passed "An Act for the suppressing the Quakers" and during the next three years passed two other laws restricting Quaker meetings in Virginia. In 1663, a member was expelled from the House of Burgesses for being "loving to the Quakers." Apparently much animosity existed between the Virginian leaders and the Quakers.

In spite of such hardships and persecution, the Quakers persevered and even prospered as they were still in Virginia. American Quaker activity has been documented in Virginia as early as 1656 and continued past the 18th century. It is during this period of time (mid 17th century through the later part of the 18th century) that we find our Crews/Quaker ancestors.

Utilizing the same DNA tests that determined the migration of our Crews family throughout Europe and help from other Crews DNA participants I have determined some of our early ancestors were Quakers. This statement is based on other Crews participants who can trace their roots to this period. One in particular, has documented genealogy of her Crews ancestors. She submitted

the DNA of her brother and when analyzed and then compared to our DNA, we have proved a genetic distance of one (1) in the 37 marker DNA test.

A genetic distance of one with other factors means there is a 99.8% chance we shared a common ancestor within 400 years and likely on “this side of the pond.”

Her ancestors were among these “Virginia” Crews. The information she has given me of her ancestors consists of: John Crew Senior born 1640 in England and died 1704 in Virginia, wife’s name is unknown. John Crew Junior born about 1660 Charles City Co VA died 1729 in New Kent Co VA and married Sarah Gately; David Crews Sr. born about 1706 Charles City County, VA died 1766 in VA who married Mary Stanley; Stanley Crews born about 1740 VA and died 1793 in Wilkes Co GA. Chances are good one or more of these four individuals may also be our direct ancestor.

John and Sarah were devout Quakers and the parents of eleven children: Sarah, John, Andrew, Mary, Joseph, Jane, William, Anne, the previously mentioned David, Gately, and Elizabeth. All born in Virginia and married other Quakers.

David Crew and wife Mary had at least five children, possibly more. These generations of Crew were also Quakers (at one time). There were multiple mentions of dismissals and admissions. David included.

If one reviews “Hinshaw’s Encyclopedia of American Quaker Genealogy” for Virginia and of North Carolina, a number of Crew/Crews are found in both volumes.

Note: In keeping with their belief in equality, they named the first son for the wife's father and the first daughter for the husband's mother then reversed the process on the next son and daughter. About 50 percent of Quaker children were given Biblical names. The most common were; David, John, Joseph, Samuel, Mary, Elizabeth, Sarah, Anna/Hannah, and Esther/Hester. They also used Teutonic names such as George, Thomas, or William, and plain English names such as Jane, Catherine, Margaret, or Phoebe. (The reader will find many of the above mentioned names throughout the Crews Family Tree).

The Religious Society of Friends, has opposed war and violence from its inception, and has sought instead to do away with the causes of war and alleviate the suffering it causes. They refused to bear arms and pay taxes to carry on any war and they also frowned upon slavery. As a result, the Friends fortunes in Virginia declined rapidly. Their estates were being confiscated under legal warrant. Speculators took advantage of the law to gain by stealth what had cost the Quakers years of diligent effort to obtain.

Rebellion against the Crown was in the air and the partisans of non-resistance fell into disrepute. The Quakers were eager to leave, and the Virginians were

glad to see them go. In any case, Virginia was becoming more hostile to the Friends and more crowded with the huge influx of immigrants.

Meanwhile, fertile land in the Carolinas was being given away by the Crown. The long series of Indian wars were finally at an end and now the Carolinas seemed to be an ideal destination. Those seeking a better life and hearing of the prosperity of South Carolina, in particular, turned their attentions to the "Lowcountry" area surrounding Charleston. Here was a land with many sources of water and fertile soil, an ideal situation for agriculture.

An article by Eugene C. Sneary entitled "The Quakers in South Carolina" which shed a little light on their origins and migrations states the earliest Quaker immigrants arrived in Charleston, possibly as early as 1680. There was also a settlement of Quakers at Edisto, but these two groups kept their ties with the London Yearly Meeting rather than the American Group. Quakerism prospered in four areas of SC--Newberry County, Union County, the Camden area, and Marlborough County, plus one area in what is now McDuffie County, GA.

The major migration to the Carolinas began around 1718 and was in full swing by the 1750s. The likely migratory route followed by our ancestors would have been the Kings Highway. The trail was wide enough for wagons and I am sure with the threat of the natives that we traveled in a group of like minded families.



The Kings Highway

This route began in New York; however for our purposes, we pick up the route (in red) in the Tidewater area of Virginia. Leaving Norfolk, a traveler on the King's Highway began a difficult trek through and around the lowland swamps of the tidewater areas of Virginia and the Carolinas. Many fords (shallow river crossings) were necessary on this route, which followed present-day US Highway 58 from Norfolk to Suffolk, Virginia; then into North Carolina via what is now NC Highway 32; skirting west to avoid the Dismal Swamp and then south to Edenton, North Carolina.

