

New Findings In Crane DNA Matches

by M.A. Schaefer
Boulder, CO
8 October 2020

Please don't copy or redistribute without permission.

Introduction

I am, or believe myself to be a descendant of Joseph Ors Crane¹ and Catherine Williams by way of their daughter Sarah Crane who married Daniel Hildreth.² The origin of Joseph Ors Crane and Caty Williams (referred to hereafter as Joseph Ors and Caty) continues to be a brick wall in my family tree.

This article is an update to my [previous research report](#). This one studies autosomal DNA³ matches to me as they pertain to the surname Crane. Obviously, only those matches who have attached a family tree can be studied, and even then without knowing if those family trees are correct. But when facing brick walls, one has to assess the evidence that presents itself.

The DNA matches within my branch of this Crane family are not discussed here, but here is a current summary of the DNA matches between me and other descendants of this branch.

Joseph O, b ~ 1765⁴

- **Caty Williams, m abt 1785 Sussex, NJ**
 - following branches of their children have DNA matches to me**
 - Aaron Crane⁵ 3 DNA matches
 - John W. Crane 2 DNA matches
 - Sarah Crane + Hildreth (my branch) 19 DNA matches
 - Harriett E – 6 matches
 - Sarah Jane (my branch) 6 matches
 - Evelinda – 1 match
 - Susan Corey – 1 match
 - Smith H – 2 matches
 - Almira W 3 matches
 - Francis W 1 DNA match

1 The spelling CRANE is the one found in the early NJ church records, but later records show some branches used the spelling of CRAIN or CRAINE. All spellings have been considered in the course of this research

2 It should be noted that Daniel Hildreth Sr. did not have the middle name Floyd as so many trees claim. Only his son, Daniel Floyd Hildreth, had the middle name of Floyd.

3 Tests were processed by ancestry.com. The analysis of tests administered by or transferred to FTDNA is not included in this article.

4 This birth year is entirely speculative based on the birth year of the child thought to be Joseph's first-born, Aaron, b 1788. Based on that, I deduce Joseph's marriage to Caty around 1785 and Joseph's birth year to be 20 years before that. We can only guess.

5 There was an Aaron Crane 1750-1836 + Tabitha Baldwin, supposedly he was a son of Job Crane and Abigail Dodd. The name of Aaron doesn't show up all that often, so I'm just adding reference here. It's worth noting that he mentioned knowing David Harrison in his pension application.

Matches Tracing to Simeon Crane

Simeon, b 1764 Essex, NJ, d 1835 Wayne, NY⁶

+ Eunice Baldwin

David Crane, b 1796 NJ

+ Susan (unk)

Elizabeth b 1823 Madison, Ohio, m 1841 Charles Ewing, d 1867 Mercer, MO

***** (1 match, Jason Roe)

Isaac Crane, b 1798 NJ⁷

+ Mary Compton

David Harrison Crane **** (3 matches – Crystal Wiles, Karen Silvernail
Teresa Crane)

Elizabeth Crane + C.H. Smith **** (1 match, Betty Elaine Ferguson)

