

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Crabb R2417

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Transcribed by Will Graves

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[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. The word 'illegible' or 'indcipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading skills fail to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

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State of Illinois, Greene County: SS

Be it remembered that on this fourth day of March A.D. 1835, in Open Court before the County Commissioners Court of Greene County Illinois, being a Court of Record, John Crabb a resident of the same County, aged seventy-one years, on the 15th day of May last, who being duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following Declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the Act of Congress of the 7th of June 1832; – That he was born on the 15th day of May 1763 in Shenandoah County Virginia, he lived there until he was five or six years old he then with his parents, removed to Bottetourt [sic, Botetourt] County, – lived there about four years – then moved to Montgomery County Virginia, lived there six years – then moved to Holston, Sullivan County North Carolina from thence he removed to Hawkins County in the year 1781, he was Enrolled for muster, And this year he enlisted in the North Carolina Militia under Captain Robert Kyle, George Brooks, Lieutenant, and served three months, in guarding the frontiers against the Indians and Tories. In the same year his father was drafted to go against the Indians and Tories, and this Applicant served as his Substitute, seven weeks under Captain Kyle, Colonel John Sevier, Valentine Sevier, Major. In the year 1782 he entered the service under Captain John Bunch, Colonel John Sevier, and served one month at the Block house on Clinch River on the old Kentucky trace. He served one month under the same officers, at the Roseberry Station, on flat Creek, Hawkins County North Carolina; the date not now distinctly recollected. Subsequently the Indians came into the Settlement and killed two men Colonel William Cook and Colonel Outlaw beat up for volunteers – this Applicant joined them and went against the Cherokee and Chickamauga Indians and served five weeks. – He served another tour under Captain William Henderson against the same Indians he thinks this last service was in the year 1789. He lost a brother this campaign Captain Henderson also lost a brother. He served two or three weeks at this time. He feels confident he has served 8 1/2 months; he knows he has served more, but he cannot refer to it with sufficient precision to make a claim for it. His father and Brothers served likewise on several campaigns their discharges and those of this Applicant were all in a bundle of paper together, which were destroyed by fire, together with his father's house in the year 1791 or 1792 in Hawkins County North Carolina. His whole Service was as a private. His discharges, being lost as before mentioned, he has no documentary evidence to show his service. He was in no battle nor does he recollect at any time during his Service to have seen any Regular Officers. After the war he married in the State of North Carolina and continued a citizen of the same until the State of Tennessee was formed. He

then lived in the now County of Grainger Tennessee until 1798, then moved to Knox County Tennessee, from thence in 1829, he removed to Greene County Illinois where he has continued to the present time, Joseph J Basey a Minister of the Gospel and James the Scott, and James Turney, and John Reynolds the last member of Congress, can testify and speak as to the character and veracity of this Applicant. – He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and declares his name is not on the pension roll of the Agency of any State.

Subscribed, examined and sworn to and Open Court this fourth of March A.D. 1835
S/ Moses A. Bledsoe, Clerk S/ John Crabb, X his mark
[Joseph J. Basey, a clergyman, gave a standard supporting affidavit.]

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Greene County Illinois July 29, 1838

Dear Sir I received yours of 22 of May, I feel Disposed to make another Effort to get my Pension. I showed the letters I received from you to Lawyers Caverly and English, to make out my papers again they objected at first to have anything to do with it because Bledsoe had been trying to do the business for me they had a political quarrel at the Reelection of General Jackson which still remains, Bledsoe is the strong opposer of the Administration he Bledsoe disagreed with me on account of my supporting the Administration of Jackson [several indecipherable words] and always told me, that he never Received any answer from the Department until I showed the letters I received from you this summer he then said he had received information from the Department but had forgotten to tell me of it or the cause that I could not draw my Pension.

Mr. Caverly and English advised me to inform the Department as precise as I could of all the services I had rendered up to 1782 (which I did not from Bledsoe) that I could make oath of and then call living witnesses that could Certify that they believed I have performed services and was Entitled to my Pension.

I will relate now to the Department all the services I performed up to 1782 according to my best recollection and also the men that might say I deserve a Pension their names &c. Sometime in the fall of 1779 I removed from the State of Virginia to Carter's Valley then the State of North Carolina I was called out in the winter of 1779 and 1780 to guard a Fort called Harry's Station under the Command of Captain Robert Koil [Robert Kyle], and Lieutenant Brooks I remained there through the winter I served as well as I recollect upwards of two months in the spring of 1780 the fort was broken up. I was Called no more until the spring of 1781 Except voluntarily as a spy in the Spy Company I cannot recollect how long but several days at a time but immediately after the murder of Brooks' Brother to our Lieutenant by the Indians I was ordered out and went with a Company in pursuit of the Indians which I performed a severe tour of about one month during 1781 Sometime in the Early part of 1782 I was ordered out in a Company to pursue the Indians as they had murdered a man by the name of Thomas Fisher near the head of Caney Creek on the waters of Holston [River] I served then a tour of two or three weeks, Shortly after I returned home I Enlisted three months and was stationed at a place called Koils Station on Caney Creek I remained there for three months sometime in the Spy Company and keeping the Fort for which I got a Discharge that was worn out or lost Immediately after that the orders Came by Colonel John Sevier to hold ourselves in readiness as the Tories were leaving Hony Cuts Station[Honeycutt's Station?] and Joining the Indians all that would Serve against the Tories and Chickemoges [Chickamauga] and Cherokee Indians should not Cross the mountains

to fight the British I recollect well that I was agreed to Join in and guard the frontiers.

