



Robert Crews
J. Elwin Crews
Maribta (Crews) Pirie

Julius Emmons

James E. Crews, Jr.

Mary (Emmons) Crews
Ackle (Sheridan) Crews
Robert A. Crews



Oscar G. Brauer

Oscar Leo Brauer, Ph.D.

Martha (Crews) Brauer

Dr. Lloyd I. Brauer

Robert Ernest Brauer,

Mary E. (Brauer) Bean

Vivian (Brauer) (Watson) Reising

Sidney E. Brauer

Irma (Brauer) St. John



Maleta (Crews) (Brauer) Hill — John L. Brauer

Maude (Brauer) (Foster) Wiegart

Leslie E. Brauer

Easton B. Brauer

Dr. Carroll V. Brauer

Dr. John Clyde Brauer



Elnora (Crews) Snell — John A. Snell

Lella (Snell) Jacobus

Harold A. Snell

Dr. John Buryl Snell

Dr. Gerald I. Snell

Muriel (Snell) Cameron

THE BIOGRAPHIES OF ROBERT CREWS AND MARY EMMONS CREWS

by

OSCAR L. BRAUER (GRANDSON). *Most of the information was told by* ROBERT A. CREWS (SON)

IN THE EARLY PART of the seventeenth century, in northern England near the Scottish border there lived a young blacksmith named Crews. He had inherited a little property and was doing well with his blacksmith shop.

One day he decided to take a vacation and see the large city of London. While there, he had a little too much to drink. When he awoke, he found himself on a ship four days out on the Atlantic Ocean headed for America. He had been Shanghied and sold to work on the Plantations of Maryland, owned by Lord Baltimore.

After working long enough to pay the cost of his trip across the ocean, he ran off to the mountains of Virginia. Here he set up a blacksmith shop and lived the rest of his life. Two of his great grandsons fought in the American Revolutionary War. After the war they were paid in Continental script. They used this script to buy land in Kentucky, sight unseen. Luckily it turned out to be good land.

One of the two Crews men in Kentucky became well-to-do, raising Negro Slaves and fine horses.

The other Crews brother in Kentucky was not so rich in worldly goods, but he was rich in children, having three sons and two daughters. One of the daughters married a man named Jones and moved to Missouri. One of the sons, named John went over into Missouri to visit his sister.

While in Missouri John Crews fell in love with a girl named Martha Rhodis. He married her and settled down in Missouri. They had nine children, six boys and three girls. The exact order in which the children came is not known, but it is thought that Dan was the oldest, and

that Robert, our grandfather, was about the fourth.

Dan was especially gifted in mathematics. He could do cube root in his head. Unfortunately, he died before getting out of Grammar school.

Bill, while in Missouri, followed the trade of breaking wild horses. About the time of the beginning of the Civil War he started gambling and ran off into Illinois. When he finally got back to Missouri he was in poor health. Soon he took pneumonia and died.

Dick was remembered as a hunter, who was a good shot for quail on the fly. He volunteered in the Civil War, but died of pneumonia before he got into combat. Apparently these Crews boys were not very strong, and were especially vulnerable to pneumonia.

Robert (Grandpa Crews), stayed at home and helped his parents until he married Mary Elizabeth Emmons, (Grandma Crews), September 20, 1860.

John enlisted in the Civil War before he was 16. While still in Boot Camp he developed an abscess in his side. The doctor lanced the abscess but did not know enough to put in a drain. As would be expected, the soldier died.

Jim was the youngest child in the family. His mother died when he was quite young. Robert and his wife practically raised him. He lived with Grandma and Grandpa until they started for California. Once Jim, who had blond hair, wished that it were black. He thought that he could dye it black with the stain from walnut shells. He tried it and instead of turning black it turned green.

Eliza, the oldest daughter, married a man named Squire. Squire had been quite chummy with Robert. He was Robert's favorite brother-in-law.

Becky married a man named Williams.

Mandy, the youngest, married a man named Music. Later this Music, with his brother, brought their families to Shasta County, one to South Cow Creek Valley and the other to Whitmore. The one who lived on South Cow Creek died before the Crews family moved to Shasta County. Uncle Bob remembers that the Music from Whit-

more used to stop and discuss old times with Grandpa Crews.

Martha Rhodis-Crews, the mother of the aforementioned nine children, had a sister who married a man named Denny. They had a son whom they called Bob. Thus there were two cousins with the same first name. I presume that in order not to have a confusion in names, Denny was called Bob, while Crews was called Robert. At least, Grandpa Crews was always called Robert Crews. Even Grandma called him Robert.

