

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Robert Creswell (Craswell) S21150

f30SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

6/5/11: rev'd 2/20/20

[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 'indecipherable' 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.]

[p 23]

State of Tennessee Watson County } SS

On this 28th day of September in the year 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Worshipful James M Martin, David C Hibbetts and Benjamin S. Billings Presiding Justices of the peace of the Court of Pleas and Quarter [sessions] for Wilson County now sitting Robert Creswell a resident of the County of Wilson and State of Tennessee aged about 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 7 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers & served as herein stated, that he volunteered a private soldier in the Cavalry Company in York District in the State of South Carolina on the __ day of November 1775 under the command of Captain Love [Andrew Love] and Lieutenants William Barry [also spelled William Barrey] and was attached to the Regiment commanded by Colonel Thomas Neal [Thomas Neel] and marched to the State of Georgia to a place called Philips Fort on Little River was in no battles that tour, was dismissed by the officers at Coney River [sic, Oconee River?] sometime in the month of February 1776 was in actual service three months that tour. That he was drafted a private soldier in your District in South Carolina sometime in the month of March 1776 [last digit unclear] and placed under the command of Captain Andrew Love, Lieutenant William Barry & Daniel Winborne, and attached to the Regiment commanded by Colonels Thomas Neal and Samuel Watson, and joined the Army under the command of General Linkhorn [Benjamin Lincoln] and Count Pulaski, pursued the British as far as Stono River and was in several slight engagements with the Indians & Tories, was dismissed by his officers at Stono River sometime in the month of June 1776¹, that he volunteered a private soldier in York District in South Carolina in July 1780 under Captain Thompson, and attached to Regiment commanded by Colonels Andrew Neal [Andrew Neel] and William Hill and attached to the Army commanded by General Sumpter [Thomas Sumter] and marched through the principal part of the State of South Carolina thinks they were never out of the State, at the battles & skirmishes of Rocky Mount [July 30, 1780] where Colonel Neal [Andrew Neel] was killed the said Regiment was then commanded by Colonels William Hill and Hough, Hanging rocks [Hanging Rock, August 6, 1780], Turkey Creek [August 6, 1780, a.k.a. Salley's Cowpens], that during the winter that the Army lay in the Indian land in South Carolina he was with Joseph Boggs the Contractor and furnishing the Army with provisions, he was one

¹ It is much more likely that the date for this service is 1779 as Benjamin Lincoln did not take command of the Southern Division of the Continental Army until 1779.

of the spies that descended the Congaree River to Fort Ancrum and Congaree, was in both those engagements, was with General Wade Hampton at the engagement near Charleston, which was some time in the fall of the year 1781 as well as he recollects. That he was then dismissed from service after upwards 15 months constant service by the officers of his Regiment that he was afterwards sometime in the spring of 1782 drafted a private in York district and placed under the command of Captain Henderson & commanded by Colonels Hill & Hough at Orangeburg and stationed there to guard the State's prison and prisoners, that he remained there about three months and was sent home and a few weeks he volunteered a private soldier under Captain Love & was joined to the Army commanded by General Sumter on the Congaree River, Broad River and other parts of the State was in no battles but was in service about three months and was finally discharged by General Sumter at Broad River sometime in June 1782, that he was more than two whole years in actual service. He has no documentary evidence of his service, but can prove by his brother Henry Creswell that these statements are substantially correct being several tours with him in the same company & Regiment that he was most constantly a soldier during the revolution in capturing the Tories &c &c he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of the Agency of any State of the United States.

S/ Robert Creswell, X his mark

[Henry Creswell gave a supporting affidavit]

[Elijah Maddox, a clergyman, and Robert Campbell gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 3]

State of Tennessee Wilson County: SS

On this 3rd day of May A.D. 1834 personally appeared before James C Mitchell Judge of the 11 Judicial Circuit of the Courts of Law and Equity in & for the State of Tennessee residing for the County of Wilson aforesaid Robert Craswell a resident of the County and State aforesaid aged seventy-six 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 provisions made by 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: that he volunteered a private soldier in the County of York in the State of South Carolina the precise day and month he cannot now recollect but to the best of his recollection it was in the fall of the year 1776 the infantry company commanded by Captain Andrew Love & Lieutenant William Barry the other subaltern officers he cannot now recollect for the term of three months, he was mustered into service at the house of Major Francis Ross in said County of York and attached to the Regiment under the command of Colonel Thomas Neal [Thomas Neel], they were marched to Philips Fort in the State of Georgia on Little River, they were in no battles, and were dismissed by Colonel Neal & Captain Love at Savannah River on the South Carolina side of the River sometime in the spring the precise day & month he cannot recollect of 1777 after having been in actual service for 3 months. And again he volunteered a private in the County of York South Carolina sometime in the summer of 1778 the precise day & month he cannot now recollect in the company commanded by the said Andrew Love and Lieutenant William Berry and Dempsey Winborn Ensign for three months, he was marched into service at Saddler's Creek in the County of York and again attached to the Regiment commanded by Colonel Thomas Neal and Major Francis Ross and were marched to Bacons Bridge on Ashley River, thence to Stono River, and back to the County of York, they were in no battles, but were drawn in readiness for battle on two occasions at Stono, and Major

