

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Abraham (Abram) Crabtree R2418

f35VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

12/17/12 rev'd 10/5/14 & 4/3/15 supp'd 5/2/15

[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. 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 fails 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 errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Kentucky, Cumberland County Sct.

On this 8th day of November 1824 personally appeared in open court, it being the County court for Cumberland County, a court of records with power of fines and imprisonment, Abraham Crabtree of the said County aged Seventy four years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the provisions of the act of Congress of the United states of the 18th of March 1818, the 1st of May 1820, and 1st of March 1823, that the said Abraham Crabtree enlisted in the service of the United states for and during the war against Great Britain on the ___ day of September 1776 in the State of Virginia, Washington County, in the company commanded by Captain Aaron Lewis in the regiment commanded by Colonel William Christy or Christian [William Christian] in the line of the State of Virginia on the continental establishment—that he continued to serve in the service of the United states against the Common enemy until he was discharged, but a previous to his discharge he was attacked by the fever at Long Island [of the Holston River] and during the process of his sickness and inattention acted imprudent and drank cold water, and the mercury which he before had taken operated upon him to the total loss of the use of his limbs for a while, but has now somewhat recovered, but who is entirely unable to support himself with his own labor –and the said Abraham Crabtree doth solemnly swear that he was a resident citizen of the United states on the 18th day of March 1818 and that he has not since that time to this date by gift, sale or in any other manner disposed of his property or any part thereof, with intent thereby so to diminish it, as to bring himself within the provisions of the acts of Congress of 18th of March 1818, 1st of May 1821, and 1st of March 1823, for the benefits of pensioners or revolutionists –that he has not nor has any person in trust for him, any property or securities, contracts or debts due him, nor has he any income other than what is contained in the with in schedule hereto annexed to wit –

One bed and furnishings \$10, 2 cows \$10, 1 axe \$1.00	\$21.00
One shovel plough \$2, one Sale bond on N. Scott \$4.50.	\$ 6.50
	\$27.50

The said Abraham Crabtree further swears that his occupation is that of a farmer or planter, that he is weak, sickly, swelled in his limbs, so that he is entirely disabled from supporting himself with his own labor –he states that the number of his family living with him are two persons, viz., his wife, aged about Seventy one years, one daughter aged about thirty two years—he further states that he has no other species of property whatever, excepting his wearing apparel, and were it not for his reduced circumstances in life, his entire disability to labor, and no means to procure laborers with, he would not have made application to the general government for support. The reason why he did not before applied for a pension was he was measurably supported by his

daughter, but which is not now the case, and himself and his wife, who are almost helpless, have to rely on the charity of the neighbors for subsistence

S/ Abraham Crabtree

*Subscribed and sworn to
Abraham Crabtree*

[p 32]

State of Kentucky Cumberland County Sct.

On the 12th day of September 1825 [?] in the County Court of Cumberland, Abraham Crabtree personally appeared in the said court, it being a court of record, with power to fine and imprison, and filed the following declaration in addition to one filed by him hither to, and of record in said court of the 8th of November 1824 and which he files as a supplement thereto:

He states on oath that the following is all the property he has owned and disposed of since the 18th day of March 1818 to wit: In August 1819 one cow and calf at \$12 sold to Henry Rutledge, June 1819 one pair of chains for 1 ½ barrels of corn to Joseph Speer, October 1820 one small bull to John Roper for 150 lbs of pork, September 1821 one broad ax to Joseph Speer for 200 pounds of pork. In March 1822 one heifer to Rob't Swace [?] for 3 barrels of corn. May 1824 two yearlings for \$3.75 work, May 1825 one heifer to Wm Cooper for 4 ½ barrels of corn all of which said proceeds were used for his support and family. This declaration he prays may be considered and taken as a part and a supplement to his original declaration above referred to

S/ Abraham Crabtree

[Note: the following declaration only appears in Law Order Book 10, Page 148 of the Russell County, Virginia court records and is not found in the veteran's pension file. Why this document evidently never made it into his federal pension file is unknown to me.]