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Along toward the end of the eighteenth century a family of Irish descent named Emmons lived in Massachusetts. In 1802 there was born a son, which they named Julius. As far as we know he was the only child. When the boy was about 12 years old, the family moved to Franklin County, Missouri, near the small town of Lonedell. When Julius was 14 years old his parents both died. He continued to run the farm alone until he was old enough to marry.

Having been sobered by the death of his parents, and being of a religious nature, he became a Baptist Preacher. The family had been called "Yankees" by the natives of Missouri. Later he gained a reputation for uprightness and honesty. He was elected Constable and then Justice of the Peace. In later years he was called affectionately "The Old Judge", or "Old Yank".

Young Julius Emmons married a girl named Elizabeth Hedspeth. The couple had two daughters, Rachael and Lavissa. The mother died at the birth of Lavissa.

Julius next married a widow named Hildebrand, of Irish descent. She already had two children, John and Maleta Hildebrand. After marrying Emmons, she had four more children, Jim, Seth, Mary Elizabeth, and Louisa. Our family came through the line of Mary Elizabeth Emmons, who will later be referred to as "Grandma".

When Mary Elizabeth was five years old and Louisa two and one-half, their mother died. Mary Elizabeth could barely remember her mother. Next, the much-married

preacher married a widow named Cole. This widow had two children, Jim and Maria Cole. She then had one child by Emmons, a girl whom they named Thankful. (Thankful Emmons married a man named Nappier. They had a daughter named Cora who later became an evangelist and preached all around that country.)

It was this stepmother who really raised Mary Elizabeth (Grandma Crews). This stepmother was inclined to be cross and often spanked little Louisa, who was about the same age as her own little girl, Maria. Finally Seth who was quite a big boy told her that the next time she spanked Louisa, his little sister, that he would spank Maria.

Shortly after this when the stepmother had finished milking the cow and set the bucket down for a moment, Maria dropped some trash into the milk. When her mother asked Maria if she did it, she answered, "No, Louisa did it." Then the stepmother snatched Louisa up and spanked her severely.

Seth stepped up and took Maria and gave her a sound spanking.

When Mr. Emmons came home, the stepmother told him what Seth had done. Mr. Emmons called Seth to him and prepared to give him a whipping. Mary Elizabeth hastily explained the whole story to her father. When he understood the true situation, he saw the justice of Seth's action, and gave him no punishment.

Julius Emmons oldest girls, Rachael and Lavissa, did not get along too well with this stepmother, either. Consequently they married young and moved away, Rachael to Oregon and Lavissa to Texas.

While in Texas, Lavissa's husband died, and she wrote home for help. Bob Denny and another man started to drive a team to Texas to help the widow. The men stopped at a saloon on the way. While they were in the saloon, the team ran off, and one of the horses was killed. The men had to go back to Missouri to get another horse. When they finally did get to Texas, thieves had stolen all of the widow's cattle and horses. Lavissa returned to Missouri.

Rachael married a man named Schrum and went to Oregon by covered wagon. Six hundred and forty acres of land had been offered to colonists who would come to Oregon to stay. Rachael was not heard from again by her father's family in Missouri. However, Mr. Fitzwater in Millville knew the Schrums in Oregon, and stated that they had become quite prosperous.

When Uncle Bob Crews was living in Oregon some years ago, he found in the attic a piece of old newspaper in which was a book review of an historical novel featuring the lives of Rachael and Jim Schrum. One incident mentioned in the review stated that once Jim Schrum went 150 miles with the horse team to get his wife an iron stove. While he was gone some Indians came up to his house to take his wife captive. She saw them coming and met them at the door with a muzzle-loading shotgun. She told the Indians that she had a repeating rifle which frightened them away.

One unusual incident happened in the Emmons family. When Maria Cole, stepdaughter of Julius Emmons, was about 15 years old she developed some of the powers of a spiritualistic medium. The spirit would answer any question that could be answered by yes or no. At night when the girl would ask a question the spirit would tap one tap for yes and two taps for no. When she laid her hands on a table it would move and even lift off the floor. One day a man visiting at the home said that he did not believe that there was any such thing as spiritualism. The girls took a table out in the yard. The man climbed upon it. Then Maria laid her hand on the table. The table now bucked like a steer and sent the man sprawling. He had nothing more to say and left at once.

