

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of Robert Craighead S352  
Transcribed by Will Graves

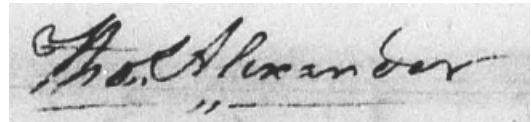
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rev'd 12/17/10

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. Folks are free to make non-commercial use this transcript in any manner they may see fit, but please extend the courtesy of acknowledging the transcriber—besides, if it turns out the transcript contains mistakes, the resulting embarrassment will fall on the transcriber. 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. I welcome and encourage folks to call those and any other errors to my attention.]

North Carolina, Mecklenburg County

This day personally appeared before me William Gray one of the Justices of the Peace for said County, Major Thomas Alexander<sup>1</sup> and made Oath that after the fall of Charleston, South Carolina was generally overrun by the British armies, & North Carolina threatened with immediate invasion, several individuals volunteered their services, & joined the Army at Land's Ford, Catawba [River], under the command of General Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter], and in particular, with part of the Army commanded by Major (now General) Davie [sic, William Richardson Davie], on the evening before the Hanging Rock battle, which was in August 1780; that Robert Craighead was one of these volunteers; that said Robert Craighead was with this deponent when they both entered into the battle of Hanging Rock; that this deponent saw said Robert Craighead towards the close of the Action, who was then wounded in the right shoulder, and that this deponent further saith that he took care of said Robert Craighead after he had been wounded. Sworn to, and subscribed this 30<sup>th</sup> January 1818.

S/ Thos. Alexander

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thos. Alexander". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

S/ William Gray, JP

Charlotte – Mecklenburg County, N. C.

To whom it may concern – Greeting

Being called on according to some late arrangements of the War Department, I have examined a wound in the shoulder of Mr. Robert Craighead which is said to have been received in the revolutionary War, and find, that, the ball having passed obliquely and near to the Pomum Adami entered the head of the os humeri immediately under the clavícula, which does not appear to have been injured, and after passing through the spongy head of the os humeri must have shattered considerably the processus acroiouon of the scapula. In consequence of the injury done to the cartilage of the joint an ancylosis has taken place which prevents the free motion, or rather, any motion of the shoulder but such as is given by the motion of the scapula – This at once prevents Mr. Craighead from manual labor of most kinds, and even injures the motion of the arm which is necessary in writing.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> [Thomas Alexander S6495](#)

<sup>2</sup> Here are some very interesting explanatory observations made by Dr. Malcolm L. Marion, III, M.D.:

*It sounds like Mr. Craighead was shot through the anterior neck with the bullet also passing through the acromion {the small hook of bone which comes off the scapula (shoulder blade) and joins the clavicle (collar bone)} and then into the upper humerus (upper arm bone). As Mr. Dunlap indicates, this type of injury would*

Sworn to & subscribed before me.  
S/ James Cowan, JP

S/ D. R. Dunlap  
Jan. 7<sup>th</sup> 1818

Landsford, Catawba, S. C., January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1818

Dear Sir, Mr. Robert Craighead formerly a resident of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, and now a citizen of Tennessee was severely wounded at the battle of the Hanging-Rock in the State of South Carolina, in the month of August 1780, and I believe serving as a Volunteer under my command. It would now be extremely difficult almost in any case to procure the certificates that might have been with propriety acquired at an earlier period; most of the officers who were in Service at that time are now no more; the defense of the Country in 1780 depended upon the zeal of the inhabitants, and of course upon the volunteer service; there were few or no regular Drafts for duty in the Western part of North Carolina, and the citizens generally ranged themselves under those Leaders in whom they had the most confidence. I recommend Mr. Craighead earnestly to your patronage, for he suffered severely in the cause of his Country.

I am very respectfully,  
Sir your and obt.

S/ W. R. Davie



The Honble. John Williams

I certify that the foregoing letter is in the proper handwriting of Genl Wm R. Davie.

S/ John Williams

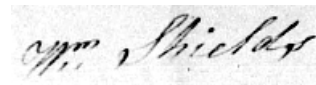
Senate Chamber  
March 19<sup>th</sup> 1818

North Carolina, Mecklenburg County

This day personally appeared before me William Gray one of the Justices of the Peace for said County, William Shields,<sup>3</sup> and made oath; that to his certain knowledge, Robert Craighead served as a soldier at the battle of Hanging Rock, August 1780, and that the said Robert Craighead was, in that battle, wounded in the shoulder. Sworn to, and subscribed this 30<sup>th</sup> of January 1818.

S/ William Gray, JP

S/ Wm Shields



[Craighead died May 7, 1821, according to other documents in this file.]

[Veteran was inscribed on the rolls of the invalid veterans and pensioned at the rate of four dollars per month commencing January 31, 1815, based on the ratio of disability being assessed at one half.]

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*probably lead to massive boney and muscle injury causing a frozen shoulder. With the medical care of the time, it is really surprising he survived. I would also assume from the entry and destination of the projectile, Mr. Craighead was possibly shot by someone from above. He could have been on ground at the time, maybe bent over, leaning to the left with the right shoulder elevated, or shot by someone from an elevated position.*