

Thomas Crump (c1820-1899)

By Jerry Long

Frank Lockett Hall (1823-1907), an early Owensboro historian, in his recollections about the early days of the town, referred to Tom Crump, colored. In an article “Only Seven Survive of the Citizens Who Resided Here Sixty Years Ago” published in the Owensboro Messenger (Owensboro, KY, 13 December 1898, p4), Mr. Hall stated:

“In the fall of 1838 the late Benjamin Bransford, with half a dozen slaves, left his native state, Virginia, for Daviess county, Ky. He traveled the entire distance overland. He traveled by day, and at night would camp on the roadside when he could find no friendly hostelry. On arriving here he commenced his life business, the tobacco business, with his relative, Henry Bransford, who a year or two before had erected a tobacco stemmery on the west side of Walnut street, between Fourth and Fifth streets. The writer left his native county, Henry county, this state, late in the month of November, 1839, coming the overland route all the way, driving two milk cows, and arriving at the hospitable home of Nathaniel Horn, who then lived six miles from Owensboro, on the Hardinsburg road, where I staid on the night of December 1, 1839. Next day I came on to Owensboro. then a small town of about 300 population, but which has grown from that small number to the metropolitan proportions of 15,000 during the past sixty years. Of all the persons who lived in Owensboro when I first came here only the following survive: J. Thomas, Mrs. Mariah Haney, Mrs. Sarah Moorman, Samuel Dixon Kennady, James Kennady and **Tom Crump**, colored. Mrs. Haney is the sister of Geo. N. Mackay, of Texas, and is over 90 years of age. Mrs. Moorman is the widow of Silas Mercer Moorman, who died away from home and kindred while serving in the Confederate army. I believe but few better men ever resided in Owensboro than Mr. Moorman. **Tom Crump, the old colored man is a negro of good repute and he still resides in Owensboro. He came here with Benjamin Bransford on his overland trip from Virginia in 1838.**

Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 4 July 1976, Part III, p12:

“Frank Hall Remembers”.....

Among Hall's historical notes is the arrival in 1838 of Benjamin Bransford to Owensboro. With him, Bransford brought six slaves. By the time three of them — Ben, Peter and Tom Crump — died after the Civil War, they had become well-off financially.

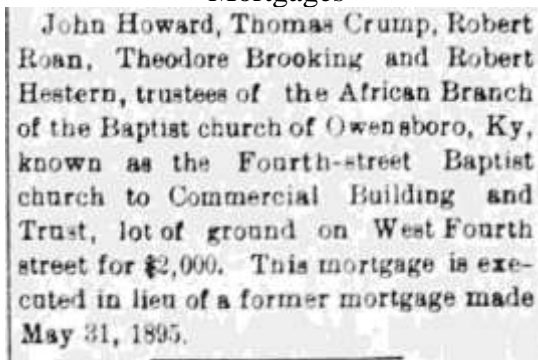
Ben left an estate of \$25,000, Peter was worth about \$12,000 and Tom was listed as having acquired “considerable property.”

Benjamin Bransford (1819-1892) was born in Cumberland County, Virginia. Bransford in the 1860 US Census Slave Schedule for Daviess County, KY was listed as having 13 slaves – they ranged in ages of 4 to 45. Ben, Peter (c1831-1905) and Tom Crump (c1820-1897) referred to by Frank L. Hall possibly were among the 9 males owned by Bransford. Among the other Bransford slaves may be Abner Crump (c1817-1887) and Giles Crump (c1827-1896), who are listed in the 1870 and 1880 censuses of Daviess County, KY. The above Crumps were probably closely related but their exact relationship was not established.

In the 1850 and 1860 censuses for Daviess County, KY no Crumps were enumerated. Former slaves were not listed until after Emancipation. Thomas Crump is listed in the 1870 and 1880 censuses of Daviess County, KY. The 1870 census suggests he was born circa 1820 in Virginia. In 1883 Thomas Crump was serving as treasurer of the Union Benevolent Society, No. 2 that had been organized in 1876-77 (History of Daviess County, Kentucky, Inter-State Publishing Co., Chicago, 1883, p391). During 1885-1897 he was one of five trustees of the Fourth Street Baptist Church in Owensboro. The 1889 Owensboro City Directory gives the occupation of Thomas Crump as tobacco stemmer – at the time there were several tobacco factories in Owensboro and it was one of the town's leading industries. In 1893 Thomas Crump was living at 610 West Third St. in Owensboro.

