

Week One History (March 16, 2016)

James (Jim) H. Crawford, founder

1912 – 1963



James (Jim) H. Crawford first saw the light of day on December 27, 1912 in Fort Stockton, Texas, but when he was about two years old, his mother, father and he returned to the ancestral area of Greeneville, Tennessee. The combination of the “big thinking” of a Texan and the “sagacity and shrewdness” of an East Tennessean produced a vision and a drive that would not be dimmed and would not be denied. It was those qualities that later created and developed the organization that means so much to each of us today.

Jim completed his primary and secondary education in Greeneville, TN and entered Virginia Military Institute (VMI) in 1930 and graduated in 1934 with honors in both military and academic fields. Immediately after graduation, Jim went to work for Liberty Mutual Insurance Company in Boston and in 1940, was transferred to Atlanta, GA as manager of the Atlanta Branch Claim Office. After a “grass roots” study of the Southeast as it related to insurance claims, Jim Crawford realized the need of the insurance industry for a competent claims service delivered promptly and at a reasonable cost and from this idea, Crawford and Company (the company was initially called “Crawford **and** Company” – with the conjunction “and”, instead of the ampersand “&”, until 1968) as we know it today came into being in Columbus, GA, on May 27, 1941.

Jim Crawford served as president and chairman of the board of directors of Crawford until January 1, 1963 when he relinquished the presidency but continued to serve as chairman of the board until his death on August 21, 1963. Jim Crawford gave, not only his name to the company, but he left a heritage of integrity, inspiration and determination that will always be a motivating and dominant force in the future of Crawford and Company.