

Chapter 3 Early Craven Area Humphreys

The earliest Craven County Humphrey record is the 1752 will from the Joseph Humphrey, of Bladen County, granting property to his nephew, Joseph Humphrey, son of John Humphrey.¹ A Joseph Humphries is listed in the 1770 colonial census in Craven County.² A Daniel Humphrey purchased land in 1810 and 1817 in the county.³

The federal censuses of 1790 and 1800 do not list any Humphreys in Craven County.⁴ The 1810 Craven census being lost, the 1820 Craven census contains the first listing of Humphreys in the county, with heads of household named Daniel and Lewis Humphrey. Onslow county records have numerous records of Humphreys in 1790-1820 with similar names.⁵ At this time, it appears the 1820-1860 Humphreys in Craven County are probably related to the early Humphreys of Onslow County.

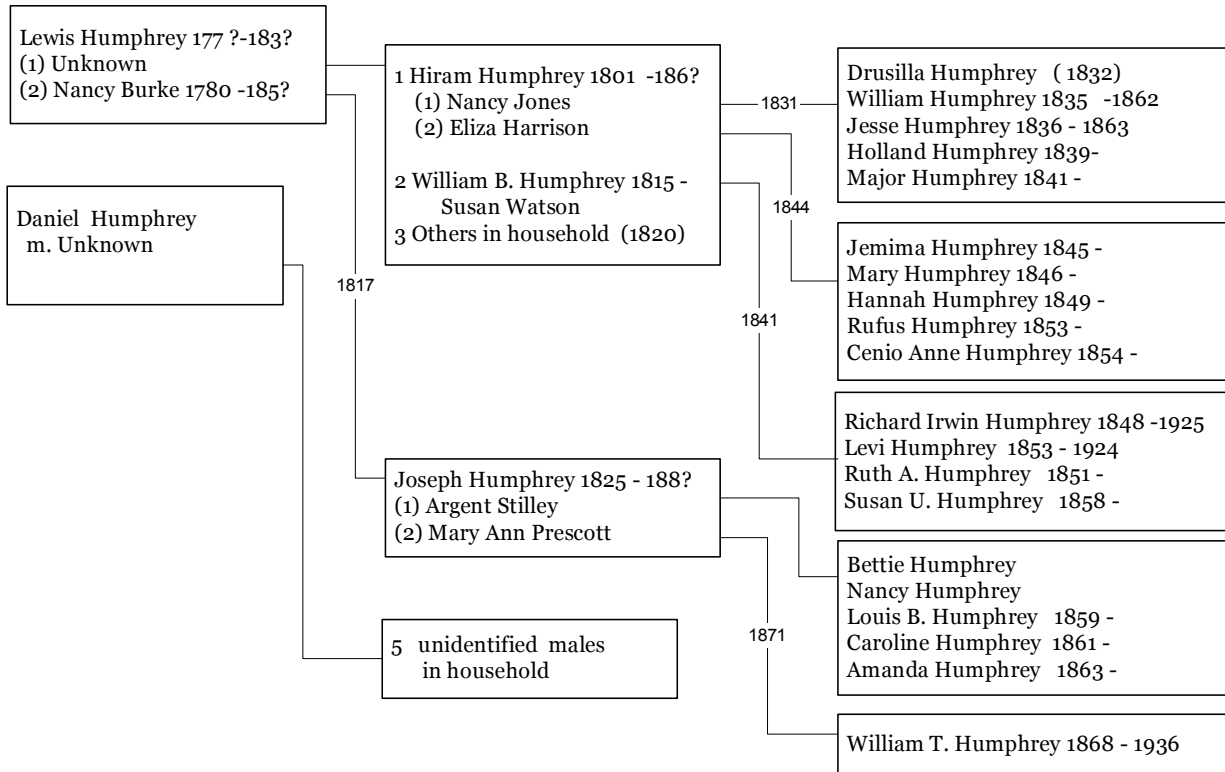


Figure 3 Overview of Lewis Humphrey Family

Lewis Humphrey appears to be the patriarch of most of the Craven area Humphreys. The other heads of Humphrey households by 1840 appear to have either left Craven county, or did not have surviving sons. Daniel Humphrey possibly fathered the William Humphrey (shown above) but this writer favors the Lewis Humphrey lineage shown above.

