

Roots & Branches
Tuscaloosa Genealogical Society Morning Group



Roots & Branches

Tuscaloosa Genealogical Society
The Morning Group
NEWSLETTER

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President: Charles Sewell; 1st VP: Ray Hamer; Secretary: Jane Drake; Treasurer: Lillie May Clary; Corresponding Secretary: Ruby Sutton; Historian: Cubell Stell; Parliamentarian: Gracie O. Swartz;

Message from:

Charles E. Sewell, President
Morning Genealogy Group
P.O. Box 20565
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Thank you for supporting our Society. Our 30th Anniversary Celebration was a success. We hope that you enjoyed the publication, certificate and card.

We are looking forward to a great year. Please use the Genealogy section of our Tuscaloosa Public Library and do not forget to sign in. The library is continuing to acquire books and publications for our use. If we do not support Kerry and the library, we may loose an invaluable asset in our research. Please let them know how much we appreciate the library.

If you have a suggestion for a new book or publication, please contact me or bring your suggestions to our monthly meeting.

Does the following apply to your research?

"Found a Yankee in my family tree. Will trade for a horse thief or other black sheep."

Author unknown.

"The theory of relativity says that no matter what you do in life, your relatives will have a theory." Snapple bottle cap

"The past is a source of knowledge, and the future is a source of hope. Love of the past implies faith in the future." Stephen Ambrose, 1936-2002

The first article is from my Mother and is used by permission.

Our German ancestors came to America for the same reasons our other European ancestors came here. My Crisler family is the topic of my article and I hope you enjoy it.

May your search for your ancestors be everything you have hoped for.

Charles E. Sewell

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The Old Cook Stove, by Reba Sharp Sewell Price

The old cook stove on our farm in White Plains, Chambers County, Alabama was something we all took for granted when we were kids. It was just there – an article of furniture, of sorts, that belonged in the roomy kitchen with a wood box behind it. The cabinet Dad built was for flour, meal, sifters and things to make bread with.

As I grew older, I realize there was work that went along with the warmth and food. My brothers and Dad sawed and cut wood to cook with and burn in the fireplace. Ann and I had the job of bringing in the wood to fill the stove wood box and draw water from a well to fill the reservoir and old black kettle. As I grew older and looked back on those years, I realized that our Home Comfort stove was much more than just a serviceable piece of equipment. It was a physical heart and hearth of our home.

From its depths came wonderful and tantalizing aromas – fresh bread, casseroles, pies, baked sweet potatoes and parched peanuts ready for us to eat when we came in from school. Slices of ham singed directly on the iron stove eyes tasted so good.

In the early morning you had to go to the garden and gather vegetables to cook. Turnip greens, potatoes, green beans were gathered, washed and prepared to cook on the stove top in open pots. We always had apples, pears, and peaches each summer. Lots of canning was done on the old wood stove. Sweet potatoes were bedded down in the ground and covered with an old piece of tin. The Irish potatoes were spread out in the cotton seed house to keep for a long time. Before electricity, an ice truck brought blocks of ice and we kept it packed in the cotton seed pile to keep it from melting so we could make ice cream on Saturday.

Late in the evening, we would pop pop-corn and 'cook-down' some homemade sugar cane syrup to make pop-corn balls.

Now I realize that besides helping to feed the family, our old wood stove gave us emotional support. In the cold winters, a warm stove was what we all wanted as soon as we came shivering through the door. The cats enjoyed sleeping under the warm stove. The most coveted seat in our house was on the floor by the wood box, behind the stove so we could stick our feet under the stove and keep warm. There we could doze and nap after being outside in the cold.

Irons were heated on the stove to iron our clothes and rubbed with cedar or wax paper..

My Dad was the first one up to stir the coals he had 'banked up' in ashes the night before, to start a fire in the fireplace in their bedroom. This is where we all gathered to finish getting dressed. Then he fired up the kitchen stove so Mom and my sisters could cook breakfast while the older brothers fed and took care of the farm animals – fed the hogs, chickens, mules, cows, and milked the cows.

It took patience to handle a cook stove – and it was said that love in your heart was a big help.

We weren't allowed to play cards. After supper, we always gathered around the dining room table and had Bible reading and Dad's long talks. Our studying was done by lamp light at the dining room table. It was after 1936 that we got electricity – a drop light in each room and we added refrigerator, irons, radio, etc. They were plugged into a double socket from the one hanging light.