State of Virginia, County of Russell: SS

On this 3rd day of June in the year 1834, personally appeared in open Court before the County Court of Russell county aforesaid now sitting, Abraham Crabtree, a resident of the said County of Russell and State of Virginia, aged eighty four years, on the 6th day of the present month who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declarations in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions of the Act of Congress, passed June 7th, 1834.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated, viz: in the year 1774 and in the latter part of the month of August of that year, (he being at that time a resident of Washington County in the State of Virginia), he belonged to a Militia Company then under the command of Capt. James Thompson, and by whom he was commanded to march in the latter part of the said month of August to a fort upon Clinch River then and ever since called and known by the name of Blackmore's Fort. That they were then upon a spying expedition against the hostile Indians who were then committing constant depredations and massacres upon the frontier settlers upon the Western border of

¹ I question whether this is the actual signature of the veteran as the handwriting appears to my inexpert eye to be the same as the handwriting of the application itself.

Virginia then in a condition almost defenseless. That he remained spying upon and defending that part of the frontier in the vicinity of the said fort for forty days and was then permitted to return to their respective homes without having any engagement with the Indians, who about that time killed and scalped a man by the name of Dale Carter and took five boys as prisoners, that he then remained at home a few days and was appointed a Sergeant in the company of the said Captain James Thompson, and remained stationed in the immediate neighborhood of King's Salt works for two months longer, at which time the soldiers who had marched from the same region of country against the Shawnee tribe of Indians returned, bringing with the intelligence that Col. Lewis had succeeded in defeating the Indians at the battle of the point, and his success in negotiating a treaty of peace, and this putting an end to present difficulties, whereupon the said Abraham Crabtree with his comrades in the service were then discharged and returned to their respective homes where they expected to remain in peace.

That in the year 1776 in the month of June he the said Abraham Crabtree was appointed by Col. Arthur Campbell as an Indian Spy to range from Harrison's Fort in Washington County near the said Salt works, up and down the valley of the North Fork of Holston River, and continued to range as an Indian Spy regularly from the time he commenced for the space of 80 days, at which time Col. William Christy ordered the said Crabtree with a small detachment to take up the line of march against the Cherokee Indians upon Tennessee river, with orders to rendezvous at the Long Islands of Holston River, at which place they joined the main army raised for that expedition under the command of the said Col. William Christy. At which time he belonged to the Company commanded by Capt. Aaron Lewis. That pursuant to his orders he did rendezvous at the Long Island aforesaid and remained there three or four days and took up the line of march to the Indian towns and at the three springs he the said Crabtree was taken with what was then called the slow fever and being unable to march was sent back again under the care of Thomas Ramsey to the Long Islands where he was placed under Major Anthony Blucher who then had the command of the Fort at that place. The said Crabtree continuing very ill and altogether unable to perform any duty it was proposed that he should be committed to the Military Hospital. The said Crabtree being however unwilling to go to the hospital, obtained permission from Major Butcher to be placed at the house of the said Thomas Ramsey about three miles distant from the said fort, at which place he remained from that time drawing his regular rations as a soldier in actual service until the last week in February 1777 when he was taken home by his brother and his own wife who came after him.

That in the summer of 1777 and also in the summer of 1778 he each year remained stationed at Harrison's fort and Vance's fort in the County of Washington, But was during that time measurably unable to render any essential service to his country except some garrison duty. That he has no documentary evidence of his services and never had any written discharge from his officers. That he can produce some evidence of his services if ever he shall be able to procure it but from his circumstances in life which are very limited and humble and from personal disability, he fears he will not be able to get the necessary proof in time to relieve him from his present wants. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity, except the present, and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Abraham Crabtree

[Note: picking up with the contents of the federal pension file]

[p 18: copy of the last will and testament of Abraham Crabtree:

I, Abraham Crabtree of Russel [Russell] County and State of Virginia, do hereby make my last will and testament and manner and form following:

1st I desire that so much perishable property be sold after my decease to pay it all my just debts, and funeral expenses, if there be any.