Early Craven Generation 1

Lewis Humphrey (c. 1775 – 1839) - Lewis first appears in Craven records with his marriage to Nancy Burke in 1817.⁶ The 1820 Craven census lists 4 other males and 3 females in the household. This was likely a second marriage for Lewis Humphrey.⁷ Lewis appears again in the 1830 Craven census and most likely died before the 1840 census.⁸ His son, Joseph Humphrey, appears in an 1841 school district list submitted by Elisha Arnold.⁹ His widow, Nancy Humphrey appears in the 1850, a solitary resident, age 70, as the neighbor of Elisha Arnold.¹⁰

In March 1791, a Lewis Humphreys was found guilty of petty larceny in Craven County court, and received 15 lashes on his bare back, 'well laid on'.¹¹

The Craven County marriage register in 1871 records Joseph Hill Humphrey was the son of Lewis Humphrey and Nancy Burke.¹² The 1830 census lists Lewis Humphrey and several others in the household. The other members are likely Nancy, Hiram, and William, along with another unidentified male and two unidentified females.¹³ This writer attributes these children to Lewis based on the census records, deeds, and the proximity of the families in the Core Creek area of Craven County.

Blanche Humphrey Abee's book lists an Eustace Humphrey and three sons, Lewis, David, and Eustace, Jr.

Early Craven Generation 2

Hiram Humphrey (1801 – after 1860) Hiram first appears in Craven County with his marriage to Nancy Jones in 1831.¹⁴ In 1840 Hiram is listed in the Craven census in the Wintergreen area near Cove City as the neighbor of Johnson Bryan, Sr, a wealthy farmer and owner of 26 slaves.¹⁵ In 1844 Hiram married Eliza Harrison in Craven County.¹⁶ In 1848, Hiram was subpoenaed to court as a witness in the paternity suit involving Johnson H. Bryan and Drusilla Ann Humphrey.¹⁷ It appears Hiram was the father of Drusilla although the 1840 Craven census indicates Hiram's only recorded daughter, Holland, was only 10 years old in 1848.¹⁸

Hiram Humphrey's children by Nancy Jones were (Drusilla), William, Jesse, Holland, and Micajah. Hiram's second marriage to Eliza Harrison produced Hannah, Rufus, Jemima, Mary and Cenio Ann.^{19,20} In the 1870 Craven census, Eliza Humphrey is head of household, an apparent widow, living with Rufus and Hannah in the 9th Township.²¹ Hiram's children by the 1st marriage are no longer in the household.

William B. Humphrey (1815) William married Susan Watson in 1842 in Craven County.²² In the 1850 census, William appears with wife, Susan, and minors Anna (1838) and Richard (1848).²³ William was not listed in the 1860

census, his wife Susan was listed as S. M. Humphrey, age 37, along with along with minors Richard, Ruth, Levi, and Susan.²⁴

