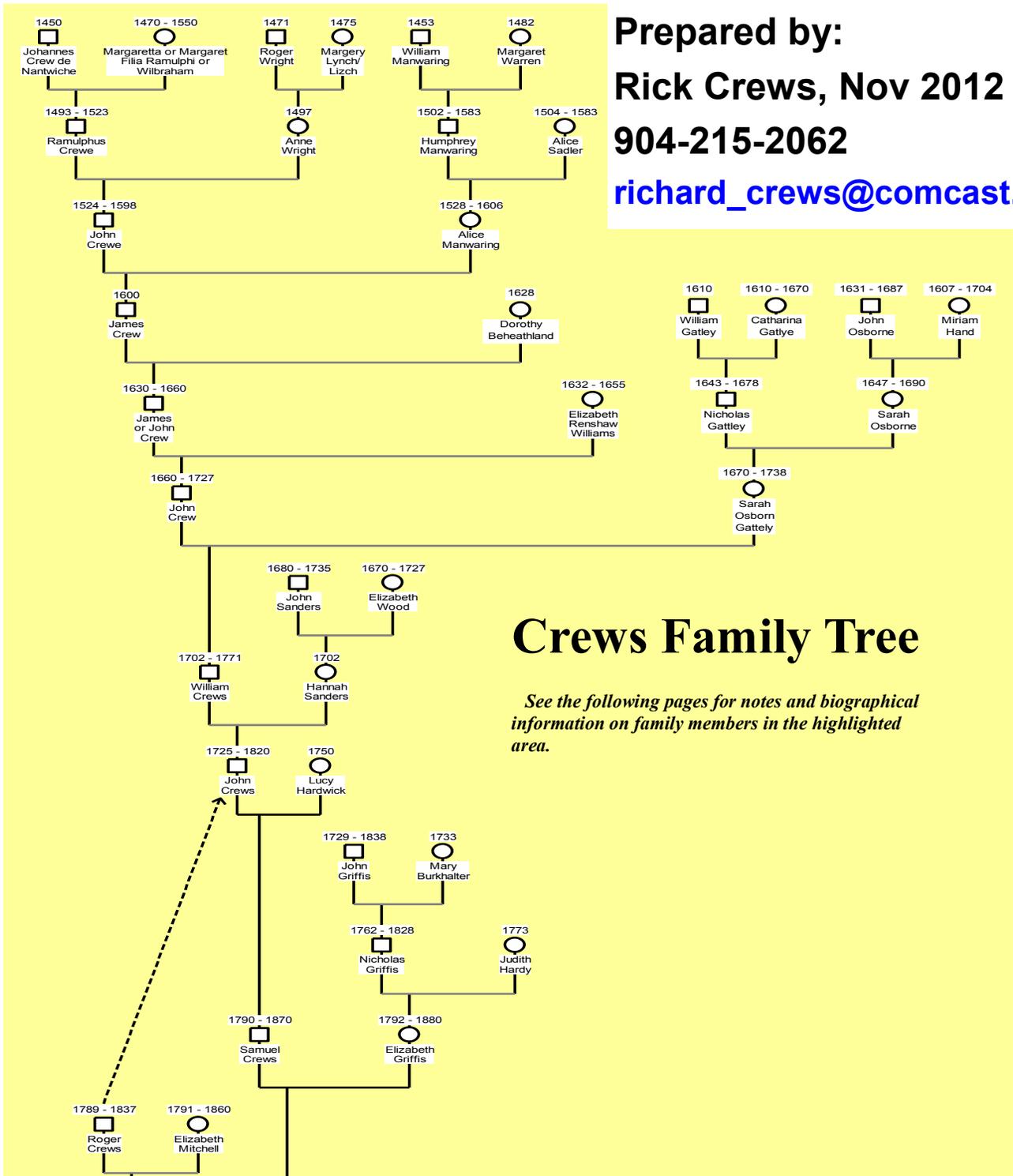
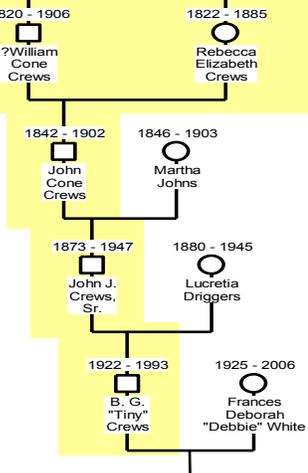


Prepared by:  
 Rick Crews, Nov 2012  
 904-215-2062  
[richard\\_crews@comcast.net](mailto:richard_crews@comcast.net)

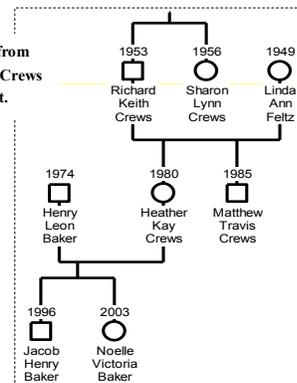


# Crews Family Tree

See the following pages for notes and biographical information on family members in the highlighted area.



...continued from  
 B.G. "Tiny" Crews  
 at bottom left.



## Notes and Biographical Information on the Crews Family Tree

### **B. G. "Tiny" Crews**

Born Nov 4, 1922 in Baker County, FL; died April 17, 1993.

Lived most of his life in Baker Co.

Full name was Broward Gadson Crews, went by "B.G." officially but everyone knew him as "Tiny." Tiny's mother had nine children from her first marriage, his father seven. His only full sibling was John J. Crews Jr.

Was sickly as a child, hence the nickname, Tiny. Also was the youngest.

Author's Note: My sister and I remember our father always saying he was the "youngest of 13." Even if you only count the siblings who were alive when he was born, he still had more brothers and sisters than that. Not sure what he meant exactly. He COULD count. In fact, he was very astute with numbers and could multiply large sums in his head.

Married Debbie July 15, 1950. They are buried at Woodlawn Cemetery, Macclenny, FL.

### **Frances Deborah "Debbie" White**

See White Family Tree and Notes

### **John J. Crews Sr.**

Born Feb 9, 1873 in Baxter, Baker County, FL.

Died July 16, 1947 in Baker County, FL.

Buried in Taylor Cemetery, Taylor, Baker County, FL.

John J. Sr.'s first wife was Larceny (sometimes misspelled as Larcenie) Williams, who he married April 23, 1896. Their children were Cleopatra "Patra," Lalia, Ander, Cecil, Paul, Nova, and Daniel. Larceny was born 10/12/1880 in Johnsville, Baker County, FL and died 12/9/1911 in Taylor, also in Baker County. Larceny's parents were James Jasper Williams (1856-1946) and Sarah Bennett (1857-1939). She was also related to the Baker County families of Sweat and Harvey.

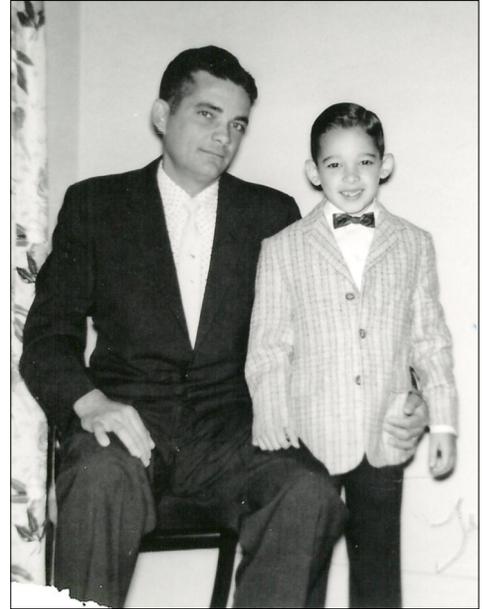
John J. Crews married Lucretia Driggers Blair on May 1, 1919. They apparently divorced and remarried on July 5, 1929. (I remember my father talking about them splitting up and a reconciliation, but didn't realize they actually divorced and remarried.)



