

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of James Crawford R2460

PA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

State of Kentucky } ss
Carter County }

On this 7th day of January 1847 personally appeared before me the undersigned one of the Justices of the Peace in and for the County of Carter and State aforesaid, James Crawford a resident of said County and state, aged ninety four years of age, who being by me 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 in the year 1776 – that he was drafted for four months under the following named officers and served as herein stated – to wit Captain Newman, & Major Spears the Colonel of the regiment he has forgotten. that he was marched from Chester County Pennsylvania by way of Philadelphia to New York, and was one of those engaged in destroying the statue [sic: statue] of George the third [9 Jul 1776; see endnote] and in securing the lead of the same – that at the time two men of war were lying in the Harbor – that they sent a Barge with a Messenger to enquire what we were about, we fired on them and killed one man and wounded two, the Barge returned, when one of the ships weighed anchor, came up & gave us two Broadships. They also gave us three days to clear the town of women and children, when they would level the town with the ground, A short time after this, General Washington came with the army, and shortly after the Battles of Long Island [27 Aug 1776] & White Plains [28 Oct 1776] my time expired.

In the Spring of 1777 I was drafted again under Captain Mash or Marsh I cannot recollect which and Colonel Miller at Philadelphia to watch the enemy coming up the Delaware, but understanding they were landed at the head of Elk [now Elkton MD] within 16 miles of my Fathers, we were Commanded to join the main army, which we did at Chadds Ford on the Brandywine, shortly after this my time expired for which I was drafted which was six months. In the spring of 1778 I was drafted again for six months under Captain Sharp, and Colonel Boyd in Chester County Pennsylvania and marched to Philadelphia, crossed the Delaware, went toward New York, at times was on Long Island and at times on White Plains, we took some few prisoners, while here my time expired

In 1781 I volunteered for three months, we were stationed some time at Capt Scotts, after which we marched under Colonel Sharp through Virginia until we joined General [Daniel] Morgan, shortly after this the Battle of Cowpens was fought [17 Jan 1781; see endnote] I was in that Battle. A short time after the Battle my time Expired

Interrogatories

1st Where, and in what year were you born

Ans On the 13th day of October 1752 in Chester County Pennsylvania

2^d Have you any record of your age, and if so, where is it

Ans I have not got it, I lost it on my return from Virginia to Kentucky while crossing Caney Fork of Cumberland River

3 Where were you living when called into service

Ans. In Chester County Pennsylvania

4th Where have you lived since the revolution and where do you now reside

Ans I have lived in Chester County Pennsylvania, since in Virginia and Kentucky and at present in Carter County Kentucky

5th How were you called into service, were you drafted, did you volunteer, or were you a substitute, and if a substitute for whom

Ans. I have stated the manner in which I entered the service in the body of the declaration

6th State the names of Regular Officers who were with the troops where you served, such Continental and militia Regiments as you can recollect, & the general circumstances of your service

Ans. I have a distinct recollection of General Howard [probably John Eager Howard of Maryland], and Colonel [William] Washington, also the officers I have mentioned in my declaration, I have also stated some of the circumstances which occurred during the war, and could state more by studying some time

7th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given

Ans I rec'd my discharge from General Morgan – but lost it with other papers crossing Caney Fork I hereby relinquish every claim what ever to a pension or annuity except the present & declare that my name is not on the Pension roll of the agency of any state. This deponent states that he knows of no person now living by whom he can prove his services James hisXmark Crawford [Philip Strother and Hiram S. Booton certified Crawford's honesty and his reputation as a soldier of the Revolution.]

NOTES:

The destruction of the statue of King George III in New York City is generally credited to two groups: "Isaac Sears's Sons of Liberty and Captain Oliver Brown's soldiers (and some sailors)." It is doubtful that Pennsylvania militiamen would have been present. See Ruppert, B. The Statue of George III. Journal of the American Revolution 8 Sep 2014.

<http://allthingsliberty.com/2014/09/the-statue-of-george-iii/>

It is inconceivable that Pennsylvania militiamen would have been marched to South Carolina, and there is no record of them or a Col. Sharp having been at the Battle of Cowpens.

The following explanation is given for rejecting Crawford's claim: "No proof of service--narrative impossible--claim disallowed." Normally the certification by two neighbors that the applicant was honest and reputed to have been a soldier of the Revolution would have been taken as adequate proof of service in the militia.