Joseph Hill Humphrey (1825 – after 1880) Joseph was the son of Lewis and Nancy Humphrey.²⁵ In an 1841 Craven school list, Joseph and Osaida Humphrey are listed in school district #4 along with Jane B. Lane, and Rual Witherington. Submitting the list to the school board is Elisha Arnold, School Committee, signing with an 'X'.²⁶ In 1850, Joseph is listed in the Craven County census only on Schedule 2, as a slave owner holding 21 slaves.²⁷ In 1860, Joseph is listed in the Lenoir county census in the Sandhill District (southeastern Lenoir County) living in the household of Earl Stilley.²⁸ He married Argent Stilley; daughter of widower Earl Stilley and their children were Nancy, Bettie, Louis B., Caroline, and Amanda.²⁹ In 1879 Earl Stilley's will was probated in Onslow County naming grandchildren Bettie, Louis, Caroline, and Amanda.³⁰ After Argent's death in 1870-81, Joseph married Mary Ann Prescott in Craven County. ³¹ In the 1880 Craven census, Joseph and Mary's son, William, age 9, is listed living with his uncle, Richard Prescott.³² In the 1880 Lenoir census, Joseph is listed as a widower along with children Bettie, Louis, and Amanda.³³ In the 1880-81 New Bern City Directory, Joseph is listed as a farmer living in Dover, NC.³⁴ His son, Louis Byrant Humphrey was a resident of Dover and is also well documented in Craven County.^{35,36} Joseph H. Humphrey enlisted in the Confederate army in 1863 in the 1st Battalion, Company E, Local Defense Troops as a Sergeant.³⁷

Early Craven Generation 3

Drusilla Ann Humphrey (1832-) Mother of John Humphrey, b. 1847, appears to be the daughter of Hiram Humphrey and Nancy Jones. Two other Drusilla Humphreys are in North Carolina in 1850 both listed in Robeson County. However, one is age 4 and the other age 80 in 1850, and they do not appear to be related at this time.³⁸ The only known record of a Drusilla Humphrey in Craven County is the 1848 court bond and the mention of Drusilla Ann Gardner in the Helen Price Humphrey bible of 1945.³⁹

In January of 1848, Drusilla was summoned to Craven County court as an unwed mother; the document does not name the male child, however gives the date of birth as April 1, 1847, the well-documented birth date of John Humphrey.⁴⁰ A subsequent document in the file names Johnson H. Bryan (1824-1884) as the father, and Hiram Humphrey was subpoenaed as a witness.

In 1849, Drusilla Humphrey again appears in Craven County court files as the unwed mother of a female child born in 1848. The father of the child was David Jackson. After 1849, no further records of Drusilla or her daughter have been located in Craven county files.⁴¹

A curious coincidence in the 1850 census, is the neighbor of Nancy Humphrey, widow of Lewis Humphrey. Living next door is a Joseph Murphrey, age 34, and a Brazella Murphrey, age 29, and two children, John, age 3, and Dinah, age 2.⁴² The ages of the two children correspond to the sex and age of Drusilla's children.

There was also a Joseph Humphrey listed as a slave owner on Schedule 2 of the 1850 Craven census, but he was omitted from Schedule 1, free persons.⁴³

William Humphrey (c. 1834) William was the son of Hiram Humphrey.⁴⁴ He is listed in 1841 in county school in Craven County along with his brother Jesse Humphrey, and neighbors, Johnson Bryan and Emeline Williams.⁴⁵ In 1860, William Humphrey is listed in Russell's District as a farm laborer. ⁴⁶ A William J. Humphrey enlisted in the Confederate army on May 7, 1861 as a private in the 2nd Regiment, Company F. William Humphrey died in 1862 on the march from Richmond to Culpeper.⁴⁷

Jesse Humphrey (c. 1835) Jesse was the son on Hiram Humphrey.⁴⁸ He is also listed in the 1841 county school list with his brother, William. Jesse married Nancy Watson in 1858.⁴⁹ In the 1860 Craven census, Jesse is listed as a shoemaker in the household of G. W. West in Russell's district.⁵⁰ His wife, Nancy, of 1858, is not listed in the 1860 census. In 1861, Jesse Humphrey enlisted in the Confederate army, 2nd Regiment, Company F as a private. Jesse Humphrey died at Fredericksburg, Virginia in 1863 of disease.^{51, 52}