2nd after the payment of my debts and funeral expenses I give to my son Solomon one cent

3rd I give to my daughter Ruth Spears one cent

4th I give to my daughter Mary Crabtree all the balance of my perishable property, and all my debts due and to come due, also a certain tract of land lying in the State of Kentucky Cumberland County on the head waters of Sulpher Creek [Sulfur Creek] to her and her heirs forever, also one note on Morgan Richardson for eighteen dollars sixty two and a half cents; one note on Phillip Eden for six dollars 62 1/2 cents, one other note on James Watson for ten dollars, one other note on William Farmer for one dollar and 50 cents to be hers forever

And lastly I do hereby constitute and appoint my friends Mary Crabtree and William D Hurt, executors of this my last will and testament, hereby revoking all other or former wills or testaments by me heretofore made

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal

This 29th day of April in the year of our Lord 1838

S/ Abraham Crabtree

[p 23]

State of Kentucky Clinton County

On this the 10th day of February 1844 personally appeared before me Aaron Beck, a justice of the peace in and for the County aforesaid Isaac Crabtree,² a revolutionary pensioner living about 2 miles from me in the edge of Wayne County whose Statements are entitled to full credit and after being duly sworn for that purpose on his oath makes the following affidavit to wit—That himself and his brother, Abraham Crabtree in the month of June or July 1775 ___ in Captain James Thompson's to guard the frontiers and go against the Indians –he states that William Crabtree who was affiants and Abraham Crabtree's father with whom he there lived was then a citizen of Washington County State of Virginia – he states they were stationed at Blackamore's Fort [Blackmore's Fort or Station] in Washington County Va, and scouted from there after the Indians—and was engaged in scouting out after them—and was in various places and to a place called the flat Licks and continued under Thompson until about the 1st of November 1775, the exact time not recollected, but is positive that it was over these months that they were together on this scouting –affiant further states that after they were done the first scouting that he and his brother parted and his brother Abraham went to Vance's [?] Station and affiant returned to Fort Eldgarden [?] on Clinch river, a place about 20 miles to distance from his brother who went to Vance's Station –affiant states that his brother Abraham was placed under Capt. Aaron Lewis and lieutenant [Lieutenant] James Crabtree and guarded that place and the surrounding frontiers – affiant states that he was there several times at the station being Vance's Station – affiant states that as he returned from the campaigns about the last of November 1776 the day of the month not recollected, he affiant found his said brother Abraham who was yet under the aforesaid Lewis and Crabtree, but his brother was sick at that place and his Captain had left him and marched with the balance of the men—affiant there staid with his said brother 65

² [Isaac Crabtree S30972](#)

days—he affiant states that his said brothers leg inflamed and rose and made him a cripple all the balance of his life he states that the bone was [indecipherable word]³ of his leg for more than one inch –affiant after staying as before stated and left his brother and further that his said brother did not get home until March 1777 –affiant has a clear recollection that he served from the time he first went into the service he continued in service until he was taken sick in Sept 1776-with the exception of the winter months of 1775 –Affiant can state particularly that he was in service with this exception which is more than one year –he further states that his said brother died in Russell County State of Virginia May 1838

Isaac Crabtree, X his mark

[p 6]

State of Kentucky Clinton County

On this the ___ day of March 1844 personally appeared in court John Crabtree administrator of Abraham Crabtree, deceased, and after being duly sworn for that purpose on his oath makes the following declaration in order to obtain for and in behalf of the children heirs of Abram Crabtree, deceased, the amount of pension due said Abraham Crabtree at the time of his death under the act of Congress passed June 7 June 1832

He states that he is informed and believes that said Abraham Crabtree was a revolutionary soldier, the Declarant having so understood from his earliest recollection, and the same being confirmed by the whole history of his said Abraham's life with which Declarant has been familiar with from Declarant's infancy.