Owensboro Inquirer, Owensboro, KY,
30 May 1897, p1:

Mortgages



John Howard, Thomas Crump, Robert Roan, Theodore Brooking and Robert Hestern, trustees of the African Branch of the Baptist church of Owensboro, Ky, known as the Fourth-street Baptist church to Commercial Building and Trust, lot of ground on West Fourth street for \$2,000. This mortgage is executed in lieu of a former mortgage made May 31, 1895.

Thomas Crump married Mary Ann Griffin, c1865. The death certificate of Thomas' daughter, Daisy Crump Palmer (1873-1920) records her parents as Thomas Crump & Mary Griffin. In the 1870 & 1880 censuses living with Thomas & Mary was a Malinda Griffin, who was born during 1809-1817 in Virginia. The 1880 census listed her as mother to the head of the household (Thomas). Malinda was actually Thomas' mother-in-law. The 1893 Owensboro City Directory shows that Malinda Griffin was living at the residence of Mary Crump, 610 West Third St. Also living with Thomas & Mary at the time of the 1870 census was Frances Griffin, age 17. In 1908 the obituary of Thomas' widow, Mary, states she was survived by a sister, Frances Thompson, of St. Louis, MO.

The Owensboro Messenger on 19 April 1899 reported that Thomas (Uncle Tom) Crump died of old age on 17 April 1899. "Thomas Crump, of Owensboro, KY," wrote his will on 17 January 1895. It was probated on 19 June 1899 (Daviess County, KY Will Book E, p116). He left

all of his personal property and real estate to his wife, Mary Ann Crump. At her death it shall go to his three daughters, Daisey, Edith and Blanche Crump. My sons are excluded because they are able to take care of and provide for themselves. Mary A. Crump was appointed administratrix of the estate of Thomas Crump, deceased, on 16 May 1899.

Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Wednesday, 19 April 1899, p5:

"UNCLE TOM" CRUMP.

**Funeral of an Aged Colored Man,
an Old Resident.**

The funeral of Thomas Crump, colored, who died Monday of old age, took place yesterday afternoon.

"Uncle Tom," as he was universally called, was one of the old land marks of this county. He was recently mentioned by Capt. F. L. Hall in an article in the Messenger, as being here when the captain arrived to make this place his home. He had lived here for over sixty years. He had a lot of acquaintances and friends all over the city and county, and bore an honored name.

Owensboro Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 19 June 1899, p2:

MANY WILLS

**The Last Wishes of Dead People
Recorded in the County
Court.**

Jacob Silbereisen and Mrs. C. Long
Divide Their Property Among
Their Children.

County court convened this morning in regular session, and Judge Taylor disposed of the following business:

The last will of Thomas Crump was proven by the oath of R. S. Todd, and admitted to record. The deceased bequeaths to his wife, Mary Ann Crump, all of his household furniture, and to his wife and their daughters, Daisy, Edith and Blanche Crump, all his real estate. The deceased left nothing to his sons, because he says they are more able to care for themselves.

Thomas Crump may have been married before his marriage to Mary Ann. In the 1870 census listed in his home was an Albert Crump, age 20. Mary A. Crump, widow of Thomas, was born c1841 KY. She is listed in the 1900 census of Owensboro, Daviess County, KY. Her entry records that she was living at 610 West Third St. The 1907 Owensboro City Directory shows that she was still living at the same residence. Mary Ann Crump died on 19 November 1908 in Owensboro, where she was buried in Elmwood Cemetery (Owensboro Inquirer, 22 November 1908, p10). Her daughter, Blanche Crump, qualified as the administratrix of her estate in November 1908 (Owensboro Messenger, 25 November 1908, p3). Mary wrote a will on 17 November 1908 and it was recorded on 21 March 1910. Her will left her estate to her children – Howard, Paul, Burl and Blanche Crump and Daisy Palmer (Daviess County, KY Will Book F, pp55-56 and Owensboro Messenger, 22 March 1910, p3). The 1900 census records that Mary was the mother of 7 children.

Owensboro Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 22 November 1908, p10:

Mrs. Mary Anne Crump died Thursday at 2 p. m., after an illness of several months. She leaves to mourn her departure two daughters, two sons and a sister, Mrs. Francis Thompson, of St. Louis, and other relatives and friends. Funeral services were conducted yesterday at Fourth-street Baptist church at 2 p. m. Interment at Elmwood.