I wish everyone could have grown up with a wood cook stove and a mother like ours with 10 children and one Grandpa living with us. There was lots of cooking going on.

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Mom's Other Thoughts

We had an outhouse that set on the terrace below the peach orchard with a Sears and Roebuck catalogue.

Instead of my Daddy putting money in a bank he put it in a jar and buried it in the corner of the shop in the ground or the corner of the stall where the mule stayed. This was the black smith shop where you sharpen your plow and keep the bellows. Everyone thought we had churns of money upstairs.

When the tornado came in 1932 or 34, we had a 'weather house'. It moved the back of our house about 19 feet. We had company that day, some cousins there Sorrels and Earls maybe, Daddy's sister's family, plus all 10 of us kids and our parents. Daddy watched it till it got so close it sucked the door out of his hand as he tried to close it. We had a little bench and we were lined up around the sides of it. This was an above the ground structure with dirt around three sides built up. Nell was holding our sister Kayron. Nell declared that red heads are more affected than others by the lightening. Being red headed was harder on them.

The well house was swept off level to the ground. Some of our stuff was 'strowed' all the way to Roanoke. All our stuff went flying out. We had shuck mattress. You could reach in and fluff up the cotton and shucks, it had a split up the middle of the bed. One side sort of reached up over the other. To make the bed up you reached inside and fluffed the insides around. To make these you split corn shucks into little bitty strips and put cotton with the fine strips of corn shucks. You could fluff it up and sort of make the mattress soft again. The syrup upstairs ran all down the walls. The cotton and shucks stuck to the wall of my Momma's and Daddy's bedroom.

We moved the hay out of the other house until they could get our house built back. There was a churn on the fireplace with milk waiting to be made into butter and it was still sitting on the fireplace.

They thought a second storm was coming in and we had a flower house and almost went to it but we didn't. It's a dug out place in a ditch. Instead of taking flowers into the house in the winter we put them there. It's a wonder someone hadn't stepped in the well. That was a Sunday evening, a springtime tornado. They fixed our house back up. All the family, the Sorrels and all came in and helped my daddy fix the house back. Everyone came in. Other neighbors too. You know how they used to have a house raising, it was like that.

Later on in 1936 Alice and Preston married and lived in the old home place then moved to the house we lived in when the storm came. They later moved to Sharmon and worked in the factory.

In the 29's or somewhere along there it was hard times and banks were closing. That is about when my Daddy built the house. We had all we needed. My older sisters made our clothes and we were very protected. They would bring Ann and me some shoes and we wore them whether or no matter how they fit.

About this time the WPA was formed. They called it "We Piddle Around". Everyone could get a job making a little money, giving them enough money to eat. Mom said they always had their own vines as muscadine and other things to eat on.

Genealogy is more than just dry facts. Stories are needed to make the people real. A family history has to be more than dry facts and dates. We do this to share with others. Don't lose opportunities to learn more about your family from those still available to tell these stories. Don't over correct the spelling and grammar and lose the special flavor of the individual.

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The Crisler/Kreisler Family of Germany and Virginia

In 1714, a group of 32 German miners left the ancient iron making area of Europe for England. They thought they were being hired to work in a silver mine in Virginia. But, there were no silver mines in Virginia. Representatives in England were surprised to see them in England and tried to get them to go home. The miners agreed to work in the iron mines of Essex County, later called Spotsylvania County, now called Orange County, Virginia. They were given land for a town and fort that, at the time, was the western most settlement in Virginia. This put them between the Indians and the English colonists. This was the First Germanna Colony. These miners were not tricked into or forced to settle in Virginia, they knew what they were doing.

There was a law passed in England that the people of the First Germanna Colony would not pay rent or taxes for 7 years and would be given land, if they stayed in the colony. This law also extended the same consideration to other German miners and workers that came to the area.

In 1717, a group of German miners and their families paid Captain Andrew Tarbell for passage to Pennsylvania aboard his ship, the Swift. Instead, he took them to Virginia and demanded more money. (Most histories of Virginia leave out this part.) He was in league with Lt. Governor Spotswood. Spotswood paid the extra fare, which went into the Captain's pocket, and the passengers went in indentured servitude for seven years. They were given the same consideration as the first Colony, no rent or taxes for the seven years. Spotswood agreed to pay them an unknown amount of money at the end of the seventh year.

