

Pension Application for Elisha Crane

W.16934 (Widow: Ruth) Ruth died July 1, 1838. Louisa Mead is the only surviving child. There really is not a lot of documentation for his service.

J. L. Edwards Esq

Commissioner of Pensions

Sir—

In the matter of the application made in behalf of Ruth Crane widow of Elisha Crane, I now send an additional affidavit to wit, one of Derrick Hilton, who was himself and officer.

I beg leave to call your attention to a review of this case.

It is in proof that said Elisha Crane served as an Issuing Commissary one year after his marriage. That he served several months after his marriage as such commissary appears further & incontestably from the documentary proof I have furnished in this case from the office of the Secretary of State of the United States, and also if I recollect right from the office of the Register of the (U.S.) treasury.

That this case therefore comes within the provisions of the act of 4th July 1836, cannot be, & I think has not been questioned.

If there has been any ground for doubt, it must have been as to the length of time Mr. Crane served.

I now produce an unexceptionable witness to show that he served as a commissary in the year 1778, or in some similar capacity, and also that he thus served in the year 1780. After more than a year's search, I have found it impossible to get any more parole testimony in this case. There are several old inhabitants of Albany, who will swear generally that Mr. Crane was reputed to have been a Commissary of Issues in the war of the revolution, but they can give no specification whatever of his services. I trust and believe that the circumstantial evidence in this case is sufficiently strong to induce a favorable decision and to show that Elisha Crane served as an Issuing commissary for at least two years. Witnesses cannot be persuaded to remember, if they ever knew military titles & appellations in the Civil Department of the Army.

They many know an officer dealt out provisions or Forage or had charge of Continental teams, but they cannot with technical precision say & perhaps they never heard, whether such an officer was a QuarterMaster or commissary, Forage Master or commissary of Forage conductor of teams or Brigade or Regimental Wagon Master.

In the present case the documentary evidence referred to settle the grade of Mr. Crane.

The relatives are blaming me for the delay in this case, or I would not urge you to a speedy decision. I am very respectfully, Your Obt. Serv't. G. F. Yates.
Schenectada July 14, 1840.