Children of Thomas Crump & Mary Ann Griffin were:

- Henry Crump, born c1867 KY; he died 1870-1880; he does not appear with the family in the 1880 census.
- Paul Crump, born c1869 KY; he died after 1908.
- Howard Crump, born c1871 KY; he died after 1908.
- Daisy Crump, born February 1873 KY; married William Palmer, 1896-1897; she died 25 January 1920 Chicago, Cook County, IL, where she was buried in the Lincoln Cemetery. Her death certificate gave her parents names as Thomas Crump & Mary Griffin.
- Edith G. Crump, was born c1876 KY; married Arthur Lee Franklin, 7 June 1904 Owensboro, Daviess County, KY; she died 1907-1908 Galveston, TX.
- Blanche T. Crump, born January 1880 KY; she was a teacher at the Western Colored School in Owensboro; married Prof. C. C. Monroe, 29 April 1911 Owensboro, Daviess County, KY; she died after 1915.
- Burrell Crump, born 1880-1887; he died after 1911.



1870 Federal Census of Daviess County, KY:

Upper Town Precinct, post office Owensboro –			
Crump, Thomas	50	Black farmer	VA

			value of real estate \$800	
			value of personal property \$365	
Mary	28	Black		KY
Albert	20	Black		KY
Henry	3	Black		KY
Paul	1	Black		KY
Jackson, Sydney	17	Black		KY
Griffin, Malinda	53	Black		KY
Frances	17	Black		KY
Green, Alace	15	Black		KY
Upper Town Precinct, post office Owensboro –				
In household of Edmond Johnson				
Crump, Mortimer	2	Black		KY
Lower Town Precinct, post office Owensboro –				
in household of Stephen Griffith				
Crump, Thomas	19	Black	farm laborer	KY
Lower Town Precinct, post office Owensboro –				
Crump, Peter	33	White	farmer	KY
Jane	32	White		KY
Katie	10	White		KY
Wilton	8	White		KY
Robert	4/12	White		KY
Payne, Andy	24	White		KY
Second Ward city of Owensboro –				
in household of Henry C. Settles				
Crump, Harriet	22	Black	domestic servant	KY
Second Ward city of Owensboro –				
Crump, Giles	38	Black	laborer	VA
Eddie	56	Black		VA
Robert	10	Black		KY
? Ernest	7	Black		KY
Oakford Precinct, post office Grissom's Landing –				
Crump, Abner	53	Black	farmer	VA
Phebe	50	Black		VA
Abner, Jr.	23	Black		KY
Thomas	21	Black		KY
Samuel	12	Black		KY
Lucy	14	Black		KY
Daniel	9	Black		KY
William	6	Black		KY

Anderson, Lizzie 30 Black cook KY

1880 Federal Census of Daviess County, KY:

Owensboro –

Crump, Thomas 50 Black tobacco stemmer VA
 Mary 39 Black wife KY
 Paul 11 Black son KY
 Howard 9 Black son KY
 Daisy 7 Black daughter KY
 Eddie 4 Black daughter KY
 Blanche 5/12 Black daughter KY
Griffin, Malinda 71 Black mother – widowed VA

Owensboro, Frederica St. –
resident in hotel

Crump, Burl 32 Black waiter KY

Owensboro, Elizabeth St. –
in household of Nicholas Mitchell

Crum, May 16 Black cook KY

Owensboro –

Crump, Giles 50 Black laborer – widowed KY
 Ela 70 Black mother – widowed KY
 Robert 20 Black son – laborer KY
 ? Caddie 19 Black daughter KY

Owensboro –

In household of Peter McFarland

Crump, Tom 50 Black – laborer KY
 Kate 40 Black wife KY

Lowertown Precinct –
in household of Nelson Wilhoite

Crump, Giles 23 Black servant KY

Lowertown Precinct –

in household of George & Katherine Roberts

Crump, Jim 11 Black stepson KY
 Peter 9 Black stepson KY
Roberts, Mandie 8 Black daughter KY
Crump, Annie 8 Black stepdaughter KY

Lowertown Precinct –

Crump, Peter 49 Black farmer – widowed VA
 Wilton 18 Black son – works on farmer KY
 Givens 10 Black son KY