Richard Irwin Humphrey (1848 – 1925) Richard, a.k.a. Ralph, a.k.a. Erwin, a.k.a. R. J. Irwin was the son of William B. Humphrey (1815) and Susan Watson and appears in the 1850 census.⁵³ He was born on May 16, 1848 and died on February 1, 1925.⁵⁴ In the 1860 census, Richard appears in the household of S. M. Humphrey, female, 37, along with his brother Levi, Ruth A., and Susan U. Humphrey.⁵⁵ Erwin Humphrey is listed in the 1870 Craven census as single, living in the household of John Moore, of Tuscarora.⁵⁶ In 1874 he married Caroline Moore, daughter of John Moore.⁵⁷ Caroline Moore was born on May 5, 1858 and died on September 24, 1928 in Craven County.⁵⁸ Their children were Mary (1874), John Richard Humphrey (1877), Martha (1878), and Daisy (1885) and 1 unidentified child.⁵⁹ Richard was a member of the Gethsemane FWB Church. His death is recorded in Gethsemane church records.⁶⁰ Irwin and Caroline Humphrey's death certificates indicate they were buried in a family cemetery in Tuscarora.⁶¹ This writer speculates they are buried in the Moore cemetery in Tuscarora, in one of several unidentified graves.⁶²

Levi Humphrey (1853 – 1924) Levi was the son of William Humphrey and his brother was Richard Humphrey.⁶³ Levi was born on July 24, 1853 and died on December 8, 1924 in Craven County.⁶⁴ In the 1870 Craven census Levi was a farm laborer living in the household of Daniel Daugherty, in the 9th Township.⁶⁵ In 1878, Levi married first, Mary Moore, daughter of John Moore of Tuscarora.⁶⁶ Mary died with no surviving children sometime in 1878-1880. In 1881, Levi married Kitty Moore, Mary's younger sister, and their children were Ben Frank Humphrey (1881) and Daisy Humphrey (1895).^{67,68} Levi and Kitty Humphrey were members of the Gethsemane FWB Church. Levi's death in 1924 was recorded in church records, and Levi was buried in the Stewart Cemetery in Tuscarora.^{69,70} The burial location of Kitty Humphrey is not known.

Early Craven Generation 4

John Humphrey (1847-1917) John Humphrey was the son of Drusilla Ann Humphrey and Johnson H. Bryan.⁷¹ A Methodist hymnal indicates John was baptized about 1858 at the Asbury Methodist Church.⁷² He appears in the 1860 Craven census living in the household of Matilda Morris, widow of Thomas Morris, in the Core Creek area.⁷³ In 1850, Matilda is a widow of means, with a productive farm of 530 acres.⁷⁴ Also living also on the farm in 1860 are Penelope Evans and the family of Leonard White.⁷⁵ Leonard and Winifred White lived in Lenoir County in 1850, and moved to Craven County before 1860 to help on this farm.⁷⁶ Their children were Frederick, 25, Benajah, 24, Reuben, 22, and Nancy, 20. Reuben White was a longtime resident of the Cove City area and was buried at the Avery Farm cemetery upon his death in 1888.⁷⁷

Unknown Humphrey (1848-) Drusilla Ann Humphrey also had a second female child by David Jackson in 1848. No further information on this half-sister of John Humphrey has been found.⁷⁸ This child may possibly be Dinah, age 2, listed with Brazella Murphrey and a John, age 3, in the 1850 Craven census.⁷⁹

A number of half-brothers and sisters of John Humphrey also lived in Craven County. These children of Johnson H. Bryan are listed in Chapter 16.