Spotswood had been given land grants by the King for bringing over the original colony. Now, he received more land for bringing over the second group. Spotswood ended up with 80,000 acres in land grants. He was a partner in the mines, eventually owning his own, owned three iron furnaces, a foundry and other related businesses. His home was known as Spotswood's Enchanted Castle and he called it "Porto Bella". In the summer of 1722, Spotswood was fired at Lt. Governor; but, not before he signed the land patents for his friends. He is given credit for industrializing Colonial Virginia. A month after he left office, one of those friends gave him over 3,000 acres adjoining the Germanna Colony. Germanna became the county seat of Spotsylvania County.

At the end of the seventh year Spotswood would not pay the miners. The members of the Second Colony had to take him to court to force him to keep his part of the bargain. Even then, he paid them in land and not money.

He had the first iron foundry in the colony and led a group of explorers through Swift Run Gap and into the beautiful and fertile Shenandoah Valley. This group of adventurers were known as the Knights of the Golden Horseshoe. As far as I'm concerned, his greatest contribution to Virginia was his daughter, Anne Catherine, who became an ancestor of General Robert E. Lee. Through the Spotswood family, Robert Edward Lee descends from King Robert Bruce of Scotland, William the Conqueror, and Charlemagne.

In 1719, a third Germanna Colony was established.

Many of Jimmie Ida Crisler's, my great grandmother's, ancestors were part of the Second Germanna Colony. A partial list includes: Jacob Broil (Broyles); Matthew Smith (Matthias Schmidt); John Herrensperger (Harnsberger); John Motz; Balthaser Blankenbaker; Michael Holtz; Michael Klaar (Clare); Zerechias Fleischmann (Fleshman); Andreus Ballenger; Nicholas Blankenbaker; George Sheible; George Utz; George Meyer; Michael Kaifer; Federick Cobbler; Christopher Zimmerman; Henry Schneider (Snyder); Michael Schmidt (Smith); Michael Koch

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(Cook); Andrew Kerker; William Zimmerman (Carpenter); Christopher Parler (Barlow); John Broil (Broyles); Nicholas Jager (Yager/Yeager).

In 1740, the Germann Colonists had moved to Madison County to occupy the land they had sued Spotswood for. There they built the oldest Lutheran Church in America. Hebron Lutheran Church, Madison County, Virginia, still has an active congregation. It is listed in the Virginia and National Register of Historic Places. Many of my German ancestors were christened, baptized or married in this church. The original church burned but was rebuilt and the wood framed church still stands.

Matthias Crisler, his wife Barbara Von Schellenberg and their 3 sons sailed to Virginia aboard the Swift. Barbara Von Schellenberg died at sea during the voyage.

These colonists and their descendants fought in the French-Indian Wars, the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812 and the Civil War. The Crisler family, like many others, had family in both the Union and Confederate armies.

My ancestor, Absalom Crisler enlisted as a private and left service as a private in the War of 1812. He and his son, Joel Souther Crisler, took part in the Georgia Land Lottery moving into Jackson County, Georgia where they appear in the 1840 Georgia Census. Two of his great-uncles died in the French- Indian wars in Quebec, Canada. One of these, David Crisler died in 1755 in an ambush by the Iroquois on General Braddock and Lt. Colonel George Washington.