He believes that said Abraham Crabtree entered the service of the United States in the State of Virginia in Washington County in the year 1775 under Captain James Thompson, and entered service together with Isaac Crabtree, a brother of said Abraham, the said Isaac that that is now in the receipt of a pension, that is now living in the edge of Wayne County Kentucky, near Clinton County Kentucky, that said Abraham served in guarding the frontiers against the Indians, and stationed at Blackmore's Fort in Washington County State of Virginia, and scouted from there Indians and was continually engaged scouting to various points and places, and to a place called the Flat Licks, and continued under said Thompson until about the 1st of November 1775, being over three months, as this Declarant believes,

That said Abraham engaged under Captain Aaron Lewis and went again as a soldier to Vance's Station and there served while his said brother served at Fort Elgarden –that said Abraham served also this time with Lieutenant James Crabtree in guarding that place and in the surrounding country and frontiers and continued in service till last of November 1776 or about that time and became sick and much injured and continued unable to return home until in the spring of 1777, Declarant is fully convinced that said Abraham served a period in all not less than 12 month actual service as a militia soldier of the Virginia militia serving agreeable to call, being called into service, agreeable to the regulations of said State; Declarant further states that Isaac Crabtree, the brother of said of said Abraham, is much accustomed to talk of the matters of the services of himself and his said brother in said war, and that he has so often talked with this Declarant of the services of said Abraham, that the history of the same is familiar with Declarant, and Declarant would further stated that this declaration as to the services is principally founded on the narrative of the said Isaac Crabtree, now a pensioner, though the same is substantially confirmed by corroborating facts and circumstance is known to Declarant from declarants

earliest recollection Declarant would further stated that the said Isaac and Abraham, and others of the Crabtree family were reputed and known as faithful soldiers in said war in Virginia against the Indians, and that He Isaac, was much esteemed as such, and though almost entirely Illiterate, was a representative in the legislature of Kentucky from Wayne County Kentucky, and now deposes to the facts of the services of his said brother Abraham, that said witness has now a clear recollection (as Declarant believes) of all the striking or prominent facts of Abraham's services Declarant knows of no record or documentary evidence of said Abraham's services, --knows of no other evidence by whom he can prove the actual service of said Abraham Crabtree, other than said Isaac Crabtree, his brother, --that said Abraham Crabtree's children and heirs of his body namely Ruth Spear, and Solomon Crabtree, and Mary Crabtree, Said Ruth is dead, were scatter[ed] and not remaining with him about the time of the act of Congress of the 7 June 1832 passed granting pensions passed and owing to his great age that he did not apply being old and infirm, incapable of business, one only daughter been with him namely Mary Crabtree the said daughter left and came to said Isaac to get the evidence of Isaac to enable her to get the Pension due as his Right that said Abram died in Russell County State of Virginia on the 2nd day of May 1838 that said daughter came to this Declarant, a cousin of hers, a nephew of said Abraham, a son of said Isaac who is the brother of the said Abraham, and wished him to administer on the estate of said Abraham to enabled her and the other heirs of Abraham to get said pension.

This Declarant further states that the said Mary Crabtree the said daughter of the said Abraham Crabtree died in Wayne County Kentucky on the 22nd day of August 1840 making this Declarant executor to her last will and testament by which this Declarant claims the control of her part of said Abraham's Pension which I designed to forward with this declaration as part of the same, This Declarant knows of no objection on the part of the other heirs of said Abraham to this Declarant being the administrator to said Abraham, and believes that it would not be against their interest for him to administer in order to obtain the same, He believing that it would never be a obtained only through his exertions, the witness as to service being here, Declarant understands that said deceased daughter was the only child seeking to obtain the same as known of Declarant, and Declarant is fully of opinion that said soldier wished said daughter to obtain the same, Declarant was informed and believed that said Abraham Crabtree was late in making application for a pension in his lifetime owing to the fact of his said brother Isaac Crabtree living a great distance from him in Overton County Tennessee and being able to prove his service by said Isaac, He, Abraham could not consistently apply for a pension without the affidavit of Isaac and owing the great distance they were apart, and the great age, and the fact of said Abraham being old and lame unable to attend to business, and being left with only one child with him to attend to any business, and said child a daughter to attend to it for him, and that owing such State of things that Declarant is informed and believes is the reason that said Abraham did not apply for a pension in his lifetime.

This Declarant lives in Wayne County Kentucky near Clinton County Kentucky, it being now most convenient to make this declaration in Albany, the seat of justice of said County, where his attorney now lives, and other circumstances rendering it most convenient for him.

