

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of Ezekiel Croft (Craft) S16739

Transcribed by Will Graves

United States: In the District Court of the United States for the Old & District of Alabama held at Huntsville & the County of Madison

On this 11<sup>th</sup> day of October 1832 personally appeared in court before the Judge thereof now sitting the Reverend Ezekiel Craft, a resident of the Big Cove, & the County of Madison aforesaid & aged about 70 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 7, 1832: --

According to what was told him in early life he was born in Duplin County North Carolina; & according to his best memory of the family registry & tradition of his birth it occurred on the 10<sup>th</sup> of January 1762; which registry he believes no longer exists.

On the 10th November 1778 or about that day, he entered the service of his country in the North Carolina militia of the Continental troops. He engaged as a substitute for John White & commenced as a drummer. Was attached to Captain Enoch Davis' company of Colonel Frank [Francis] Locke regiment under General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford]. He joined in Guilford County, North Carolina, was marched thro' Rowan County, Salisbury, Mecklenburg County & Charlotte into South Carolina, thro Camden & down Santee to Moncks Corner, thence to the Ten-Mile House, thence to the Savannah River at Purysburg, & up & down the left bank of the Savannah as the service required until the 9th of April 1779, when he received the written discharge of his captain herewith transmitted.

About the 10th of May 1780, he enlisted as a substitute for Jacob McDaniel in Randolph County, North Carolina. Was mustered into Captain Robert McLain's company of drafted militia. He thinks Colonel Collier was the colonel & well knows his company was attached to General Richard Caswell's brigade. He was marched to Ramsey's Mill to Cross Creek, thence to the upper part of Randolph County, thence to Colston's old field near the Pedee in South Carolina, thence to a point below on that river where a junction was formed with General Rutherford, thence to Lynches Creek where they joined the division under Major General Horatio Gates & Count De Kalb & thence with that division by Ramsour's or Rougeley's [sic, Rugeley's] Mill & Clairmont to the old plain near Camden, whence they arrived on the 15th August.

About two o'clock a.m. of the 16th, the skirmishing commenced betwixt the pickets of Gates' army & the British under the Earl of Cornwallis. The Battle commenced so soon after the dawn that affiant had but little opportunity of observing the ground or the positions of the different corps. He thinks the American artillery was placed near the center of General Gates forces & near to that affiant & his company. He well remembers that one of the causes of the retreat of the troops immediately next to him & of his own company was the circumstances of Colonel Tarlton [sic, Banastre Tarleton], as was said, having carried the artillery & turned it upon the Americans. This was a three months tour, which had expired some three or four days prior to the Battle of Camden, but petitioner's company were retained until after that battle & its disasters prevented the giving of discharges.

About the 27th August 1780, affiant, in the same county of Randolph, volunteered for a tour of six months under Captain John Hinds in Colonel Luttrell's regiment of Horse. They were stationed at Barracks in Chatham County, North Carolina until December following, when then marched into South Carolina & at Cheraw Hill, joined the army of Major General Greene [Nathanael Greene], proceeded up the Yadkin to the Trading Ford; & affiant remained under General Greene until his term expired, when he received a discharge, which is annexed.

About the 30th March 1781, in Randolph County, he volunteered for three months under Captain Hinds & joined what was called the Randolph regiment now commanded by Colonel Thomas Dugan, Colonel Luttrell having been slain by the Tories. Their numbers & butcheries had multiplied since Gates' Defeat, & especially the monster David Fannon [sic, Fanning], at this period a colonel in

the British service, was a dreadful scourge upon this colony. The Randolph regiment was mostly stationed at Bell's Mills on Deep River, whence it made various movements against the Tories.

In one of these, in which Captain Hinds commanded in an attack upon the Tory Colonel some distance below the station on Deep River, affiant was desperately cut & mangled & left as dead on the ground, where some females of the Whigs found him & succeeded in preserving his life. He takes the liberty to mention that the hands of Lucretia Stroud & Margaret Bane were employed in that kind office, & have ever had his grateful recollection & blessings. He annexes the discharge of Captain Hinds in regard to the tour.

