

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Asher Crockett alias James Anderson W2533 Sarah Crockett VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 21 July 2014.

Cabell County Virginia S.S.

I James Anderson alias Asher Crockett do solemnly declare that I was a private soldier in the Revolutionary War, that I was enlisted in Hampshire County Virginia in the year 1778 by Col. Hite for three years & served faithfully under various officers & in divers expeditions, none of the officers now recollected, but Capt. Mayo of United States infantry before the close of the three years. I was re-enlisted for during the War by a Lieutenant ~~Hatt~~ in North Carolina (his name was Hogan) served under Capt. [Abraham] Kirkpatrick of Muhlenburgh brigade [sic: Peter Muhlenberg's Brigade] & was honorably discharged at Winchester Virginia in 1783, received my back pay by the hand of Captain Kirkpatrick at Winchester Virginia. And my discharge which duly testified all this under the hand & seal of said Kirkpatrick was unfortunately burnt with my house & all my personal goods in 1815 in Giles County Virginia. And after the Revolution, I went out under General [George Rogers] Clark as a Volunteer after the Indians in Kentucky & other places as a volunteer for 5 or 6 years, where I had the honor of being acquainted with his excellency Andrew Jackson, who no doubt recollects something of me. And I further most solemnly declare that I never did receive from the United States any compensation in lands for all or any of those services, further that to the further Particular in things I cannot on account of the decay of my memory & my commanders & compatriots in arms either dead or entirely out of my reach I therefore refer my compensations to the records & Generosity of my Country.

James Anderson alias Asher Crockett

Cabell county to wit: This day James Anderson alias Asher Crockett, personally appeared before me Abia Rece, a justice of the peace in & for Cabell County & solemnly swore that the foregoing affidavit contains the truth & nothing but the truth. Given under my hand & seal this 26th November 1832. Abia Rece

[The following report is by Washington G. Singleton, who investigated many pension applicants in what is now West Virginia. For details, see my appendix to the pension application of David W. Sleeth (S6111).]

James Anderson or Asher Crockett – alledges in his Declaration to have served 3 yrs. in the Va. line under Capt Fitzpatrick [sic] Col Hite. &c.

I the undersigned James Anderson or Asher Crockett in pursuance of the requisition of the Secretary of War make the following redeclaration of my Revolutionary Services. to Wit. I was born in September 1760. am a native of Hampshire county Virginia. I left that county in year 1784 & have since lived in Western Virginia

In the year 1776 I ran away from my Master in Hampshire County to whom I had been bound, went to Pennsylvania fell in with General Washingtons army and remained with it in Pennsylvania & New Jersey for two years & upward in the capacity of camp boy & waiter to officers. I then returned to Hampshire county my place of Nativity. on getting there m old master attempted to reclaim me. to avoid his servitude I went with the army again under the following circumstances – at this time there was a draft in Virginia for 18 months men. I substituted in the place of one drafted for that length of time – on appearing before Col Hite County Lt. whose province it was to inspect and pass upon all substitutes he rejected me because of my size but said at the time that If I would Enlist for three years he would receive me. I accordingly enlisted for 3 yrs (was enlisted by the said Col Hite). I Rendezvoused at Romney Hampshire County. was marched from that place to Winchester Va. by Lieuftenant Williams. and from Winchester to Alexandria by Lieuftenant Kearney. at Alexandria was put under the command of Capt

Wails and marched to Fredericksburg. at the latter place I was put under the Command of Capt Wallis [probably Wallace] and by him marched to Petersburg and joind Col. Parkers [Richard Parker's] command. We were then marched to Hillsborough N. Carolina. at which place I took the Small pox, and was left behind. I remained there unitel Col. Bluford [sic: Abraham Buford] came up with the rear[?] division. I joind him and we marched to the Hanging Rocks [Waxhaws SC 12 mi N of Hanging Rock] at which place we fell in the enemy. had an engagement [29 May 1780]. Col. Bluford was defeated. after our defeat we retreated to Saulsbury [sic: Salisbury] and from there to Hillsborough where we made a stand until Genl. Gates with his division came up [Horatio Gates, 13 Jul 1780]. we then took up the line of march and went to Camden where we again was defeated by the enemy after a hard fought battle [battle of Camden SC, 16 Aug 1780]. in this engagement I belonged to the "Brave DeCalb's" [sic: Baron De Kalb's] division. I was close by when he received a mortal wound and seen him fall. in this engagement I serve under the brave Capt Wallis. he was killed [see endnote] – after our defeat we retreated to Hillsborough remained there until joined by Genl. Green [sic: Nathanael Greene]. the army marched from Hillsborough to the high hills of Santee [sic: Cheraw Hills in SC, 20 Dec 1780]. at this place the army was divided part remained with Genl Green, the other part went with General [Daniel] Morgan to the Cowpens. I was with Morgans division. at the Cowpens we had an engagement with the enemy [17 Jan 1781] & succeeded in taking some five or six hundred Prissoners – after the last mentioned Battle we retreated before Cornwallis army to the Shallow ford of the Yaidkin River, [sic: Shallow Ford of Yadkin River about 17 mi W of Winston Salem NC, 8 Feb], met there a party of Militia men, and gave over to them our prisoners. We marched on to Gilford Ct House [sic; Guilford Courthouse NC] and gave battle to Cornwallis [15 Mar 1781] but was unfortunately defeated – after the Battle Gen'l. Green marched on to the South. I remained at Gilford with the sick & wounded for some time. but was finally sent into Virginia and joined Genl Lafayettes command. cant now recollect under what Captain I was placed. Gen'l. Lafayette's army pursued Cornwallis army to Williamsburg. remained there until joined by Gen'l. Washington & his army [15 Sep 1781]. when the whole army marched to Yorktown beseaged it and captured Cornwallis and his army [19 Oct 1781]. after the Battle I marched to Winchester with the Baggage division – in getting there I was detached with a Sergeants guard to guard sixteen prissoners to Powhatan Ct House, at this latter place I was placed under the command of Capt Fitzpatrick remained there guarding the magazine & Public arms &c until the succeeding fall, then returned to Winchester under Capt Fitzpatrick and remained there until 1783 and was then discharged. my discharge (long since lost by fire) was signed by Gen'l. Muhlenburg. I repeat that I originally Enlisted for 2 yrs. but some time during my service, can tell exactly when, I reenlisted during the war, hence it is that been so long in service

