

## **Captain Craig's Biography**

Born in 1744, Captain James Craig served in Dunmore's War prior to the American War for Independence. Serving as an officer, Captain Craig was tasked with protecting the frontier. At the time, this protection was against Native Americans. Later, Captain Craig would be protecting his land and family against a different foe—the British.

When the American War for Independence broke out, Captain Craig valiantly served as a Continental soldier. For May and June 1777, not too long after the Declaration of Independence was signed, Craig's name appears on a payroll for the 8th Virginia Regiment, alongside other officers' names and ranks. In September 1778, Craig—along with two other soldiers—was serving as a supernumerary captain. Apparently, one of the 8th Virginia Regiment's captains had become a prisoner of war. Craig's name also appears with the 4th Virginia Regiment, where he served as supernumerary lieutenant. It wasn't uncommon during the Revolutionary War for Continental troops—mainly enlisted men—to serve for a few months at a time, head back home, and then return to service at a later date. As an officer and veteran, Captain Craig was likely transferred to whatever role he was most needed for. No matter what capacity or regiment Captain Craig served in, it's obvious he was a champion of autonomy from European rule.

After the Revolutionary War ended, Captain Craig immigrated to Kentucky. Upon arriving in the region, Captain Craig became involved in helping establish—from the counties of Logan and Christian—this new county of Muhlenberg. The county was named after General John Peter Gabriel Muhlenberg, as many pioneers of the area respected this Revolutionary War veteran and patriotic American.

In 1798, Captain Craig became Justice of the Peace. Just one year later, during Muhlenberg County's third county court meeting, it was Captain Craig who signed the minutes. For a brief time, Captain Craig was also a businessman. In 1799, he went in with fellow pioneer James Weir to open in Greenville what was likely Muhlenberg County's first mercantile.

In his will, Captain Craig lists his wife's name as Sally, while other people noted in the will include Hiram, William, Thomas, Robert, John, James Jr., Andrew, Henry, Margaret, Mary, Elizabeth, Sally, and Garland. According to cemetery historian Marian Hammers, some of these individuals could have been grandchildren. Several of the people included in Captain Craig's will are buried at this cemetery. Although Captain Craig passed away on March 5, 1816, his legacy as a brave Revolutionary War veteran and influential pioneer still lives on.