

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Craven R2457

fn15SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

6/5/11

[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.]

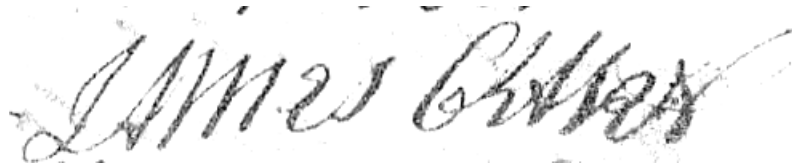
[Note: this veteran's narrative is so discombobulated that I have not attempted to annotate it. In my opinion, this old veteran probably was substantially involved in a number of engagements but by the time he applied for his pension he was incapable of giving a coherent narrative.]

State of Alabama Dale County: On this the 17th day of December 1833 personally appeared before me William Harper Judge of the County Court of Dale County James Craven of said County and State who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions made by the act of Congress passed June the 7th 1832 and on his oath saith that he is of the age of seventy-one and that he volunteered in the Army of the United States in the year 1778 under the command of Captain William C Snipes and Colonel Peter Horry General Francis Marion called Marion's Ranger Corps & volunteered under the above named officers in South Carolina Camden District while I was in my 15th year of age I was marched to meet the British on their march from Savannah to take Charleston and we met them on the West side of Edisto River three miles from Parkers ferry at this place the battle commenced and we beat back to the said Parkers ferry and their we fought them across the River the British still beat us back and we retreated to Stono River about thirty miles distance here we gave them another battle from this place we retreated to Ashley River about seven miles distant and crossed the River on the Green [?] of Charleston here we was reinforced by General Lincoln and Count Pulaski: the British followed us to this place we had a severe battle and General Lincoln and his men was taken prisoners and Charlestown fell into the hands of the British: From this place I was marched under the command of Marion to the North as far as the long Bluff on Pedee River here we was informed that the Scotch Tories commanded by General McCloud Colonel Hector McNeal who had [indecipherable word or words] Colonel Caswell and the North Carolina Militia we then forced our march for Colonel Caswell's relief here General Marion fell on them and defeated them and killed McCloud and took McNeal prisoner. After this Marion was resolved to turn back to Georgetown and to the best of my recollection this all took place in the year 1778-9 and in the year 1779 General Lincoln came from the North with an Army marching for Savannah and we joined Lincolns Army at Santee River at Nelsons ferry and marched with him to Savannah perhaps in July here we was joined by the French Army commanded by County disdain here we continued until the 9th day of October in the year 79 on the [indecipherable word] day the 9th of October orders was given to storm the town in this action we lost Count Pulaski, George Jasper then I returned back again with Lincoln to Purrysburg in South Carolina here I with Marion and Horry left Lincoln and marched for Georgetown where we kept ourselves concealed in a marsh at the mouth of Waccamaw River here we annoyed the British a considerable time about this time perhaps in the year 1780 we

received information that a Tory Colonel by the name of Ganey [Micajah Gainey] with his Army was on their way to the assistance of the British in Georgetown here I went under the command of Colonel Horry and Captain Snipes to cut off their march and we met them about six miles of Georgetown and here we defeated them and McDonald wounded Ganey and after [indecipherable word] in the year 1781 we received information that a Tory Colonel from the high Hills by the name of Tines [Samuel Tynes] was on his March to fight us and we met him and his Army in the fork of Black River and here we killed the said Tines a almost all of his men, after this we was marched to reinforce General Green [Nathanael Greene] and joined his Army at Salisbury in North Carolina and marched with him to meet Cornwallis and we met him at Guilford Courthouse in North Carolina and there we had a battle. Then I returned back with Marion to Georgetown – the date not recollected after this perhaps in the year 1782 we received information that General Morgan with his Army was marching from the North against Lord Rawdon at Camden and we joined Morgan at the Cowpens in South Carolina and here we defeated Talton [Banastre Tarleton] : and I returned with Marion to Georgetown – again sometime after this we received information that General Anthony Wain [Anthony Wayne] on his March from the North against the British at Savannah and then I left Marion's Army and volunteered under the command of Colonel Charles Jackson for 6 months the date not recollected here we was marched under the command of General Wayne for Savannah and we remained there until the British evacuated the town, and Colonel Charles Jackson was made Governor and Darren I returned home to South Carolina Camden District in the year 1785 in the month of July and I entered into the service in the year 1773 in the month of April and I was in the service of the United States for the whole term of [indecipherable word] years in the Light horse troops; I know of no living witness whereby I can prove my services in the revolution.

1.) I was born in the State of South Carolina Camden district in the year 1763. Secondly I have a record of my age in a Bible at my house. Thirdly I lived when I volunteered into the service in South Carolina Camden District since the War I have lived in Colleton district South Carolina from thence to the State of Alabama Dale County where I now live. Fourthly I volunteered in the service. Sixthly I never received a discharge more than a verbal one. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatsoever to a pension or annuity except the present and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any State. Sworn to and subscribed this 17th day of December 1833 before me William Harper, JCCDC. Here I will state the names of persons who will vouch for my veracity.

S/ James Craven



[William S. Broxson, Capt., and James Pitman gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

NB The third line in this column reads thus [?] for 1783 read 1785 the great length of time and the cogelation [sic, congelation?] of my mind caused this mistake but in this space of time as is stated in this declaration all and every of these battles was fought and more as the taking of Fort Watson near Moncks Corner and also the storming of Fort Motte at the mouth of Santee River and the battle at John Singleton's mill on Sumter [?] and the battle at Nelsons old field and Santee also &c &c

[Henry T Wilkinson and John W Broxson, a clergyman, also gave a standard supporting

affidavit.]

[fn p. 11: On February 4, 1854 in Coffee County Alabama, Judy Craven signed a power of attorney authorizing her attorney to pursue the claim of James Craven for a pension; on that same day she executed an affidavit saying she was directly interested in said claim but she does not state her relationship to the veteran

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Judy Craven". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background. The name "Judy" is written in a larger, more prominent script than "Craven". The signature is enclosed in a thin rectangular box on the right side.