Ross was killed in the State of Georgia by the Indians, and twice routed the British guards they were dismissed by Colonel Neal & Captain Love at Stono River sometime in the fall of the year 1778 After having been in actual service for four months.

And again he volunteered a private in the County of York in the State of South Carolina on the first day of June 1780 and was placed under the command of Captain Robert Thompson, John Cunningham was the Lieutenant and afterwards the Captain of the said company. They were mustered into service in the County of York on Clem's branch and again placed in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Andrew Neal of the main Army was under the General command of General Thomas Sumter and were marched as the State Guards to every part of the State, he was for several months employed in assisting in furnishing the main Army with provisions as a guard for Joseph Boggs who furnished the Army etc.. They were in a slight scrimmage with the British & Tories at Wateree Creek when Colonel Philips & his brother & some 20 other Tories were taken prisoners. Say were stationed for some three months or more at the Congarees at head quarters at Brown's old field, they were in sight of the British Army on the Congaree for some time and prevented their crossing into the interior of the country, he was in actual service for eighteen months and was honorably discharged by General Sumter & Captain Thomas Henderson, our Captain having previously ^{resigned} died some time before peace was declared on Broad River in South Carolina. In all he states he was a private Soldier of the Revolutionary volunteer Soldiers for twenty-five months, besides several other important services he rendered in fighting and routing the Tories. He remained a citizen of the County of York until on the 24th of December 1817 & reached the County of Sumner in the State of Tennessee in March 1818 where he resided one year & then moved to the County of Wilkes and where he has resided ever since. He can prove by his brother Henry Craswell² who has petitioned and is now drawing a pension that the facts and things set forth in this Declaration is true as they were together the most of the time, there is no other person by whom he can prove his services in the revolutionary war. He has no documentary evidence of his services having long since lost his old papers. 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 in the United States.

S/ Robert Craswell, X his mark

S/ Wm L. Martin, Clerk

Interrogatories

1st Where and in what year were you born?

Ans. In the County of Lancaster in the State of South Carolina 4th day of September 1757 or 8.

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

Ans. I have not it was destroyed by fire, the house of his father was burned by Tories, he states from the memory of his parents.

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 called into service in the County of York South Carolina, have lived & since in the State of South Carolina & Tennessee and am now living in the County of Wilson in the State of Tennessee.

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 volunteered a private

² Sic, [Henry Craswell S3232](#)

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. I recollect General Linkhorn [Benjamin Lincoln], and Colonel Henderson, and was under their command. And of the Scrimmages he has mentioned, he recollects the Regiment commanded by Colonel Neal, Colonel Henderson and the count Pulaski, he refers to his declaration hereto set forth for the particulars of his services.

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. [Indecipherable scribble] received no written discharges as he now recollects they were generally dismissed by the commanded [sic] Officers. If he ever had a discharge he has lost or misplaced it. I never received a commission.

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. I am well acquainted with the Rev. Mr. Maddox Tompkins & Estis and to Robert Campbell and many others.

Sworn to and subscribed in open court the 3rd day of May 1834

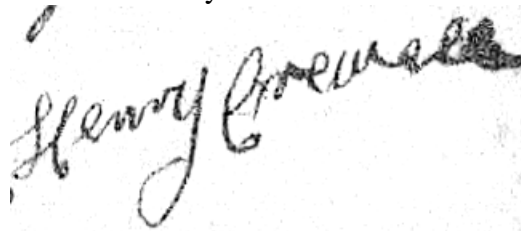
S/ Wm L. Martin, Clerk

S/ Robert Craswell, X his mark

State of Tennessee Wilson County: SS – This day personally appeared in open court Henry Craswell and made oath that he is the Brother of Robert Craswell whose name is assigned to the foregoing declaration that the facts and things set forth in said declaration he has heard read and knows of his own knowledge that they are true, Some of them he believes to be true, that he knows that he was in the actual service of his country as a soldier in the Revolutionary War for two years and more as he was the most of the time in the Army with him.