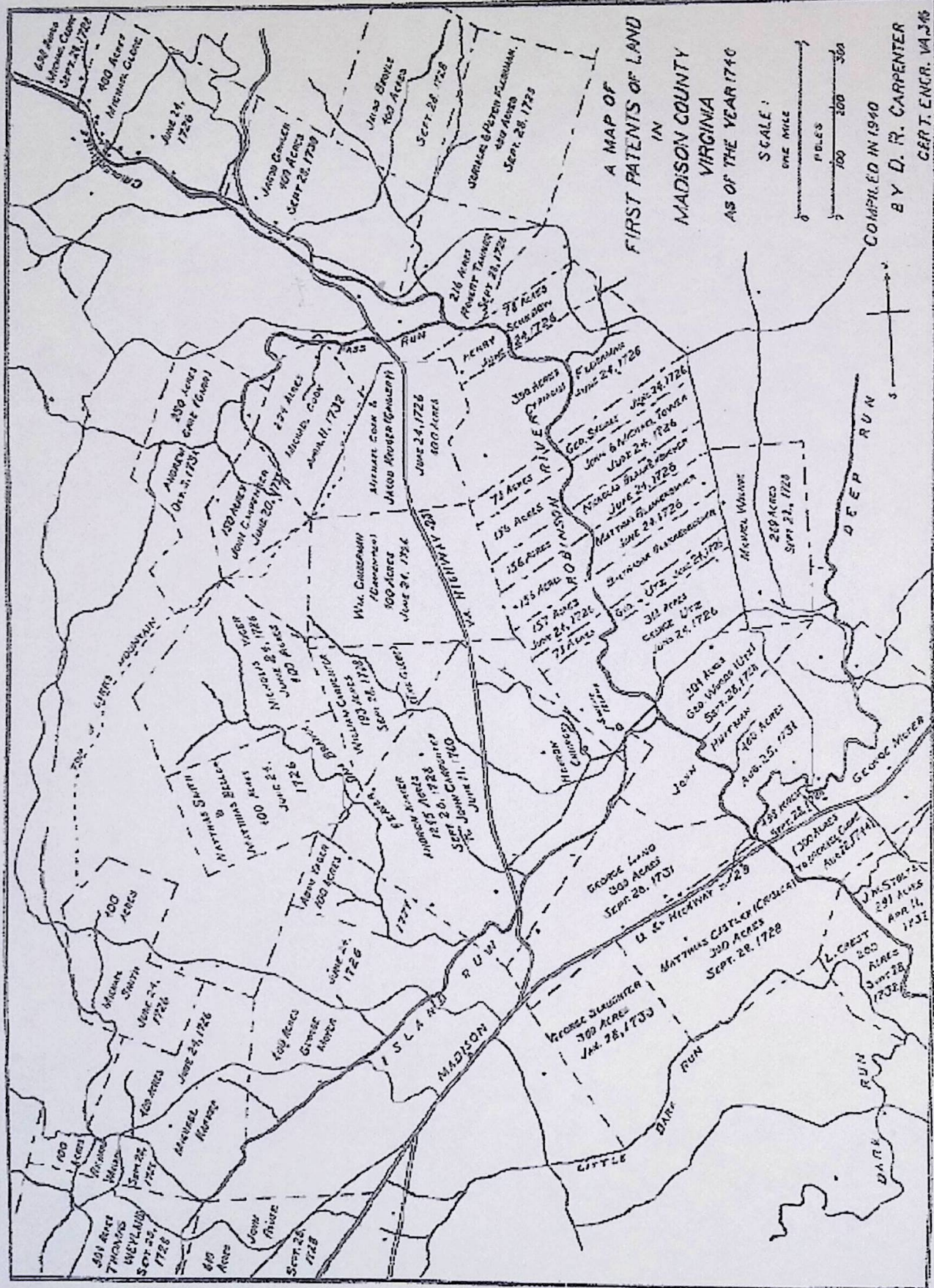
Joel Souther Crisler predeceased his father and this fact is mentioned in his will. His son, James M. Crisler, grandson of Absalom Crisler, was a private in Company K, 8th Regiment of Confederate Calvary (Wade's) and while in the discharge of his duty on November, 1863, at Danville in the state of Kentucky, was shot in the left hand. He was discharged after being wounded.

After leaving Virginia, the Crislars, Southers, Smiths and other family members turned to farming as a way of life. They raised large families and by and large prospered as Americans.

Sources:

1. <http://www.germanna.org/church.html> History of the Hebron Lutheran Church
2. <http://www.germanna.org/history.html> history of the Germanna Colonies
3. <http://webpages.charter.net/cliftoncrisler1/genealogy/absalom.htm>
4. Ancestry Library World Tree Project: ELTON-JONES-KENNEDY-BRAZZIL;
kkennedy@cowtown.net
5. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexander_Spotswood
6. <http://www.civilwarhome.com/leeancestors.htm>
7. The Roster of Confederate Soldiers 1861 - 1865, Volume IV; edited by Janet B. Hewett, Birmingham Public Library, Southern History Dept.
8. Ancestry Library World Tree Project: (Heather L), Heather Lobua
LadyHeather1979@cs.com
9. War of 1812 Service Records, AncestryLibrary.com
10. 1840 Census; Georgia, Jackson County; Heritage Quest, Tuscaloosa County Public Library

Once I found the original information at the Birmingham Library, Southern History Dept. my brother Lawrence Sewell was of great assistance. He found the Hebron Church information, the map, and other sites. It helps that he lives in Virginia and works at V.P.I. Share your information. You never know what you might get back in return. Shared information and photographs are also less likely to be lost in natural disasters, fires or through computer crashes.