Julius Emmons, being a Baptist preacher, didn't like the idea of his girls getting mixed up with spiritualism. He forbade Maria to call up the spirit again. Although her stepfather had forbidden her to call up the spirit, it seemed quite entertaining to the other children so she did it on the sly when she thought he wasn't around.

One day she, with a group of young people, were

gathered around the table asking questions of the spirit. Mary Elizabeth was assigned the task of watching and warning if her father should show up. She got so interested in what was taking place that she forgot all about her father. Her father came in unobserved and stood watching them for a while. When the rappings were at their height, the father, the Baptist preacher, spoke to the spirit:

"In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to leave this house and never to return."

As Grandma Crews remembered it, immediately there was a sort of swishing sound and a sort of dragging effect that began near the girl and went to the outer bounds of the house. From then on the girl had completely lost her power as a medium. One day when her stepfather was away, she tried to call the spirit back but could not do it.

When Mary Elizabeth was nearly 18 years of age, young Bob Denny started calling on her step-sister, Maleta Hildebrand. Seeing that the Emmons household was full of girls, Bob Denny took along his cousin, Robert Crews, the next time he called. Robert was paired off with Mary Elizabeth.

In those days a young man did not shop around much in hunting for a wife. Soon the couples were going steady. Bob Denny, understanding the psychology of a preacher, made some pretense of being religious. This put him in good standing with Preacher Emmons. Robert Crews obviously was not religious, but for the time being attended Sunday services where the Emmons girls attended. Julius Emmons had some misgivings about young Robert Crews. However, Robert's keen sense of humor, his disarming smile, and the mischievous twinkle in his eye captivated Mary Elizabeth. The couples were soon married.

This same year (1860), her stepmother (Cole) died. Later, Julius Emmons married a widow named Kelly who had one son, Jim, by her previous marriage. Jim Kelly later married Louisa Emmons. After the Civil War he was pensioned. He died from lead poisoning caused by working in the lead mines.

To Emmons and this fourth wife there was born a

daughter, Fannie, and a pair of twins, Julius and Etta. Emmons was 64 when the twins were born. The twins were the same age as his daughter Mary Elizabeth's third child.

Julius Emmons lived to be 94 years old and died in 1896. One of the daughters writing to Grandma Crews at the time said that they laid the father to rest in a very expensive coffin costing fifteen dollars.

Robert Crews had a small farm, but was ambitious to be something more than a farmer. A friend of his, who was a blacksmith, suggested that the two of them become wagon makers, Crews to do the woodwork, and the other man the iron work. They soon learned that the Studebaker Brothers, and also Bain had already developed the wagon business to an advanced stage. The young men saw that their custom built wagons could not compete in price with the factory-built wagons.

After the birth of his first child, Roswell, in 1861 just before the Civil War, Grandpa Crews decided to become a doctor. So he apprenticed himself to one of a group of doctors, who had organized a makeshift medical school. Each of the doctors took turns lecturing to the students. One day Grandpa Crews' doctor preceptor stopped at the Crews home after attending a child with diphtheria. The family thought that the doctor brought the diphtheria to their child. At any rate, Roswell caught the diphtheria and died.

When the Civil War broke out Bob Denny, Grandpa Crews' cousin, volunteered in the regular army, and rose to the rank of Captain. He served with General Sherman in his march through Georgia.

All of the doctors and students in the medical school volunteered for service. The medical school was converted into a hospital by the regular army. The doctors were taken in as lieutenants and the students as orderlies. The orderlies had the power to write prescriptions, but their main duties were to assist the doctors. As yet the germ theory of infectious diseases was not established. If one wishes to get a picture of the horror of army hospitals in

those days he need only to read the Life of Pasteur by Vallery-Radot. This gives Pasteur's description of the army hospitals around Paris during the Franco-Prussian War in 1871, telling how the surgeons carried infection from one patient to another with their unsterilized instruments. Grandpa Crews said that the horror of the place was almost more than he could stand.

Martha Susan, the second child in the Crews family was born August 15, 1864. How the medical students ran their farms and went to medical school at the same time we can only imagine. However, the army let the soldiers with families and farms go home to harvest the crops. Grandpa Crews was glad to get away from dying men for a while.

However, it was a critical time. The Confederate general, Price, was coming northward and the militia was unable to halt him. The advanced guard of the Confederate army was almost to Lonedell. Most of the men were fleeing northward with their horses, and in many cases their families. Robert Crews felt that he should hurry over to his farm to at least rescue the family. When he got in sight of his house, he saw that a part of the Confederate advance guard was camped around his buildings.