Research Notes

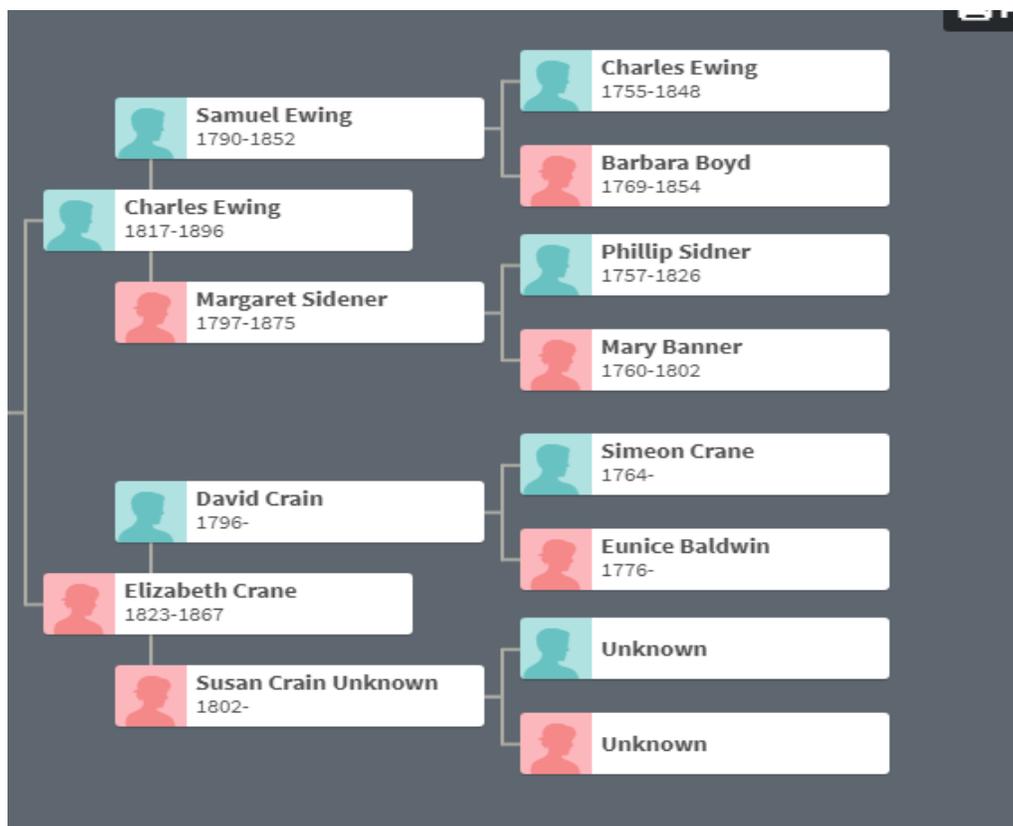
- Crane Genealogy,⁸ does show that Simeon Crane had sons named Isaac and David. It does not, however, make any mention of an Isaac Crane and Mary Compton, nor David Crane and Susan anybody.
- For two of the four DNA matches to Isaac Crane, the attached family trees show the name of Isaac W. Crane. There seems to be ongoing confusion about the identities of men named Isaac Crane born in the late 1790s in New Jersey, and indeed many public family trees have combined the records of two persons into one person who had two wives. I contend there were at least two separate individuals named Isaac Crane born around the same time and place:
 - Isaac Ward Crane was born 23 April 1799 in Newark, Essex, NJ, the son of Nehemiah J. Crane and Mary Ward. This Isaac married Hannah Smith Condit and they had 11 children. This Isaac died in Newark on 30 Aug 1874.
 - Isaac Crane was born about 1798 in New Jersey, and he married Mary Compton in 1824 in Sussex, New Jersey. They lived in Frankford, Sussex, NJ through 1840, and subsequently lived in Burlington, Bradford, PA, where Isaac died in August 1879. Identifying the parents of this Isaac Crane is one of the subjects of my research.

6 Simeon's father was supposedly Gamaliel, 1715-1786, Newark.

7 This is the Isaac Crane that we imagined might be a son of Thomas. In all cases, we are still just guessing bcs there are no birth records.

8 Genealogy of the Crane Family by Ellery Bicknell Crane, Worcester, MA, 1900, Vol. II, p. 337

- As for the Isaac Crane who was a son of Simeon Crane and Eunice Baldwin, different trees say different things:
 - One Isaac Crane supposedly had a birth date of 5 Dec 1808 and he died 3 June 1849 in Seymour, Jackson, Indiana. This Isaac had the middle initial of B, presumably for Baldwin.
 - One Isaac Crane supposedly had a birth date of 1819, married Elizabeth, and he died September 1849 in Ypsilanti, Washtenaw, Michigan.
 - In neither of the previous two cases do we know if the Isaac Crane involved was born in New Jersey.
- But perhaps the Isaac Crane who married Mary Compton was indeed the son of Simeon and Eunice, as so many public trees have stated? I contend that Isaac Crane was a different individual from the son of Simeon and Eunice. For one thing, he lived in Sussex County, NJ – the same place where my Crane relations resided, and not in Essex County where Simeon's family resided. The Isaac from Sussex, NJ later lived in Bradford County, PA – the same place where my Crane ggg-grandmother lived. For at least these reasons, it seems possible if not likely that Isaac Crane who married Mary Compton is related to my Crane clan, and not to Simeon Crane. At the moment, I have placed Isaac Crane of Sussex, NJ in the family group of Thomas Crane and Mary Smith. We believe that Thomas Crane was likely a brother of my ancestor, Joseph Ors Crane.
- As for the DNA match to one Elizabeth Crane born 1823 in Ohio, daughter of David Crane, I believe the family tree attached to the tester's DNA results is in error. That tree looks like this:



After some amount of research, I have come to the conclusion that the son of Simeon Crane and Eunice Baldwin named David was David B. Crane 1802-1886 who married Amanda Swan. He died in St. Joseph, MI in 1886 and was mentioned in the probate records of his mother, Eunice Baldwin Crane. David B. Crane did not have a daughter named Elizabeth.