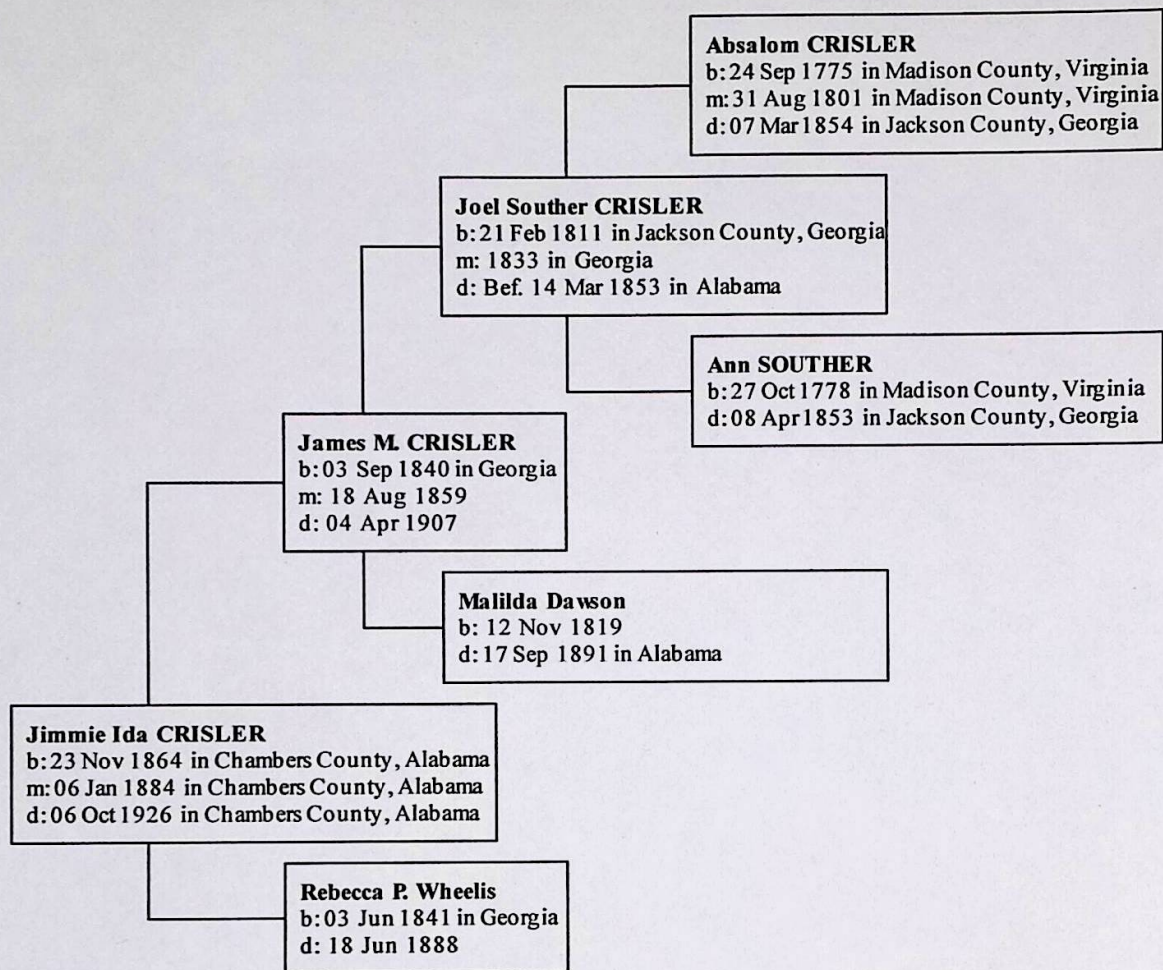
COMPLETED IN 1940

BY D. R. CARPENTER

CEP T. ENCR. V4346

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Ancestors of Jimmie Ida CRISLER



Jimmie Ida Crisler was a seamstress, Mother and homemaker.