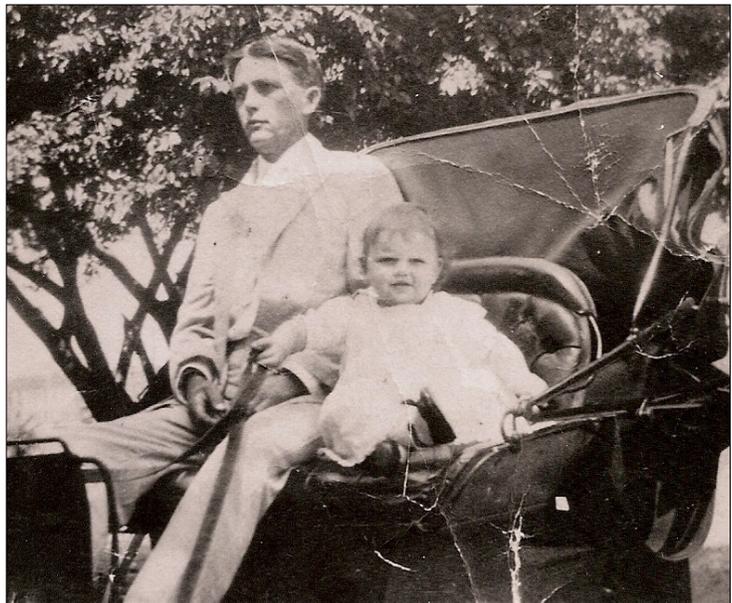
**John J. Sr.'s first wife, Larceny Williams Crews. He is buried next to her at the Taylor Cemetery.**

John J. was a farmer who owned property and cattle around Taylor and Baxter, Florida. According to family lore, he did some home repair work for Lucretia after her first husband, George R. Blair died. This led to courtship and marriage. John was closer to Lucretia's age than her first husband.

Lucretia and George Blair had nine children. John and Lucretia's marriage produced John J. Crews Jr. (1921-1987) and Tiny. The Blair and Crews children apparently did not always get along very well. By some accounts, the Blair's looked down on their more countrified stepfamily. (George Blair had been a school teacher, John was a farmer.) However, John Jr. and Tiny, children of John Sr. and Lucretia, remained very close to each other and both sets of half-brothers and half-sisters throughout their lives.



**Broward Gadson "Tiny" Crews, age 37, and the author, 7, in April 1960. He was a very loving and dedicated father and husband.**



**John J. Crews Sr., with daughter Cecil (1903-1980), one of his and Larceny Williams seven children. After Larceny's death at age 31, he would marry Lucretia Driggers Blair, also widowed. Their union would produce Tiny and John Jr.**

John Sr. had a stroke in later years, which affected one side of his body. He was injured falling off a horse due to this impairment.



**John J. Crews Sr. in later years.**

This may have also contributed to a second breakup with Lucretia, as their reconciliation did not last. John is buried next to Larceny in the Taylor Cemetery.

Mr. Berry Rhoden, John Sr.'s great nephew, told me he remembers John Sr. coming by his house when he was a child. Many times he would bring Berry's mother Rosa (his niece, daughter of John Sr.'s brother Asberry) some fish he had caught and she would cook them for him.

Input from Bryan Crews, son of John J. Jr.: "My father as a boy was running his horse and

someone told John Sr., to which he replied, 'it's my son and my horse, so he can run him if he wants.' I also recall Daddy saying his father was a big, strong man and could bring a 5 gal. glass jug of moonshine to his lips with one hand only, and if he wanted, could take a drink, but only if he wanted... makes you wonder how many times he went to that effort without a drink!"

### Lucretia Driggers

See Driggers Family Tree

### John Cone Crews

Born June 14, 1842.

Died July 19, 1902.

Married about 1866 (after Civil War?).

Buried at Moniac Cemetery near Moniac, GA in Charlton County.

(Down dirt road on the west side of Hwy 185 just outside the small town of Moniac, GA.)

The inscription on his tombstone reads, "Blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain mercy."

According to Baker County historian Gene Barber, John Cone Crews built his family's cabin on the loop road above Baxter. This is almost certainly what is now Moccasin Creek Circle. This dirt road also passes the Crews Cemetery where John Cone Crews' grandfather and grandmother are buried.

### Newspaper obituary for John J. Crews Sr.

#### "John J Crews, 74, Will Be Buried At Taylor Friday at 11

John J. Crews, 74, died Wednesday afternoon, 16th, at 4:00 o'clock at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jesse W. Raulerson of Taylor, with whom he had been staying for several months. Mr. Crews was a leading citizen and former member of the School Board from the Macclenny school district. He was a life-long citizen of Baker County, being born and retired near Baxter.

Mr. Crews suffered a stroke of paralysis a number of years ago and this was followed by another stroke Monday night, complicated with an attack of pneumonia. He never rallied from these attacks but gradually passed away.

Funeral services will be conducted at Pleasant Grove Primitive Baptist Church, Taylor, of which he had long been a faithful and consistent member at 11 A. M. Friday.

Elder Everett Johns of Taylor and Elder W. R. Rhoden of Macclenny, will conduct the services. Burial will follow in Taylor Cemetery. Pall bearers will be B. T. Rhoden, C. C. Eddy, Dewey Fish, Henry Rhoden, Lawton Conner and Arthur Yarborough.

Mr. Crews is survived by a large family connection, the immediate family being five sons, A. J. (*Ander*) Crews, Fort Myers; J. Paul Crews, Macclenny; Daniel B. Crews and J. J. Crews, Jr., Gainesville; Broward (*Tiny*) Crews, Macclenny; three daughters Mrs. J. J. Dowling (*Lilia*), Taylor; Mrs. Tate Powell (*Cecil*), Macclenny; Mrs. Powers Williams (*Nova*), Jacksonville; three sisters, Mrs. Sarah Crews, Mrs. John Raulerson (*Martha or "Mattie"*) and Miss Sevilla Crews, St. George, Ga.; 18 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

The body will be at the home of Mrs. Powell in Macclenny from Thursday afternoon until time for the funeral service. Friends of the family in invited to call."

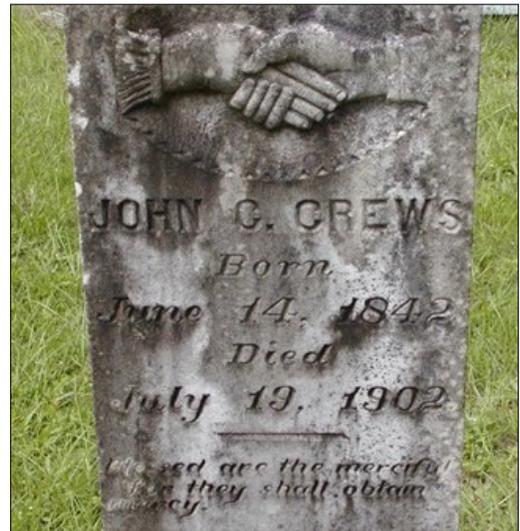


In the foreground are the headstones of John Cone and Martha Johns Crews in the Moniac Cemetery, off Hwy 185 near the Georgia town of the same name. John Cone's mother, Rebecca Elizabeth "Becky" Crews is buried within the wooden structure in the background.

He is thought to be the John Crews from Baker County in Civil War records. He was described at enlistment as 5' 8", dark complexion, blue eyes, and dark hair. He served in C Company, Florida 10th Infantry from Aug 15, 1861 to Jan 15, 1865 when he was captured. (He may have been AWOL from March to Sept 1864.) After his capture he signed allegiance to the United States in Jan 1865 in VA. He was then released and returned home. As with so many in the CSA, he doesn't appear to have ever owned a slave.

**1880 Census:**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Born</u>
CREWS John C.	36	Fla. (farmer)
CREWS Martha	34	Ga.
CREWS Rebecca E.	13	Fla.
CREWS Riley	11	Fla.
CREWS Wm. O.	9	Fla.
<b>CREWS John J.</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Fla.</b>
CREWS Asbern	5	Fla.
CREWS Sarah	1	Fla.