Mr. Samuels wrote my Declaration. he charged nothing

In Witness of all which I hereto subscribe my name August 27, 1835

Witness

James Anderson

J. M. McComas

a copy

[signed] W. G. Singleton

Note. this old Gentleman gave his narative with great simplicity & frankness, I believe his statement to be strictly true and such is the General opinion of all with whom I have made enquiries. his character is good.

[signed] W G Singleton

Cabell County Jany the 1st 1836

Dear Sir in compliance with the requisition of the War Department I do hereby certify that I inlisted by the name of James Anderson and was also discharged by the said name of James Anderson I have no other means of shewing that fact but by my own oath Sincerely hoping that this may be satisfactory I am yours &c

you under
James Anderson
Ascher Crockett

State of Virginia
Wayne County to Wit

On this fifth day of July 1853 personally appeared before William Radcliffe, John B. Brown and John Frasher Esqs. members of the county court of Wayne County in open court sitting Sarah Crocket a resident of the said county of Wayne aged 69 years, who being duly sworn according to law doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions made by the act of congress passed on the 3rd day of February 1853: that she is the widow of Asher Crockett, a revolutionary soldier who drew a pension of eighty dollars annually, a resident of the county of Wayne and State of Virginia and whose pension was paid at Richmond Virginia.

She further declares that she was married to the said Asher Crocket on the 11th day of September 1800; that her husband the aforesaid Asher Crocket died on the 16th day of January 1845, that she was married to him at the time above stated. She further swears that she was a widow at the time of the passage of the act and is still a widow and that she never before made application for a pension.

Sara Crockett

State of Virginia } SS
County of Wayne }

On this 19th day of April A. D., one thousand eight hundred and fifty five personally appeared before me, a Justice of the peace within and for the County and State aforesaid, Sarah Crocket, aged Eighty three years, a resident of Wayne County in the State of Virginia, who being duly sworn according to law, declares, that she is the widow of Asher Crocket, alias James Anderson deceased, who was a Revolutionary Soldier, and who drew a pension of Eighty dollars per annum for the term of 10 or 12 years and Resided at the time of drawing sd pension in Cabell County State of Virginia, which pension was payable in Richmond Virginia, that she draws a pension under act 3rd Feb 1853 She further states that she was married to the said Asher Crocket alias James Anderson in Giles County Virginia [formed in 1806] on the 11th day of September A. D. 1800 by one David Ross a Methodist Preacher and that her name before her said marriage was Sarah Blankinship, that her said husband died at Millers fork, Wayne Co on the 16th day of January A. D. 1845 and that she is now a widow at the date of executing this her declaration.

She makes this declaration for the purpose of obtaining the Bounty Land to which she may be entitled under the act approved March 3, 1855. Sarah herXmark Crocket

NOTES:

The "brave Capt Wallis" said to have been killed at the Battle of Camden was probably Adam Wallace, who was actually killed at the Battle of Waxhaws.

Crockett is sometimes said to have been an African-American, as may have been inferred from his reference to a master. It is likely, however, that he was an apprentice rather than a slave. The 1830 Cabell County VA federal census lists him as a "Free White Person" 70-80, and the 1840 Cabell County VA census lists him as a "Free White Person" and Revolutionary War veteran age 81.

The file includes a certificate of the marriage of Asher Crockett and Sarah Blankinship officiated by Rev. Alexander Ross in Montgomery County VA on 11 Sep 1800.

On 14 Sep 1874 Andrew Crockett, Elizabeth Kelley, widow of Joseph Kelley, and Charlotte Miller, widow of Edward Miller, applied as heirs for Sarah Crockett's pension, which she failed to collect before her death on 9 Sep 1862. In July 1875 Andrew Crockett certified that Sarah Crockett lived at his house in Wayne County WV for four months during her terminal illness, and that he paid the medical and burial expenses of \$135. He signed this document "A. J. Crockett," but elsewhere his signature appears as "Andrew J. Crockett" and "Andrew Crocket." On another document his full name is given as Andrew Johnson Crockett. On 8 March 1876 it was certified that "Sarah Crocket was in her lifetime regarded as a Union woman," and that A. J. Crockett "was regarded as a Union man." A letter dated 10 March 1876 states that Charlotte Miller had died, leaving no heir.