

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of William Crawford: BLWt921-500

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

County of Fayette} Personally appeared before me a Justice of the peace in said County,
State of Penn'a. Sct} Uriah Springer, and being duly sworn, sayeth that he was personally
acquainted with Colo. William Crawford, and that the said Colo. William Crawford entered into
the service of the United States 1776 and belonged to the Virginia line on Continental
establishment and that he (Colo. Crawford) continued to serve as aforesaid until the year one
thousand seven hundred and eighty two, at which time he was ordered on an expedition
against the Indians (by Gen'l. William Irvine who then commanded at Fort Pitt) on which
expedition he was made prisoner, and burnt to death by the savages [by Delaware Indians on
11 June 1782] and this deponent deposeth that he was a Lieut't. in the Continental
establishment, under the said Colo. Crawford, and that he received money from said Colo.
Crawford for the recruiting service, and he further saith that the s'd. Colo. Crawford
superintended the raising the thirteenth Reg't and Commanded it for some time and was
retained in service until he was killed as above stated. And that this deponent was frequently
under the command of Col Crawford on detached parties -.

And this deponent perfectly recolects that a dispute arose between Colo. Crawford &
Colo. Dan'l Brodhead as to seniority, or, rank on the expedition against the Indians in the year
1778 under the command of Gen'l [Lachlan] McIntosh and that Colo Brodhead was adjudged by
the Court of enquiry to be the senior Colo. of Colo. Crawford the next on that expedition -

And this deponent saith that Gen'l William Irvine did at one time give this deponent a
certificate that Colo. Crawford was a Col. under his command, and, ordered by him (Gen'l
Irvine) on that expedition on which he (Colo. Crawford) was killed.

This deponent further saith that he applied at the Auditors Office and got a certificate
from Mr Nourse, this Auditor that Colo. Crawford had drawn the money for recruiting the 13th
Virg Reg't and that he the deponent put the above mentioned certificates into the hands of
John Smilee[?] Esq'r at that time a member of Congress (since dead) for the purpose of
obtaining a land warrant for the heirs of s'd. Colo. Crawford.

Sworn to and subscribed before me a Justice of the peace in the County aforesaid this
17th day of September 1819 [signed] Uriah Springer

I John Irwin of Brush Hill, Westmoreland County Pennsy'a having served as Dy. Comm'y
Gen'l of Issues in the Western department & being Constantly stationed at Fort Pitt the head
Quarters of said Department, — do Certify, that I was intimately acquainted with the late Colo.
Wm Crawford from the Commencement of our Revolutionary War, untill his unfortunate
Expedition against the Indians, in which he lost his life. That I find by old Books now in my
Possession, he drew Rations as a Colonel early in the year 1777, from the Provision Stores at
Fort Pitt, & several of the out posts in the department. That He was employed in an Expedition
under Col. Brodhead against the hostile Indians up the Alleghany River. That either
Commanded or Served in an expedition to the Muskingham River [sic: Muskingum River in
Ohio], in which it was said the Moravian Indians suffered greatly & which was supposed to have
been the cause of the Tortures inflicted on him at the time of his death, and that he also
served in another Expedition of very great enterprise under General [George Rogers] Clark,
which was commonly called "the Western expedition" —

this brief Skitch of part of his Public Services which fell under my own particular notice,
becaus in all his various Expeditions & other service, he generally signed the Provision Returns
for the troops or Corps which he Commanded.

But that I am not able to say with certainty to which Regiment or Corps of the army he
belonged, - But I always considered him as a Colo. in the Virginia Line of the Continental Army

Witness my hand this 4th Febr'y 1820 [signed] John Irwin

NOTE: Documents in the file list the lawful issue of William Crawford as John Crawford, who

died before 24 May 1820, Sarah Springer, and Effey McCormick.