

CROWSONS IN AMERICA

There is much evidence, reasonably well documented, that a JOHN CROWSON who was born in England in 1678 (Son of John, born in 1643) came to America while still a young man and with him came his cousin JOHN CROWSON, who was born in 1677. (Son of Edward, born in 1643).

They settled in either Anson or Richmond County, North Carolina, in the vicinity of Rockingham.

Richmond County Record Book B, Page 261, registers a deed of 1729 in which John Crowson GAVE to Jehucal Crowson and Elisha Crowson (The two being respectively John Crowson's son and grand-son) 100 acres of land on the North side of Hitchcock Creek. John Crowson also GAVE, and deeded, to his son John Junior, 150 acres of land on Hitchcock Creek.

There are also tax lists, records and wills which indicate that in 1690 -1691 a Robert Crowson emigrated from Nottingham, England to Accomack County, Virginia. He and his wife had two sons – William, born in 1694 and died in 1756; and Thomas, born in 1696. Apparently, Robert's wife died prior to 1702, because in that year he bound out both sons as indentured servants until they attained the age of 21 years.

Thomas Crowson was indentured to Sara Coe, widow of a Timothy Coe who died in 1689, of Accomack County.

William Crowson was indentured to John Evans of Accomack County and after his term of indenture expired, he married Comfort Littleton about 1716. Their son, William Junior, was born on May 12, 1723. Several other children were born to William and Comfort, amongst them being John --who is believed to have been born in 1718. It is believed, too, that John was the father of the William who married Mary Thomas and lived for awhile in North Carolina, then moved to Eastern Tennessee.

Records of Accomack County, Virginia, indicate that Robert's descendants caused the Crowsons there to become quite numerous – among them being at least one family of negroes, probably descendants of a slave of one of the Crowson Planters.

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Letters of Administration were accordingly issued to Mary Crowson, (William's widow) and sons Richard Crowson and Moses Crowson --they having entered bond as required. Mary Crowson asked for division of the estate and James Ford, Samuel Smith, Thomas Westmoreland, Aaron Brown and William Price were appointed Commissioners to divide the estate between Mary, (the widow), Richard, Moses, John, Abraham, Isaac, Thomas, Jonathan and Jane -all children of William Crowson, deceased.

In the division of the estate, there is no reference to son Aaron or daughter Mary, (Polly), the only children who remained in Sevier County when others of the family moved to Giles County. Neither is there any reference to Jacob in the division of the estate --this being easily understood to be a penalty meted out by a father who was displeased by the escapades of a recalcitrant son. (See Jacob, on a succeeding sheet)

The estate consisted, among other properties, of two parcels of land, one of 325 acres and one of 106 acres. Mary Crowson (widow) was given 40 acres of land, and the Mansion house and all out buildings appertaining thereto. Presently, (1977) nothing more is known of her.

DATA CONCERNING CHILDREN OF WILLIAM CROWSON AND MARY THOMAS

RICHARD THOMAS CROWSON. He was the eldest child --and through his descendants William M. John B, and Isaac H. (son, grandson, and great-grandson respectively) comes Robert L. (Bob) who 'Summarized this report for you --and his 6 brothers, 3 sisters, and dozens of descendants. See lengthy., separate report on Richard Thomas.

AARON CROWSON. Was born March 18, 17~~ He was the second eldest child, and the only son who remained in Sevier County, Tennessee (where he died on December 18, 1849), when the family moved to Giles County about 1810. He settled in Wear's Valley, only a few miles from Pigeon Forge, and was married twice. Rhoda (widow of Isaac Meroney) is believed to have been the first wife, and Jane Barnes, the second. From the two marriages, there were 10 children --two of them being Richard West Crowson, born July 8, 1810, and died July 2, 1887, and Nancy. Myrtle Crowson, (Mrs. W. W.) widow of Aaron's great-grandson William Walter Crowson, still (1977) lives on a farm where Aaron originally settled and died. He is buried in the "Crowson Cemetery" on the farm near Myrtle's home, where also are buried numerous descendants of Aaron.

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MOSES CROWSON. was born October 6, 1778, and was a Baptist Minister. Upon the death of a William Crowson, (whom we believe was a brother of Moses) about 1809, Moses evidently became the legal guardian of William's three young children--William, Mary, and Hightower -whose mother was named Gilly. (See more detail on William on a succeeding page). Moses performed the ceremony for his sister Jane and Eliab Vinson when they were married on March 19, 1815. Moses is mentioned in the settlement of a will of a William Crowson in the year 1816 in Montgomery, Alabama, and the Shelby County, Alabama Census of 1830 shows him and his wife with 4 male and 4 female children.