This Declarant further states that said Abraham Crabtree died leaving no widow

S/ John Crabtree

John Crabtree

Sworn to and subscribed in open court March 4th 1844

[p 34]

I, Mary Crabtree of the County Russell and of the State of Virginia do hereby make my last will and testament and manner and form following that is to say

1st I design that so much of my perishable property be sold after my decease to pay all my just debts and funeral expenses if any

2nd After the payment of my debts and funeral expenses I give my perishable property to my cousin John Crabtree of the county of Wayne and State of Kentucky my horse bridal and settle one note on Morgan Richardson for eighteen dollars sixty two and a half cents one note on Phillip Eden for six dollars 62 1/2 cents one other note on James Watson four \$10.00 one other note on Wm Farmer for \$1.50 to be his forever

3rd As to my real estate one tract of land lying in the state of Kentucky Cumberland county on the head waters of Sulphur Creek to be sold at the highest bidder and the money therefore to be given to my said cousin John Crabtree with all other debts due or to become due to him and his heirs forever

And lastly I do hereby constitute and appoint my friends John Crabtree and Isaac Crabtree Extrs of this my last will and testament hereby revoking all other or forever wills or testaments by me heretofore made

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand seal this 19th day of August 1840
S/ Mary Crabtree, X her mark

[From [Digital Library of Virginia](#)] from Lee County Legislative Petitions

To the Hon. the Legislature of Virginia

The petition of Abram Crabtree an old Soldier humbly represents – That in the year 1768 in the first settlement of the Western part of Virginia the inhabitants were frequently disturbed by the incursions of the Savages & had frequently nearly abandoned the Country, to prevent this & to preserve the lives of the settlers the young men of that day in that part of the Country were kept in an almost perpetual state of war were exposed to every privation, to cold without Tents or Blankets & to hunger relying alone on the woods for Supplies at all times precarious. At that time your petitioner a young man of 17 years of age was one of Twenty men who were all the men in the bounds of the present County of Washington, & on whom the families then there relied for protection: this kept him always exposed not only to the enemy but to the inclement weather of the mountains more variable than the Indians; This continued to be the life of your Petitioner till the year 1776 when he was called on to march under Capt. Aaron Lewis commanded by Col. William Christian on the Cherokee expedition. On that expedition your Petitioner from exposure of every kind, being employed as a Spy contracted a disease in his leg

that has distressed him from that time to this; He has [indecipherable word or words]⁴ the difficulties of bodily infirmity from those causes made out by his individual labor to support himself without other help till now; He is now Seventy nine years old & those diseases that he contracted in the Army in his youth so afflict him as to render him helpless. He now when about to die asks his Country for the first time to help him relying on the Gratitude of the young man of the present day that his prayer will be heard, a little while & their Charity may stop; – a few years & he will be numbered with his friends of 76

S/ Abraham Crabtree

Abraham Crabtree

[Reverse]

Abraham Crabtree Petition

John Keller

December 10th, 1828

Referred to Claims

1829 January 21 Rejected

24 Reported

This day Sarah Clark came before me & made oath that she is the Sister of Abram Crabtree the within Petitioner. She says that many of the Facts stated in the Petition are within her recollection, that her Brother did serve as a Soldier on the Cherokee expedition she has often heard from her Mother & family, she recollects her Brothers were sent from home frequently for long times to wait on her Brother Abram who was lying in the [indecipherable word]⁵ very low & like to die, that from said Abram's return home to this time his leg has been diseased & that from a strong, healthy man, he has been reduced to feebleness comparatively speaking from that time to this – he is now almost helpless & principally from that cause; he is 79 years old or thereabouts

S/ Sarah Clark

Sarah Clark

[Attested November 18, 1828]

[Abraham Fuller, and Charles Cromwell gave supporting affidavits in which they state they have known the veteran for a long time and have understood from him that his sore leg was the result of a fever suffered while serving in the Cherokee campaign. Abraham Fuller signed with his mark and Charles Cromwell signed as follows