John Cone and Martha married in 1866 (after he returned from war) and made their home in northeast Baker County near his mother and grandparents. On March 19, 1877, he bought land from Martha's parents, Riley and Sarah Johns, just off what is now Moccasin Creek Circle. After Riley's death a year later they were deeded additional adjoining land for a total of 40 acres. Around this same time there is record of a land dispute with Isham Crews (no doubt a cousin, his Uncle Isham died in 1850), which was resolved.

Most of their children remained in the area in adulthood. John's son Riley built a cabin nearby where his sons Daniel and McKinley Crews lived into the late 1980's. The author and other family members visited them there. John J. Crews, Sr. also farmed a few miles away with his first family before marrying Lucretia. (See map of North Baker County on the following page.)

**Martha Johns**

See Johns Family Tree

**Rebecca Elizabeth "Becky" Crews**

Born 1822 in South Carolina. Died 1885 (headstone is in error, says 1882) in Charlton County, GA. Buried at Moniac Cemetery near Moniac, GA in Charlton County. (Down dirt road off Hwy 185 just outside the small town.)

NEVER MARRIED, SO HER CHILDREN WERE NAMED CREWS. Capt. John J. North of Clinch County, GA was the father of several of her children. However, Y-DNA testing of the author proved our line to be of Crews descent, not North. As the Y chromosome traces only the direct male line, and we match up with other Crews descendents of John Crews (1725-1820 -- his bio a little later), the only conclusion is that whoever fathered John Cone Crews was a close relative of Becky — probably a first cousin!

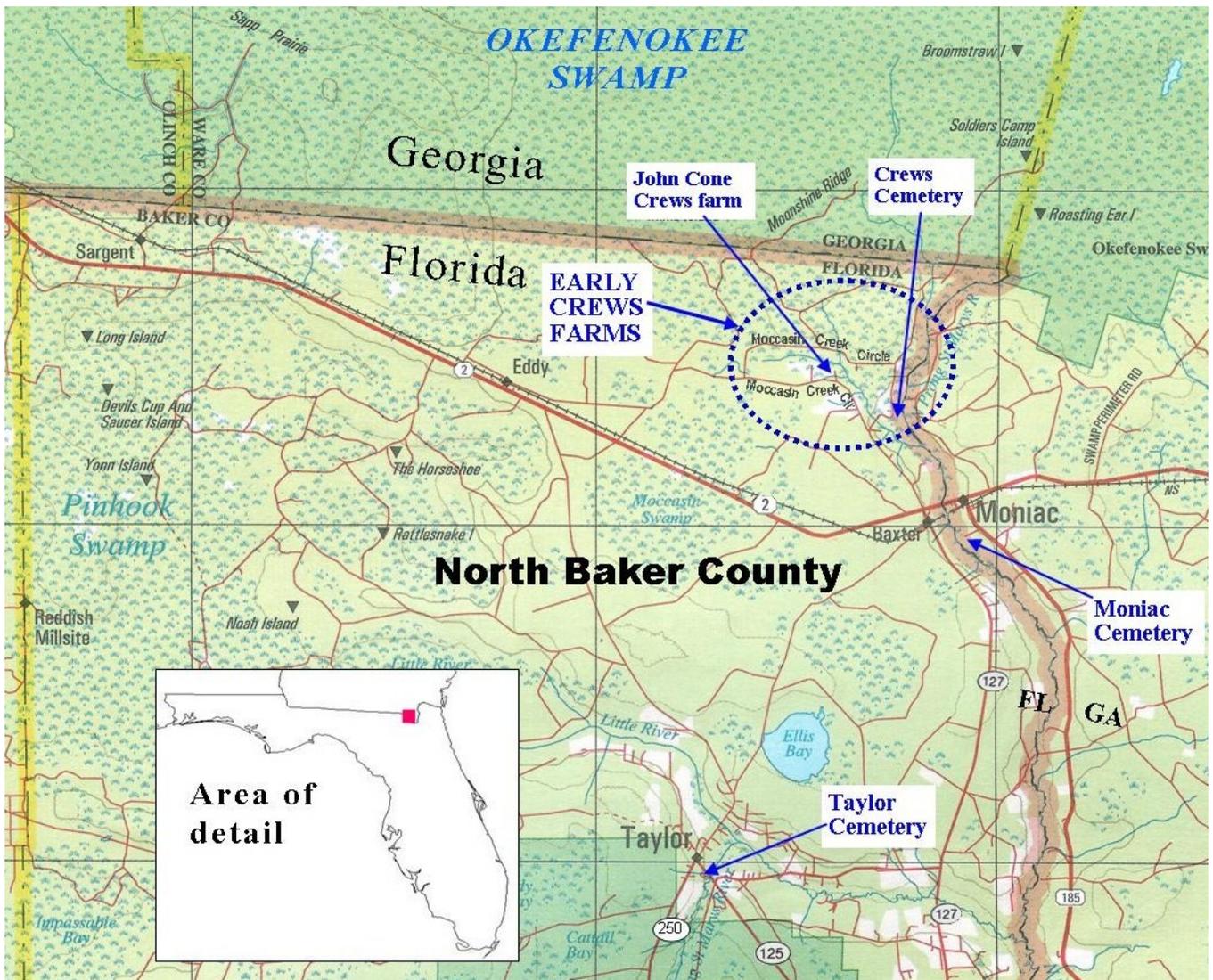


**CEMETERY LANDMARK.** By far the most prominent grave as you approach Moniac Cemetery is that of Rebecca Elizabeth "Becky" Crews. I have heard two reasons for the structure: One was that she didn't want it to rain in her face, another was that she "couldn't take the sun." At any rate, her descendents built and maintain it. The roof and supports have been replaced, the picket fence is original.

Many of her descendents are also buried here. The cemetery is just outside of Moniac, Georgia near the St Mary's River. (See map next page.)

**Rebecca Elizabeth "Becky" Crews' original wooden marker and a newer granite one inside the above wooden structure at Moniac Cemetery. Her Raulerson and Crews descendants have maintained her gravesite since her death in 1885. The death date on the granite marker of 1882 is believed to be in error.**





**SEVERAL GENERATIONS OF THE CREWS FAMILY**, starting with Samuel and Elizabeth who migrated from South Carolina in the early 1800's, lived in the above part of Baker County, Florida. Their son Samuel Jr., daughter Becky and numerous grandchildren farmed the fertile land (roughly within the dotted blue circle) just on the edge of the Okefenokee Swamp. Samuel, Elizabeth, Samuel Jr. and his wife Harriett are buried in the Crews Cemetery on the site of the original homestead. Crews descendants, including John J. Crews Sr. slowly branched out to other areas of Baker County and beyond. Indeed, some Crews families still live in the above area.

Riley Crews, son of John Cone built a cabin a few hundred feet west and across the dirt road from his parents. His sons Daniel and McKinley lived there until the late 1980's. At this writing it still stands, although badly deteriorated.

Of all our antecedents profiled in this entire study, Rebecca Elizabeth "Becky" Crews probably presents the biggest enigma. *What was her life like in the 1800's, unmarried with all those children? How did she support her family and what transpired leading up to and after she bore a child with a close relative?*

Her children were Asberry, William Shelton, Emily Narcissus (who married a Raulerson), **John Cone** (father to John J. Crews Sr. who was father to JJ and Tiny), Martha, Thomas C., Cicero Cornelius, and Francis Bartow.

Judge Folks Huxford, in his hand written notes (not published in his famous genealogy volumes) acknowledges that Capt. John J. North had our Becky as his "concubine" in Florida, and that he was the father of "Nancy, Thomas, Berry, Samuel L. and William Bartow." I can't determine who Nancy or Samuel L. were, and it was "Francis" Bartow not William, but Huxford was basically correct. North fathered most of her children but not — we now know — John Cone Crews.

I'll dwell on who I think his father was a little later on...