From the Quaker communities around Edenton, the old highway followed what is now US Highway 17 to New Bern, North Carolina, an important seaport and the early colonial capital of North Carolina. From New Bern, the highway bypassed White Oak and Angola Swamps in a fairly direct line to Wilmington, North Carolina at the Cape Fear River. As US Highway 17 does today, the old road continued on to Georgetown, and finally to Charles Town, the colonial capital of South Carolina, and the southern terminus of the King's Highway at that time.

Many Crews ended their travels and settled into North Carolina where their descendents can be found still living there today. Still others, including our ancestors, pushed further south.

The journey from Norfolk to Charleston on the King's Highway was about 440 miles. It was possible to travel this road by wagon, averaging about 15 to 20 miles per day. A traveler making the entire journey could have taken up to four weeks. The likely mode of moving whole family's long distances was with Conestoga freight wagons. The wagons were drawn by four to six sturdy horses and were especially designed for mud with iron-rimmed wheels nearly a foot wide.

Once the family arrived at their destination, it was time to seek their homesteads. The Crown and established Carolinians desired to create a buffer zone around Charleston against attacks from the Natives, French, and the Spanish. To that end, money was set aside for the surveying along with funds for tools and equipment for poor immigrants. Poor immigrants were given the land tax-free for 10 years along with the supplies. The land parcels granted to the poor were known as bounty grants. Settlers could also be granted land by Headright.

After 1755, heads-of-household could receive a hundred acres plus an additional fifty acres for every other member of the household.

The prospective grantee first petitioned the Grand Council for a warrant. The petition had to be made in person by the head-of-household; he had to give his name, the number of acres requested, and the location of the land. While there

was no requirement to request all of the land due to the family, the household had to have as many persons as claimed

After receiving a warrant, the prospective grantee carried it to a surveyor who surveyed the land and drew a plat, or map, of its boundaries. Recorded plats have important information including the following: the precept date necessary to locate the original petition the survey (or certified) date; the recording date; and a full description of the land, including watercourses and location.

When the plat was returned to the surveyor general's office, the prospective grant was checked against other plats to ensure that only one person was claiming the same land. If there were no problems, grant papers were sent to the governor for his signature and seal.

Once the land was finally granted, the owner was responsible for paying a quitrent. The first payment came due within two years on headright grants and within ten years on bounty land grants. The quitrent was a land tax that had its roots in English manorial society where "the land obligations due the manor, such as plowing and haying the lord's land, were computed to an annual money payment. Upon payment, the obligations were 'quit' for the year."

Another method of obtaining land was the memorial. From 1731 through 1775, those who had obtained land were tasked with preparing a memorial attesting to the location, quantity, names of adjacent landowners, and the boundaries of the land. Memorials also included a chain of title, often from the original patentee to the current owner.

Beginning in the early 18th Century and continuing into the 19th century, the surnames Crews, Crewse, Crews, and Cruse began to appear in South Carolina land and tax records as well as the first United States Population Schedules, the 1790 Census.

During the late 1700's and early 1800's, most of the Crews of South Carolina were living in Colleton and Beaufort Counties. There were at least six known heads of households living on the Colleton side of the Salkehatchie River in 1810 and by 1820 three of them, Micajah, Alexander, and Roger had moved to Camden County, Georgia. Edward, Samuel, and Jonathan remained in Colleton at least for a while.

Benjamin and John are shown living in Beaufort in 1820. SC hwy 63 was once known as Crews Ford Road indicating that the family ran a ford across the Salkehatchie River Where hwy 63 crosses.

The Crews farms in Colleton were located about a mile south of present day Islandton, SC where the Salkehatchie and the Little Salkehatchie Rivers converge to form the Combahee River. A copy of a tax return for the year 1824

was found in Judge Huxford's records in Homerville, GA. It's a return for the estate of John (C. or G.) Crews Sr. for taxable property in the Parish of St. Bartholomew and the District of Colleton, SC. The tax was one dollar on 1334 acres of land. At the bottom of the page, it was paid on the 30 April 1825 to the tax collector for Prince William Parish (which is in Beaufort Co) and the person who paid it is John Crews Jr.

There is a Jonathan in Colleton and a John in Beaufort in the 1820 census. From this tax return we know they are father and son and that John Crews Sr. died prior to 30 Apr 1825.