From: Jackson County, Georgia: Wills in Minutes of Court of Ordinary, 1797 - 1814; Book A
page: 358

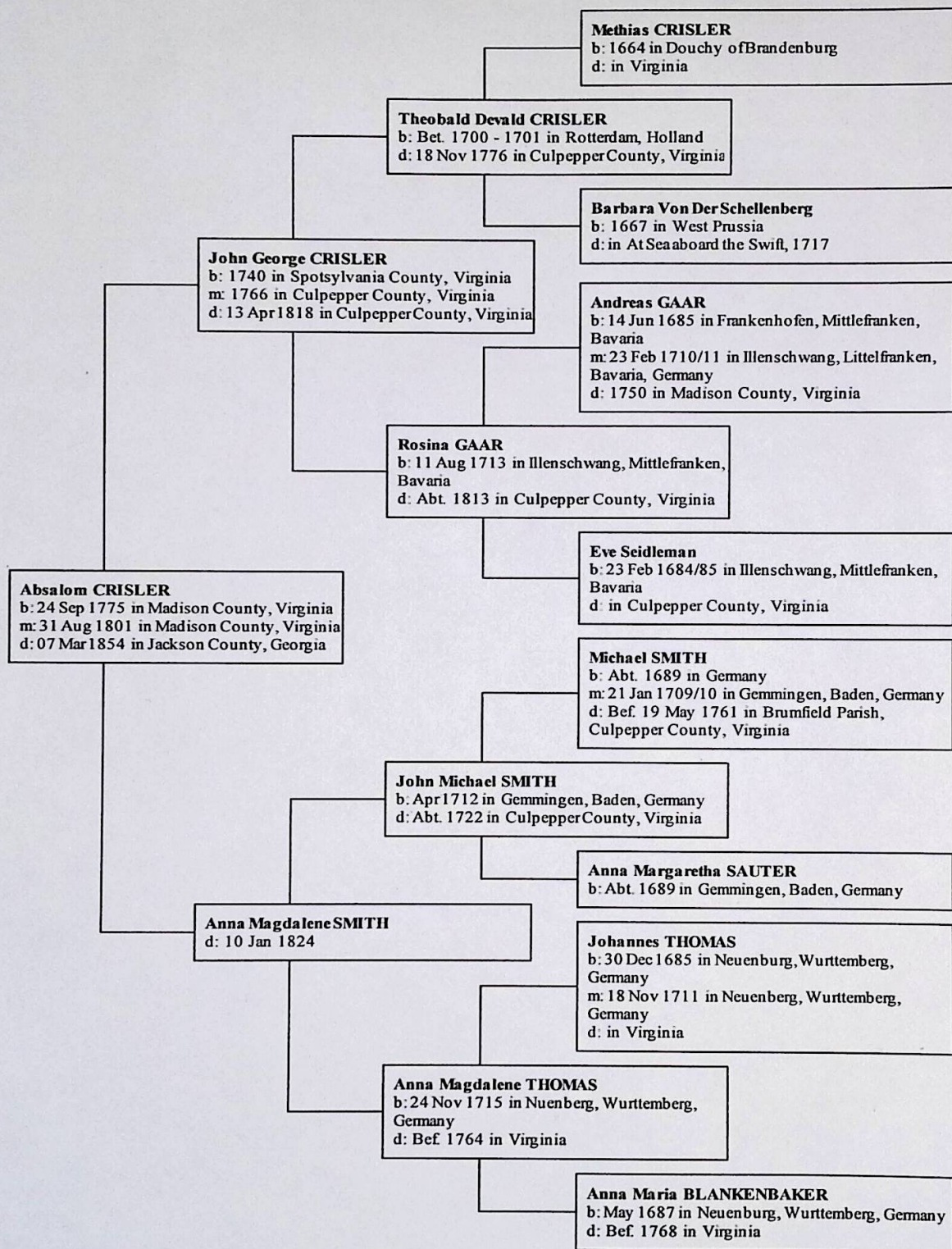
1827 land lottery Maj Barnett's Batalion,