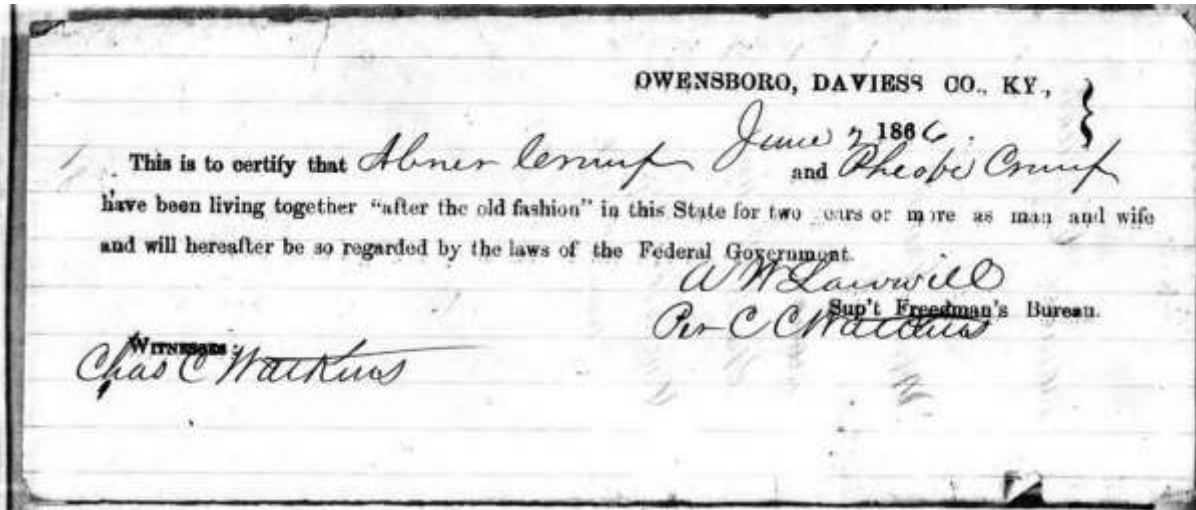
Johnie	5	Black son	KY
Lowertown Precinct – In household of R. S. Triplett			
Crump, Annie	25	Black widowed – servant	KY
Oakford Precinct –			
Crump, Samuel	23	Black farmer	KY
Georgia	17	Black wife	KY
Oakford Precinct –			
Crump, Abner	62	Black farmer	VA
Feby	57	Black wife	TN
Abner	32	Black son – single – farmer	KY
Daniel	20	Black son – single – farmer	KY



Abner Crump (c1817-1887)

Abner Crump was born c1817 Virginia. He came to Daviess County, KY in 1838. He married Phoebe Davis circa 1846. Phoebe was born c1820 TN. After Emancipation some Black couples recorded their marriage that previously had not been recorded in the days of slavery. The following record of their marriage was recorded in the records of the US Freedman’s Bureau:

US Freedman’s Bureau Marriage Records, 1846-1867:



Abner Crump is listed in the 1870 and 1880 censuses of Daviess County, KY. Abner Crump died 23 January 1887 in Daviess County, KY; he was buried Little Flock Baptist Church Cemetery, Daviess County, KY. Phoebe Crump, was appointed administratrix of the estate of Abner Crump, deceased, on 28 May 1887 in Daviess County, KY; sureties on her bond were Abner, Daniel, T. A. & Samuel Crump. His wife, Phoebe Crump, died in January 1905.

Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Tuesday, 25 January 1887, p1:

Sudden Death of Abner Crump.
Abner Crump, one of the most thrifty and highly respected colored men in Daviess county, died very suddenly Sunday evening, just after supper, at his home in the Oakford precinct. He was sitting in a chair and fell over dead. He was at one time worth \$12,000 or \$15,000. He had the misfortune a few years ago, however, to lose his house, which was one of the best farm houses in the county, worth \$4,000 or \$5,000, by fire, without insurance. He was brought here from Virginia as a slave in 1839 by Mr. B. Bransford, and long before the war bought his freedom.

Children of Abner Crump and Phoebe Davis included:

- Abner Crump, born c1847 KY; married Susannah Field (c1863-1905), 28 July 1887 Daviess County, KY; he died 1893-1896; his wife, Mrs. Susannah Crump, married Willard Hazelwood, 14 May 1896 Daviess County, KY.
- Thomas Albert Crump, born c1849 KY; married Eliza J. Lyons (1868-1905), 26 November 1885 Daviess County, KY; he died 13 September 1890 Evansville, Vanderburgh County, IN, where he was buried in the Oak Hill Cemetery.
- Lucy Crump, born c1856 KY; married Harrison Valentine, 23 July 1874 at Little Flock Baptist Church, Daviess County, KY; she died 1880-1885.
- Samuel Crump, born 5 August 1858 KY; Georgia A. Cooper (1863-1924), 27 February 1879 Daviess County, KY; he died 4 December 1935 Newburgh, Warrick County, IN, where he was buried Rose Hill Cemetery.
- Daniel Crump, born 1 May 1861 Daviess County, KY; married Ella Rowan (1892-1926), 17 November 1887 Daviess County, KY; he died 24 December 1912 Daviess County, KY, buried Little Flock Baptist Church Cemetery, Daviess County, KY.
- William Crump, born c1863 KY; he died 1870-1887.