In January or February 1782, he volunteered for six months in the same county of Randolph as a state ranger under Captain William Gray. Several such companies were raised to guard the civil authorities & their measures of military cooperation from the incessant assaults of the Tories. During this tour, he served under Colonel Dugan & was again badly wounded. The chief affair that occurred was the defeat of Fanning by Colonel Dugan at Mrs. Spink's plantation, where affiant had the joy to see him overtaken & routed at a moment when he was engaged in hanging some Whigs he had captured. Colonel Dugan's discharge to affiant for this tour is annexed.

About the 1st of September 1782, affiant again volunteered for four months & served as a minute man or ranger for the state of North Carolina under Captains Hinds & York, & for this service has no discharge to produce.

He continued to reside in North Carolina until 1799, when he removed to east Tennessee, & in 1808 settled in Madison County, then Mississippi Territory, now of Alabama, where he has ever since lived & now dwells. Having entered into the ministry of Christ, he on the 22nd September 1825, received from the county courthouse of that county & pursuant to the laws of Alabama, a testimonial of his ordination in the Baptist Church, & annexes that to this declaration.

He hereby writes & relinquishes every 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 without exception.

S/ Ezekiel Craft

Sworn to in open Court 11<sup>th</sup> of October 1832

S/ C. R. Clifton, Clk

Solomon Geron of Roane County, Tennessee, of the age of 71--& now personally in Court & duly sworn on his Oath declares that Ezekiel Craft, who has made the preceding declaration, which affiant has heard read is well-known to him—that said Craft was with affiant in the tour above named, beginning about May 1780 in Robert McLain's company & Caswell's brigade; that he knows said Craft was with affiant in the marching stated by him above stated in Battle of Camden: that affiant was with said Craft on the two next tours above stated in Luttrell's & the Randolph regiment, & saw him about three days after he was badly & as was believed, mortally wounded in Captain Hinds' encounter with Fanning & the Tories—And from information given to affiant by others about the times & shortly after the other tours above described, the said Craft was actually engaged in them also.

Sworn to & subscribed in open Court the 11<sup>th</sup> of October 1832. S/ Solomon Geron

Major Isaac Wellborn Sr., of Madison County, Alabama, aged 75 years, being in open court & duly sworn, on his oath declares, that he knows the above Ezekiel Craft was actually engaged in the service of America in the Tours he has above described in Luttrell's Regiment & the Randolph Regiment – saw him after he was badly wounded in the latter tour & from information from numerous voices during the revolutionary struggle, all concerning as to his disinterested valor & integrity, affiant is confident all the services he has above declared were truly & notably performed by him. Affiant was often with him.

Sworn to and subscribed in open Court 11<sup>th</sup> of October 1832. S/ Isaac Wellsborn  
S/ C. R. Clifton, Clk

I Certify that Ezekiel Croft Served 4 Tours of duty of [illegible word] months as a State Ranger in Captain William Gray's Company and I discharged him this 28<sup>th</sup> day of August 1782.

S/ Thomas Dugan, Colonel

This is to Certify that Ezekiel Craft hath Served a tower of five months in General Rutherford's troops in South Carolina and is this Day Discharged by me.

April the ninth – Day 1779

S/ Enoch Davis

Captain of the Second Regiment Militia

May the 30<sup>th</sup> 1781 This is to Certify that Ezekiel Craft hath Served a tower of Duty as A volunteer in the Randolph Ridgement and is this Day Discharged by me.

S/ John Hind

February the 27<sup>th</sup> 1781 This is to Certify that Ezekiel Craft hath Served A tower of Duty as A volunteer in Col. John Litterl's Corps of Horse and is this Day Discharged by me.

S/ John Hind, Capt.