But it appears there was a man named David Crane born in 1795 in New Jersey. This man married in 1817 in Sussex County, NJ to Susan Hanntoth (various spellings of this surname from Hann to Hannboth). They removed to Madison County, Ohio where they apparently did have a daughter named Elizabeth who subsequently married Charles Ewing in Madison County in 1841, and the Ewings subsequently relocated to Missouri. David and Susan Crane continued to live in Ohio for the rest of their lives. Both are buried in Logan County, Ohio.

So what does this mean if:

- David Crane born in NJ and married in Sussex County who went to Ohio was not the son of Simeon Crane and Eunice Baldwin, and
- The descendant of this David Crane is a remote DNA match to me?

I think it means that this David Crane is a new relation among My Cranes. He could fit into the family group of either Joseph Ors Crane or Thomas Crane.

To reiterate my conclusion after this analysis, I don't think any of the DNA matches listed here trace to Simeon Crane, as the attached match trees claim, and so the ancestors associated with these matches must fit elsewhere into my Crane family groups.

Matches Tracing to Samuel Crane

Samuel b 1778 Westchester, NY⁹ (maybe)

+ Mary (maybe Haines) abt 1802

Ezra Crane, b 1805 VT

******* (77ladd)**

this appears to be a double match

77ladd match to daughter of Ezra, Almeda M. Crane + Ward

Ezra married Mary Ann Pond, dau of Otis Pond and Polly Crane

******* (Philip Benoit)**

[Benoit matches to a different descendant of Otis and Polly]

Arphaxad Crane, b 1808 VT

******* (A.G., L.S., L.B., S.G., and D.O.)**

these are closer estimated matches than others, 4th-6th cousin

⁹ Samuel's father was supposedly Zebulon, b 1746 Windham, CT, d 1814 Putnam, NY, m Rebecca Holmes b Westchester NY. Probate records of Zebulon name his children – he did have a son, Samuel.

Research Notes

- Crane Genealogy,¹⁰ does show that Zebulon Crane had a son named Samuel who married a Mary Haines. Zebulon, b 1746 Windham, CT, d 1814 Putnam, NY, m Rebecca Holmes b Westchester NY. Probate records of Zebulon name his children including a son, Samuel. However, and notably, the Crane Genealogy lists different children for Samuel Crane, son of Zebulon, and moreover, the entire genealogy makes no mention of either this Ezra Crane nor Arphaxad Crane.
- Ezra Crane was born 1805 in Vermont and married Mary Ann Pond around 1835 in Oswego, NY where they lived for several decades. They relocated to Central City, Iowa where Ezra died in 1875.
- Arphaxad Crane was born 1808 in Vermont and died 1884 in South Dakota, although he lived in several midwestern states before his death, including Illinois, Wisconsin, and Iowa. He married Malvina (or Lovina) Whitford in 1833 in Crown Point, Essex, New York.
- Samuel Crane died in 1849 in Napoleon, Jackson, Michigan. His probate records name both sons, Ezra and Arphaxad, both of whom were living in Iowa at the time of their father's death. The widow was named as Polly.
- I count 13 persons of the name Samuel Crane enumerated in the 1810 U.S. Federal Census, two were in Vermont – one in Weathersfield, Windsor, VT (16-25), and the other in Bridport, Addison, Vermont (26-44). In 1820 and 1830, we find a Samuel Crane in the town of Addison, and his family group seems to match that of the man who moved to Michigan.
- So where did this Samuel Crane in Bridport and Addison, VT come from? First I surveyed the census data. Here are Cranes I found in Vermont:

1790

- Bridport: Amos
- New Haven: Martin
- Middlebury: Jeremiah, James

1800

- Bridport: Jesse
- New Haven: Martin, Christopher
- Middlebury: Asa, Ezra, James, Jeremiah

1810

- Bridport: Jesse, Asa, Samuel
- Middlebury: Sarah, James, Jeremiah
- Bristol: John

10 Genealogy of the Crane Family by Ellery Bicknell Crane, Worcester, MA, 1900, Vol. II, p. 133

1820

- Bridport: David A., Asa, Elijah
- New Haven: Martin
- Middlebury: Ersal, James, Martha
- Bristol: John, Alitton
- Monkton: Levi
- Addison: Samuel, Azzah

1830

- Bridport: Elijah, Calon, Jesse, Mahlon, David
- Bristol: John, Levi, Snnan
- New Haven: Martin
- Middlebury: Hrrace, James, Ezra
- Addison: Azah, Samuel
- Panton: Whitfield
- Cornwall: Timothy

1840

- Bridport: Chilion, Jesse, David, Jesse, Elijah
- New Haven: John, Beldin
- Addison: Arza
- Middlebury: Ezekial, James, Horace, Chester A., James
- Cornwall: Eleazer, Abraham, Daniel
- Bristol: Truman
- Vergennes: Milton, H.H.