I next was called out in the fall 1782 under Colonel John Sevier where I served Seven weeks tour hungry and fatigued which is now [indecipherable word] to my mind The seven weeks is now on file in your office you say I reported them to be performed in 1781 which I solemnly declare was a mistake Either in me or Mr. Bledsoe it has always bourne in my mind that it was performed in 1782.

I after that time have performed a tour after until Blounts Treaty for which I think I am Entitled something for my Services.

I lately Called on Governor Reynolds [John Reynolds]¹ late Representative to Congress, Also on Colonel John W Scott Colonel John R Black of this County who has all been acquainted with me in Tennessee and this State for 3440 years.

I also Called on Houston Reynolds [Houston Reynolds?] of this County who was acquainted with me 40 years ago.

I also Called on the Honorable Calvin Tunnel and Franklin Witt and R. W. English members of our Legislature they Say they will my recommendation at any time when presented there are all facts which I can substantiate and will do if they are sufficient to draw my Pension.

They shall be drawn up as the two above Gentlemen told me in accordance with the Act of 1832 made and provided for in such cases.

You will please inform me immediately if they are Sufficient when authenticated. I will send them on immediately after Court.

Yours very respectfully

S/ John Crabb, X his mark

Pension Commissioner

Direct to Delhi

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State of Illinois Green County} SS On this Sixth day of March 1839, personally appeared in open Court, before the County Commissioners Court of Green County now sitting, John Crabb, a resident of the County and State aforesaid aged seventy-five years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th, 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated –

In the fall of 1779, according to my best recollection, in the month of November, I was

¹ REYNOLDS, John, a Representative from Illinois; born in Montgomery County, near Philadelphia, Pa., February 26, 1788; moved to Illinois in 1800 with his parents, who settled in the vicinity of Kaskaskia; pursued classical studies; studied law; was admitted to the bar and commenced practice in Cahokia, Ill., in 1812; elected a justice of the Illinois supreme court in 1818; unsuccessful candidate for election to the United States Senate in 1823; member of the state house of representatives 1827-1829; Governor of Illinois from December 6, 1830, to November 17, 1834, when he resigned, having been elected to Congress; in 1832 took the field as commander of the state militia in the Black Hawk War; elected as a Jacksonian to the Twenty-third Congress to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Charles Slade; reelected to the Twenty-fourth Congress and served from December 1, 1834, to March 3, 1837; unsuccessful candidate for reelection in 1836 to the Twenty-fifth Congress; elected as a Democrat to the Twenty-sixth and Twenty-seventh Congresses (March 4, 1839-March 3, 1843); chair, Committee on Public Lands (Twenty-sixth Congress); again a member of the state house of representatives in 1846 and 1852 and served during the latter term as speaker; unsuccessful candidate for election to the state senate in 1848; unsuccessful candidate for state superintendent of schools in 1858; engaged in newspaper work; died in Belleville, St. Clair County, Ill., on May 8, 1865; interment in Walnut Hill Cemetery. <http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=R000174>

called into the service of the United States to guard a Fort called John Harrys station, under the command of Colonel Robert Koil [Robert Kyle] & Lieutenant George Brooks, situate in Carter's Valley on the waters of the Holstien River [sic, Holston River], then in the Territory of North Carolina, now Hawkins County State of Tennessee – I continued in that service at least two months, and received a discharge from Captain Koil accordingly. A part of the time I was at the Fort, and the other part of the time I was engaged with others in scouting parties, going out to watch the Indians & who frequently came to the settlements around and stole horses & cattle from the Inhabitants, & committed other depredations. –

In the spring of 1780, the Fort above mentioned was abandoned – And during the summer following the Indians frequently made depredations upon the property of the Inhabitants, and I volunteered my services at different times as a Ranger or spy under the command of the above named officers. The Colonel commanding was John Sevier. During that season I performed at least one month Service. –

In 1781 in the month of February or March I was called out to pursue the Indians as they had murdered William Brooks, brother of Lieutenant George Brooks. – I performed a severe tour of at least one month under the same officers before mentioned. In the month of April thereafter I was again called out for the same purpose, as the Indians had murdered a man by the name of Thomas Fisher near the head of Caney Creek. I performed the service at that time of at least three weeks under the same officers – From the last mentioned time to the month of June 1782 I was called out at different times to perform the same kind of service under the same officers, & in the same section of Country. – I cannot recollect the length of time I was engaged in these services, at the different times during this season – But I verily believe, that I performed during this season at least one month of faithful service. –