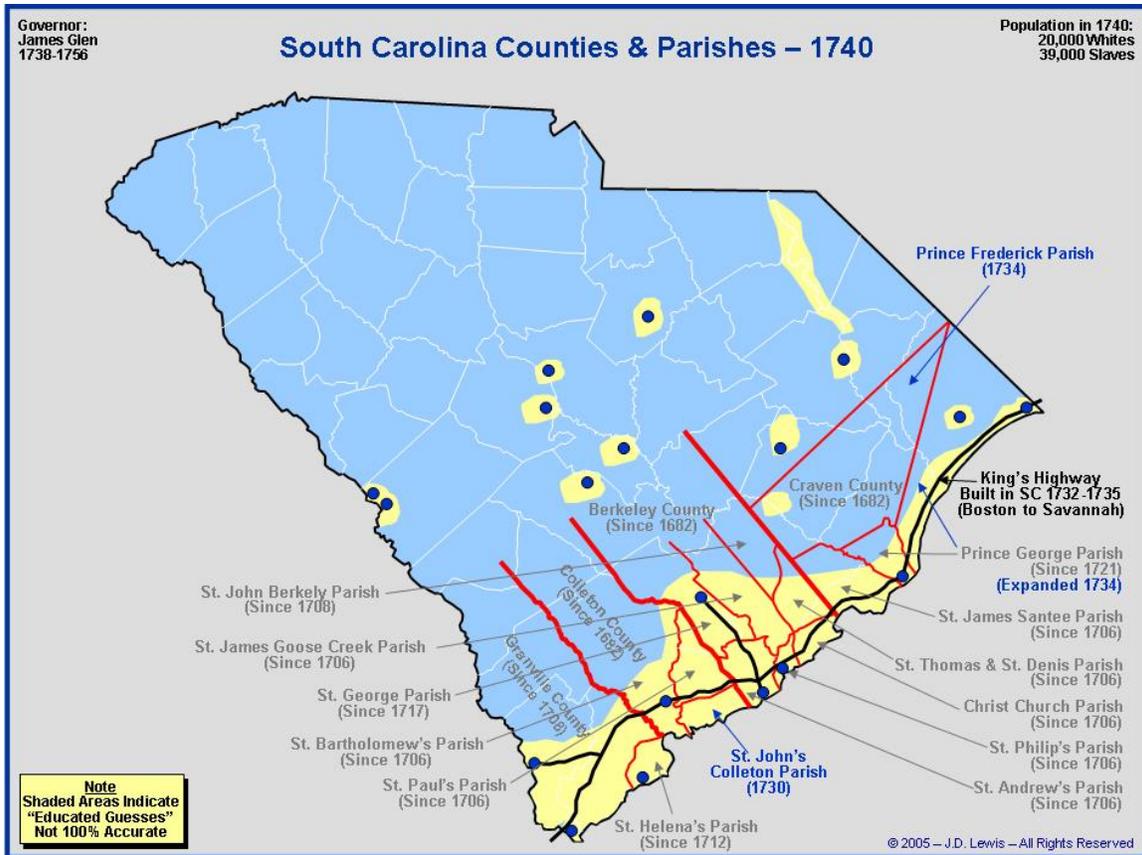
If John Sr lived an average life of 70 yrs. and died in 1824/5 then he could have been the father of Alexander in the 1770's and some of the other younger Crews men who appear in the early census records of Colleton and Beaufort Counties in SC.

We find records an the older generation of Crews in what was then Craven County, SC and in Colleton County acquiring hundreds of acres of land. The names of John Senior and John Junior, Samuel, and Joseph are listed as owners of these large tracts from the 1760s to the 1780s. These Crews were acquiring land in South Carolina before Alexander. Elias, Micajah, Edward, Roger, and a few others of their generation were born. To wit:

1704-1705 Crewse, John vs Thomas Parr, Judgement Roll

11/10/1767 Crews, John, plat for 100 acres in Craven County.

Note: Craven County was one of the original South Carolina counties at this time (see map below)