MARY CROWSON. (Polly) Information concerning her is rather sketchy, but there is hard evidence that she had married a man named William Hatcher--and they elected to remain in Wear's Valley (as did Aaron) when all others of the family moved to Giles County. The year of 1780 is merely a guess as to the date of Mary's birth, but Ben Crowson (one of Aaron's great-great-grandsons) who presently (1977) lives on Rural Route 3, Maryville, Tennessee, has a copy of a letter written to the Hatchers by Moses on July 19, 1814, concerning the death of their father, and settlement of his estate. "The Connections in East Tennessee" authored by Olga Jones Edwards and Izora Waters Freezel (Published many years ago) lists the William Crowson children --and among them is Mary, born 1770-80, married William Hatcher, lived in Sevier County, Tennessee and died March 5, 1838.

WILLIAM CROWSON. We BELIEVE he was a son of William Crowson and Mary Thomas, that he was born about 1782, in Eastern Tennessee, and that he died in Giles County prior to 1809. Positive evidence concerning him comes from Page 593 of Giles County, Tennessee, Minute Book for the term of December, 1815. There is reference to Gilly Crowson, widow of William Crowson, deceased --and the release of Moses from his guardianship of the three children of William and Gilly. In this same record, Gilly is referred to as the wife of Joseph Love and he becomes guardian of the three Crowson children whose names were William, Mary and Hightower. Joseph Love evidently did not adopt the three children of William and Gilly, because Hightower shows up in the 1840 Census of Itawamba County, Mississippi, listed as "Hitour" CROWSON with a family --and his birthplace shown as Tennessee. Some of the Hightower's descendants emigrated to Northeast Arkansas, and others to Texas.

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JACOB CROWSON. Was born in 1784. Giles County, Tennessee Minute Book of 1810 charges him with Bastardy, but the charge was dropped upon his promise to pay costs. The Giles County Minute Book for 1815-1816 shows him indicted for assault and battery against John Bovd. and also as having served on a jurv. The 1820 census for Giles County, Tennessee shows him and his wife (Both between 26 and 45 years of age) 1 female under 10 and 1 female over 16.

JOHN CROWSON. Was born in 1786. The Shelby County Alabama Census of 1830 shows him and his .wife with 2 female children, both born between 1825 -1830. The Census of 1840 shows them with 1 male 10 -15 years of age, 1 female 10 -15, and 2 females 5 -10.

ABRAHAM CROWSON. Was born in 1790. The Giles County Tennessee Minute book of 1816 tells of his being charged with gaming (their term-for gambling) but he was not convicted. The 1820 Census for Giles County shows him, (age 26 -45) his wife, (age 16-26) and 3 female children under 10 years of age.

ISAAC CROWSON. Was born in 1782. The Giles County, Tennessee Minute Book of 1816 tells of his being severely indebted (\$250.00) to the State of Tennessee, and Page 564 indicates that he worked on the road under Isaac Adkins, Overseer. It is believed that he and his family eventually moved to Arkansas, in the area of Little Rock.

THOMAS CROWSON. Was born April 17, 1794, in Eastern Tennessee, and his wife was Jane Vinson who was born June 15, 1794, in Georgia. The Shelby County, Alabama Census of 1830 indicates that they had moved to Alabama with other Crowsons. That Census (1830) shows their children as 1 male and 1 female. Thomas and Jane moved in 1819 to Missouri, where-he died May 2, 1857, and she died in 1880 ---They had a total of 15 children, and their descendants are numerous.

JONATHAN CROWSON. Was born in 1796. He went with Thomas and Jane in 1819 to Missouri. Jonathan and his wife had 2 sons, one of whom settled in the far West and the parents lost contact with him. The other, William, was a bachelor who lived in Memphis, Tennessee, became a well known Memphis business man and inventor and died there in 1909.

JANE CROWSON. Was born on April 11. 1798. and was probably the youngest of the children born to William Crowson and Marv Thomas. Jane was married to Eliab Vinson(Born on August 25, 1790) on March 19, 1817, in a wedding ceremony performed by Jane's brother Moses - who was a Baptist Minister. Eliab Vinson may have been, and probably was, a brother of Jane Vinson who was married to Jane Crowson's brother

Thomas. Jane Crowson Vinson and Eliab Vinson were the parents of 10 children --5 boys and 5 girls --among whom were 2 sets of twins. Jane died on January 28, 1857, and Eliab died on September 18, 1865.

For distribution at the Crowson Family Re-union held at the Village of Tull, Arkansas on July 17, 1977.

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