Becky's daughter, Emily Narcissus married Mack Raulerson. Their son, Hardy Raulerson (1889 - 1976) was a patient in the Baker County Nursing Home in his last years. I took care of him when I worked there as a college student. He told me my grandfather, John J. Crews Sr. was his cousin. At the time I had little interest in genealogy. He did tell me his cousin John



The swampy but fertile land off Moccasin Creek Circle (see map on previous page), an unpaved road near Baxter, Florida, was home to generations of Crews family members. Indeed, some live there still! An old cabin (left), refurbished by the present owner but still retaining its original style, is located on the land once owned by Samuel Sr., his son Samuel and possibly Becky. It is within a short walk of the Crews Cemetery. (The cabin is thought to have been built after the original Crews inhabitants, but the home of either Samuel Jr. or Sr. could have been on the same site.) The nearby land in the right photo was owned by John Cone Crews. Baker County Historian Gene Barber mentions John Cone's cabin was "on the loop road above Baxter,"\* although nothing remains. However, the ruins of the cabin built by Riley are just up the road to the left. \* Confirmed by County Records.

was a fine man. I wish I'd known enough back then to ask him about his grandmother, Becky.

**Additional Information On The Author's Y-DNA Test:**

This particular DNA test traces only the male direct line and was intended, I thought, to confirm John J. North as the father of John Cone Crews. A known direct descendant of John J. North, Roger North, underwent the Y test and agreed to make his results known so we could compare. I was surprised we did not match, and frankly even more surprised my DNA still matched with other descendants of John Crews of South Carolina, Becky's grandfather! So, regardless of whether William Cone Crews is indeed my gg grandfather AND uncle, our family tree does bend back on itself and John Crews is, without doubt, my double gggg grandfather. The jury is still out on whether Lucy would be a double gggg grandmother or if John's first wife, Nancy Collins comes into the family picture. If William Cone Crews is indeed the "guy," Lucy has the honor.

In the 1860 Echols County, GA Census Becky is listed as head of household, her occupation is "Seamstress." (This is not an uncommon census listing for females during the period.) She is living next door to son Asberry (28) and his wife Elvira. Living with her are "Narcessa" (12), Berry (6) and William (9). Interestingly, Ephraim North, son of John J. North, is living with her and listed as "laborer." According to this census she cannot read and write.

By 1880 she is living in Baker County with son Thomas, a farmer who is 25 years old. Her occupation is "keeping house." The next household on the census is that of her brother, Samuel and his family. This would have been within the blue circle on the map of north Baker County on the preceding page.

Some of her children or (possibly grandchildren) supposedly took the name North in acknowledgement of Capt. John J. North as their father. Capt. North, whose first wife

died in childbirth, remarried and did have a wife and family while apparently fathering children with Becky. (I recall my father's cousins, sons of John Cone Crews' son Riley, talking about relatives who changed their name to North. However, I have been unable to track exactly who they were talking about.) Becky may have had other paramours in addition to Capt. North and John Cone's father, we don't know for sure and we don't know if anyone else fathered children. Perhaps as DNA testing becomes more inexpensive and common, future genealogists will continue to solve the mystery.



So, who was the cousin who was the father of John Cone Crews? My best guess would be William Cone Crews, son of Roger. (Roger was brother to Becky's father, Samuel. Both were sons of John Crews.) While we can't know for sure (now anyway, who knows what future DNA tests could reveal, and

**William Cone Crews — who MAY be the father of John Cone Crews — and his wife Adeline Rachel are buried in Boone's Creek Cemetery, just outside of St George, Georgia off a dirt road. If future DNA testing proves him not the cousin who fathered a child with Becky, *big apologies*. But there is, I think, enough circumstantial evidence to suggest otherwise.**



Above is Samuel Crews' modern headstone at Crews Cemetery in north Baker County. Elizabeth is buried next to him and has a similar granite memorial, their wooden markers having long disappeared. The photo at right shows most of the graves in Crews Cemetery. Family members have maintained the site. The two original upright headstones belong to Samuel and Elizabeth's son, Samuel Jr. and his wife Harriett. The cemetery is located on what was once the Crews homestead, very close to the St Mary's River which is the Florida/Georgia State Line. Other family members including Becky, John Cone and John J. Crews lived here or nearby for generations. The cemetery is now on private property off Moccasin Creek Circle, a rather remote dirt road near Baxter, Florida.

first we have to find male descendents of William Cone and Roger Crews), circumstantial evidence points to William Cone. He lived nearby, was a first cousin and of course the unusual middle name was handed down to John. (Alexander Crews, a brother of Becky's father and Roger, served in the Indian War of 1838 under Capt. Daniel N. Cone.)

In a further twist, William Cone Crews' daughter (with wife Rachel), Annie, married John Cone Crews' son Riley. So Riley married his combination first cousin and half aunt. If I might offer some commentary, it was not that uncommon for cousins to marry. However, this seems a little sordid even for the times.

We have no photo or description of Becky, however from his Seminole Indian War record we know her brother Samuel was, at 26 years old, 6-2 with blue eyes, light hair and light complexion. If Becky resembled him, it would explain the family legend that her grave is covered because she "couldn't take the sun."

#### William Cone Crews

Born 1820/1 in Wayne Co., GA.  
Died 1905/6 in Charlton Co., GA.

DON'T HAVE PROOF (YET) THAT WILLIAM CONE CREWS WAS ACTUALLY JOHN CONE'S FATHER. Y-DNA testing shows John Cone Crews' father was a close Crews relative, probably a first or second cousin to his mother Becky. William lived nearby and was her first cousin. Along with the DNA test, does the shared "Cone" middle name betray a long lost family secret?

He married Adeline Rachel Stokes in 1849 in Camden Co., GA. John Cone Crews was born in 1842, so if William Cone was his father, it was at least before he was married.

William Cone and Adeline Rachel Stokes Crews are buried at Boones Creek Cemetery, just north of St George, GA in Charlton Co. Although remote and down a dirt road, the cemetery is very well maintained. According to Baker County historian Gene Barber, Micajah Crews (also a son of John and brother to Samuel and Roger) and his wife Sarah Jane are also buried there, but no grave markers survive.

#### Samuel Crews

Born about 1790 in Colleton Co, SC.  
Died 1870 in Baker Co., FL.

Samuel moved to Camden County, GA about 1815-1817 from S.C. with his wife, some of his brothers & three other fami-



**ALSO IN OUR CREWS CEMETERY.** There is historical evidence for and against — I won't get into it either way — that Sane Powell Rhoden was sister to the famous Seminole warrior, Osceola. At any rate, she is buried in the Crews Cemetery along with our relatives and supposedly some other members of her husband's Rhoden family.

lies. He then moved to Ware Co, GA and from there settled north of Baxter, in Baker County, FL, about 1835. Samuel fought in the second & third Seminole Wars along with his brothers.

He is buried in the Crews Cemetery in Baker County. (The cemetery is on private property. In Baxter, FL, Hwy 127 crosses Hwy 2 & pavement ends. Moccasin Creek Circle is dirt rd. on the right. The cemetery is on the right (east) side of the road in a pasture.)

Samuel's son, also named Samuel Crews (1830-1895 — I'll call him Samuel Jr. for clarity here) was a Civil War Veteran, serving in the 1st Florida Cavalry. He fought in the Indian Wars. Samuel Jr. was shot and wounded at Missionary Ridge the 18th of November, 1863; and again in Tennessee in 1864. He became a POW at that time. This Samuel (our ggg uncle) and his wife, Harriet Raulerson Crews are also buried at Crews Cemetery.

#### **Elizabeth Griffis**

Born Feb 15, 1792 in SC.

Died 1880 in Baxter, Baker County, FL.

She was baptized Oct. 1, 1843 into Bethel Church. A charter member, she died in or just after 1880.

She was living in 1870 with son Samuel, and was a widow at this time.

Buried in Crews Cemetery in Baker County.

#### **Roger Crews**

Born 1789 in Colleton Dist. (now Colleton Co.), SC.

Died 1835 - 1837 in Duval Co., FL

Married Elizabeth Mitchell on Sept 27, 1808 in Colleton Dist., SC.

Some sources say Roger died in the Indian War. His burial site is unknown.

#### **Elizabeth Mitchell**

Born 1791 in Colleton Dist., SC.

Died 1860 in Camden Co., GA.

#### **John Crews**

Born 1725 in Charleston District, SC.

Died 1820, Colleton Dist. (now Colleton Co.), SC.