Realizing that he was in the Union Army uniform, and knowing that if he were captured with it on, he would be a "goner", he turned his horse quickly and raced over to the nearest relatives' place, his brother-in-law, Squire. Finding no one at home he crawled through the window of the house and borrowed civilian clothes. Hiding his uniform and his gun in a hollow log, he started out to find his family. Rounding a turn in the road he ran right into some of Prices' men and was taken prisoner.

Since he was in civilian clothes they questioned him carefully. He seemed to be quite neutral as to the issues that separated the North and the South. He did, however, say that he was a brother-in-law to Squire, who was a known Southern sympathizer. The officer in charge decided to take Crews along and make a Confederate soldier out of him.

Upon hearing the news that the Confederate Army was approaching, Julius Emmons, who was a radical anti-slavery man, knew that he would surely be captured when it arrived. Realizing that he would be more of a hindrance than a help to his family if he stayed in Lonedell, he immediately made his way to Union, the County Seat of Franklin County.

The daughters and stepdaughters all rode in on their horses to the Emmons home, where they felt a measure of security in numbers. Grandma Crews and her young daughter, Martha, were there with the rest. Maleta Denny was being brought up to the Emmons home by Robert Crews' youngest brother Jim, then about 13. On the way over the boy asked Maleta:

"Maleta, is you scared?" "Not exactly" answered Maleta with some misgivings. "I is," stated the boy positively.

One day while Maria, grandma's stepsister, was out riding on the prairie, she saw the Confederate soldiers coming. The soldiers called her to stop, but she bent down on the horse's neck and raced home in time to warn the women. All of the horses, except one mare and colt, were quickly hidden out in the woods along the creek.

The mare and colt belonged to grandma's stepmother. She thought that the Confederates would not take a mare with a suckling colt, because she would not make a good riding horse. How wrong she was! When the soldiers arrived one of them pulled his saddle off an animated pack of bones and put it on the mare.

Hearing that Julius Emmons was a strong Union Sympathizer, Price especially wanted to capture him. When he asked the women where the men were, he was told they had gone to St. Louis.

"I don't believe it," growled Price. "I bet they are in Union. When I get there I'll get every one of them."

Since the men were actually in Union, the women were considerably worried.

Price's objective in this campaign was St. Louis. The commander of the Union Army knew this so he dispatched

8000 regulars to help the militia. With the help of the Regulars, who arrived at this time, Price was stopped and turned back.

After the Confederate army had been driven back in the summer of 1864, Grandma Crews, with the baby, Martha, went back to the farm. She found all of the livestock gone except two sheep and two or three chickens. The yard fences and some of the smaller buildings had been torn down by the raiders and used for wood. Nearly everything in the house had been stolen except a cooking pot in which she found some burned dumplings.

Grandma Crews learned accidentally that her husband had been captured by Price's men. She was walking down the sidewalk of Lonedell, when some of Price's army rode through. Grandpa Crews edged over to the side of the group and called to her:

"Mary, I'm one of Daddy Price's men now."

When she started toward him, he motioned her back. Well he knew that he did not dare reveal his identity now. However, he remained a prisoner.

Price, hoping to check his retreat before the Union armies, didn't want to be bothered with prisoners, so he sent them southward under an armed guard into Tennessee. When about 150 miles from home the band camped for the night near a cornfield. They tied their horses to some trees along a slough, and carried corn from the field to the horses. After most of the men had quit carrying corn and were busy getting supper, Crews took one more armful to his horse. Then dropping his corn, he jumped down the bank into the deep gully and hurried away.

By now the guards were not keeping very careful check on the prisoners. They may not have missed Grandpa until they found an extra horse in the morning. At any rate, he got away. For a long time he traveled at night and hid out in the daytime, stealing vegetables from the gardens and eggs from the chicken houses in order to exist.

One night after walking all night he wound up at the same place he had stayed the night before. From then on he paid more attention to the North Star. Knowing that

the Confederate army was between him and home he began to veer westward.

After a few days' travel Grandpa figured that he had got past Price's army so he traveled northward by day and slept by night. He was careful not to go near houses where he saw men. If there were no men he felt safe to stop and beg for food.

One night, there being no better place to sleep, he crawled into a chicken house. Before morning he became aware of the fact that there was another man in the chicken house. He was very cautious in what he said to this other man until he found out that he, too, was a Union man. From then on they traveled together.

This man had one thing that Crews did not have. That was a pass that would let him through the Confederate lines.

