

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Alexander Crafford (Crawford)S3229

fn36SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

6/4/11

[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. 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 fails 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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Tennessee Maury County: Circuit Court October Term 1832

On this 23rd day of October personally appeared in open Court, before William E Kennedy Judge of the Circuit Court in said County now sitting Alexander Crawford [sic] a resident of said County of Maury in the State of Tennessee aged eighty-three years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as hereinafter stated – He was born on the 28th day of September in the year of our Lord 1750 in the County of Cumberland in the State of Pennsylvania, that he lived in said Cumberland County until 1765 at which time he moved with his father to South Carolina. Then divided into Counties but to that part, now called Chester district, his father settled on the Catawba River, 3 miles below Land's Ford, at which place his father lived & died. On the 23rd of November in the year 1775, this applicant volunteered under Captain Patton Lieutenants John & Janus Smith, Colonel Richardson commanded in chief, Sumter was along in some office he does not recollect but recollects to have heard him called Colonel Sumter, there were North Carolina troops along commanded by Colonel Martin, the Army assembled at a place on the Congaree River & marched up to Rayburns Creek against the Tories, at the place the main Army stopped & a detachment was sent in pursuit of Tories to Reedy River. William Polk then a Lieutenant in Captain Ezekiel Polk's company since Colonel received a wound in his shoulder, he thinks a rifle Ball at our approach the Tories dispersed we took some of them prisoners. The Army then marched back and sent the prisoners on towards Charlestown. This applicant was then discharged after serving three months. He was paid for three months (viz.) \$24.00 by his officers, This was called the Snow expedition.

He volunteered [in] 1780 as well as he can remember under Captain Walker S. Patton who was then a Colonel or ranked as such, under the command of Sumter. Rendezvoused at the Waxhaw settlement, Sumter & his Army crossed the Catawba marched towards Camden, to Chestnuts plantation, here the Army stopped and a party was sent under Colonel Patton and Colonel Lacey to Colonel Carey's to take some Tories whom we were informed had collected there. The Tories fled. We took Colonel Carey & some others he thinks Carey was paroled, as he was not along at defeat. The same evening we took 75 prisoners of the 71st Regiment of the British Army, who were Highlanders, and five wagons, our detachment returned to Chestnut. On the next night we again sent reconnoitering to Colonel Carey's under Colonel Lacey, but when we returned Sumter had moved – we followed & overtook him then moved on to the Catawba River & stopped on the West bank just above the mouth of Fishing Creek. The Army stopped about 10 o'clock for breakfast, turned the horses loose to graze, And this applicant understood

that Sumter ordered a guard of 50 men off to the fords, one was across the Catawba River the other 2 across the Fishing Creek, one where we crossed the other opposite to the place we stopped at, this was not done & the British came after us and crossed Fishing Creek where we had crossed. Tarleton commanded (he believes) the British. The British were upon us before we had the least notice, confusion immediately ensued, but few guns were fired all fled Sumter among the rest. This Army of Sumter's was not again collected, so that in this trip or campaign he never received any regular discharge. This trip he was in service about two months. We lost baggage & prisoners. Sumter lost his Cap. This was on Sunday he thinks but before this to wit in the month of March in 1779 (he thinks) the militia being classed into three classes, his class was called out. Robert Patton was Captain & John Walker was Lieutenant Colonel Winn marched across Broad River to Savannah River about amils [sic ?, ? miles?] from Augusta General Williamson he believes commanded the Army when assembled – we lay there near Augusta until the last of May sending out detached parties to reconnoiter. Sumter<sup>1</sup> was below with his men – had no fighting during this campaign – about the last of May the encampment was broken up & the Army detached about after the Tories. He came home & was verbally discharged. This trip he was in service about three months. This was called the Augusta expedition – he labored for his family until during the interval in the month of May 1781 (he thinks) he volunteered under Captain George Neely (people had so fled the country that the regular classes were broken up) Colonel Lacey. (In this trip he this applicant was a horseman) – assembled at Cross Roads in Chester District South Carolina Major Adair was also an officer – we marched down to Friday's Ferry upon the Congaree [River], and lay there some time – then started to join Green [Nathanael Greene] at Siege of Ninety Six the British were [indecipherable word, but I think an abbreviation of 'commanded'] by Huger [sic, John Harris Cruger] but the siege was raised before we got there. We joined Green and marched down to Orangeburg upon the Edisto River (he thinks the name of the place). We stopped at a church about 3 miles from Orangeburg – Green went to reconnoiter & Green came back & the Army retreated to the Congaree, Green went to the High Hills of Santee, Colonel Lacey was detached to Moncks Corner & Colonel Sumter in chief command – they marched near Moncks Corner to a church called Bigham's Church [Biggin Church] which was fortified by ebatisu [sic, abatis] (Pine tops) in possession of some Irish who had come over, many with their families (this church was on the head of Cooper River) the detachment stopped to dine about one mile from the church a detachment of horse came out against us we put this detachment to flight and took 9 prisoners, 2 officers and 7 privates. Sumter being behind with the field piece, we delayed to attack the Church until morning, he, Sumter, came but when we returned towards the Church the Irish had left it, set the Church on fire and burnt it down. (This Applicant was appointed Lieutenant about the time that the siege of Ninety Six was raised, in Captain Neely's Company). He and Lieutenant Bell of Stuts [sic, ?] company with a detachment of 20 men were sent after a boat down Cooper River. The main Army under Sumter followed after the Irish – could not find the boat & returned with our detachment to Bigham's Church. Sumter came back & we all returned to Santee – Crossed Santee at Nelsons Ferry, lay there a while – then came up to Green's camp on the High Hills of Santee & then marched home and was discharged – got home in August so that in this trip he served three months. He lived at home until February 1782. At this time he was ordered out again by class, when the company assembled at the muster ground Captain

