

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of William Craig S30355 VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

State of Kentucky } SS.
County of Barren }

On this 18th day of February 1833 personally appeared, in open Court before the Justices of the County Court of Barren County now sitting William Craig a resident of the aforesaid county and state, aged 75 years the 21st day of February 1833, who being first duely sworn according to Law doth on his oath make the following Declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of an 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. He was born in the County of Ambermarle [sic: Albemarle] state of Virginia on the 21st February 1757, & was called out in (he thinks) 1778, the time of year he cannot now remember, to guard Burgoynes troops who were kept prisoners in the Barracks in Ambermarle about 5 or 6 miles from Charlottesville [captured at Saratoga on 17 Oct 1777 and kept from Jan 1779 through Feb 1781 at Albemarle Barracks 4 mi NNE of Charlottesville]. The manner of his being called into that service was this. The Company of militia to which he belonged was divided in to Divisions & so many men out of each division were chosen by lot to enter the service; and when the lots were cast it fell to him to go out of his Division. At the Barracks where the Prisoners were kept, he was under Cap. John Miller & Lieutenant Barnet Brown. The other officers he cannot now remember, without James Garland, who was commissary or Forage Master & who was killed at the Barracks at the meat house by a boy by the name of Mansfield, might be considered an officer. [See endnote.] After remaining at the Barracks in service at least three months, & he thinks it might have been as many as 4 or 5, he was discharged and went home. He cannot now say whether he received a written discharge or not from this service, if he did he does not now remember it, & it is lost or destroyed.

That in the last of the spring or beginning of the summer of 1779 he again entered the service of the United States at Richmond Virginia; and joined the Regiment commanded by Col Lewis, in the company of Captain John Miller & Lieutenant Brazil Brown; the other officers he does not now remember. He was called out into service this time in the same way that he was called out when he guarded Burgoynes troops in the Barracks in Ambermarle as is before stated. He had not remained much more (if any) than two weeks with Col Lewis Regiment at Richmond before troops were wanted at the Maubin Hills [sic: Malvern Hill 15 mi SE of Richmond], & he volunteered for that service, whither he marched under Captain Miller. Major [William] Boyce commanded at the Maubin Hills. Boyce was a very large man. Captain Miller was told by Boyce, upon his arrival at Maubin Hills, that he (Boyce) had no use for Cap Miller, he wanted only his men & that Miller might go back to Richmond and join that part of his company which had been left there. Miller refused, upon which his sword was taken from him & he threatened with a Court Martial. Miller was generally beloved by his men; & being entreated to submit he at last consented & returned to Richmond, & this Applicant was then under no Captain. At the Mauben Hills Lieutenant Railey was the next regular officer to Major Boyce; but there was a Col Reed, who appeared to hold no Regular Commission, but who sometimes acted as Officer of the day. There was no battle at Maubin Hills, while this Applicant was there; but there were some slight skirmishes, in one of which a centinel was shot, by a British light horseman, through the hand. After this applicant had remained at Maubin Hills for sometime, he was marched in a direction, which would have taken Richmond in the way, to Little York, but was discharged on the road. After a service of three months on this tour, while on the road in a direction of Little York, he was discharged, & received from Major Boyce a written Discharge, but never expecting to have any use for it, it is now lost or destroyed.

In the year of 1781 about the last of June or first of July he was again called out from his Company Division in the manner before stated and joined the troops at Williamsburgh[sic: Williamsburg]. John Miller was again his Captain. He thinks Genl. [Thomas] Nelson command at Williamsburgh at the time he joined the troops there; but he cannot remember any of the other officers. He was marched from Williamsburgh to Little York [Yorktown], but was detained sometime on the road. He arrived at Little York about two months before Cornwallis was taken [19 Oct 1781], and at first encamped in an old field in tents made out of long swamp grass. He was set to work on the forts, & continued working on them until about the first of October when he was discharged, having served three months. He received when leaving this service a written discharge from his Col, whose name he cannot now remember; but the Discharge is now lost or destroyed, he never expecting to have any use for it. He can not now remember the name or numbers of the Continental Regiments & companies with which he served, being associated with the Virginia Militia. He knew Genl. Washington, Genl. La Fayette [Lafayette], Genl. Nelson, Genl. [Robert] Lawson, Col Lewis, Col Reed, Major Boyce, Lieutenant Railey, & many others whom he knew by sight at that time, but cannot now call them to mind. He has no Documentary evidence, nor does he know of any person whose testimony he can procure, who can testify to his services. He hereby relinquishes every claim 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 answer to the interrogatories prescribed by the War Department he saith: that he was born in Ambermarle County Virginia on the 21st Feb. 1757; he has a record of his age which was taken from his uncles Bible & is now in his possession of his brother John Craig in Barren County Kentucky. When he was called into the service he lived in Ambermarle County Virginia; after the war he lived about 30 years in Franklin County Virginia. From thence he moved to Barren County in Kentucky, where he lived two years, then moved to Cumberland County Kentucky where he lived about 10 years & then moved back to Barren where he has lived about 10 years & still lives. The manner of his being called into service was this: he belonged to a company of militia in Ambermarle Virginia; that company was laid off into Divisions, & so many men taken by lot out of each Division & it thus fell to his lot to serve. He does not remember the names or numbers of any Continental Regiments or Companies, as he only served with the Virginia Militia, the officers he knew were Genl. Washington, Genl. La Fayette, Genl Nelson, & Genl. Lawson, Col Lewis & Col Reed, Major Boyce, Lieutenant Railey, & many others whom he knew by sight, but cannot now call their names to mind. He received Discharges, which are now lost or destroyed; he cannot remember by whom any of them were given, except one which was given by Major Boyce. In answer to the 7th he would name John Craig, William Peddigo [William Pedigo], John Spencer, Samuel Spencer, Williamson Davis, and he could name many others if it were necessary.

Sworn and subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

[signed] William Craig

NOTES:

According to the pension applications of William Allen (W25344) and Zebulon Allphin (R162), Capt. James Garland was accidentally shot by a sentinel named Lally Mansfield.

On 14 April 1834 William Craig applied to have his pension transferred from Kentucky to Missouri, where he intended to move. On 16 Oct 1835 he applied to have his pension transferred back to Kentucky, having returned to Barren County for the following reason: "He first lived in Kentucky when his name was placed on the Pension roll of that state, & then left for Missouri under the impression that he would live there and accordingly he made application for a transfer of his name from this Kentucky to the Missouri Roll, which he was informed, was done. When he got to Missouri he did not like the country & therefore moved back to Ky. without drawing any thing in Missouri."