Peter Crump (c1831-1905)

Peter Crump was born in c1831 in Virginia. He came to Daviess County, KY in 1838. He is listed in the 1870, 1880 & 1900 censuses of Daviess County, KY. He was celebrated for the watermelons he grew on his farm just west of Owensboro. Numerous articles about the “watermelon king” appeared in the Owensboro newspapers. He married Jane Givins, 15 October 1856 Daviess County, KY. Jane was born c1838 KY and died 1874-1880. Peter Crump married second Mary Minnie Hayden, 21 October 1890 West Louisville, Daviess County, KY. Peter Crump died on 29 December 1905 in Owensboro, Daviess County, KY, where he was buried in

Elmwood Cemetery. His wife, Minnie born c1870 and died 10 February 1936 Owensboro, Daviess County, KY, where she was buried Greenwood Cemetery, Owensboro, Daviess County, KY. The Owensboro newspaper reported that he was “the largest Negro land owner in the county.” He wrote a final will on 15 December 1904 and it was probated in Daviess County, KY on 15 January 1906. In his will he named his wife, Minnie H., and “children by his first wife, Jane” – Katie Prather, Robert Crump, Givens Crump, Wilton Crump & John Crump; to his wife, Minnie, and their children he has already executed a deed giving them their share of his estate.

Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Saturday, 30 December 1905, p2:

GOOD NEGRO DEAD.

Uncle Peter Crump Was Eighty-Three Years of Age.

Peter Crump, one of the oldest and best known negroes in Daviess county, died Friday morning at the home of his daughter on Plum street. He was eighty-three years old and had lived in Owensboro since a short time after the close of the war. He was born in Virginia and spent his early life as a slave in one of the old Virginia families.

Peter was one of the old time negroes in every particular. After coming to Owensboro he bought a small farm west of Owensboro and accumulated considerable property. He was famous throughout this and adjoining counties as a raiser of water melons. His were the largest and the most luscious to be had anywhere, and were usually on the market while other people's melons were still green and hard as gourds. He took great pride in his ability to grow fine melons.

The funeral will be held from the residence at 10 o'clock this morning, and the body will be buried in Elmwood cemetery.

Children of Peter Crump & Jane Givins included:

- Katie Crump, born a1860 Daviess County, KY; married George P. Prather (1871-1945), 29 March 1888 Daviess County, KY; she died 30 December 1945 Owensboro, Daviess County, KY, where she was buried in Elmwood Cemetery. Her husband was buried Greenwood Cemetery, Owensboro, Daviess County, KY.
- Wilton Crump, born c1862 Daviess County, KY; married Etta Robertson, 23 January 1902 Daviess County, KY; he died after 1945
- Robert Crump, born 3 March 1870 Daviess County, KY; married Ada M. Haynes, 9 September 1893 Daviess County, KY; he died 18 March 1942 Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, PA, where he was buried in the Mt. Pisgah Cemetery.

- Givens Crump; born 22 April c1870 Daviess County, KY; married Emma Willingham (c1882-1932); he died 31 October 1931 Owensboro, Daviess County, KY, where he was buried Greenwood Cemetery.
- John J. Crump; born 22 July 1875 Daviess County, KY; he died 9 November 1934 Owensboro, Daviess County, KY, where he was buried Greenwood Cemetery; single.

Children of Peter Crump & Mary Minnie Hayden were:

- Ophelia Crump, born 4 July 1891 Daviess County, KY; married Joseph Ernest Pope, 18 January 1910 Owensboro, Daviess County, KY; she died 11 July 1983 Owensboro, Daviess County, KY, where she was buried in Elmwood Cemetery.
- James Edgar Crump, born 24 December 1893 Daviess County, KY; married May Jane Jackson (1896-1992), 28 October 1920 Pleasant Ridge, Daviess County, KY; he died 30 October 1952 Owensboro, Daviess County, KY, where he was buried in Elmwood Cemetery.
- Alvy Mary Crump, born February 1896 Daviess County, KY; married Hillary Hays, 10 February 1920 Daviess County, KY and Rev. C. H. Bigbee, 6 April 1929 Daviess County, KY; she died 6 March 1940 Owensboro, Daviess County, KY, where she was buried in Elmwood Cemetery.
- Isbon Daniel Crump, born 10 August 1899 Daviess County, KY; he died after 1946
- Hugh Booker Crump, born 14 January 1902 Daviess County, KY; married Verna Louise Foster, 17 August 1939 Daviess County, KY; he died 30 April 1988 Owensboro, Daviess County, KY.
- Archie Leo Crump, born 16 June 1905 Daviess County, KY; married Willa Mae; he died 21 July 1960 Indianapolis, Marion County, IN, where he was buried.