First wife was Nancy Collins. Apparently fathered children into old age. May have at one time been a Quaker.

There was a John Crews who was a Revolutionary War veteran. He fought with the South Carolina 6th Regiment and was a private. I can't be totally sure if this was our John or not.

John's children (apparently all sons) were: **Joseph, Alexander, Isham, Roger, SAMUEL, Micajah, John**, Isaac, and Elias. The names in bold immigrated to Georgia, Samuel and many descendants winding up in Florida. As John is about as far back as we can go with any real certainty, and he is the progenitor of just about every Crews in Florida and Georgia, I'll stop here and discuss some history:

#### **Crews Family History Lesson**

That we are descended from John Crews of South Carolina, and that he is the ancestor of so many Crews family members in Georgia and Florida, is a certainty that has been born out by DNA testing. The following historical information is also well documented and, I think, well worth noting here:

In the late 1700's and early 1800's, most of the Crews family of SC were living in Colleton and Beaufort Counties. What is now SC Highway 63 was known as Crews Ford Road indicating that someone in the family ran a ford across the Salkehatchie River.\* These Crews households were primarily farmers, their farms in Colleton located about seven miles south of



**This old, abandoned farm house is like many that can still be found around Colleton County, SC. It is located between the convergence of the Salkahatchie and Little Salkahatchie Rivers, and would have been within walking distance of the Crews family farms of 1800. John Crews, his sons and many others in this history were originally farmers from this area. Even in its antiquity, the above would have come much later than John, Samuel and the Crews brothers who migrated to Georgia and later Florida.**

#### **Colleton District Census 1790**

Number of heads of households: **196**

Free white males of 16 years upward including heads of families: **209**

Free white males under 16: **104**

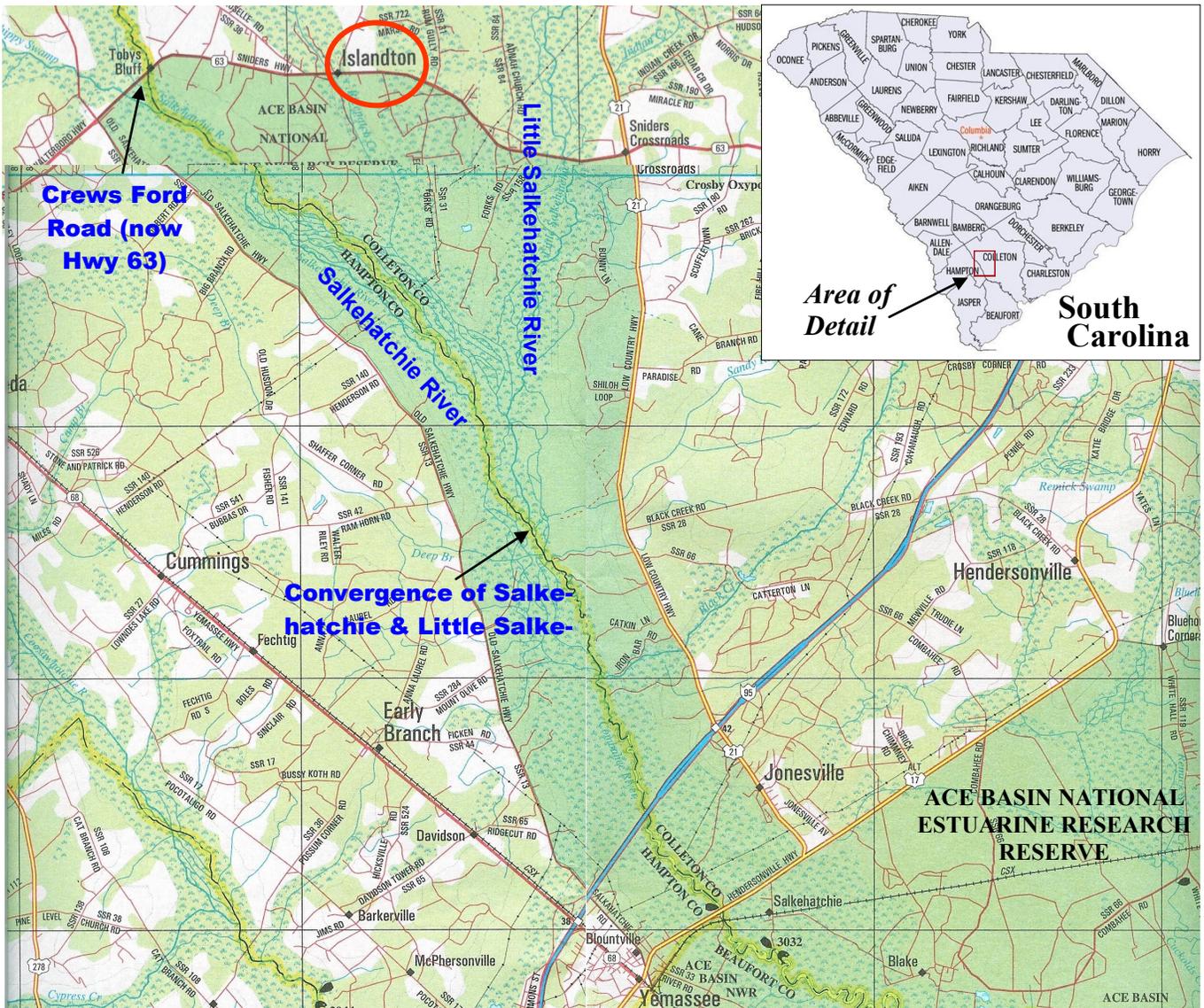
Free white females under 16: **272**

Free white females including heads of households: **22**

All other free people: **4**

Slaves **4,705**

Total population in Colleton County in 1790: **5,316**



**FAMILY ORIGINS.** 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 Rivers (see early 1800's survey map next page) and Islandton, SC where members of the Crews family operated a ferry. The Carters, Prescotts and Touchtons also migrated from South Carolina's Colleton District, as did John North's family. The Corbetts, Warrens and Ashleys came from Barnwell District; the Johns family from Beaufort District. Other family names from South Carolina in our direct line include Malphus, Wells, Wood, Monk, Tomlinson, Hardeman, McDaniel, Middleton, Rowan, Joyce and Gurr.

Whether these pioneers all knew each other well or not is impossible to know. Life was hard, living off the land. They no doubt came south looking for a better life. Hopefully, they found it. At least their families thrived, and generations later — here we are!

present day Islandton, SC where the Salkehatchie and the Little Salkehatchie converge to form the Combahee River. (See narrative & map above and on the next page.)

There were at least six heads of households living in Colleton Co. in 1810 and by 1820 three of them — all sons of John -- Macaijah, Alexander, and Roger had moved to Camden Co., GA. John's youngest son, our Samuel, also migrated to Camden Co. a few years later (daughter Becky was born in 1822 and every census I've seen list her birth state as SC). Samuel then moved to Ware Co, GA and finally settled north of Baxter, in Baker County, FL about 1835. I was once told that all the Crews families in South GA and North FL were descended from "six brothers (who) came down from South Carolina."\*\* This appears to be more truth than fiction, although some cousins may have come also. Apparently, most of the sons of John Crews did eventually migrate south.