5/21/1772 Crews, Joseph, land grant for 200 acres in Colleton County

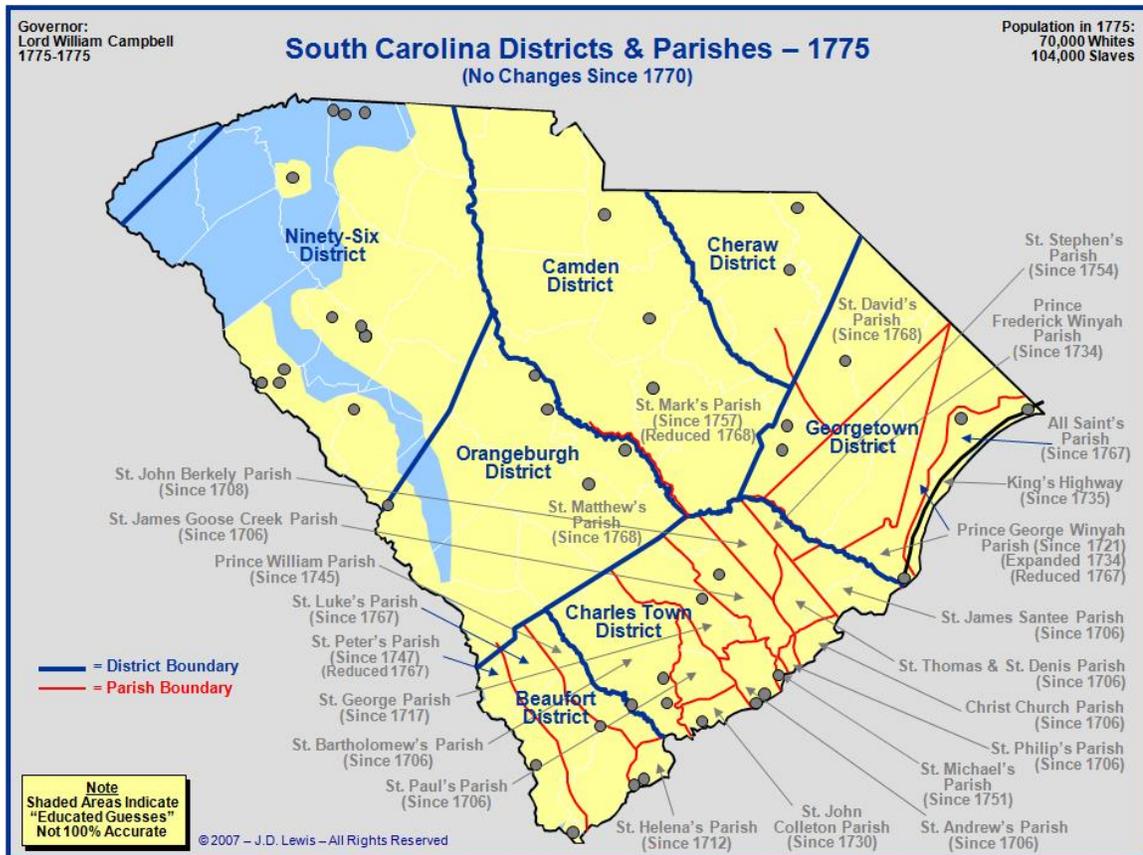
8/1/1772 Crews, Joseph, Memorial for 200 Acres on Half Way Swamp Creek, Colleton County

9/28/1772 Crews, Samuel, Plat for 200 acres in Colleton County

10/5/1772 Crews, Joseph, Plat for 100 acres in Craven County

10/26/1774 Crews, Joseph, land grant for 100 acres in Craven County

12/31/1774 Crews, Joseph, Memorial for 100 acres on Jordans Creek, Craven County



Additional records display some members of the South Carolina Crews serving In American Revolution. The following Crews are identified in the book *Roster of South Carolina Patriots in the American Revolution* by Bobby Gilmer Moss or SC Historical records:

Isaac Crews – militia after fall of Charleston under Col Roebuck
 Isham Crews – enlisted in 1st regiment 11/4/1775
 John Crews 6th Regiment drummer 6/1/1778
 Redman Crews (moved to TN)
 Thomas Crews
 William Crews 6th Regiment 9/12/1776 transferred to 1st 2/1/1780
 Samuel Crews - 1776 c. or later Crews, Samuel, account audited (File No. 1614) of claims growing out of the American Revolution.

There were a few post Revolution land transactions to note.

10/11/1788 Granger, Thomas, Plat for 100 acres on the east side of Drowning Creek, Georgetown District, surveyed by John Henderson for Joseph Crews.

10/14/1793 Carter, Jacob Jr., Plat for 161 acres on Mill Branch, Charleston District, surveyed by Job Owen for John Crews on October 26, 1787

From 1795, we find records of the next generation of Crews; Alexander, Joseph, Samuel, Micajah, and Edward Crews holding large tracts of land in the Colleton and/or the Charleston Districts from 1800 to 1809, though the listed Samuel and Joseph may still be the same from the previous generation. There was also a Benjamin Crews that held a large tract of land in the Beaufort district in 1807.

2/5/1795 Crews, Samuel, Plat for 427 acres on Big Saltketcher River, Charleston District.

Note2: Saltketcher was the name used for the Salkehatchee River. The Little and Great Salkehatchee rivers combine to form the Combahee river. Today, these rivers serve as the Colleton/Beaufort county line.

1/28/1800 Crews, Micajah, Plat for 906 acres in fork of Big and Little Saltketchers, Charleston District

1/28/1800 Crews, Samuel, Plat for 644 acres on Big Saltketchers, Charleston District.

12/13/1800 Crews, Samuel, Plat for 644 acres on Big Saltketchers, Charleston District.

Crews, Alexander, Plat for 213 acres on Little Saltketchers, Charleston District.