Sworn to and subscribed in open Court this 3rd day of May 1834

S/ Henry Craswell

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

[Micajah Estes, a clergyman, and Robert Campbell gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 13]

State of Tennessee Wilson County

On this 27th day of October 1834 personally appeared in open Court before the Honorable James C. Mitchell one of the Judges of the State of Tennessee presiding for the County of Wilson Robert Craswell aged 77 years according to family tradition having no record of his age who being first 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 passed June 7th 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. That he volunteered as a soldier in the militia raised in York

District South Carolina as well as he can recollect from old age and the consequent loss of memory in the fall of the year 1778 in the company commanded by Captain Andrew Love and Lieutenant William Barry his Corps rendezvoused at the house of Major Ross and was there placed under the command of Colonel Neal [Andrew Neel] and Lieutenant Colonel Watson who commanded the militia raised in that district (or the County of York). They marched to Phillips Fort in the State of Georgia where they were stationed for the defense of the Frontiers against the intrusion of the British and Indians he remained in this service until discharged having served three months. He again volunteered a private in the County of York South Carolina sometime in the summer of 1779 in the company commanded by the said Andrew Love and Lieutenant William Berry Dempsey Winbourne Ensign – they rendezvoused at Saddler's Creek in the County of York and was placed under the command of Colonel Thomas Neal and Major Francis Ross ~~they marched to Phillips Fort in the State of Georgia where they were stationed for the defense of the Frontiers against the~~ His Corps were marched to Bacons Bridge on Ashley River where General Lincoln was stationed he was then placed under the command of General Lincoln. While there deponent was often engaged in covering the retreat of Count Pulaski who made frequent Follies with his mounted men on the British Army that was entrenched at Stono in order if possible to draw them out; while the other forces were drawn up in line of battle ready to receive them, the British guards were twice driven back on that occasion it was there that Declarant first saw Major Davie then of South [Carolina] afterwards General Davie [William Richardson Davie] of North Carolina. He volunteered for three months and was detained in service a month longer making in this tour of duty four months of actual service when he was discharged. Declarant again volunteered in the year 1780 in the County of York under the command of Captain Robert Thompson John Cunningham Lieutenant at that time the State of South Carolina was filled with British and Tories. Declarant did not volunteer for any particular length of time but agreed to continue in service so long as his services might be demanded his Corps marched to a place called Clems Branch on the Catawba River where General Sumter was stationed and were placed under his command. While there Declarant was detached with a party to procure provision for the Army and was engaged in this service for about a month under Captain Boggs when they procured the provisions General Sumter moved across the opposite or Eastern side of the River intending to wintered there the company to which Declarant belonged was then placed under the command of Colonel Hawthorn about that time they were informed that Colonel Phillips a noted Tory was marching on to join a part of the British Army that was lying at White's Mills in York County – they intercepted them, had a battle took Colonel Phillips – his brother [?] and 20 other prisoners killed and wounded several. Declarant and his Corps was then stationed on the Congaree River at a place called Brown's old Field to prevent the British from passing into the interior of the Country or the Tories from joining them. The British had two forts 18 or 20 miles apart finding that all communication was cut off as well as that they were deprived of provisions they surrendered. Declarant was engaged in this particular service for three months, during this time Colonel Neal was killed at Rocky Mount in which battle defendant was unable to the as he at that time was confined by sickness. About this time Captain Thompson resigned and Declarant was put under the command of Captain Henderson; on the death of Colonel Neal his brother Alexander [sic, ?] was elected Colonel in his place he was afterwards killed at a place called the long Bluff on the Santee River where he had under the command of General Sumter attacked a British Fort during this service Declarant was engaged for 3 months in guarding the Tories that were taken prisoner and confined in the Orangeburg Jail together with several spies that had been taken among the Tories he remembers Major Moore

was tried by a court-martial condemned and hung. In this last tour of duty Declarant was engaged in constant service for 18 months during which time he traversed almost every part of the State: declarant was then discharged having in all served twenty-five months, during which service he suffered very greatly from constant exposure and fatigue and has yet never received one cent from the bounty of his Country – Declarant moved to the State of Tennessee in the year 1817 – he moved to the County of Wilson in said State in 1819 where he has resided and still resides ever since. Declarant has heretofore made application for a Pension but his papers got mislaid which delayed him for more than 12 months. Declarant knows of no witness by whom he can prove his services in any part except Henry Craswell and John Patton whose certificates are both attached to his original Declaration these witnesses are known in to the Honorable John Bell and the Honorable James K Polk as man entitled to full credit – if his claim should be strengthened thereby he could bring all his neighbors who would witness that he has been always reputed to have been a soldier of the Revolution – he has no documentary evidence he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of the Agency of any State in the United States.

Sworn to in open court 27th of October 1834.