Arzah Crane, b 1772 in NY. also in 1850 census of Addison, wf Mandana

Research Notes:

- Not much found about Amos Crane in Bridport in 1790. An Amos Crane was taxed in Hanover, Morris, NJ from 1785-1786 and again from 1794-1797 .
- Samuel first appears in Bridport in 1810 where two other older Cranes were also living, Jesse and Asa. Unfortunately, the 1810 census of Bridport is in alphabetical order, so it's not clear if

Samuel was enumerated in physical proximity to, and thus implying possible relationships to Jesse and Asa.

- According to [History of The Town of Bridport](#), Jesse and Asa Crane came from CT at early date with large families.
- From Crane Genealogy, pp. 561-562, Jesse Crane 1760-1824 and Asa Crane 1758-1848 were brothers, and their father was either Abijah Crane or Jesse Crane. According to this account, apparently from information given by grandchildren, Jesse and Asa were originally from the area of Hanover, Morris, New Jersey. The same Bridport history source previously mentioned said, "In 1786 fourteen families started out from Morris county, N. J., to make for themselves a new home in the "Hampshire Grants."” The names of the fourteen families are not mentioned, but it's interesting to note that Cranes who supposedly were born in Morris County, NJ settled in Bridport, VT. It's also worth noting that the origins of any Abijah Crane or Jesse Crane Sr. are unknown in the Crane Genealogy, leaving us still to wonder how Samuel Crane was related to Jesse and Asa, if at all?
- If this Samuel Crane was born in or around 1778, he would have been old enough to be enumerated at least by 1810:

1810 13 persons named Samuel Crane

- Killingworth, CT > 45
- Wethersfield, Hartford, CT 26-44
- Flemingsburg, KY > 45
- Warren, ME >45
- Bradford, NH 26-44
- Onondaga, NY > 45
- East Windsor, Hartford, NY 26-44
- Caldwell, Washington, NY > 45
- Carmel, Dutchess, NY 26-44
- Mongolia, VA > 45
- Bridport, VT 26-44
- Wethersfield, Windsor, VT (Weathersfield?) 16-25

As we can see, there were five Samuel Cranes in the age range we are looking for. One was living in Carmel, Dutchess, NY, which is the precise location where Zebulon Crane II lived. I submit that the Samuel in Carmel was Zebulon's son, while the Samuel in Bridport, VT was somebody else.

- After 1810, Samuel in Vermont apparently moved from Bridport to Addison, a town about 9 miles to the northeast. Curiously, there was one other Crane in Addison: Arzah Crane 1772-1861. According to the Crane Genealogy (Vol 2, p. 93), Arzah was the son of Joseph Crane of South East, Dutchess, NY. Arzah first settled in Burlington, VT, and then spent the rest of his

days in Addison, dying in Newark, Essex, NJ at the home of his son. Why did Samuel move to Addison from Bridport, and was he related to Arzah Crane? Maybe Arzah was an uncle?

- There is one more Vermont clue that caught my attention recently, and that is the 1880 census of Peter Crane, a son of Thomas Crane and Mary Smith, in Wilson, Niagra, NY. Peter was 76 years old and living on the farm of a family I don't recognize. Either Peter or somebody else in the household said that the birth place of Peter's parents was Vermont. All of Peter's siblings who lived to 1880 reported that their parents were born in New Jersey, which is more likely correct. And so even though Peter's report of Vermont as his parents' birth place is probably incorrect, it suggests that an association with Vermont was somewhere in the family history.
- Finally, it feels like seven DNA matches all pointing to Cranes in Vermont are trying hard to tell us something. At the very least:
 - I don't think that this Samuel was the son of Zebulon Crane.
 - I do think this Samuel is related to My Cranes. He might well have been a brother of Joseph O. and Thomas.

Matches Tracing to Thomas Crane

Thomas b ~1775¹¹

+ Mary Smith, m bef 1796 in Sussex, NJ

Mark Crane, b abt 1813 NJ

+ Sarah (unk)

Martin Wesley Crane 1848-1888

******* (debra Gordon)**

At last, we have a DNA match to the line of Thomas Crane! This goes a long way toward confirming my research that asserts that Thomas Crane was a close relation of my ancestor, Joseph Ors Crane, and probably a brother.