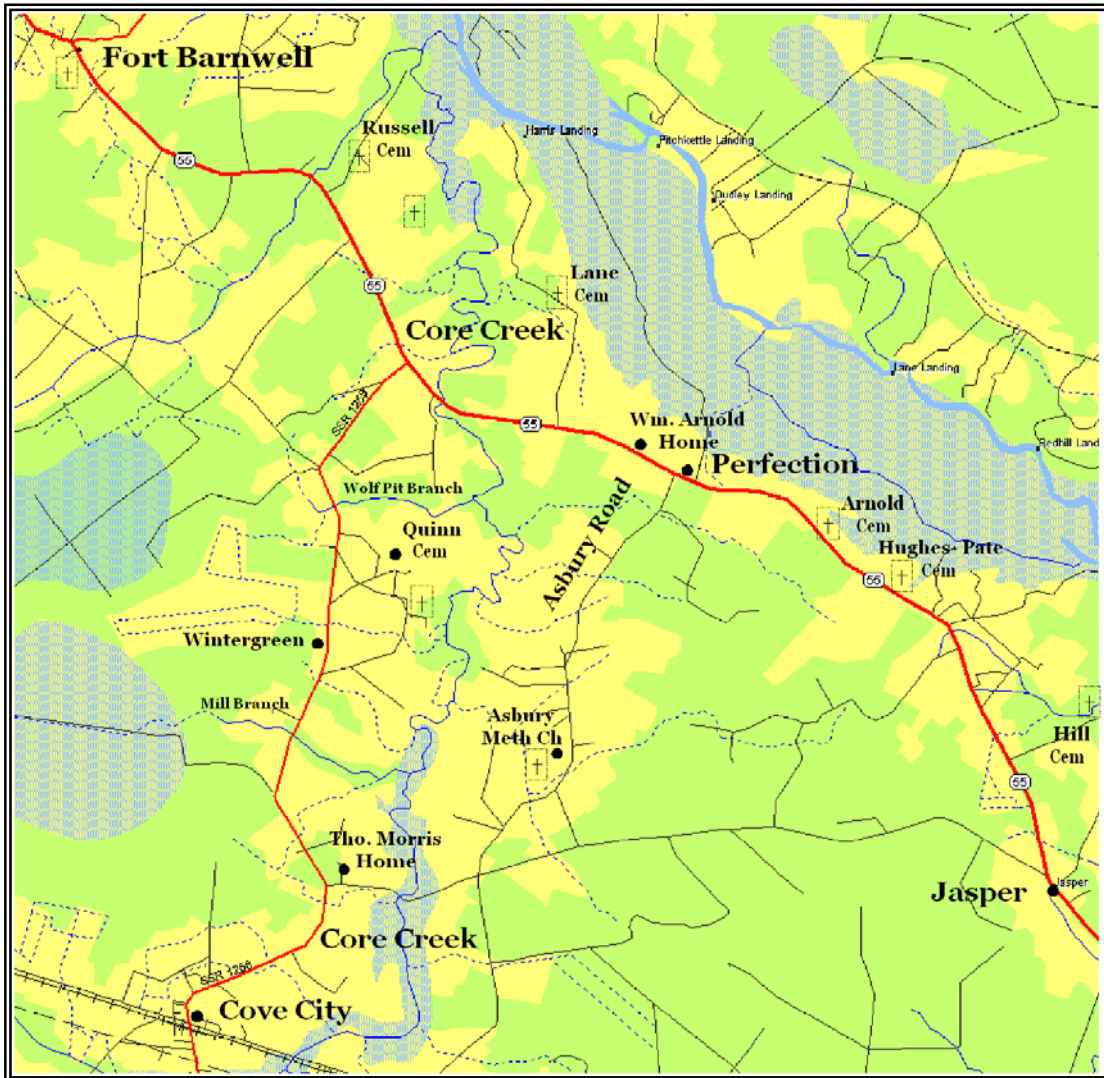


Figure 4 Core Creek Area Map

The Core Creek area of Craven County, including Perfection, Fort Barnwell, Asbury, Wintergreen, and Cove City. Most of the early Craven County Humphreys lived in this area of the county, along with the Arnold, Bryan, Lane, and Morris families about 1820-1860.

