

Chapter 1 Introduction

The origin of John Humphrey of Clarks has been a subject of much Humphrey family speculation for many years. This book was written to compile the facts, articles, and family stories known about John and other early Humphreys in the Craven County area of North Carolina.

Genealogical research in 2001 revealed John's mother was Drusilla Humphrey with a high degree of confidence in the source material.¹ The search changed to the parents of Drusilla Humphrey and became more difficult. At this time the best-fit answer is Drusilla was the daughter of Hiram Humphrey and Nancy Jones based on census statistics and area residents. Hiram Humphrey is likely the son of Lewis and Nancy Humphrey, the only other long term Humphrey residents of record in Craven County from 1817-1850. A Daniel Humphrey appears in an 1810 deed, and in the 1820 census is the only other Humphrey listed with males in the household. By the 1830 census, the Daniel Humphrey of 1820 is no longer listed, however a younger Daniel Humphrey appears in the 1830 census, but there are no children listed in the household.

In 1938, Blanche Humphrey Abee compiled a rich detail of the early Colonial and Onslow Humphreys in her book, *Colonists of Carolina*. Her research also indicates several of the early Craven County Humphreys migrated from (and back to) Onslow County.² Excerpts from her book are included in Appendix A.

At this time, John Humphrey's ancestors beyond Drusilla are based on best-fit census data and information in Blanche H. Abee's book. Future research may further substantiate this information at a later time.

Information on other Craven area Humphreys, both related and non-related, has been added to provide detail on these persons and families.

Additional family lines included in this work are the Arnold, Bryan, Foscoe, Gooding, Lane, and Pittman families. All of these lines extend back to the early 1800s in the Craven, Jones, and Lenoir counties of North Carolina.

The long relationship of the Humphrey family to the Clarks area is also covered with material on the Civil War, the brickyards of Clarks, and the rural community of Clarks.

Beginning in the 1870s and continuing through the 20th century, are numerous articles in New Bern area papers concerning Humphreys and other families in the Clarks and Tuscarora area. Chapter 20 is devoted to these articles, as they are an additional insight to the Humphrey and other allied families.

A comprehensive, documented listing of source material, illustrations, maps, and diagrams is included with this work.

Overview of John Humphrey and Related Families

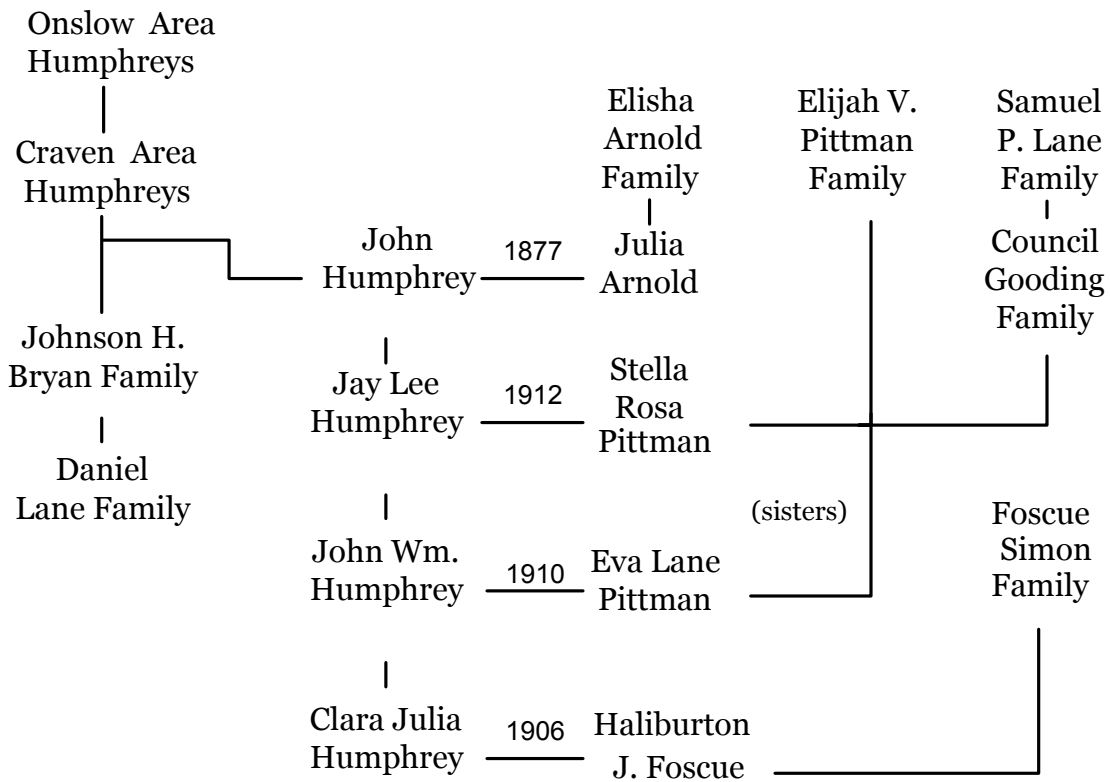


Figure 1 Overview of the John Humphrey and related families

Migrating from Onslow County to Craven County, several Humphrey families lived in the area prior to 1850. John Humphrey’s two sons married Pittman sisters in 1910-1912. The Pittman, Gooding, Lane, and Arnold families are related via numerous marriages.



Figure 2 Lucas 1823 Map of North Carolina

In 1823 the counties boundaries for eastern North Carolina were different from modern (post 1912) boundaries. Dobbs was renamed Lenoir County in 1791. Jones County had been created in 1778. Onslow County was formed in 1734. Glasgow was renamed Greene County in 1799. Pamlico County was formed from Craven County's 4th Township in 1872.

Endnotes Chapter 1 Introduction

¹ See Chapter 5 on Drusilla Ann Humphrey.

² Colonists of Carolina, The Hon. W. D. Humphrey. Page 13. B. Humphrey Abce. 1938. Craven Co. Library.