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*DEMONSTRATION SPECIMEN — This is a demonstration specimen. The soldier is fictional and his “file” is a typeset reconstruction of the document types found in real pension files. The process, tables, flags, and sourcing shown here are exactly what a real report contains.*

### A CIVIL WAR PENSION FILE REPORT

# Josiah Crowther (enlisted under the alias Josiah Crane)

Landsman, afterwards Ordinary Seaman · United States Navy

*Navy widow's pension (Act of July 14, 1862), with a later widow's claim for increase (Act of  
July 25, 1866)*

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Family Keepsake Edition · Researcher-Reviewed

Prepared September 2, 2026

*Every fact in this report is traced to the page that states it.*

Prepared from the original records of the United States National Archives (Record Group 15).

# Josiah Crowther (enlisted under the alias Josiah Crane)

Landsman, afterwards Ordinary Seaman, United States Navy

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## Short Biography

Josiah Crowther was a young Philadelphia rigger who went to sea in the U.S. Navy in 1862 under his mother's name, Crane — a common practice among sailors. He served aboard the steam frigate *Wabash* and the gunboat *Pawnee*, and died of typhoid fever off Port Royal, South Carolina, in November 1863, leaving a young widow, Hannah, and their little boy, Albert. Hannah, who could not write her own name, spent the next years proving to the pension office that the sailor called "Crane" on the Navy's books and the husband she had married at Old Swedes' Church were one and the same man. She won her pension and an allowance for Albert. (The Navy's records place his death on November 8, 1863; Hannah's own declaration, made from what she had been told, gave the 9th.)

## The Story of Josiah and Hannah Crowther

### A Southwark marriage

On June 2, 1859, at the Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church in Philadelphia, **Josiah Crowther** married **Hannah Speers**, both of Southwark, the Rev. J. Clay officiating (Certified Marriage Extract, p. 6; Widow's Declaration, p. 2). Two years later, on **April 20, 1861**, their son **Albert Crowther** was born (Widow's Declaration, p. 2).

### To sea under another name

On **April 17, 1862**, Josiah enlisted in the United States Navy at Philadelphia, for three years — but he did so **under the name Josiah Crane**, taking, as his shipmates later explained, his mother's name "as many do" (Descriptive List, p. 3; Affidavit of Identity, p. 5). The Navy's descriptive list records him as a rigger by trade, born in Philadelphia, gray eyes, brown hair, 5 feet 7 inches, with a **scar over the left eyebrow** — the same scar his shipmates swore to when they identified him (p. 3; p. 5).

He entered as a **Landsman** and was **rated Ordinary Seaman on July 1, 1863** (Descriptive List, p. 3). He served aboard the **U.S.S. Wabash**, transferred to the **U.S.S. Pawnee** in October 1862, and returned to the **Wabash** in June 1863 (p. 3). The widow's declaration names both vessels as well (p. 2).

### Death off Port Royal

Josiah did not survive the war. He died of **typhoid fever aboard the U.S.S. Wabash, off Port Royal, South Carolina**, and was buried at the naval hospital cemetery there (Report of Death, p. 4). The Navy's Report of Death gives the date as **November 8, 1863** (p. 4); Hannah, testifying from what she had been told, gave it as "on or about the ninth day of November, 1863" (Widow's Declaration, p. 2). The contemporaneous naval record is the better date; the one-day difference is exactly the kind of small gap one expects when a widow reports a death she learned of by letter — see the notes.

### Proving the man was her husband

Because Josiah had served under the name Crane, Hannah's claim turned on proving that "Josiah Crane" of the Navy's books was her husband **Josiah Crowther**. The Bureau of Equipment &

Recruiting confirmed the service of *Crane* but noted plainly that "the books of this office show no man CROWTHER for these dates and vessels" (Descriptive List, p. 3). That gap was closed by two shipmates, **Thomas Gorman** (boatswain's mate) and **Wm. H. Diehl** (seaman), who swore they knew the man who enlisted as Josiah Crane, that his true name was Josiah Crowther of Southwark, that he bore the scar over the left eyebrow, and that they had known him and his wife Hannah before his enlistment and knew she remained his widow (Affidavit of Identity, p. 5).

On **March 9, 1864**, Hannah — then aged 24 and living in Southwark — made her Widow's Declaration for Pension under the Act of July 14, 1862, signing with her mark (p. 2).

