

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of John Crenshaw S2482 VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

State of Tennessee } On this 24 day of October 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the
Roane County } Justices of the Court of Roane County now sitting John Crenshaw a resident of
the State of Tennessee and County of Roane as aforesaid, aged, as he believes, seventy four 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 the 7th 1832 that he entered the service of the United
States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated... He entered the service in the
State of Virginia Brunswick County, a substitute for Filmore Huff in the year, as he believes, 1781 having
no recollection of the month or day, in and on which he entered. That he he entered, as aforesaid, under
Captain Peter Jones; was marched by him to Nancimond [sic: Nansemond] River, which he crossed at
Smithfield, which town the enemy had burnt on the day before his arrival, a church standing on a hill on
the south side of the town only remained. That from thence he proceeded to Hampton Roads where he
joined General [Robert] Lawson, as he believes, under the command of Collonel Wilkins, Major Boice [sic:
William Boyce] was there acting as Brigade Major; but has no distinct recollection whether he was under
his immediate command or not. The precise length of time he was stationed there he has no distinct
recollection of; but that it was coniderably long. The business of the troops, as he recollects was to guard
the place. On a certain day while on sentry he discried the Brittish Fleet in the bay at a a very great
distance; that he called to the officer of the day, who was within hearing distance and who came with a
spie-glass and satisfied himself that the Enemy was not only in the bay, but was steering towards them;
and within a few hours was dressed[?] a cross the Bay. During the time of the Fleets laying in the Bay a
great number of Brittish deserters came over to the American lines, who he understood to have been
paroled, he believes that at one time almost the whole of their guard came over and laid down their arms.
A part of the Fleet having sailed to Pintafork [sic: Point of Fork at the confluence of James and Rivanna
rivers] he was detached, with others to go to that place under, as he believes, General Steuban [sic: Baron
von Steuben]. on the arrival of the troops at their place of distination [28 May] he does not recollect in
what position the Enemy lay, being very much fatigued by a three days march in very rainy weather. The
public store which appeared to have been the object of the Enemy was safe. He did not continue there but
half a day. A strong guard being left, he was marched to Prince Edward Court house. At that place he
thinks an altercation took place between Generals Steuban and Lawson, and that the latter took the
greater part of the troops of the former, himself with the rest and marched, as he believes, with his whole
force, except a few sick, to Little york, himself being one of the sick, was with others discharged while
march to that place by Generally Lawson personally, and in his own hand writing; but in what month, or
day of a month he does not now recollect, having lost it in Newberry, South Carolina nearly 30 years ago.
During his time of service which was, as he believes 9 months he was in no engagement with the Enemy,
his service having been mostly stationary, and with scouting parties. He has but little recollection of the
country through which he marched, but thinks, in general, it was a low flat country. He knows of no
living testimony by whom he can prove his service. He was born and raised in Amelia County in the state
of Virginia, but having no record of his age, the date he does not recollect. At the time of entering the
service he was living in Brunswick County Virginia. From there after the war he went to Guilford North
carolina, lived there 2 years he then returned to Brunswick and resided there several years; then mooved
to warren County North Carolina lived there 12 or 14 years. From there to Edgefield South Carolina,
from there to Georgia Jackson County. Thence to Tennessee Roane County where he now resides.
He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pention or annuity except the the present; and declares
that his name is not on the pention roll of the agency of agency of any state, or (if any) only on that of the

State of virginia.

[signed] John Crenshaw

Morgan Courthouse/ Tennessee May 6th 1839

James L Edwards Esqr./ commissioner of Pensions,

I take the liberty of informing you that John Crenshaw, a Revolutionary Pensioner of this County at the rate of thirty dollars per annum, under the act of the 7th June 1832 He state he was a Regular Soldier and Enlisted in the united States service in Prince Edward County in the State of Virginia under Capt John Morton, and was transferd to Turner Bynum and during service went to the Redbanks, under General Nash thence to Near Monmouth in the time served under another office named Shoogar Bynum. He states that He was in the time Engaged, in service on the Eastern Shores and sometimes on the waters and in the Hampton Roads in the sea, he states that some years past, and before the act, of the 7th June 1832, that he applied for a Pension, through the aid of a Mr Roan of good standing and did not succeed, lacking something the particulars of which (he seems to have but a feint Idea of) and that when He applied for the Pension, that last time he applied in Roan County and concluded to apply for the Militia service only, which was the course advised by his attorney. He gives an account of serving two years, and nine months and had a printed discharge. He has sent me a memorandum of some other officer's names sence he gave me the foregoing information of some other officers under whom he served in the said war, towit Capt. Peter Jones, Col Wilkins, Muhlenburg [sic: Gen. Peter Muhlenberg], Stuban, Lawson, and Major Bois his last and additional statement of officers has been sent to me, which is not specific as to whether the additional officers were of his militia or continental service. I suppose that they were ment to be of the militia service, or probably Blended together. Mr John Crenshaw is vastly old and verry high man verry frail can walk a little, memory tolerable good but, slow he has been talking to me for some years at times about service some years, and only drawing a small Pension. I finally told him that I would make some search to see if his name was on the Roll, I have concluded to prepare a Pension Declaration, and on Reflecticion, thought that it would be trouble and Expense, and as he could not calculate, on an increase of Pension under all the circumstances, except the Rolls corroborate and prove his statements, to save trouble I would ask information, which if found Reasonable, would be thankfully Received

Respectfully your/ obedient humble/ servant

Robert A Dabney

NOTE: The file includes a letter dated 11 June 1833 to the Pension Commissioner from Crenshaw's agent that reads in part: "by the last mail I received John Crenshaws Pension Papers together with the objections &c and without offering any other apology for my being Troublesome then, that, I have a very Troublesome old man, & one who in this old age & extreme Poverty is very anxious to receive the Pension that he thinks he is entitled to..."