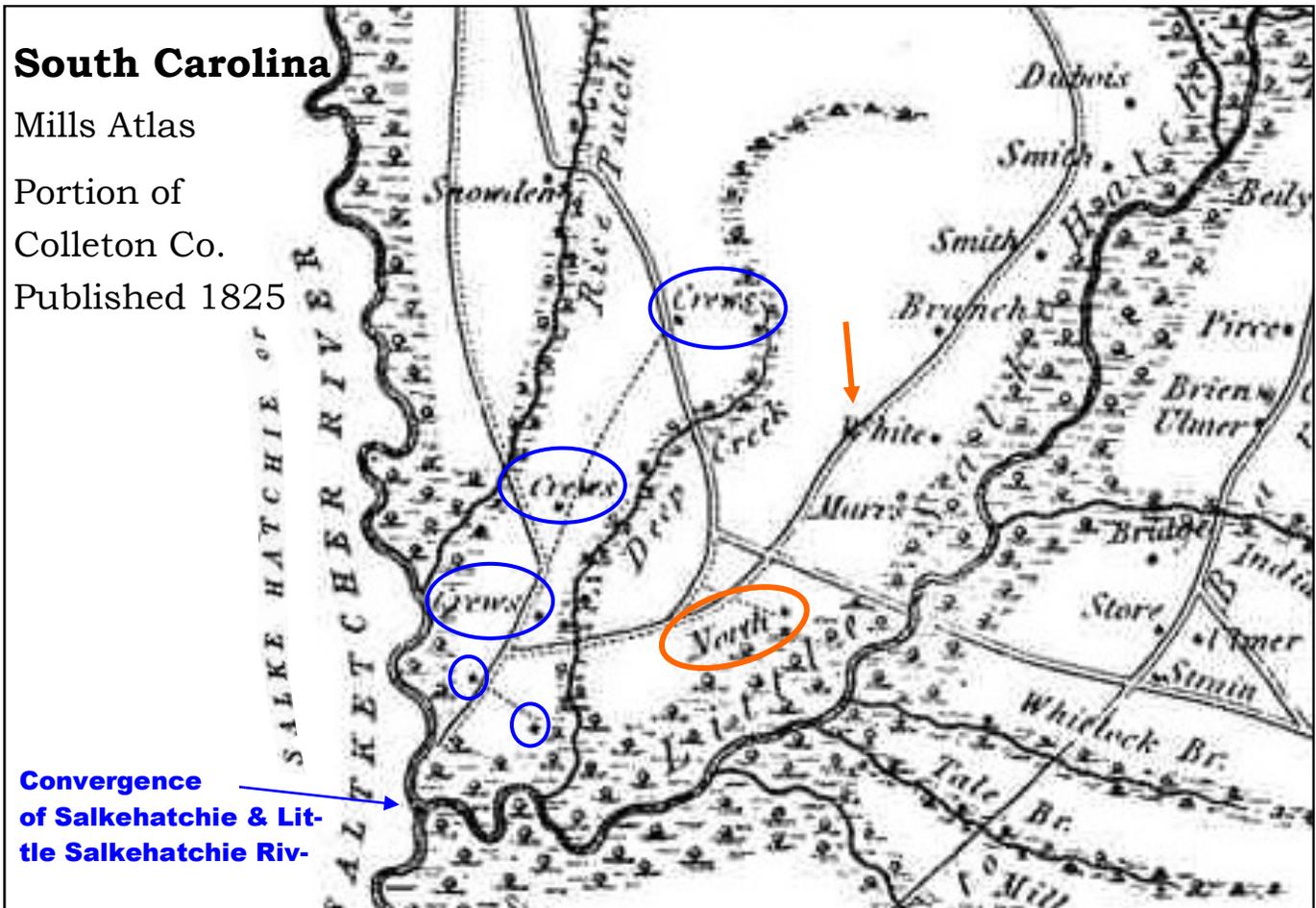
This exodus came about after the U.S. government signed a series of treaties with the Creek Indians in the early 1800's

## South Carolina

Mills Atlas

Portion of  
Colleton Co.

Published 1825



**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 renown 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.

Note there were five Crews households (blue circles) in this portion of Colleton County. As the census began in 1815, John Crews (died 1820) and Lucy could very well occupy one of the homesteads (or perhaps a widowed Lucy). We don't know which of these households had already moved south and which (if any) were family members who stayed in SC. John J. North's family was also from Colleton County. As John J's first wife was a daughter of John Crews' son, Micajah, the odds are good that the orange circle was his family's home. Note also a White household.

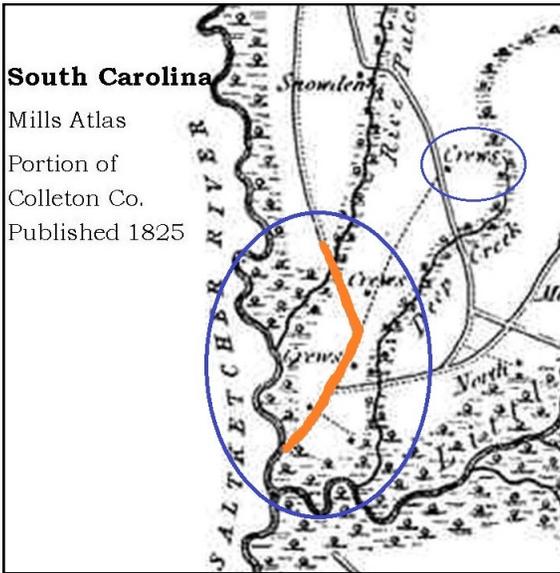
and land in southeast Georgia was opened for white settlement. Many of the Creeks were in fact farmers, so much of the land had been cleared making it even more inviting. Several other families living in the SC Low Country joined this migration into south GA and eventually to Florida. They were among the first white settlers into the area. They intermarried and their decedents, including our family, are now spread throughout south GA, FL and beyond.

John Crews, the apparent patriarch of so many individuals (with many, many surnames) in GA and FL never came south. He and Lucy (and first wife Nancy) are most probably buried somewhere between the Salkehatchie and Little Salkehatchie. (See map above and on preceding page.)

\* Old sources/maps depict this waterway as "Saltketchers Creek," and "Little Saltketchers Creek" with various spellings. It was once navigable to Beaufort. Travelers then proceeded overland or off the coast to Charleston.

\*\* An old gent told me this back in the early 1970's. His wife was a Crews. He invited me to a Crews family reunion, which of course I did not attend because at the time I didn't really think they were related to me.

**In Addition:** Charleston District, which encompassed the land mentioned above, was founded in 1769 as the circuit court district of that name. Colleton County was formed in 1800 from Charleston District. It contained the parishes of St Paul, St John and St Bartholomew. Hampton County was formed in 1878 from a section of Beaufort County. Barnwell District was created in 1798 (effective in 1800) from the southwestern portion of the Orangeburg District, along the Savannah River (the border between SC and GA). Many of our forebears, as well as dozens of common surnames in south GA and north FL came from this area.



**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.

### Lucy Hardwick

Born 1750 in North Carolina.  
Married John in Beaufort Dist, SC  
in 1778. Probably died 1786.

Some researchers' family trees have shown John Crews was married to Nancy Collins (probably 1730-1786) who was mother of Samuel. Other sources say Lucy was Samuel's mother. It seems most likely John was married to both, Lucy being his second wife and Samuel's mother (and probably Roger's). It appears as though Nancy died in 1786, four years before Samuel was born. (Also, if Nancy were Samuel's mother, she would have been 60 when he was born.) The evidence seems to support that Lucy married John in 1778 and was mother to Samuel



**ANOTHER CREWS CEMETERY**, this one in Hampton County, South Carolina near the Salkehatchie River was probably established years after John and Lucy Hardwick Crews died. However, it is just a little more than two miles from the Crews homesteads in Colleton County. Were there unrecorded Crews burials here in 1820 when John died? Is Lucy here in a long forgotten grave? Or, are John and Lucy a couple of miles away in a family cemetery on the site of what was their farm? We don't know when Lucy died. Perhaps she moved away.

and probably Roger, father of William Cone Crews.

To date, very little else is available on Lucy. There is record of a John Hardwick who was a Patriot Lieutenant in the Revolutionary War. He was either married to Elizabeth Younger or Ann Griffith or both. Or, perhaps there were two John Hardwicks. At any rate, at least one John Hardwick raised a large family in Virginia. Either one of these John Hardwicks is probably Lucy's father or at least a close relative.

*Author's Note: Everything beyond this point is questionable. All kinds of Crews family trees have been assembled by various researchers, some wind up with Ramulphus and Johannes Crew de Nantwiche and some don't. This is as good a compilation as I can do with the available data. It is very possible brothers or cousins could be incorrectly listed in one generation and the following generation could be back on track and correct. From here on, proceed just for the fun of it...*

#### **William Crews**

Born 1702, Charles City, VA.  
Died July 8, 1771, Louisa, VA.  
Married Hannah September 8, 1729 in Charles City, VA.