3/9/1801 Crews, Joseph, Plat for 94 acres on Little Saltketchers Swamp, Colleton District

11/24/1801 Crews, Edward, Plat for 540 acres on Rice Patch Creek, Colleton District (s of Columbia SC)

1/1/1806 Crews, Micajah, Plat for 342 acres on Cow Pen Branch of Little Saltcatchers River, Colleton District

1/1/1806 Crews, Micajah, Plat for 264 acres on Saltcatchers River, Colleton District

1/27/1807 Crews, Edward, Plat for 964 acres on branch of Deep Creek,. Colleton District

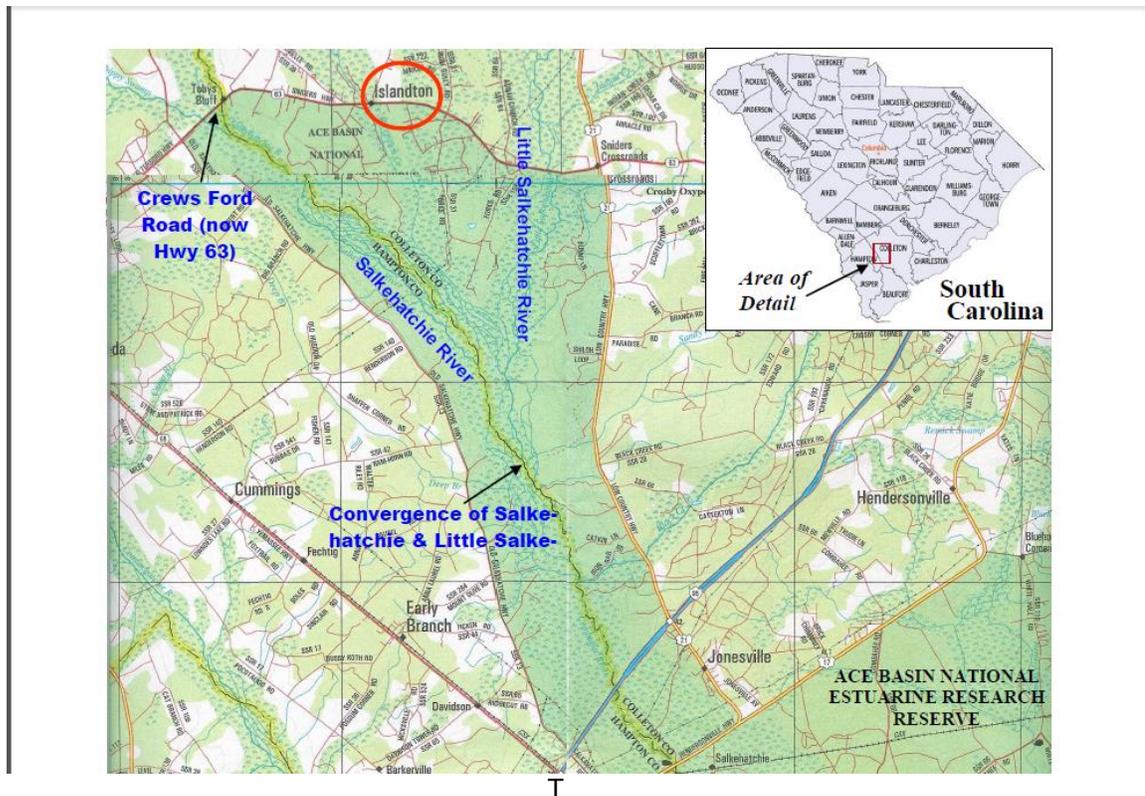
1/26/1809 Crews, Alexander, Plat for 753 acres on Deep Creek and Little Saltcatcher Swamp, Colleton District

8/25/1809 Crews, Micajah, and Alexander Crews, Plat for 1,000 acres on Black Creek of Saltketcher River, Colleton District

