

John Crawford of Chambersburg No connection to Andrew Jackson

It is quite widespread to believe that John Crawford of Chambersburg had the children listed below:

1. JOHN¹ CRAWFORD was born Abt. 1687 in Ayershire, Scotland, and died Abt. 1748 in PA. It is believed that he emigrated to America with the ancestors of Andrew Jackson.

Children of COLONEL JOHN CRAWFORD are:

2. i. ROBERT (Major)² CRAWFORD, b. 1726-1728, Ireland; d. October 8, 1801, Lancaster Co., PA.
3. ii. JAMES CRAWFORD, SR., b. 1728-1734, Lancaster, PA (or Ireland?);
d. 1777-1779, Waxhaws Settlement, SC.
4. iii. JOSEPH CRAWFORD, b. 1730-1732.
- iv. CATHERINE CRAWFORD, b. 1734.
- v. MARY CRAWFORD, b. 1736.
- vi. ELIZABETH CRAWFORD, b. 1738; m. JOHN ELIAS HUTCHINSON, June 26, 1763, Lancaster Co., PA.
- vii. GEORGE CRAWFORD, b. 1740.
- viii. ARTHUR CRAWFORD, b. 1740.
- ix. WILLIAM CRAWFORD, b. 1744; d. August 3, 1826, Greene Co., PA; m. ALICE KENNEDY.

<http://tissiers.com/Families/crawford1.html>

I suspect that this information originally came from Nellie King Daubenspeck's book *The John Crawford History and Lineage, 1687-1957*. I have been unable to obtain a copy of this very rare book, but it is often cited as the source for the lineage above. You can see that they have James Crawford moving to the Waxhaws Settlement and dying there. The main idea is that he married the sister of Andrew Jackson's mother, and this is the basis for a claim of relation to the Jacksons.

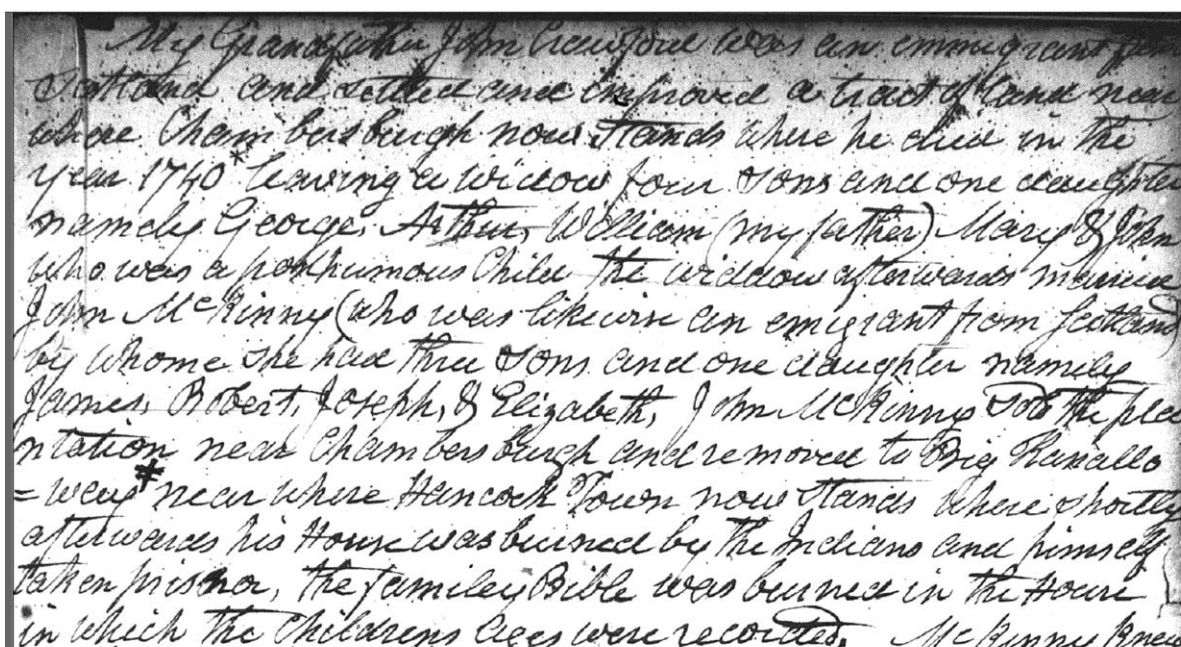
I got into that controversy because I was looking for a Crawford or Crafford lass who eloped with James McBride, my fifth great grandfather. For a while, I thought the Mary listed above fit perfectly with the descriptions from all the branches of the family. Then I found the document that will make many of the descendants of this lineage unhappy. Col. John Crawford never had Robert, James, Josph and Elizabeth.

In the Draper manuscript collection there is an article 6NN77-102 which is an interview with John Crawford, grandson, of the above Colonel. He says:

"My grandfather John Crawford was an emmigrant from Scotland and settled and improved a tract of land near where Chambersburgh now stands where he died in the year 1740 leaving a widow four sons and one daughter, namely George, Arthur, William (my father) Mary & John who was a posthumous child. the widdow afterwards married

John McKinny (who was likewise an emigrant from Scotland) by whom she had three sons and one daughter namely James, Robert, Joseph, & Elizabeth, John McKinny. John McKinny sold the plantation near Chambersburgh and removed to Big Ranallowey near where Hancock Town now stands where shortly afterwards his house was burned b the Indians and himself taken prisoner, the familey Bible was burned in the hous in which the childrens ages were recorded."

Generations of Crawford researchers have been misled by this mistake. Daubenspeck thought the children were all Crawfords. Only half of them. Because of this, it is absolutely certain that James McKinny didn't marry Jane Hutchinson, aunt to Andrew Jackson. James would not have taken the name of the father of his half-siblings. Here is the original document. You can see for yourself that there is no Waxhaw connection.

A photograph of a handwritten manuscript snippet, likely a page from a family Bible. The text is written in cursive and matches the typed transcription provided in the first block. The paper appears aged and slightly yellowed. The handwriting is clear but somewhat cramped. The text describes the life of John McKinny, an emigrant from Scotland, and his family, including his children James, Robert, Joseph, and Elizabeth. It mentions the sale of a plantation near Chambersburgh and the subsequent burning of his house and the family Bible by Indians, with McKinny being taken prisoner.

Draper Collection 6NN77-102 p. 79 Acquired from the Wisconsin Historical Society, by Glenn R. Morton