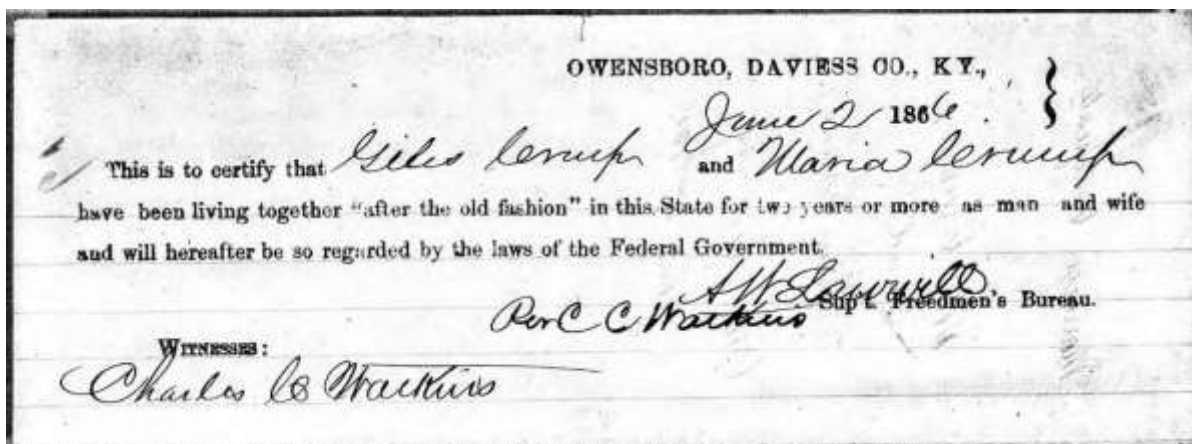


Giles Crump (c1827-1896)

Giles Crump was born c1832 in Virginia. He married Maria, c1859. After the Emancipation Proclamation their marriage was recorded on 2 June 1866. Maria died during 1862-1870. Giles Crump, widowed, is in the 1870 & 1880 Daviess County, censuses. In both censuses in his home were his mother, Eddie / Ela Crump (born c1814 Virginia) and two children – a son, Robert (born c1860 KY, died after 1880) and a daughter (born c1862 KY, died after 1880). The daughter's name in both censuses is difficult to decipher.

Giles Crump married second Mrs. Margaret Thompson, 29 December 1881 Owensboro, Daviess County, KY. On July 18, 1882, trustees for the two black schools that were in Owensboro then met with a group of black parents. Leaders of the group were Richard Varian, chairman of the black school board; Giles Crump, chairman of the meeting, and Charles T. Jackson, secretary. At the meeting, they drafted a resolution to present to City Hall requesting better schools for Black students (see article, "Fight to integrate schools took 80 years", by Keith Lawrence, Messenger-Inquirer", Owensboro, KY, 28 April 2016, p1B).

US Freedman's Bureau Marriage Records, 1846-1867:



Giles Crump died 9 August 1896 of heart trouble at his home on West Fifth St. in Owensboro, KY. His widow, Mrs. Margaret Crump (born 1840 KY) was living at 910 West Fifth Street in Owensboro at the time of the 1900 census; Margaret had one child by her first marriage, Annie Thompson, born c1864.

Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Tuesday, 11 August 1896, p5:

Giles Crump, one of the best known old darkies in the county, died Sunday at his home at the corner of Fifth and Poplar streets, of heart trouble, hastened by heat, at the age of 69 years.

Giles & Maria Crump were parents of:

- Robert T. Crump, born c1860; married Elmira Williams (c1867-1951), 31 May 1888 Daviess County, KY; he died in 1903. In Daviess County, KY his wife, Elmira was appointed administratrix of his estate. Elmira married John E. Martin, 3 October 1910 Owensboro, Daviess County, KY, she is buried Greenwood Cemetery, Owensboro, KY.
- daughter Crump, born c1862 KY; she died after 1880.