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<sup>1</sup> Thomas Sumter was not in active duty at the time Augusta was entered first by the British under Archibald Campbell and then by American forces under John Ashe in the winter of 1779. Which officer the veteran mistook for Sumter I cannot speculate.

Neely resigned and this applicant was Captain by seniority. There were three companies commanded by Captains Cooper, Ramsey & Crawford. Cooper being the oldest Captain took the command, marched us to Orangeburg on Edisto River, to retrieve [sic, relieve] some of our men who had been there for some time, keeping the Tories in subjection while our assembly sat at Jacksonborough (he thinks) where Major Wallace commanded the York Regiment which lay at Orangeburg – a part of Colonel Tillers [?] Regiment lay at the same place – we just lay there until the last of April, we then returned home, Colonel Lacey ordered this expedition he stayed was employed elsewhere this trip was for three months, February, March & April. He does not recollect what towers [tours] he received written discharges from but, has long since lost all written discharges & his commission as Captain & Lieutenant. He believes that he threw them away when he left South Carolina. He lived in Chester District until 1801, at which time he moved to Davidson County Tennessee, lived there until 1803 then moved to Williamson County Tennessee, lived there until 1808, then moved to this County Maury County Tennessee & has lived here ever since. He has a written memorandum of his age in his Bible that he took from his father's Bible. He saw Colonel Washington of the horse & Colonel White of the horse both regular officers – he saw them down on the Congaree frequently. He knows of no one living by whom he can prove his services. His commissions were signed by Colonel Lacey. Hugh Shaw a clergyman & Isaac J Thomas of this County are acquainted with him and will testify as to his veracity and their belief of my service as a Soldier of the revolution. He hereby relinquishes all claim whatever 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. Sworn to in open Court October the 23rd 1832.

S/ Alexr. Crafford

[Hugh Shaw, a clergyman, and Isaac J Thomas gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

Amended declaration of Alexander Crafford in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832

State of Tennessee Maury County: Circuit Court April Term 1833

This 19th day of April 1833 personally appeared in open court before Williamson E Kennedy Judge of said court Alexander Crafford who being duly sworn deposed & saith that by reason of old age & the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively to the precise length of his service, but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below & in the following grades: For three months in his first trip snow expedition in the last of the year 1775. In the Augusta expedition for three months. In the trip in which Sumter was defeated two months. The tour in which he was at the siege of Ninety Six he served three months. The first month as a private which added to his former tours makes nine months that he served as a private in militia – The two last months of the last tour referred to he served as Lieutenant. For three months I served as Captain – making nine months a private, 2 months as Lieutenant & 3 months as Captain. As to the direction to evidence of his commission & his service in his said offices he can produce no further proof – he was commissioned by Colonel Lacey. The circuit court having no seal of office recourse must be had to the certificate of a member of Congress – this as applicant believes answers all the directions of the war Department as far as he can.

Sworn to in open Court April 19th 1833.

S/ Alexr. Crafford

*Alonzo Crawford*

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$46.66 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 14 months service as a private in the South Carolina militia.]