

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of John W. Crunk, S38646
Natl Archives Microseries M804, Roll 706, Application #
Transcribed by Nancy Poquette

f31NC

[edited 7/12/08 by Will Graves in red]

JOHN W. ~~ALTER~~ CRUNK, a resident of Madison County, Alabama in January 1819, aged 66 years:

“That in the month of March 1776 in Guilford County, North Carolina, he was enlisted by Lieutenant ROBIN ROLSTON into the company commanded by Captain DAVIDSON of the second regiment of the North Carolina line on Continental establishment, commanded by Colonel ALEXANDER MARTIN. That in about the month of May following, he was transferred to the company commanded by Captain ARMSTRONG [John Armstrong] in the same regiment, and was appointed a sergeant. That he continued to serve as such in said company until, in or about the month of September following when he was commissioned an ensign in the company commanded by Captain KNOX, in the same regiment. He received this commission at Charleston, South Carolina, and soon afterwards marched with same under the command of Major [JAMES] WHITE for Savannah, Georgia. On his arrival in the neighborhood of Savannah, he was taken ill of a fever and remained hereabouts, too sick and unfit for duty until the month of April following.”

“Before this time, Captain KNOX with his company, had marched to the northward and shortly before this affiant set out from the neighborhood of Savannah, he wrote to Captain KNOX to inform him that he would soon be fit for duty again, and to request that Captain KNOX would inform him when he should join him. About the month of June 1777 at Monck’s Corner, this affiant received a letter from Captain KNOX informing him that he had believed this affiant to be dead. That the offices in his company was then all filled and that if this affiant wished to continue in the service, it would be well for him to join some other part of the army. This letter, as well as this affiant recollects, was dated from Chestnut Hill, Pennsylvania, where this affiant believes Captain KNOX’s company was.”

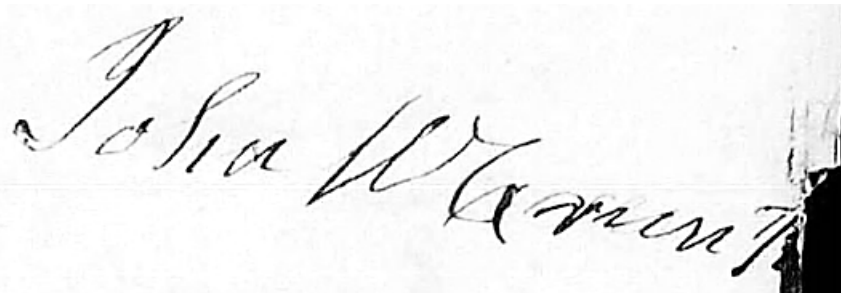
“In about the month of June 1777, and soon after receiving the aforesaid letter from Captain KNOX, this affiant joined the company of dragoons commanded by Captain DUFF, of Colonel WILLIAM FAIN’s regiment, and at Camden in South Carolina, received his commission as first lieutenant in said company and marched with said company from Camden and joined the regiment at or near Fish Dam Ford of Broad River. He continued in service acting as said lieutenant in said company and regiment until the month of March 1778, when he resigned his commission and left the regiment near said Fish Dam Ford and set out to return to his connections in Guilford County. On his way thither, he met with Captain JOSEPH BARRETT of the South Carolina militia then about to march with his company on an expedition against the Cherokees to the head of the Pacolet River, and at the request of said Captain BARRETT, joined his company, went with him on said service, and continued for three months, when this company was discharged.”

“In or about the year 1779, this affiant went as a private in the militia of Virginia on an expedition against the Tories on New ~~for Neuse~~ River, and continued in said service until regularly discharged.”

“In or about the year 1799, when this affiant resided in Lee County, Virginia, his home was burnt, together with his furniture and papers, and as he believes, his aforesaid commissions as lieutenant and ensign was then consumed. He believes that the aforesaid company of Captain DUFF and Colonel FAIN’s regiment were on the Continental establishment, and well recollects that said second regiment commanded by Colonel MARTIN was.”

“This affiant is now a resident of the United States residing in said county of Madison. He owns a house and four cows, and some few articles of household furniture, but neither land, negroes nor any other property to the value of five dollars, except as above mentioned...”