During the season last above mentioned I had been called out in the service at so many different times to serve for short periods, that I concluded to enlist for a regular term, and did in the month of June in list under Captain Robert Koil for three months, and was stationed at a place called Koils station, situated on Caney Creek – I perform my three months service according to my enlistment, & received a discharge from Captain Koil accordingly – which said Discharge and also the one received in 1779 as before mentioned has long since been lost or destroyed. –

Soon after the close of my last mentioned service orders came from Colonel John Sevier to Captain Robert Koil to raise a company to enter into service against the Tories and Indians, as the Tories were leaving Honeycutt Station on Holston River & joining with the Chickamaugas & Cherokees. I volunteered with others in that service under Captain Koil and was called out by Colonel John Sevier, according to the best of my recollection & believe, the last of September 1782. – I was engaged in that service seven weeks – Our company was collected & formed at the mouth of Big Creek on the waters of Holston River. We crossed the River at Dodson's ford [sic, Dotson's Ford] & marched to French Broad River, which River we crossed at a place called the big Island, and from thence went to Tennessee River, crossed it at a place called Chote ford [Chota ford?]- that brought us into the Cherokee Nation of Indians. While there I company was engaged in three or four skirmishes with the Indians, killed about 20 and took about 25 Indians prisoners. We found a white man who was a Tory, & he refusing to surrender was shot. Our Company then went to the house of a white man by the name of Rodgers, who surrendered himself & 14 Negroes, which together with his property, such as horses, household goods etc. we brought with us when we returned to the mouth of Big Creek, the place from which we started. While we were in the Cherokee Nation of Indians, & soon after we had taken Mr. Rodgers a

prisoner, the Indians sent a flag of truce by an Interpreter & two or three other Indians requesting that a treaty of peace might be affected between them & our people. Colonel Sevier agreed to meet the Indians at a place called Chota. Such a meeting was had & a treaty was concluded – the terms of which I do not particularly recollect – but I recollect distinctly that Colonel Sevier made an exchange of prisoners with the Indians to the number of about 25. – Immediately after the exchange, we were ordered to return, as we had with us the prisoners obtained by exchange from the Indians, and our provisions were reduced to a small quantity, scarcely sufficient for the subsistence of so many. – After serving seven weeks faithfully, I received a discharge from my Commanding Officer which has long since been lost or destroyed. –

I further state that I am informed by letter from J. L. Edwards of the War Department that in my Declaration made & sent to said Department in March 1835, it was stated by me that the service performed by me as last above mentioned, was in the year 1781. If such was the date or time there given, it was a mistake made in drawing up said declaration which I did not discover at the time I made it. For I recollected then as I do now that the said service was performed in 1782.

I would further state that I now know of no person living, who served with me during the times above stated, or any part of them, or who knows of my having performed the services mentioned in this declaration. It is therefore out of my power to obtain the testimony of a witness who can from his personal knowledge of my services, testify to them.

And I hereby further state that the Discharges which I received from my commanding officer, were long since lost or destroyed. In about the year 1798 my Father's house was destroyed by fire; and it is my belief that my said Discharges were burned with the house. –

In conclusion I would state that I have given in this my Declaration a true account or statement of my Services as performed by me during the war of the revolution, according to my best recollection & believe – but in consequence of the lapse of time which has been since the performance of said service, & the failure of my memory, occasioned by old age, I may have made some mistake – But of this I am certain that in stating the length of time I served at the different periods mentioned in my Declaration I have made no mistake.

I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the Pension Roll of the Agency of any State.

S/ John Crabb, X his mark

Sworn to & subscribed in open court before the Commissioners Court of Greene County, State of Illinois this sixth day of April 1839

[Abraham Enslow, a clergyman, and John W Scott gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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The following Interrogatories were propounded by the Court to John Crabb the applicant for a pension and the following answers were made by said Crabb to the same

1st Where and in what year were you born?

Ans. I was born in Frederick County Virginia on the 15th day of May 1763.

2nd Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

Ans. I had a record of my age but it was burned when my Father's house was burned in 1796 as stated in my declaration.

3rd Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Ans. I was living when called into service in Carter's valley North Carolina on the waters of Holston, now Hawkins County Tennessee. Since the Revolutionary war I have lived at or near Beans Station Tennessee from the year 1783 until the year 1808. From thence I removed to Knox County near Knoxville Tennessee, where I lived until 1828. – From thence I removed to Greene County Illinois where I now reside.

4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom?

Ans. I was a volunteer in every instance and not a substitute.

5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Ans. Captain Robert Koil, Lieutenant George Brooks, Major Valentine Sevier, & Colonel John Sevier – I know of no Continental or militia regiments – I through the nature of the services rendered by me was such that I formed no acquaintance with any officers except those under whom I served. – For a full answer to the service rendered by me & the circumstances I must refer to the foregoing Declaration

6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

Ans. I received three discharges I think, and all signed by Captain Robert Koil, and they were burned with my Father's house in 1796.

7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

Ans. Abraham Ensloe, John W Scott, Houston Reynolds, Thomas Cummins, Colonel Elijah Vanhorn, N. Laxton Pell at Delhi