S/ Robert Craswell, X his mark

[Henry Craswell again gave another supporting affidavit this one dated October 27, 1834.]

[Michael Pitner also gave a standard supporting affidavit.]

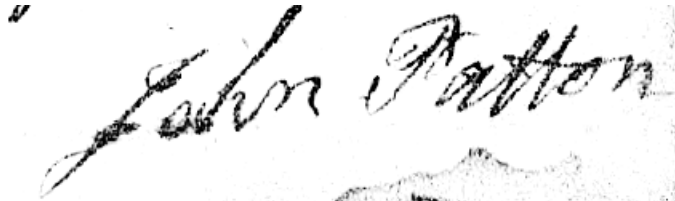
[p 21]

State of Tennessee Bedford County: SS: This day personally appeared before me K. L. Anderson an acting justice of the peace in and for the County of Bedford aforesaid John Patton aged 79 years and made oath in due form of law, that Robert Craswell was a Soldier of the Revolution and entered the service in the State of South Carolina in York County in the year 1776 and served several campaigns one or two under Captain Love one under Captain Henderson & Thompson, and was in the Regiment commanded by Colonels Thomas Neal, & Andrew Neal, & Major Ross & the General command of General Sumter that he was several times honorably discharged and finally left the Army in 1781 or 2 – that Mr. Craswell was in actual service two whole years. Affiant was in the Army several tours with him and is well acquainted with his Services, he has heard the Declaration read as signed & sworn to by said Robert Craswell & believes it to be substantially correct.

Sworn to & subscribed before me the 18th of July 1834

S/ K. L. Anderson, JP

S/ John Patton³

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Patton". The ink is dark and the handwriting is somewhat slanted to the right. There is a small mark above the first letter 'J'.

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$43.33 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 13 months service as a private in the South Carolina militia.]

³ [John Patton W162](#)

South Carolina Audited Accounts⁴ relating to Robert Creswell AA4
 Audited Account Microfilm file No. 1613
 Transcribed by Will Graves 2/20/20

[p 2]

Mr. Robert Creswell his Account of Sundries for Militia use in 1778, 1780, 1781 & 1782

Charged	£295
Deduct less	<u>3</u>
[old South Carolina] Currency	<u>£292</u>
Stg. [Sterling]	£41.14.3 ¼

Ex^d. W. G. [Examined by William Galvan]
 J. M^c. A. G. [approved by] John McCall, Adjutant General]

[Inverted at the bottom of the page]
 7 September 1784 Book I No. 185
 Robt. Criswell [sic]

[p 3]

State of South Carolina	Dr. to Robt. Criswell [sic]	£ S D
177? ⁵		
Dec. 1 st	To 56 days footman Lieutenant Barry [John Barry] say 50 days	28.0.0
178? ⁶	To 29 days horseman, Lieutenant Henderson [Thomas Henderson]	29.0.0
1780	To 35 days driving Cattle with J. Bogs [Joseph Boggs], P. C. [public commissary]	35.0.0
1782	Tp 42 days 10/per day with Captain Henderson To One horse appraised 26.4 Sterling	21.0.0 [illegible]
	Total	£295.0.0

To Messrs Edward Blake or Peter Bocquet Commissioners of the Treasury

Please to deliver to Mr. Moses Ferguson of the New Acquisition my Indent Due to me from the State of South Carolina & this Shall be your Receipt. Witness my hand this 10th day of September 1785

Signed in presence of
 S/ Wm Hill, JP

S/ Robert Creswell



7

⁴ The South Carolina Audited Accounts (AA) are now available online at <http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/>. To find the AA for a specific person, click on the [Just take me to the search page](#) link, then enter the person's surname first in the "Full name" box followed by a comma and the person's Christian name.

⁵ last digit written over and rendered illegible

⁶ last digit written over and rendered illegible

⁷ I believe this signature may have been written by Henry Creswell as the handwriting appears to be very similar to his and this veteran signed all of his other papers with his mark.

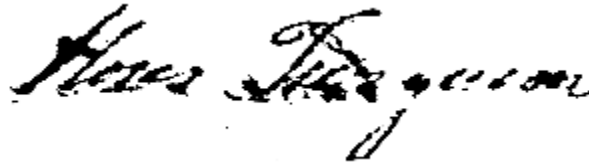
[p 4]

	Brought over	£295
Deduct overcharged 6 days Duty at 10/		3
		£292
	Sterling	£41 [illegible]

N: B: The within Charges are included in Pay Bills which are Audited

Received 7 September 1786 full Satisfaction for the Within in an Indent No. 185 Book I by an order

S/ Moses Ferguson

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Moses Ferguson", written over a horizontal line. The signature is dark and somewhat stylized, with a small flourish at the end.