

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of Joseph Crews: W221

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

Virginia to Wit

At a Circuit Superior Court of Law & Chancery held for Bedford County at the Court house the 11th day of May 1832. Personally appeared in open court, being a Court of record Joseph Crews resident of said County aged Seventy five years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the provision made by the act of Congress on the 18th day of March 1818 & the first day of May 1820. That he enlisted as a private regular soldier in the Army of the Revolution in the line of the State of Virginia on Continental establishment in the year 1777 in the County of Amherst and State of Virginia to serve as such for two years and six months in a rifle company commanded by Colonel Edmond Carrington. That he served out the full term for which he enlisted as aforesaid and was honourably discharged at James Town in the State aforesaid but that he has lost or mislaid his discharge so that he cannot now produce it. That he served during the whole of said term in the said State but was never in any battle or action except a skirmish at Gwinn's Island below Norfolk (now called Craney[?] Island) [see note below] in which he received a wound in his left leg, from a ball, that he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension except the present; that his name is not on the roll of any state except the state of Virginia and that the following are his reasons for not making an earlier application for a pension that is to say In the first place he was not apprized of the [illegible word] of the Acts of Congress above referred to until some considerable time after they were passed And Secondly he was unwilling to make an appeal to the charity of his country until he was forced by want & necessity to do so, which was never the case until recently - and in pursuance of the Act of the 1st of May 1820. I do solemnly swear that I was a resident citizen of the United States on the 18th day of May [sic] 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift, sale or in any manner, disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions of an act of Congress entitled "An act to provide for certain persons engaged in the Land & Naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War passed on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property or securities contracts or debts due to me, nor have I any income other than what is contained in the schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed. That since the 18th day of March 1818 no Changes have been made in my property other than those produced by the natural death, or birth of stock or the slaughter of it for use or the natural wear or accidental destruction of household & kitchen furniture. And a deed of trust executed by me conveying a small tract of land to Dabney M Wharton in trust to secure a debt due to Richard Davis & which deed bears date on the 28 day of May 1828 and is of record in the County Court of Bedford That I have heretofore been in the habit of supporting myself by cooping and doing work as a rough[?] carpenter but that owing to my age & infirmities I am now unable to support myself in that or in any other way That my family who live with me consists of my wife, and two daughters, one of which daughters is about seven and the other but about three years of age and that from my reduced circumstances in life stand in need of the assistance of my country for support.

Schedule referred to in the foregoing declaration

A tract of poor mountain land containing about thirty acres which is encumbered by a deed of trust to secure the payment of a debt amounting to between Eighty and one hundred dollars - one cow and calf, eight head of hogs, half a dozen split bottomed chairs, one table, half a dozen plates, and two dishes, two tumblers, three cups, and half a dozen saucers, half a dozen knives and forks, one pewter table spoon, half a dozen pewter tea spoons, one basin and one tub. - And that I verily believe the value of the property enumerated in this schedule subject to the encumbrances aforesaid on the land is not worth more than fifty dollars Given under my hand this 11th day of May 1832 Joseph Crews.

NOTES:

The only known battle at Gwynn Island, located at the mouth of the Piankatank River, occurred on 10 July 1776, when troops under Andrew Lewis sent Lord Dunmore and Loyalists fleeing.

On 31 July 1855 Nancy Crews, 66, applied for bounty land stating that as Nancy Eubank she married Joseph Crews on 4 Jan 1820 in Bedford County, and he died there on 26 May 1843. On 14 Oct 1858 she applied for a pension, giving her age as 67 and the date of marriage as 4 Jan 1822.