#### **Hannah Sanders**

Born 1702 in New Kent, VA.  
Married William Sept 8, 1729.

#### **John Crew**

Born March 1, 1660 in Charles City, VA.  
Died 1727 (or possibly 1707), New Kent, VA.

John and his wife, Sarah, sued Sarah's mother for her share of her father, Nicholas' estate in February 1689. The case continued with Sarah's mother being married twice after the death of Nicholas Gately (before 1685). The court finally awarded Sarah and John 4605 pounds of tobacco on March 3, 1690.

#### **Sarah Osborn Gately**

Born 1670, Charles City, VA.  
Died Jan 1, 1738 Charles City, VA.  
Various spellings, Gattely, Gately, Gatyle

#### **Nicholas Gattley**

Born 1643, Charles City, VA.  
Died 1678 in Charles City, VA, or died August 4, 1690 in VA.

#### **Sarah Osborne**

Born 1647, Charles City, VA.  
Died March, 3, 1690 in Charles City, VA.

#### **James or John Crew**

James:  
Born 1630 in Northampton, VA.  
Died Aug 29, 1660 in Hungars Parish, Northampton, VA.

John:  
Born 1630 in Cheshire, England,  
Died Aug 29, 1725 in Hungars Parish, Northampton, VA.

#### **More Notes On My Y-DNA Test**

As we get further away from our Florida, Georgia and finally South Carolina roots, perhaps this is a good time to elaborate a little more on what we learned from my Y-DNA test.

This particular test only traces male to male to male Crews (we now know) men back thousands of years. Scientifically speaking, we are **il Haplogroup**. (I'll let the reader Google it, there is a lot of info out there.) In a nutshell, our "Crews" ancestors thousands of years ago populated Northern Europe, especially Scandinavia. Some of us wound up in England, the origin of the Crews surname. We could even be descended from Vikings!

Just a few generations back Crews men and women were tall and fair complected — possibly like our Scandinavian forbears — before the Driggers and Carters darkened us up. My father, Tiny Crews and my sister, Sharon retained the light color eyes.



#### **Family Crest? Don't buy it...**

There is no such thing as a "Family Coat of Arms." A crest such as this would have been granted to an individual, not families or surnames. A form of property, coats of arms may rightfully be used only by the uninterrupted male line descendants of the person to whom it was originally granted. A web search turns up several Crews family crests similar to the above. You can order framed copies, plaques and even coffee cups with your "authentic family coat of arms."

**Elizabeth Renshaw Williams**

Born 1632 in Northampton, VA.

Died after Aug 29, 1655 in Hungars, Northampton, VA.

Her father was William Williams, born in Durnford, Wiltshire, England; her mother was Joane Francis, born 1600 in England, died in VA.

**James Crew**

Born in 1600

Other researchers say this could be Sir Thomas Crew, born Nov 1, 1600 in Hampshire, England; died Aug 29, 1660 in Northampton, VA.

**Dorothy Beheathland**

Born 1628 in St Endelyon, Cornwall, England.

Died in VA or Northamptonshire England.

**John Crewe**

Name may have been Johannes.

Born 1524 in Nantwich, Cheshire, England.

Died 1598 in Wich Malbank, Cheshire, England.

**Alice Manwaring**

Born and died in Cheshire, England.

**Ramulphus Crewe**

Born 1493 in Wich Malbank, Cheshire, England.

Died 1523 in Cheshire, England.

**Anne Wright**

Born 1497 in Wich Malbank, Cheshire, England.

Died in Cheshire, England.

**Humphrey Manwaring**

Born 1502, Nantwich Parish, Cheshire, England.

Died 1583, Nantwich Parish, Cheshire, England.

**Alice Sadler**

Born 1504, Nantwich Parish, Cheshire, England.

Her father was Robert Sadler.

**Roger Wright**

Married Margery Lynch or Lizch about 1496 in Wich Mallbank, Cheshire England.

**Margery Lynch/Lizch**

Born about 1475.

**William Manwaring**

Born 1453 in Carneham Nantwich Pariish England,

**Johannes Crew de Nantwiche** *(see box at upper right for info on Natwiche.)*

Born about 1450 in Nantwiche, Cheshire, England. Died in same.

He married Margaretta/Margaret Abt. 1492.

**Margaret Warren**

Born 1482 Lightfield, Shropshire, England

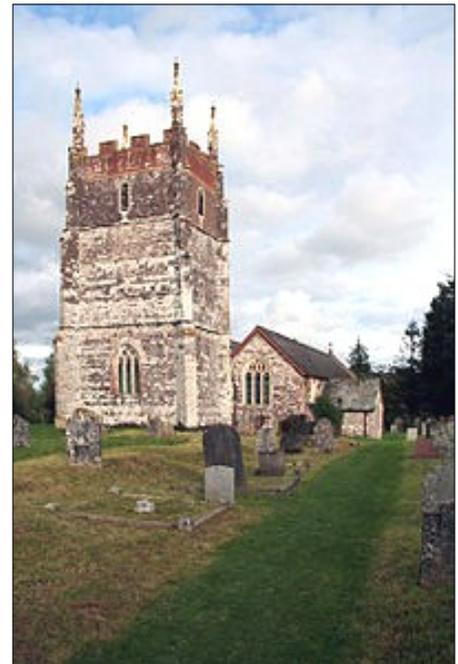
Her parents were John Warren born 1400, Lightfield, Shropshire, England; and

**“Facts(?)” Available From The Internet****From An Online Researcher — A Possible Crews Origin in England:**

- The name Crews, Cruse, Cruise, Cruwys, Crewes, Crusse and several different spelling of Screws came from a town in Devonshire, England, called Cruwys Morchard. It has been there almost a thousand years. The name is supposed to mean "Bold and Aggressive."

**Rick's Additional Note:**

**Cruwys Morchard** is an ecclesiastical and civil parish high in the unspoiled country of the Mid Devon district of the county of Devon in England. It is located about four to five miles west of Tiverton along the road to Witheridge. The parish covers about 5,765 acres of land and comprises a number of scattered houses, farms, and three small hamlets. There is no village, the centre of the parish being the church and the manor house. Beside the church is Cruwys Morchard House, the seat of the Cruwys family since the reign of John and possibly a little earlier. They died out in the male line in 1804, but George Sharland married Harriet Cruwys the heir-ess, and his son took his mother's name by royal license in 1831, so that the name of Cruwys continues at Cruwys Morchard.



**The Church of the Holy Cross, built in 1529 in Cruwys Morchard parish, located in Devon County, England. The parish is a possible origin for the surname Crews.**



**Church's Mansion, one of the few buildings in Nantwich to survive a fire of 1583. Nantwich is a parish in the Borough of Cheshire, England. Could some of our early ancestors have attended this very church — I think quite possible!**

Emma Matilda Cheney, born 1400, Willaston, Cheshire, England.  
Emma's father was John Cheney, 1360 -1420; her mother was Maud Capenhurst, 1348.

**Margaret Wilbraham or Margaretta Filia Ramulphi** - depending on sources:

Born 1470 in Woodney, Cheshire, England.  
Died 1550 in Tabley, Cheshire, England.  
Married about 1492.

#### **John Sanders**

Born 1680, Rehoboth, Bristol, Massachusetts.  
Died 1735, Henrico, Virginia.

John's father was Christopher Saunders, his mother Mary Dolliver 1662-1718.

#### **Elizabeth Wood**

Born 1670, Beverly, Essex, Massachusetts.  
Died May 19, 1727 Gloucester, Essex, Massachusetts.

Elizabeth's father was Walter Wood (born 1637), her mother Mary Alworth.

#### **William Gatley**

Born 1610 in Hereford, Herefordshire, England.  
Died in same.

#### **Catharina Gatlye**

Born 1610, Bridstow, Hereford, England.  
Died 1670 in Charles City, VA.

#### **Nicholas Griffis**

Born Feb 13, 1762 in South Carolina.  
Died Oct 2, 1828 in SC.