Capt McGinnis District:

Absalom Crisler, Sol in late War; Joel S. Crisler; Abram Crisler (sons of Absalom Crisler)

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Ancestors of Absalom CRISLER



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New Books – Genealogy/Local History Section

- Alabama Blast Furnaces; by Woodward Iron Company, Woodward, AL
Blount Count, Tennessee, Microfilm Records Index
Bradley County, Tennessee, Microfilm Records Index; Kingsport, Tennessee
Confederate Soldiers from Limestone County, Alabama: "Lest We Forget"; Jerrye Todd
Austin, Athens, AL Joseph E. Johnston Chapter No. 198 United Daughters of the Confederacy
Courthouse Research For Family Historians: Your Guide to Genealogical Treasures; by
Christine Rose, 1935 – San Jose, California (2004)
The Cradle; Anatomy Of A Town, Fact and Fiction; by Peter Kohn, New York, Vantage
Press (1969)
Craighead's Mobile: Being The Fugitive Writings of Erwin S. Craighead and Frank
Craighead; by Caldwell Delaney 1918-comp. Mobile, Haunted Bookshop, 1968
Creeks and Rivers in South Carolina; by Albert Bruce Pruitt, 1943 - (2004)
Davidson County, Tennessee Microfilm Records Index; Kingsport, Tennessee
Demopolis Extraordinaire; Robertson Banking Company, Demopolis, AL
An Emerson-Benson Saga: The Ancestry of Charles F. Emerson and Bessie Benson and
the Struggle to Settle the United States, Including 194 Allied Lines; edited by Edmund K.
Swigart, Gateway Press, Baltimore, Maryland (1994)
Fantastic: Pleasant and Not so Pleasant Memories From a University of Alabama
Football Supporter; by Tony Bardino, Sterrett, AL, Five Points South Productions, 1998
Fort Morgan; Charleston, South Carolina, Arcadia Press 2000
The Genealogist's Address Book; Elizabeth Petty Bentley, Genealogical Publishing Co,
Baltimore, Maryland 2005
Gray, Powers, and Their Interrelated Families: Descendants of Col. Thomas Holden
Wade; by Edwina Gray Powers, S. R. Ames Enterprises, Rochester, N.Y. 1919
The Greater Gulf State; by the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce, Mobile, AL 1947
Hamilton County, Tennessee Microfilm Records Index; Kingsport Tennessee
The Hermitage, Home of Old Hickory; by Stanley Fitzgerald Horn, Garrett & Massie,
Richmond, VA 1938
Historic Limestone County: A Collection of Stories and Incidentally, Some History,
From Limestone County, Alabama, and Surrounding Counties; by Robert Dunnavant, 1947 –
1995, Pea Ridge Press, Athens, AL 1995
History of Alabama; by Albert Burton Moore, 1887 – 1967, Alabama Book Store
History of The Muscle Shoals Baptist Association from 1820 to 1890, a Period of 70
Years; With a History of the Churches of The Same and a Biographical Sketch of its Ministers;
by Josephus Shackelford, Trinity, Alabama 1891
Johnson County, Tennessee Microfilm Records Index; Kingsport, Tennessee
Kentucky: A Guide to the Blue Grass State; by the Federal Writers' Project of the Works
Projects Administration for the State of Kentucky, Brace Harcourt, New York 1939
Knox County, Tennessee Microfilm Records
Malbis Memorial Church: 64 Pages Beautiful Pictures in Color
Montgomery County, Tennessee Microfilm Records Index
Out of The Past: Buntin and McCollum Ancestors; by R. M. Buntin, Gateway Press
Sevier County, Tennessee Microfilm Records Index
Shelby County, Tennessee: Consolidated Listing of Microfilmed Records
Washington County, Tennessee Microfilm Records Index

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2006 Membership/Renewal Application

\$8.00 Single Membership: ()

New Member: ()

\$14.00 Two Member Household: ()

Renewal: ()

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: () _____ - _____ Email: _____

Surnames you are researching (up to eight): _____

Make checks payable to: "**Morning Group, T.G.S.**" and mail to P.O. Box 20565, Tuscaloosa, AL 35402

Please invite friends and family. Growth is essential.

THE MORNING GROUP
TUSCALOOSA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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