

Squire Cummins (c1835-c1865)

By Jerry Long, Owensboro, Ky., 1987

14 February 1987

Pat Miller
2344 Roberts Lane
Florence, AL 35630

Dear Mrs. Miller:

Last week I spent an afternoon at the Owensboro Library checking Grayson County sources (1850-1860 censuses, 1850-1870 tax lists and censuses and marriages in the surrounding counties of Breckinridge, Ohio, Hardin, Hancock and Daviess for Crawford and Cummings (5 hours). I went through the 1860 Grayson County census, this census has not been compiled in book form and is not indexed, thus I had to check it name by name which took about an hour. I found the family of Squire and Mary Herrin Cummins, the census listing appeared as follows:

1860 Grayson County, Ky. census, p.480, #883:

Cummins, Squire	24	m	farmer	\$200/\$300	Ky.
Mary	21	f			Ind.
Lucinda R.	6	f			Ill.
Delila	4	f			Ky.
William	5/12	m			Ky.

Squire Cummins was not in the 1850 Grayson County census or in the 1850 censuses of the local counties of Breckinridge, Ohio, Hardin, Hancock and Daviess. If he married Mary Herrin in 1854 in Richland County, Ill, he may have been living in Illinois or near the Herrin family in Putnam County, Ind. in 1850. The 1860 census indicates he was born in Kentucky about 1835-1836. He first appears in the Grayson County tax records in 1856, in this year he was listed as not yet being 21 the following year, 1857, he is shown as being of the age of 21, which confirms that he was born about 1836. In 1860 the families of Harrison, John Sr., John Jr., Presley, Woodford, Shelby and Mrs. Mary Cummins are also listed. Squire Cummins in the 1860 census was enumerated only three households from the family of John Cummins, age 27. Squire is in the Grayson County tax lists for every year from 1856 through 1864, in the 1861 list he appears as Squire D., he is not in the 1865 or later tax lists. In the last year he appears, 1864, he is shown as owning 100 acres of land.

Since Squire Cummins was born in Kentucky and he lived very near other Cummins families in Grayson County he was probably related to them and born there. You said in your letter that it was stated on their marriage record that Squire Cummins and Mary Herrin were

related, this might explain why his family (the William Cummins family) left the Grayson County area (by 1850), removed to where the Herrins were living, and following their marriage in Illinois returned to the former home of the Cummins family in Grayson County, Ky. The Cummins families of the Grayson and Breckinridge County area are descendants of brothers, Moses, Nelson and Presley Cummins. When Moses Cummins married Ruth A. Griffith in Ohio County, Ky. on October 23, 1810 I notice where Phillip Thompson paid the bond for their marriage. I wonder if Phillip Thompson was related to Mary Herrin's grandfather, William Thompson who married Elizabeth Cummins. To learn more about the Cummins family of the local area I strongly suggest that you write Mrs. Bettie A. Cook, who is very professional and who I understand is working on a book on the Cummins family, her address is: 3318 Wimberg Ave., Evansville, In. 47712.

Alexander Crawford does not appear in either the 1850 or 1860 censuses of Grayson County, Ky. He never appears in any of the Grayson County tax lists of 1850-1870, I thus believe he never resided in Grayson County. In the 1850 & 1860 censuses of the adjoining counties of Breckinridge, Ohio, Hardin, Hancock and Daviess he is not listed. His marriage to Mrs. Mary Herrin Cummins circa 1866 is not in the marriages of Breckinridge, Ohio or Hancock Counties.

In the 1860 Grayson County census the following four Crawford families were listed:

p. 368, #138, Crawford, William T. 25 farmer, Martha 19, Mary E. 2 & Sarah E. 3 months (all born Ky.)

p.447, #660, Crawford, Hugh C. 51 farmer, Rebecca 47, Simeon 27, Stephen 11, Elizabeth 15, Catherine 8, and Franklin Clagget 15, Joseph Clagget 17 (all born Ky.)

p.472, 8#28, Crawford. John W. 23 farmer, Emily 22, Benjamin 21, (all born Ky.)

p.483, #913, Crawford, William 33 farmer, Emily 28, James 6, Franklin 5, Henry 3, John Wes 1 (all born Ky.)

In the 1850 Grayson County census only one Crawford family was listed,

#833, Crawford, Hugh C. 41 farmer, Rebecca 37, James H. 19, Simeon 17, William T. 15, Martha J. 12, Stephen G. 7, Elizabeth G. 5 (all born Ky.)

All of the Crawfords listed in the tax lists of Grayson County during 1850-1870 belonged to two families, and Alexander Crawford (born c1830) was not a son of either. One was the Hugh C. & Rebecca Crawford family who were in the 1850 & 1860 Grayson censuses, he and his sons James H. (b.c1831), Simeon (b.1833), William T. (b,c1835), and Stephen G. (b.1843) after they came of age appear in the tax lists. The other family consisted of three brothers, William (born 1827), Benjamin F. (born 1832) and John Wesley Crawford (born 1837), who were all born in the adjoining county of Hardin. They were the sons of James Crawford and Catharine Harned,

and in 1850 were living in the household of their father in Hardin County. Between 1857-1860 the three brothers moved to Grayson County, where they were all listed in the 1860 census, Biographies of the three brothers appeared in the Grayson County section of the book Kentucky: A History of the State, Battle, Perrin, Kniffin, c.1885, copies are enclosed. These biographies list all of the children of the James Crawford and Catharine Harned family, and Alexander Crawford was not a son.

East of Grayson County, Ky. in Hardin County in 1850 the only Crawford family was that of the above James Crawford and Catharine Harned. During the period of 1850-1870 in Ohio County (west of Grayson) there was one Crawford family, that of Granville Crawford who married Mary Bean January 30, 1830 in Ohio County, I have information on their children and Alexander was not their son. In Breckinridge County (north of Grayson) there were two Crawford families, one was brothers Andrew and James who were merchants at Stephensport, neither had children in 1870, and the other was that of Samuel Crawford Jr. & Theodosia Compton who resided in the Pisgah community, I am related to this family and they had no son named Alexander, In the census, tax, marriage records of Breckinridge County the name of Alexander Crawford does not appear. In the 1850 & 1860 censuses in the nearby counties of Hancock and Daviess the name of Alexander Crawford is also not found.

Squire Cummins appears to have died about 1865. In 1866 or early 1867 his widow, Mary Herrin Cummins, married Alexander Crawford and by at least October of 1867 they were residing in Richland County, Ill. Alexander Crawford does not appear to have lived in Grayson County, Ky. If he was ever there he just passed through and was not there long since his name never appears in the tax records there (the tax collectors, like today, were generally very thorough in searching out all eligible tithables in their area). Very soon after her husband's death Mary Herrin Cummins left Grayson County, Ky. Before going to Richland County, Ill, could she have returned to her former home at Putnam County, Ind. or where ever her family was living at the time (1866) and remarried there, Since Alexander Crawford was not found in Grayson County they may not have married there. You know that Alexander Crawford was in Richland County, Ill, in 1867 I would suggest trying to find if he was there before that date, by checking tax, census, deed records there. If no other clues on his origin can be found in Richland County, Ill, then check the county where members of the Herrin family were living in 1866. Also by searching for more complete information and records on his children somewhere you may run across a clue on where he had earlier lived or been born.

If I happen to run across the marriage of Alexander Crawford and Mary Herrin Cummins sometime, I will make a note of it and let you know. Thank you for contacting me.

Yours truly,
Jerry Long
Owensboro, Ky.