Endnotes Chapter 3 Craven Area Humphreys

- ¹ General Index to Deeds and Mortgages, Craven County, NC to 1912. Microfilm. Craven County Library.
 - ² 1734-1787 Census Lists. FTM CD No. 310. Craven County Library.
 - ³ General Index to Deeds and Mortgages, Craven County, NC to 1912. Microfilm. Craven County Library.
 - ⁴ 1790 and 1800 North Carolina Federal Census Index. Craven County Library.
 - ⁵ The Records of Onslow County, North Carolina. Harriet Gwynn. Craven County Library.
 - ⁶ Craven County Marriages, 1780 – 1867. Craven County Library.
 - ⁷ 1820 Craven County Census. Microfilm. Craven County Library.
 - ⁸ 1830 Craven County Census. Page 111. Microfilm. Craven County Library.
 - ⁹ 1840 Craven County School List. District # 3, 1841. Microfilm. Craven County Library.
 - ¹⁰ 1840 Craven County Census, Page. 327B. Microfilm. Craven County Library.
 - ¹¹ Craven County Court Minutes. 1787 – 1801. Pages 95-96. Microfilm. Craven County Library.
 - ¹² Craven County Marriages 1851 – 1905. Volumes 2-7. Microfilm. Craven County Library.
 - ¹³ 1840 Craven County Census. Page 82. Microfilm. Craven County Library.
 - ¹⁴ Craven County Marriages 1780 – 1867. Craven County Library.
 - ¹⁵ 1840 Craven County Census. Page 82. Microfilm. Craven County Library.
 - ¹⁶ Craven County Marriages 1780 – 1867. Craven County Library.
 - ¹⁷ Craven County Bastardy Bonds. 1820 – 1878. Folder 1848-1850. Microfilm. Craven County Library.
 - ¹⁸ 1840 Craven County Census. Page 82. Microfilm. Craven County Library.
 - ¹⁹ 1850 Craven County Census. Page 371B. Microfilm. Craven County Library.
 - ²⁰ 1860 Craven County Census. EN 477, Russell's District. Craven County Library.
 - ²¹ 1870 Craven County Census. EN 218. 9th Township. Microfilm. Craven County Library.
 - ²² Craven County Marriages 1780 – 1787. Craven County Library.
 - ²³ 1850 Craven County Census. Page 373B. Microfilm. Craven County Library.
 - ²⁴ 1860 Craven County Census, EN. 450. Russell's District. Microfilm. Craven County Library.
 - ²⁵ Heritage of Craven County, Vol. I. 1984. Craven County Library.
 - ²⁶ 1840 Craven County School List. Microfilm. Craven County Library.
 - ²⁷ 1850 Craven County Census. Schedule 2. Page 39. Microfilm. Craven County Library.
 - ²⁸ 1860 Lenoir County Census. EN 626, Sandhill District. Microfilm. Craven County Library.
 - ²⁹ 1870 Lenoir County Census, EN 45, Sandhill District. Microfilm. Craven County Library.
 - ³⁰ Onslow County Wills. Earl Stilley, 1879. Records of Onslow County.
 - ³¹ Craven County Marriage Register, Volumes 2-7. Microfilm. Craven County Library.
 - ³² 1880 Craven County Census. EN 604. 9th Township. Microfilm. Craven County Library.
 - ³³ 1880 Lenoir County Census, EN 105. Sandhill District. Microfilm. Craven County Library.
 - ³⁴ 1880-81 New Bern City Directory. Craven County Library.
 - ³⁵ Heritage of Craven County, Volume I, 1984. Craven County Library.
 - ³⁶ Along the Neuse, the Craven Bryan Family. Craven County Library.
 - ³⁷ North Carolina Troops, Infantry, Volume III, Page 110. Craven County Library.
 - ³⁸ 1850 North Carolina Census Index. Craven County Library.
 - ³⁹ Family Bible of Helen P. Humphrey, published 1945. Family record by Jay Lee Humphrey Sr., ca. 1950.
 - ⁴⁰ Craven County Bastardy Bonds. Microfilm. Frame 1224. Craven County Library.