Charles Cromwell

⁴ *undone*

⁵ *miss*

I Jacob Crabtree⁶ of the County of Lee in the State of Virginia, do hereby certify that Abraham Crabtree, now of the County of Russell and State of Virginia was duly entered by Capt. Aaron Lewis in the year 1776 in the County of Washington in the state aforesaid; that he marched from the County of Washington aforesaid in an expedition against the Cherokee Indians, that on his way home, he was attacked with a disease, called the "slow fever;" that he was brought from the place where he first contracted his disease to the Long Island of Holston [River], where he remained for some time; from thence I conveyed him to his family, near King's Salt works, in the County of Washington in the state of Virginia; that the disease by which he was first afflicted fell in his left leg, and has produced a disability from which he has not, nor never will recover, that the said Abraham Crabtree, in consequence of his affliction aforesaid produced from a disease contracted in the expedition aforesaid is entirely unable to attend to his own concerns, is helpless and dependent on others. Given under my hand this 3rd day of December 1828

S/ Jacob Crabtree

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "on my name Jacob Crabtree". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

[From [Digital Library of Virginia](#)] from Washington County Legislative Petitions

To the Legislature of Virginia

The Petition of Abram Crabtree humbly represents; That he was born in the year 1750 & until September 1776 was as healthy, strong & robust as any man living, he is one of Twelve Children the strongest, largest, most active & most healthy family in Virginia; the men remarkable for their military adventures in the first settlement of the Western Country; He was a Spy & as such was sent out from Harrison's Fort on the North Fork of Holston [River] – I served in that capacity thirty-five days to the imminent hazard of his life daily; that he was then ordered by Col. Arthur Campbell & Col. Christian [William Christian] to go with the Army on what was called the Cherokee expedition, he did so cheerfully being in full health & vigor & remarkable as a Woodsman, having on one day in the month of September from 9 o'clock in the morning till sunset of the same day walked from Blackmore's Station on Clinch [River] to the Big Salt Lick on Holston in Washington County a distance of twenty miles, he attended the Army at the special invitation of the Commanders aforesaid & of his own family two of his Brothers going along being all of his family then old enough to leave their Mother; He marched with the Army to the long Island on Holston where he was taken sick with a fever which it was thought was brought from Williamsburg by a Company of Soldiers, he continued to march on with the Army though sick several days & when necessary at night, and his Brothers would return in search of him & would find him fallen in the Brush & unable to go further – this continued until they arrived at the 3 Springs near Boys Mountain on the Cherokee Trace where your Petitioner failed entirely, his Fever raged with violence & fell into his legs one of which has remained sore & swollen to this day without one hour's intermission of disease from that time to this; your Petitioner was sent home & lay under the care of a nurse Thirty-two weeks when he revived & continued alive but never well; He exerted himself very much in his youth & notwithstanding his disease & crippled situation made for himself a Competency to live on & asked no help from anyone but now he is old his infirmities increased & his inability to help himself from his diseased leg has

⁶ Probably the same man as [Jacob Crabtree R2420](#)

put it out of his power to procure the necessities of life & unless relieved he must want, he is now in his Eightieth year & very infirm, he cannot live long, he regrets extremely he has lived this long & was his [several words indecipherable] when in an attempt to serve his Country he was rendered unable to make a living; he relies on your liberality to keep the Willing Soldier & now old man from want, perhaps your Bounty practiced upon this occasion may sustained the hopes of future Soldiers when you may stand in need of them, the youth of the present day will look on & see how I have been relieved and remember it in the day of your trial.

S/ Abram Crabtree
Washington County 20th of August 1829

[reverse]