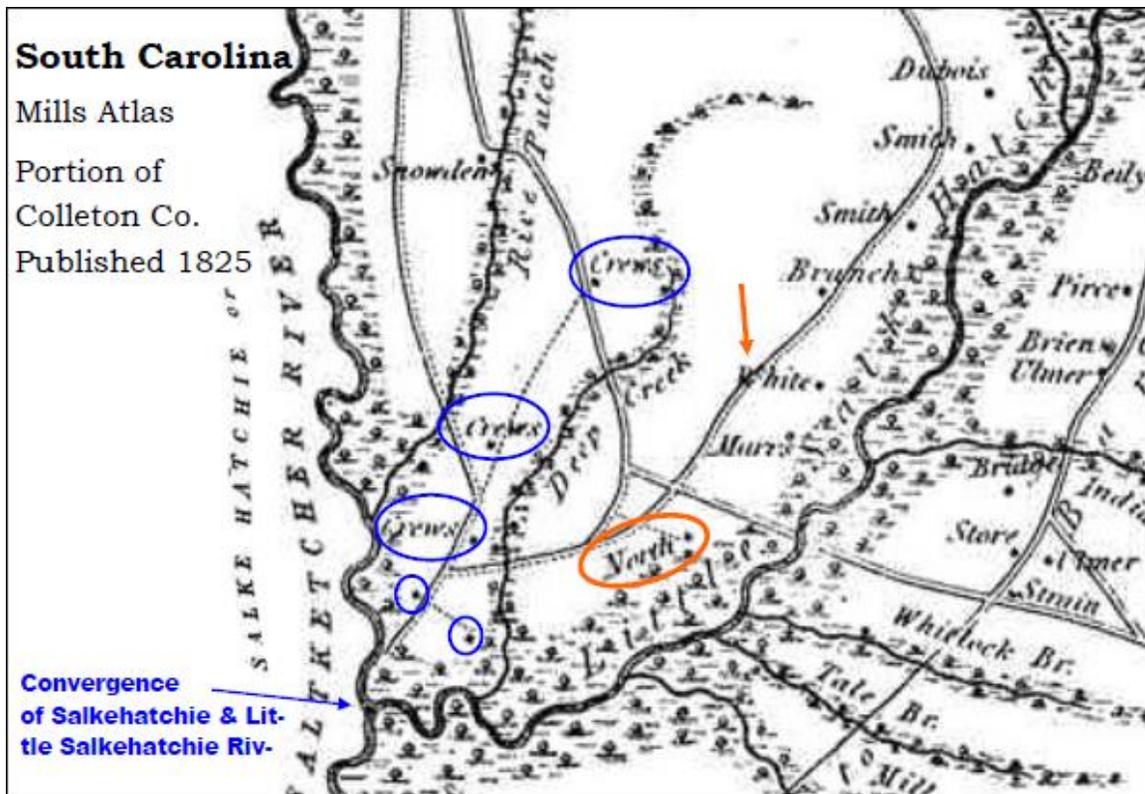
1/26/1810 Crews, Samuel, Plat for 263 acres on Big Saltcatcher Swamp, Colleton District

3/5/1817 Crews, Joseph, Plat for 37 acres on fork of Great Saltcatchers River and Little Saltcatchers River, St Bartholomews Parish, Colleton District.

Most, if not all, the previously mentioned land tracts can be found in within the area indicated in the map below.



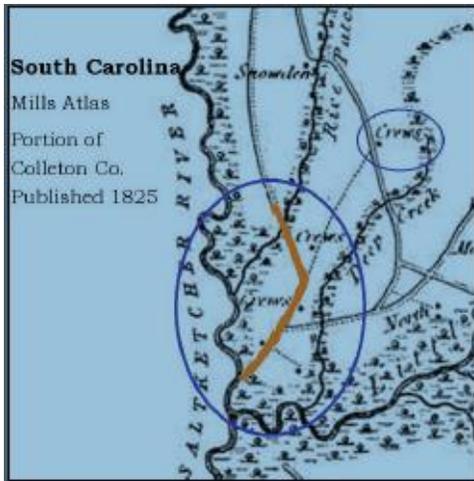
There were at least six heads of households living on the Colleton side of the Salkehatchie River in 1810. These are: Edward, Samuel, Joseph, Alexander, Jonathan, and Roger.



CENSUS FROM 1825. This detail of where the little and main Salkehatchie Rivers meet (then also known as Saltketcher River) is from a comprehensive survey/census completed in 1825 known as the Mills Atlas. Robert Mills (1781-1855) was a renowned architect born in Charleston. It took his group of 20+ surveyors and dozens of census takers 10 years to complete, and was the first atlas of an American state.

Much of our family came to Georgia and later Florida from the above area of South Carolina in the late 1700s and early 1800s. This exodus was due to farm land becoming available after a government treaty with the Creek Indians. In particular, there were several Crews farms between the convergence of the Salkehatchie and Little Salkehatchie and Islandton, SC where members of the Crews family operated a ferry. The Carters, Touchtons and Johns also migrated from South Carolina's Colleton District, as did John North's family. The Corbetts, and the Johns families are from Beaufort District.

Edward and Samuel, and perhaps Jonathan, remained in Colleton a little longer. Benjamin and a John Crews are shown living in Prince William Parish, Beaufort District in 1820 when other Crews were already appearing the the Camden County, Georgia census of the same year.



THEN AND NOW. The Crews families' land in the early 1800's (top left) is now private property used mostly for hunting. The original dirt road, highlighted orange on the map and shown about 2011 in the photo at left, is apparently still in pretty much the same location. The photo above is one of many twisting tributaries that weave their way around the big and little Salkehatchie Rivers and crisscross the area. All evidence of homesteads are long gone. Quite possibly, a Crews family cemetery lies somewhere, lost in this swampy wilderness.