 - ⁴¹ Craven County Bastardy Bonds. Microfilm. Frame 1213. Craven County Library.
 - ⁴² 1850 Craven County Census. Page 321B. Microfilm. Craven County Library.
 - ⁴³ 1850 Craven County Census. Schedule 2, Slave owners. Page 39. Microfilm. Craven County Library.
 - ⁴⁴ 1850 Craven County Census, Page 371B. Microfilm. Craven County Library.
 - ⁴⁵ 1841 Craven County School List. Microfilm. Craven County Library.
 - ⁴⁶ 1860 Craven County Census. EN 419, Russell's District. Microfilm. Craven County Library.
 - ⁴⁷ North Carolina Troops, Infantry, Volume III, Page 436. Craven County Library.
 - ⁴⁸ 1850 Craven County Census. Page 373B. Microfilm. Craven County Library.
 - ⁴⁹ Craven County Marriages 1780 – 1867. Craven County Library.
 - ⁵⁰ 1860 Craven County Census. EN 423, Russell's District. Craven County Library.
 - ⁵¹ North Carolina Troops, Infantry, Volume III, Page 436. Craven County Library.
 - ⁵² The New Bern Daily Progress. January 28, 1862. Page 2. Microfilm. Craven County Library.
 - ⁵³ 1850 Craven County Census. Page 373B. Microfilm. Craven County Library.
 - ⁵⁴ Craven County Death Certificate. 1925. Craven County Register of Deeds
 - ⁵⁵ 1860 Craven County Census. EN 450. Russell's District. Microfilm. Craven County Library.
 - ⁵⁶ 1870 Craven County Census. EN 354. Russell's District. Microfilm. Craven County Library.
 - ⁵⁷ Craven County Marriage Register 1851-1905. Vols. 2-7. Microfilm. Craven County Library.
 - ⁵⁸ Craven County Death Certificate. 1928. Craven County Register of Deeds
 - ⁵⁹ 1880 Craven County Census. EN 621. 9th Township. Craven County Library.
 - ⁶⁰ Gethsemane FWB Church, Our First 100 Years 1890-1990. Craven County Library.
 - ⁶¹ Craven County Death Certificate. 1928. Craven County Register of Deeds
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- ⁶² Craven County, NC Cemeteries, Vol. 2. Craven County Library.
- ⁶³ 1860 Craven County Census. EN 450, Russell's District. Microfilm. Craven County Library.
- ⁶⁴ Craven County Death Certificate. 1924-990. Craven County Register of Deeds
- ⁶⁵ 1870 Craven County Census, EN 364, 9th Township. Craven County Library.
- ⁶⁶ Craven County Marriage Register 1851-1905. Volumes 2-7. Microfilm. Craven County Library.
- ⁶⁷ Craven County Marriage Register, 1851-1905. Volumes 2-7. Microfilm. Craven County Library.
- ⁶⁸ 1900 Craven County Census. EN 37, 9th Township. Microfilm. Craven County Library.
- ⁶⁹ Gethsemane FWB Church, Our First 100 Years, 1890-1990. Craven County Library.
- ⁷⁰ Craven County, NC Cemeteries, Vol. 2. Craven County Library.
- ⁷¹ Craven County Bastardy Bonds, 1820 – 1878. Microfilm. Frame 1224. Craven County Library.
- ⁷² Student Bible of John Humphrey. Collection of Charles P. Humphrey. New Bern, NC.
- ⁷³ Craven County Wills. Thomas Morris. 1843. Microfilm. Craven County Library.
- ⁷⁴ 1850 Craven County Census. Schedule 4, Agriculture. Page 3. Microfilm. Craven County Library.
- ⁷⁵ 1860 Craven County Census, EN 404, Russell's District. Microfilm. Craven County Library.
- ⁷⁶ 1850 Lenoir County Census. Page 180B. Microfilm. Craven County Library.
- ⁷⁷ Craven County, NC Cemeteries, Volume 2. Craven County Library.
- ⁷⁸ Craven County Bastardy Bonds 1820-1878. Microfilm. Craven County Library.
- ⁷⁹ 1850 Craven County Census. Page 327B. EN 981. Microfilm. Craven County Library.
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