When Price was defeated before St. Louis he decided to swing westward into Kansas. Here he was confronted by the Kansas Militia. The pressure from the two armies forced him to retreat southward, but he was much farther west than the two escapees thought he could be.

One day they suddenly bumped into a Confederate picket. The picket acknowledged the pass of Grandpa's companion but asked what about Grandpa. Grandpa's friend tried to say that the pass was intended for both of them. The picket was dubious but let them proceed. He warned them, however, that they would meet another picket a little further along, who he thought would not let Grandpa pass, so when he spied a log jamb in the creek near the road, he stopped and crawled into it. Here he lay hidden all day until the army moved past him.

Fearing that he might have difficulty accounting to the Union army for his presence so far south, he began to move farther west. One night he crawled into a straw stack to sleep. Some hounds at the ranch house were aware of his presence and barked all night. Luckily, he was not discovered.

Soon it was getting colder at night as the autumn was advancing. One night even in a strawstack, he felt as if he were going to freeze. He could hear some hogs

bedded down in a nearby stack. When hogs are bedded down and the night is cold, they pile up for warmth. Those on top of the pile get cold and squeal until they can squeeze down among the others. This in turn pushes some other hog out in the cold which causes him to squeal. The continuation of this process keeps up the squealing all night.

This night Grandpa felt that the pigs were much warmer than he was, so he went over and squeezed in with the pigs. Soon the pigs noticed the man-smell, and went woofing out of there and let Grandpa have the whole bed. At least, the bed had been warmed up. Before morning he had to crowd the pigs out of their second bed.

By that time he was well out into Kansas. There he ran into Quantrill's guerillas or robbers, whichever way one wants to classify them.

Quantrill had originally been a trusted Confederate officer with a band of about 250 men and had operated in lower Kansas and in Indian Territory. In time he and his men became more interested in loot than in the war. He was discredited with the Southern higher command, and all of his men left except a handful of ruffians. He recruited a few more to a strength of about 30 men, adopted Union uniforms and continued looting until the Union generals got wise to him. (Quantrill was later captured, his band annihilated, and he was wounded so badly that he died in the prison hospital.)

Crews had no idea what Quantrill would do with him, perhaps shoot him. However, luck was with Grandpa this time. With Quantrill's band was a man named Hedspeth. Hedspeth was an acquaintance of Grandpa, being related to Julius Emmons' first wife. As a result of their acquaintance Hedspeth gave a good report of Grandpa to Quantrill. The latter gave Crews a muzzle-loading pistol and a horse and saddle. It did not take him long to reach home after this.

After Grandpa Crews got back to Lonedell, the question was what to do. He had been associated with Sherman's army, which was now down in Georgia.

Just then word came of a big Indian, uprising in

Western Kansas. People were leaving their homes wholesale and fleeing eastward. In return for the help the Kansas militia had given to defeat Price, a home guard was quickly organized in Missouri and sent to help Kansas. Robert Crews thinking that serving his country in one place was as good as serving it in another, volunteered the second time.

This time he served under Captain Austin Boyd in the 24th Volunteers of the Army of Occupation. When this army got to the seat of the trouble, they found that there was no Indian War. A gang of looters had spread the rumor in order to frighten the people away so they could rob them. They followed up with ten-horse teams carrying away all of the ranchers' property. The soldiers rounded up the robbers, shot some of them, and took the others prisoner.

Grandma Crews had neglected to report to army headquarters that her husband had been captured by Price. Fearing that his record in Washington might read AWOL, he never applied for a pension. "Why should I get a pension?" he asked, "I was never wounded!"

The next year after the Civil War, James Edwin, the third child of Mary and Robert Crews, was born January 10, 1866. When Ed was one and one-half years old and Martha three and one-half, Grandpa Crews decided to sell out and drive to California in a covered wagon. So they started westward through Missouri and into Kansas. He expected that as they progressed they would be joined by other wagons so that eventually there would be a caravan, but by the time they were well across Kansas they had been joined by only one wagon, owned by a man by the name of Bart Brundage.

One night the two wagons camped at a place where the timothy and blue grass were waist high. A man by the name of Stevenson came over and demanded that they move on, saying that they were on his land. This angered Brundage who refused to move. Next day he went into the county seat and found that the land did not belong to Stevenson, but belonged to a Creek Indian.

Crews decided to buy the land and stay there. They

(see below)

Pages 14 and 15

will be inserted
at a later date

They were omitted from
my copy due to a
printer's error.