### **More Facts(?) From The Internet**

**From "Genealogical and Historical Sketch, The Name and Family of Crew(s)", Manuscript # 648, Roots Research Bureau, Ltd, New York, Copyright 1984:**

The name of CREWS or CREW is believed to have been derived from the residence of its first bearers at a town of the name of CREWE, in the parish of Farndon, Cheshire, England. It is found in ancient records in the various spelling of Crewe, Crewes, Crewys, Crewse, Crewze, Cruise, Cruis, Cruse, Craw, Crawe, Crawes, Craws, Crew, Cres, and others, of which the form "Crews" is that most generally used in American today, while several of the others are also occasionally found. The name of KRUSE, while pronounced the same and, undoubtedly occasionally used interchangeably with the above-mentioned forms, is of separate and Germanic origin.

Families of this name were resident at early dates in the British Counties of Chester, Devon, Cornwall, Northampton, Montgomery, Stafford, Derby, Gloucester, and London. Records indicate that they were, for the most part, of the landed gentry and yeomanry of the British Isles.

#### **Rick's Additional Notes:**

**Farndon** (Welsh name is *Rhedynfre*) is an ancient parish in Cheshire, England. It sits on the River Dee, which forms the border between England and Wales. The parish includes the villages of Barton, Churton by Farndon, Clutton, **Crewe** (near Farndon) and Farndon itself.

**Nantwich** is a market town and civil parish in the Borough of Cheshire East and the ceremonial county of Cheshire, England. The town gives its name to the parliamentary constituency of Crewe and Nantwich. The origins of the settlement date to Roman times when salt from Nantwich was used by the Roman garrisons.

*Plenty of theories. I personally choose the above over Cruwys Morchard on the pervious page. The central theme, however, is that our line originated in England.*

*- We had to come from SOMEWHERE within England!*

**Judith Hardy**

Born 1773 in Edgefield, SC.

**John Griffis**

Born 1729.

Died 1838 in Edgefield, SC.

**Mary Burkhalter**

Father may have been Michael "Hans" Burkhalter, born in Leutzelflueh, Canton Berne, Switzerland.

Died in Wilkes County, GA.

Her mother may have been Sarah Martha Newsom of Georgia.

**John Osborne**

Born July 31, 1631 in Ashford, Kent, England.

Died May 2, 1687 in Long Island City, Queens, New York.

His father was Thomas Osborne (1594-1677); his mother is thought to be Mary Goetly or possibly Goatley or Golightly (1600-1688).

**Miriam Hand**

Born 1627 in England.

Died May 9, 1704 in East Hampton, Suffolk, New York.



**Gx7 GRANDFATHER OR UNCLE?** Thomas Crewe, son of John Crewe and Alice Manwaring, was born 1566 in Cheshire, England and died Feb 1, 1634 in Wick, Sussex, England. He was a brother to our James Crewe, or perhaps he is in our direct line. Many different Crews family trees exist and it is hard to know for sure.

While our DNA says our prehistoric ancestors lived in Northern Europe and Scandinavia, the Crews surname originated in England, whether from the town of Crewe and later Nantwich in Cheshire; or Cruwys Morchard in Devon County. There have been individuals with the Crews surname in what is now the United States — apparently first in Virginia — since the early 1600's.



# South Carolina Low Country — The ‘Cradle of the Crews Family’

By Rick Crews

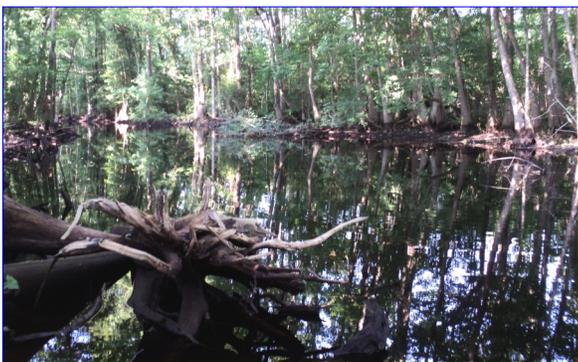
In preparing this family history I’ve made pilgrimages to old cemeteries, visited cousins I never knew I had and made historical sabbaticals to small, country towns that the changing world has seemingly left behind. Perhaps the most significant of these little odysseys — one I felt I had to make just to see for myself — was to the Salkahatche River and the section of South Carolina where so many of our forebears were once clustered. *(See the maps earlier in this section.)*



**The beautifully landscaped Hampton County Courthouse. Of course, azaleas are in bloom.**

around Beaufort or Charleston. The towns of Varnville and Hampton in Hampton County are pretty little settlements, not a lot there for tourist, but as with the rest of the county display their own special appeal. Walterboro, in Colleton County, is a little larger and worth spending a day or two. Both of these counties are clean, the people friendly (about 50/50 black and white) and while lacking the ambiance of Charleston or Savannah,\* maintain a certain sweet Southern charm that is all their own.

Along the Salkehatchie and little Salkehatchie, as well as after they converge to form the Combahee River, there are some sprawling farms set far from the highway. Fields were neatly plowed, some just turning green with different crops. A striking feature are the occasional antiquated farm houses which, al-



**The Little Salkehatchie River today. It was a very navigable highway in the early 1800’s. Up river, I watched an elderly Black man land a mudfish (bowfin) and place it in his cooler for dinner.**

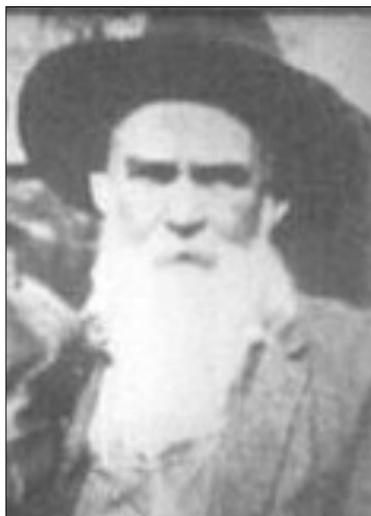
To drive through Colleton and Hampton counties today, especially in the spring, is a pleasant excursion past moss-covered live oaks and blooming azaleas which seem to grow everywhere. You find a few new, large homes, but most of what you see are exceptionally well kept mobile homes and modest houses with neat yards, many with gazebos, smartly pruned trees and numerous varieties of blooming flowers to augment the ubiquitous azaleas. You won’t see many ante-bellum-style mansions such as you find closer to the coast



**Although several Crews brothers migrated to south GA and north FL in the early 1800’s, and are ancestors to thousands of descendents here now, many cousins stayed in SC. Every church cemetery I saw had a number of old and new Crews graves. This plot was just a few miles from the Salkehatchie River.**

though long abandoned, are still standing (barely). In Florida, it seems, such old home sites are quickly sold to developers and overnight filled with strip malls and rows and rows of new houses. Traffic and stoplights quickly follow. This part of South Carolina is free from such desecration, which is in no small way part of its charm. Around every bend you will find a small, country church. It will be bedecked with live oaks and Spanish moss and have a neat, well maintained cemetery right beside it. Many have recent Crews graves. So, while this quaint area is truly the “cradle” of our family, not everyone migrated south. Numerous cousins live there still.

\* Savannah, GA is just across the state line from SC.



### **Additional Photos**

Some extra photos of Crews family members are *(Clockwise from top left)*: William Shelton Crews (1855-1950) and his second wife, Fannie Lumpkin Smith Crews. William was John Cone Crews' brother. (John J. North was probably his father.) • Riley, son of John Cone Crews and brother to John J. Crews Sr. Tiny remembered his "Uncle Riley," and commented on his long beard • Andrew Jackson "Ander" Crews, oldest son of John Sr. and Tiny's brother. • John Sr. with youngest daughter, Nova. Nova was selected "Miss Baker County" in 1924. • Children of John Sr. and Larceny Williams Crews (L to R) Cecil, Cleopatra (Patra, pronounced "Pay tra"), Lalia (pronounced "Lay ya") and Paul (seated). Ander, slightly older than Cecil, is not in the photo. Nova and Daniel were not yet born when this photo was taken. Patra, sadly, died young at about 22 years of age.

Rick Crews  
[richard\\_crews@comcast.net](mailto:richard_crews@comcast.net) 904-215-2062