“On this 2nd day of July 1827, Davidson County, Tennessee...JOHN W. CRUNK, who...formerly belonged in the company commanded by Captain JOHN ARMSTRONG, in the regiment commanded by Colonel ALEXANDER MARTIN...that he received a certificate of that fact...which was destroyed, and a duplicate issued...In March 1826, he was transferred from Alabama to Tennessee to be paid at Nashville from the 4th of March 1826. About the 25th of October 1825, he was assaulted in the house where he lived by four men and cruelly beaten. He believes they done this with the intention of robbing him, believing he had drawn his pension money, as the pension certificate cannot be found since that attack. It is believed they robbed me of the certificate and some other things...”

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John W. Crunk". The ink is dark and the paper appears aged. The signature is written on a light-colored background, possibly a document or a card.

On July 11, 2008, Bill Willis noted the following regarding this transcription:

Family researchers in this line often cite this pension application, but usually give the name as "John Watts Crunk", not Walter.

I've seen numerous extracts of records for southwest Virginia and Tennessee where he is identified either as "John W. Crunk" or John Watts Crunk", but never as "John Walter Crunk"---except in Death records for John Watts Crunk are given at

<http://www.werelate.org/dlib/bitstream/276/3/John%20Watts%20Crunk%20Death%20Records.html>.

A summary of what I know about him is at

http://www.werelate.org/wiki/Person:John_Watts_Crunk_%281%29

Of course, its conceivable that there was a "John Watts Crunk" AND a "John Walter Crunk". however, the John Watts Crunk who died in Tennessee had a fairly complicated history with his pension application, and its fairly clear that he originally applied for the application while living in Alabama.--presumably that's the application transcribed on Southern Campaigns.

I suspect that the transcription on Southern Campaigns includes a misread of the middle name, giving it as "Walter" not "Watts".

Also, the transcription records a reference to the "New River" with "Neuse River", written in square brackets.

“In or about the year 1779, this affiant went as a private in the militia of Virginia on an expedition against the Tories on New [or Neuse] River, and continued in said service until regularly discharged.”

The event is placed in Virginia, and there was a well known campaign against Tories in that area about the time stated. That would make the river mentioned most likely the New, a major watershed in southwest Virginia; the Neuse being in NC.

Bill

Added by Will Graves 11/22/14

[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 11]

State of Alabama Circuit Court of Madison County Sct.

On this 10th day of February 1821 personally appeared in open Court (said court being a court of record for said circuit & County) John W Crunk aged about sixty-six years resident in said County who being 1st duly sworn according to law on his oath declares that he served in the Revolutionary War in the North Carolina line on Continental establishment in the Second Regiment commanded by Col. Alexander Martin from March 1776 till March 1778 as in his declaration made before Leroy Pope Judge &c on the 11th of January 1819 stated

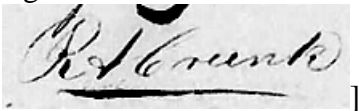
And I the said John W Crunk do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift, sale or in any manner whatever disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provision of an act of Congress entitled "an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the revolutionary war" passed on the 18th day of March 1818, and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property, or securities, contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed viz..

Said John W Crunk on his oath aforesaid says that he has no property whatever except his wearing apparel that there are no debts due to him to him except about thirty or forty dollars due by open account in small sums from different persons for the services of a Stud horse which he kept in the year 1816 & the collection of which is doubtful.

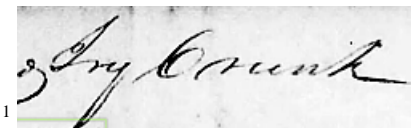
Sworn to and subscribed on the 10th day of February 1821 in open Court as aforesaid

S/ John W Crunk

[p 13: On April 7th, 1826 in Lincoln County Tennessee, the veteran applied for the transfer of his pension benefit to the Tennessee agency giving as his reason for moving from Alabama to Tennessee to improve his health and to be more convenient to his children (none named). This application, however, was supported by the affidavit of Ivy Crunk,¹ whose relationship to the veteran is not stated. His signature looks more like "R I Crunk"



Handwritten signature of John W. Crunk, appearing as "R I Crunk".



Handwritten signature of Ivy Crunk, appearing as "Ivy Crunk".