Today, hunters stalk turkey, hog and deer. In the time of John Crews and his sons, there would have been even more wildlife, as well as alligator meat to supplement their farming. We don't know what they grew or if they owned any slaves. They went south to Georgia where the Okefenokee could not have seemed much different.

However, our Crews once again sought improve their lot in life and sought opportunities further south.

Several reasons exist why we may have moved from the Lowcountry. One possible reason for leaving South Carolina was disease.

Charleston was a major seaport, and imported many goods (and people) from the Caribbean, Europe, and Africa. Unknown to the merchants and traders of the day, additional unseen and undesirable imports appeared; disease being a very prominent import during that time.

The plantations of the Carolina Low Country produced rice, indigo and cotton. Plantations and farms also produced mosquitoes. Yellow Fever and other major epidemics occurred every year thanks to the mosquitoes (see Recorded Epidemics chart)

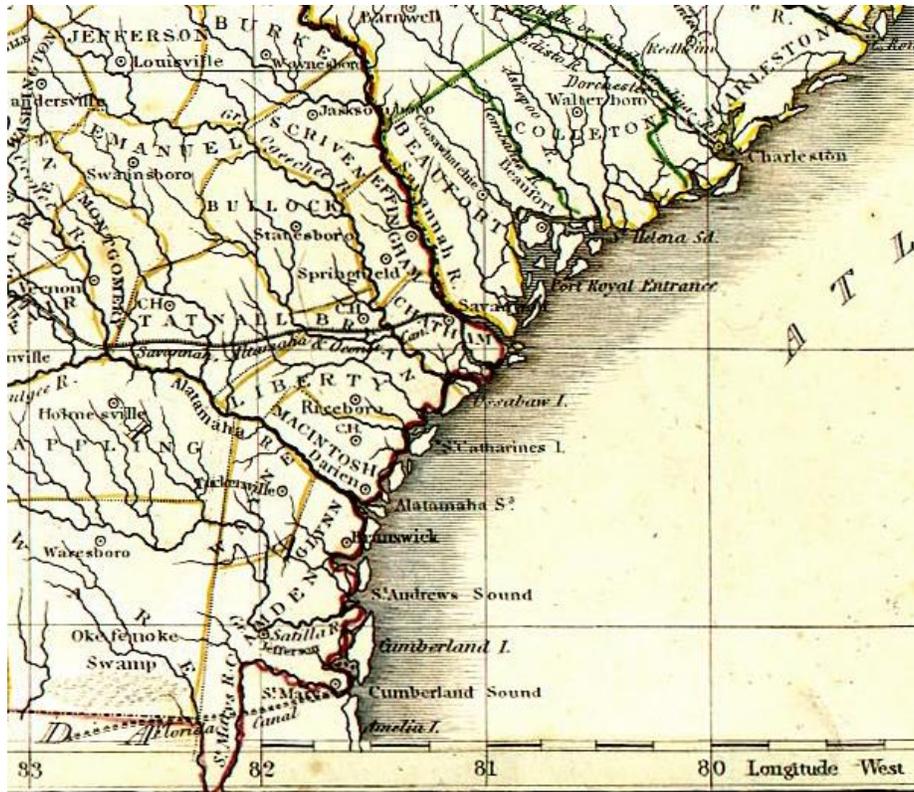
1794	Yellow Fever	1809	Yellow Fever, Whooping Cough
1795	Yellow Fever	1814	Diphtheria
1796	Yellow Fever	1815	Influenza
1797	Yellow Fever	1816	Influenza, Smallpox
1799	Yellow Fever	1817	Yellow Fever
1800	Yellow Fever	1819	Yellow Fever
1807	Influenza	1824	Yellow Fever

Recorded epidemics in Colleton County in the late 18th and early 19th Centuries

Yellow fever epidemics were recorded in Charleston in 1800, 1802, 1804, 1817, 1820, 1821, and many years following. Accompanying the epidemics were Typhoid fever, diarrhea diseases, and digestive systems diseases, which spread through poor water supplies and sanitation; common causes of mortality and ill health in the 1700s and 1800s.

Still, the most popular reason to leave South Carolina was simply for profit. The land given to settlers in SC could now be sold and new, free lands, in Georgia could be obtained.

For whatever reasons, our ancestors left and made a 190 mile trek south to newly ceded lands in the coastal plains of Georgia. The coastal plains were ceded in 1763 by the Creek natives. This was the first of several large land cessions in the state of Georgia by the Native Americans.. This first agreement gave Georgia the land between the Savannah and Ogeechee rivers, south of Augusta, along with coastal land between the Altamaha and St. Mary's rivers. Included in this cessation was the Cumberland Island area in Camden County, Georgia, where our Crews are now found. Many of "Wiregrass" Georgia's early settlers came from the Carolinas and the counties north of the Altamaha River. The Crews were among the earlier pioneers of Wiregrass Georgia.



