

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Samuel Crawley R13467

VA Artillery/ Half Pay

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 4 December 2023.

[From [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia.](#)]

At the instance of Mr. James J. Mountcastle, who has intermarried with a daughter of the late Captain Samuel Crawley, I state and certify, that I was well acquainted with the late Captain Samuel Crawley during a part of the war of the Revolution; particularly in the year 1779 and the early part of the year 1780. That I at that time, understood and believed he was a Captain of the state artillery and belonged to a Regiment of artillery under the command of the then Colonel Thomas Marshall [VAS494]. I was, about that time, eighteen years old; and, tho' engaged in other pursuits, recollect to have seen many officers occasionally in the City of Williamsburg, where I then lived, and now reside. I have seen Captain Crawley in his dress and costume of an Officer; and he was familiarly called Captain by his friends and acquaintances. I have no knowledge of his particular term of service nor whether he was in service 'till the end of the war. If he belonged to Colonel Marshall's Regiment of state artillery, as was my impression, he Colonel Marshall was stationed at York-Town in Virginia for some time. In the spring of the year 1780 I went to Richmond, where I remained during the rest of that year; and, early in the succeeding year, 1781, I joined General [Nathanael] Greene's army in South Carolina, and continued with that army 'till the end of the war in 1783 – so that I did not see Captain Crawley from April or May 1780 'till the latter end of the year 1783 when I returned to Williamsburg. Captain Crawley, as well as I recollect, was living in Williamsburg in 1784, and from that time to the time of his death, in or about the year 1793 lived in Williamsburg or in the neighbourhood.

I have a perfect recollection that Captain Crawley died in the City of Williamsburg; as I remember being sent for to his house; and, on going, found him so far gone as to be unable to communicate any thing to me. He died in the course of the same day, all which I certify under my Hand this thirty first day of March Eighteen hundred and thirty one at williamsburg in Virginia.

[31 Mar 1831]

Ro. Saunders [Robert Saunders]

[From [Virginia Half-Pay pension records on fold3.com.](#)]

[In the original of the following table, surnames precede first names.

Names Rank Promotions &c of the Virginia State Artillery Regiment from their first entrance into the Service to the reduction of the Regiment

Names	First Rank in Service	Year	Different Promotions	Present Rank	Present Date of Commission	Present State
Thomas Marshall	Major	1775	Maj Cont Service Jan'y 1776 Colo in Feb'y 1777 to take Com'd State Art'y Reg't 18 Nov'r 1777 Capt Artill'y 1777 Major Artillery 18 Nov'r 1779	Colonel	15 Nov'r 1777	Supernumery
Elias Edmonds	Capt M Service	1775		Lt Colonel	16 Apl 1780	D'o
John Mazarett	Capt	1777	Major 77. Major 1780	Major	“ ” “	D'o

The above is truly extracted from a roll of the State Artillery Regiment now on file in this Office Given under my hand at the Auditor's Office Richmond this 14th day of July 1842. Jas E. Heath Aud I further certify that the Original Roll is without date, but has the following endorsement on the back thereof. Viz "Captain Edward Moody (who was the oldest Captain at the time of his death) died in

February 1781. Capt Samuel Blackwell [VAS2173] died December 1781. T. Marshall Colo.
Given under my hand at the Auditor's Office Richmond this 19th day of July 1842. Jas E. Heath Aud

I William Stroud Senr. [S6166] of the city of Williamsburg and State of Virginia and now in the 83^d year of my age do hereby certify that I was well acquainted with Capt. Sam'l Crawley and know that he was an officer under the commission of Captain and was attached to the Regiment commanded by Col. Marshall of the Virginia State line during the war of the Revolution. I do not recollect at what time he entered the service but in the year 1776 (seventeen hundred & seventy six) I was called out in service and belonged to a militia company and as well as I recollect the ensuing year 1777 I saw him in service and I am confidently of the opinion that he entered the service for and during the war and remained in service until the close of the said war. I distinctly Recollect of seeing him in service at Little York [Yorktown] some short time before the capitulation of the enemy at that place. I was not at the siege of that place [28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781] in consequence of labouring under a severe spell of sickness at that time. I also knew Col. Marshall and many other officers belonging to the army. After the close of the war he resided in this city where he died which occurred some time about twelve years after the war. He left a widow, to wit Ann Lake who now resides in this place, who was formerly Ann Crawley. Wm Stroud
[21 June 1834]