Curiously, there is also one other DNA tester, K_Michell who has no attached tree but who is a shared match to the majority of testers who descend from the Vermont Cranes (see Matches Tracing to Samuel Crane) and to this tester, Debra Gordon. Now there is a connection between Vermont Cranes, the Thomas Crane line, and me which suggests to me that Joseph, Thomas, and Samuel were all related.

¹¹ Thomas' birth year is estimated based on average of age groups reported for the oldest male in the 1830 and 1840 census of Niagra, NY where Thomas is thought to have been residing.

Discussion

After years and years of research into the origins of Joseph Ors Crane, it's still hard not to think that Joseph O. was dropped on the earth from a space ship. But continuing research efforts inspired by DNA matches, no matter how remote, are, I think, starting to show there were other Cranes not included in the Crane Genealogy, others dropped from the space ship, and those characters – namely Joseph O, Thomas, and Samuel, seem to be related. I think that's progress! The emerging picture after this round of research might look like this:

- **Joseph Ors Crane** ~1765 + Caty Williams
[Sussex, NJ]
- **Thomas Crane** ~ 1775 + Mary Smith
[Sussex, NJ; Niagra, NY]
 - David Crane ~ 1796 + Susan Hann
[Ohio]
 - Isaac Crane ~1798 + Mary Compton
[Sussex, NJ; Bradford, PA]
- **Samuel Crane** ~ 1778 + Polly
[Addison, Vermont; Michigan]

The introduction of Samuel Crane to this story is interesting even if it does leave us with more unanswered questions. Was Samuel associated with Jesse and Asa Crane, more “space ship” Cranes who either came to Vermont from CT or NJ? The New Jersey angle is of interest, especially given that Bridport, VT had early settlers from Morris County, NJ. It's also curious that this Asa Crane lived in Goshen, Orange, NY and Lumberland, Ulster, NY for some time before joining his brother in Bridport. Goshen is 14 miles from Minisink where Sarah Crane and Daniel Hildreth lived after marrying, and 22 miles from Wantage, Sussex, NJ.....

We also have the evidence that Samuel lived in the same town with Arzah Crane for several decades. Arzah seems to have been related to Joseph Crane II 1722-1800. Arzah was a generation older than Samuel, so perhaps he was an uncle?

I think the answers to these questions might lead to us to conclude that space ships were not responsible for my Crane ancestry.

Appendix A – PA Cranes

I am including this section only for reference. One strategy for figuring out the origins of my Crane family has been to research Cranes in the surrounding area where Daniel Hildreth and Sarah Crane lived after moving from Minisink, NY. The thought has been that perhaps there were Crane relations in the area of Bradford County, PA which was a reason the Hildreth family moved there. That premise may or may not have credence. While these Cranes were in the same vicinity, I have yet to find a family connection to Sarah Crane Hildreth. I have especially been watching for any DNA matches showing up to this PA Crane family group, and so far, I have not spotted any.

Here is an outline I have pieced together of the Crane family group^{12 13} in PA who lived near where Daniel Hildreth and Sarah Crane lived in South Creek, Bradford, PA. This outline is not definitive and has not been thoroughly verified by me.

John Crane and Hannah Johnson¹⁴

Azariah Crane 1754-1814 + Hannah <unk>

Betsey, 1778- , m Brown

Ira, 1780-1890

Nancy, 1783-1854, m Stephen H Brown

Thankful, 1785 - , m Samuel Price

Rhoda, 1785-1883, m Thomas Baldwin

Ralph, 1792 - , m Sindrilla?

I surmise his children were:

Azariah 1821-1883, Ira 1822-1884, Charles 1827-1879, Stephen 1833,

Sarah 1839

Benjamin, 1795- (1840 Ridgebury?)

Keturah, 1796-1870, m Joseph Pierson (lived in Chemung)

Margaret 1797-1866, m Thomas B Dayley, m2 Benjamin Freeman Bird

Rebecca T, 1799-1853, unmarried

Sally, 1801-

John Crane must have had other children besides Azariah?

12 "[A History of Margaret Crane and Her Descendants](#)", submitted by ancestry user "goatesnotes" on 6 Feb 2010.

13 Preceding article says that Azariah died with a will; he did not. See Essex County Probate Records, Estate #1562. Also see Deeds, F-15-16 for a list of his heirs (children).

14 This is another family group not found in the Crane Genealogy.