1820 map of SE South Carolina, including Colleton and Beaufort Districts, and SE Georgia showing Camden and Ware counties.

Between 1794 and 1829, the following Crews are found within the Camden County, Georgia Court Records:

- Crews, Alexander
- Crews, Edward
- Crews, Elias
- Crews, Isaac
- Crews, John
- Crews Joseph Jr
- Crews Joseph Sr
- Crews Micajah
- Crews Roger
- Crews Samuel
- Crews Stephen
- Crews William

Isaac Crews and John Crews appeared in Camden records starting about 1792. These two are the first Crews' that can be found in the Wiregrass. When these two gentlemen moved into Camden County, the population may have been 400. Isaac and John were the first "wave" of Crews in Camden. Camden records indicate Isaac settled into the town of St Marys while John settled along the Satilla River area.

The next Crews' settling into Camden County, Georgia were those from the Colleton County and Beaufort County, South Carolina. This occurred around 1815 to 1816.

Alexander, Micajah, Joseph, and Roger Crews were the heads of these families. All the previously mentioned Crews' can be found in the 1820 Federal Census of Camden; Micajah Crews, Roger Crews, Alexander Crews, Joseph Crews, Isaac Crews, John Crews, and even a youthful Stephen (son of Alexander) were enumerated. Also of note is the presence of several members of the large Johns family in the same area. The Crews and Johns intermarried often in Camden County and back in South Carolina.



Camden 1823

Some of these same heads of the Crews' families can be found in the 1830 Camden Census minus Micajah, whose widow Mary was enumerated, and Roger who was an obvious omission. A new name is added to this census; that of Joseph Crews, (Jr) the son of Micajah. During this period, the two original settlers, John and Isaac, had passed away, likely, in Camden. Still other Crews moved on.

After the lands west of Camden County, Georgia were obtained in the Indian Cessions of 1814 and 1818, the state lost no time in creating counties out of the newly ceded territory. Surveyors laid out 490 acres parcels of land in certain areas of Georgia. These numerous 490 acre parcels were distributed by luck of the draw from two barrels. One barrel held settlers names and other contained land lots. Names and lots were drawn and matched and the new land owners were given nine years to pay their \$8 deed fees. In the 1820s, the price of this land was selling for \$12 to \$18 and the price kept dropping. In the 1830s and 1840s, the same lands were going for \$5 to \$6. So for a few dollars and hard work, a family could scratch out a living in an isolated and primitive land.

Many of the Camden Crews did take advantage of the newly created lands and moved west into Ware before the end of the 1820s. Alexander's eldest children and Alex himself are found in the 1830 Census in Ware. Roger and his children remained in Camden until later relocating into Florida as did Micajah's. John Crews (a son of another John) moved his family into Ware from Camden during the 1840s.

The new settlers experienced some additional difficulties, other than trying to establish farms in the sand and among the pines. One such difficulty were raids conducted by the Indians from just over the border in Spanish Florida. The Florida Indians would often cross into southern Georgia looting homes, stealing cattle, setting fires, and on rare occasions, killing the occupants.

The **Seminole Wars**, also known as the **Florida Wars**, were three conflicts in Florida between the Natives and the United States. The First Seminole War was from 1814 to 1819 (although sources differ), the Second Seminole War from 1835 to 1842, and the Third Seminole War from 1855 to 1858.

Many of the settlers on the Georgia side of the border petitioned their government representatives for protection. Federal troops were sent in response and volunteer militias were formed. Many Crews' enlisted in defense of their lands and families. At least one, Roger Crews, Senior, made the ultimate sacrifice in the early stages of the 2nd Indian War.

Crews, Alexander	Crews, Archibald	Crews, Asberry	Crews, Dempsey D	Crews, Elias
Crews Jr, Edward	Crews Sr, Edward	Crews, Harley J	Crews, Henry	Crews, Isham
Crews, J M	Crews, James	Crews, James B	Crews, John	Crews, Joseph

Crews, Joseph L	Crews Jr, Joseph	Crews Sr, Joseph	Crews, Lewis	Crews, Micajah
Crews, Roger	Crews, Samuel	Crews, Samuel D	Crews Jr, Samuel	Crews, Samuel P
Crews, Stephen	Crews, W B N	Crews, William	Crews, William B	Crews Jr, William
Crews Sr, William				

Names of Wiregrass Crews in the Florida Wars

Some of the descendants of these previously cited Crews still live in the Wiregrass. Still, many others have left the region of their forefathers.

In conclusion, it is hoped the information presented, in this document of conjecture and hypothesis, will give the reader an example of "why, how, and when" the Crews and other Wiregrass families came to be in the Region.

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