I Elizabeth Hallam of the city of Williamsburg & State of Virginia aged 68 years do hereby certify that I was well acquainted with Capt. Samuel Crawley, having been a member of his family, for some time previous to the commencement of the war of the Revolution and having remained as a member thereof during the same & for some short time after. He, the said Crawley entered the army some time during the war and was attached to the regiment commanded by Col. Marshall of the Virginia State Continental line and that he the said Crawley continued in service for and during the said war. During the siege at Little York he was prevented from being or remaining in service at that time, in consequence of having received a fall from his horse, which compelled him to remain at home for some short time until he recovered, which when he did recover he returned in service. After the said war he resided in Williamsburg and there died about twelve years after the said war, leaving a widow & several children. His said widow afterwards intermarried with a Mr Lake who has subsequently died leaving a widow, to wit, Ann Lake who was the widow of the said Sam'l Crawley. She resides in this place, & is old and very infirm. E. Hallam
[4 July 1834]

Pension Office/ October 27, 1846.

I certify that I have examined the claim of the administrator of Samuel Crawley, who was a Captain in the Virginia State regiment of Artillery during the revolution, and I find that under the act of July 5, 1832 half-pay has been allowed from the 22^d of April, 1783. Half-pay is now claimed from the first of January 1782, and my opinion is that the claim should be allowed. I therefore certify that half-pay is still due from the first of January 1782, at the rate of Three Hundred Dollars per annum, up to the 22^d of April, 1783; and that the amount is payable to Henry Northrup, attorney of Thomas P. Wise, of Williamsburg, Virginia, administrator of said Crawley.

J. L. E. [James L. Edwards] Commissioner of Pensions

Approved/ Secretary of War.

NOTES:

The federal pension and Virginia half-pay files contain extensive correspondence on whether the Revolutionary War ended with the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown on 19 Oct 1781 or with the formal treaty of peace as recognized by Congress as being 15 Nov 1783, and therefore whether Crawley was in service after his regiment was disbanded. The final decision appears to have been that Crawley became supernumerary (without sufficient troops for a command) when his regiment was disbanded, and

therefore he was technically still in service subject to being recalled.

The federal pension file includes a copy of the last will and testament of Samuel Crawley dated 8 Jan 1793 and proved on 4 May 1793, leaving all his estate to his “dear and loving wife during her life in order to maintain my children, and after the death of my wife Ann Crawley... my estate should be equally divided between all my children.”

The Virginia Half-Pay file includes an extract from the payroll of Lawrence Smith, Jr. [VAS4560], paymaster of the Virginia State Artillery Regiment, showing payments to Samuel Crawley as lieutenant from 6 Jan through 10 Apr 1778 and as captain from 25 May 1778 through 19 Nov 1779.

The Virginia Half-Pay file includes a copy of the will signed in January 1835 by Ann E. Lake of Williamsburg leaving to her granddaughter Betsey C. Ware furniture and housekeeping articles, as well as “the remainder of eight hundred dollars which was my proportionable part in my husband Samuel Crawley’s half pay for his services as a Captain in the Revolutionary War, which money was put in Mr. R. C. Jennings’ hand for my support in August 1834.” The will was presented in court on 25 July 1836 by Leigh Ware and James J. Mountcastle.

A court document dated 23 July 1849 refers to “Samuel C. Ware, James J Mountcastle and Elizabeth Wise as heirs and distributees of Samuel Crawley deceased.”