

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of James Crafton W6764

Frances Crafton

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

State of Virginia: Lunenburg County to wit:

On this 23<sup>d</sup> day of February, 1839, personally appeared before me [Thomas H. Staples] a Justice of the peace in and for the county and state aforesaid Frances Crafton, a resident of said County and State, aged 85 years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on her oath make the following Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the Act of Congress, passed July 4<sup>th</sup> 1836.

That she is the Widow of James Crafton deceased, late of the County and State aforesaid, who was a Private soldier in the militia service of Virginia, in the War of the Revolution. That she knows very little respecting the services of her late husband in the Revolutionary war as coming within her personal knowledge, except what she has repeatedly heard from him in his life time, and from others who served with him, on whose statments she places the utmost confidence. She recollects distinctly hearing him say that he was drafted several times in the Militia, was at Guilford in North Carolina [Battle of Guilford Courthouse, 15 Mar 1781], Siege of Yorktown in Virginia [28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781] &c &c and that he was in actual service a considerable length of time, and endured many hardships and privations. That during the time of his absence from home in the service of his country, he was left alone to support and protect herself and infant child. That from bodily infirmity, old age, and the consequent loss of memory, she cannot call to mind the particulars of his service, as related by himself in his life time; she, therefore, prefers to depend on the statment of old, credible and respectable soldiers who served with him, whose certificates accompany this declaration, and are prayed to be considered part thereof. That for the same reason above stated, she cannot state precisely, how long he was in actual service altogether, but suppose he was at least eight months for which length of time, she claims a Pension.

She further declares that she was married to the said James Crafton on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of April, 1775, in the County of Lunenburg by the publication of banns, by old Parson Craig of the Episcopal church, according to the rites and ceremonies of that Church, and the laws of Virginia. That said Parson Craig is dead, and the Vestry books in which marriages were recorded have long since been lost or destroyed. That her husband the aforesaid James Crafton died on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of May 1828. She farther declares, that she was married to the said James Crafton before the last period of his service expired. That she has remained a widow and unmarried ever since the death of her said husband, and that she is at present a widow, as will more fully appear from proof hereunto annexed. She has no documentary evidence, his discharges being all lost or destroyed. The family Register has also been destroyed.

Frances herXmark Crafton

Virginia: Charlotte County to wit: [4 Mar 1839]

I [Ambrose Haley, pension application S8689] do hereby certify, that I was well acquainted with James Crafton late of Lunenburg in the War of the revolution, and recollect that he was drafted in the Militia from Lunenburg in 1780 under Capt. [Sylvanus] Walker for the term of three months and marched to North Carolina and was at Gen'l Gates' defeat near Camden [defeat of Horatio Gates at the Battle of Camden SC, 16 Aug 1780]. He served the said term faithfully and was honorably discharged from service.

I farther certify, that the said James Crafton was drafted the second time in 1781, for the term of three months in the Militia, from the same county under Capt Walker, and marched to North Carolina, and was engaged in the battle of Guilford. This latter term he served faithfully being with him the whole time. I am in the 80<sup>th</sup> year of my age, and was a soldier of the Revolution.

[signed] Ambrose Haley

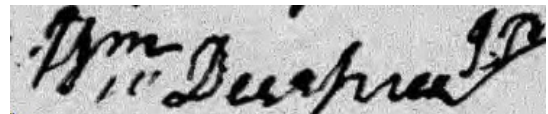
Virginia: Charlotte County to wit: [26 Mar 1839]

I Seth Farley of Charlotte do hereby certify, that I was well acquainted with James Crafton late of Lunenburg in the War of the Revolution, and know the fact, being in the same company with him, that in the early part of the year, 1781, the said James Crafton was drafted for three months in the Militia from Lunenburg under Capt Walker, and marched to North Carolina, and was engaged in the Battle of Guilford. He served the said term of three months faithfully and was honorably discharged. General Green [sic: Nathanael Greene] General [Robert] Lawson and others were commanding officers. I am in the 81<sup>st</sup> year of my age and was a soldier in the War of the Revolution.

[signed] Seth Farley

State of Virginia: Charlotte County to wit: [25 Jun 1849]

I William Deupree [BLReg281092-1855] a Justice of the peace in and for the County of Charlotte, do hereby certify, that I was a soldier of the Revolution, and recollect distinctly, that James Crafton of Lunenburg, in 1780, was drafted under Capt Walker for 3 months, and marched to Camden; that in 1781, he was drafted again under Capt Walker for 3 months, and was engaged in the battle of Guilford; and that he served 3 months in 1781, under Capt Knight, and was at the seige of yorktown. I am in the 90<sup>th</sup> year of my age.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Wm Deupree". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

NOTE: John Crafton certified the marriage of James Crafton and stated that he was present when he marched to the Battle of Guilford Courthouse. Richard Crafton certified the death of James Crafton. The file contains a copy of a bond signed on 10 Dec 1778 by James Crafton and John Crafton for the marriage of the former to Frances Staples. A document in the file certifies that Frances Crafton was living in Charlotte County on 7 Jan 1850.