December 19th 1829

Referred to Rev'y

Claims

rejected 6 January 1830

Th: W. Gilmer

Chairman

[From [Digital Library of Virginia](#)] from Russell County Legislative papers

To the General Assembly of Virginia

The petition of Abram Crabtree of the County of Russell would respectfully represent to your honorable body, that he was born in the year 1750 and until September 1776 was a remarkably healthy strong and robust. He was engaged in many of the military adventures which occurred in the first settlement of the Western Country. He was a Spy, and as such was sent out from Harrison's Fort on the North fork of Holston [River] and served sixty-five days, at the daily hazard of his life. He was afterwards induced by Col. Arthur Campbell and Col. Christian to go with the Army on the Cherokee expedition. He did so cheerfully being in fine health & vigor and a remarkably good woodsman, having in one day in the month of September from 9 o'clock in the morning till sunset walked from Blackmore's Station on Clinch [River] to the Big Salt Lick on Holston in Washington County, a distance of Seventy miles. He attended the Army at the special solicitation of the Commanders aforesaid, and was accompanied by two of his brothers, who were the only members of the family old enough to leave home. Your Petitioner marched with the Army to the Long Island on Holston, where he was taken sick with a fever of a very malignant character. He continued to march with the Army though sick, but frequently gave out and his brothers at night would return in search of him and find him entirely exhausted on the road side. He kept on however until the Army arrived at the three Springs near Boyd's Mountain on the Cherokee Trace, when your Petitioner failed entirely. His Fever raged with violence and fell into his legs one of which has remained sore and swelled to this day, without one hour's intermission. Your petitioner was sent home and remained under the care of a nurse thirty-two weeks, when he partially recovered but has never been able to earn a subsistence in consequence of his leg. He has made out heretofore to subsist on the earnings of his youth, but is now in extreme old age and object of charity. In this situation he appeals with confidence to the justice of his country. He cannot believe that his appeal will be rejected, while thousands who have gone through the ceremony of enlistment in the regular service, without having

rendered half the service which your petitioner has rendered and without having incurred by that service any bodily injury are reveling on the bounty of their Country. Your petitioner thinks it unnecessary to address any argument to your Honorable Body in support of his claim. He states the facts that he has rendered good service to his Country in the day of her need and that in rendering that service he has incurred an incurable malady, which has utterly disqualified him from earning a subsistence, even if he were forty years younger than he is. He prays for such assistance from his Country as will enable him to enjoy at least the and necessaries of life during the brief remnant of his days, and as in duty bound he will ever pray.

S/ Abram Crabtree

[Reverse]

Petition of Abram Crabtree & Documents

January 17th 1831

Referred to Revolutionary Claims

Rejected &

Reported for February 31

February 4th 1831

I Isaac Crabtree of the County of Overton and State of Tennessee after being duly sworn do depose and say that in the year 1776 I was forted with my Brother Abraham Crabtree at a Fort at that time called Harrison's Fort in the County of Washington in the State of Virginia; that he well recollects that the said Abraham served a regular tour of duty of Sixty days service as a spy under James Crabtree a Lieutenant and then the Commandant at that post. After which service, he was requested by Colonels Campbell and Christie, to unite with them and become a soldier for the purpose of going against the Cherokee Nation of Indians, that he did so, and went to rendezvous at the Long Island of Holston from thence he marched some distance with the main Army, and was taken sick with a disease called in the Army the Slow Fever some time in the month of September 1776, and continued thus afflicted at the place first [?] attached until the month of February following when by the assistance of friends and relations he was enabled to reach home – the disease immediately fell in his legs, and so disabled him that he has been rendered helpless ever since; and by no means has he been able to attend to his ordinary duties, that he is now destitute and helpless and dependent upon the exertions of a daughter and wife now nearly 80 years old that they afford him but a scanty and leaned support. This affiant further states that previous to his Brother Abraham entering the service as aforesaid, it was well known that he was an unusually hearty man; that but few men enjoyed the same health that he verily believes and has no doubt but that his afflictions were brought upon him in consequence of exposure in the service aforesaid; that his Brother Abraham is this day (being his birthday) 79 years old. Given under my hand this 6th day of July 1829

S/ Isaac Crabtree

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Isaac Crabtree". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid, with a large initial 'I' and a distinct 'C' at the end.

I Jacob Crabtree Senior of the County of Lee and State of Virginia do depose and say that the statement aforesaid of Isaac Crabtree is just and true, most of the facts and circumstances having

happened under his notice, and within his knowledge. Given under my hand this 6th day of July
1829

S/ Jacob Crabtree⁷

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jacob. Crabtree". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

⁷ [Jacob Crabtree R2420](#)