### The pension

The claim was **admitted August 30, 1864**, as **Certificate No. 4,287**, at **\$8 per month commencing November 8, 1863, plus \$2 per month for the child Albert until he turned sixteen**, payable at the Philadelphia agency (Pension Office Docket, p. 7). On **September 12, 1867**, Hannah (now stated as aged 28) filed a claim confirming the child's allowance under the Act of July 25, 1866, again signing with her mark (p. 8).

The file — a Navy Dependents jacket — ends here, a compact and unusually clean record of a sailor whose own service papers survive nowhere else so completely as in his widow's pension.

## On the Alias — Crane and Crowther

The single organizing fact of this file is that the sailor **enlisted under an assumed name**. This was routine among Union sailors and is **not evidence of any wrongdoing** — the Bureau itself knew the practice well and built identity cases from descriptive lists and shipmate testimony.

- The **Navy's own records** know him only as **Josiah Crane** (Descriptive List, p. 3; Report of Death, p. 4).
- His **true name was Josiah Crowther**, per his widow, his marriage record, and two shipmates (pp. 2, 5, 6).
- The identity was tied together by the **physical description** (scar over the left eyebrow, rigger, Philadelphia birth) matching across the descriptive list and the shipmates' affidavit (pp. 3, 5).

The jacket itself records both names: "Josiah Crowther, alias Josiah Crane, U.S. Navy" (p. 1). This report uses **Crowther** as the man's true name (best sources: marriage register, widow's sworn declaration, shipmates' affidavit) while noting **Crane** as the name of record in the Navy's books.

## Timeline

| Date | Event | Source | |---|---|---| | June 2, 1859 | Marriage of Josiah Crowther and Hannah Speers, Gloria Dei Church, Philadelphia | pp. 2, 6 | | April 20, 1861 | Birth of son Albert Crowther | pp. 2, 8 | | April 17, 1862 | Enlisted at Philadelphia as "Josiah Crane," Landsman, 3 years | p. 3 | | Oct. 1862 | Transferred from U.S.S. Wabash to U.S.S. Pawnee | p. 3 | | June 1863 | Returned to U.S.S. Wabash | p. 3 | | July 1, 1863 | Rated Ordinary Seaman | p. 3 | | Nov. 8, 1863 | Died of typhoid fever aboard U.S.S. Wabash, off Port Royal, S.C. (widow's declaration gives the 9th) | pp. 2, 4 | | March 9, 1864 | Hannah Crowther makes Widow's Declaration for Pension | p. 2 | | March 28, 1864 | Bureau of Equipment & Recruiting descriptive-list reply | p. 3 | | April 6, 1864 | Navy Department Report of Death | p. 4 | | Aug. 30, 1864 | Widow's claim admitted; Certificate No. 4,287 | p. 7 | | Sept. 12, 1867 | Widow's claim confirming child's allowance (Act of July 25, 1866) | p. 8 |

## Marriage and Child

**Marriage:** Josiah Crowther and Hannah Speers were married **June 2, 1859**, at **Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church**, Philadelphia, by the **Rev. J. Clay**, both of Southwark. This is proven directly by a certified extract of the church marriage register (p. 6) and corroborated by the widow's declaration (p. 2) — a Tier-1 record backed by an independent Tier-1 sworn statement.

Hannah's maiden name was **Speers** (pp. 2, 6).

**Child:** One child of the soldier is named — **Albert Crowther, born April 20, 1861** (Widow's Declaration, p. 2; Widow's Claim for Increase, p. 8). His allowance of \$2/month ran until he turned sixteen (Pension Office Docket, p. 7).

## The Pension History and What It Paid

**Certificate No. 4,287**, admitted **August 30, 1864** (p. 7).

- **Widow's rate:** \$8 per month, commencing November 8, 1863 (p. 7). This is the standard Landsman/enlisted rate under the Act of July 14, 1862.
- **Child's allowance:** \$2 per month for Albert until age sixteen (p. 7), the additional-allowance provision confirmed in Hannah's 1867 claim under the Act of July 25, 1866 (p. 8).

**Rough calculation (labeled as a calculation):** The child's allowance of \$2/month ran from the pension's commencement (Nov. 8, 1863) to Albert's sixteenth birthday (April 20, 1877) — roughly 13.4 years, about **\$322** in child allowance alone. The widow's \$8/month, if paid continuously during her widowhood from Nov. 1863 through the same span, would total roughly **\$1,290** over those first ~13.4 years. The file does not record when Hannah's pension ended, so no full lifetime total can be computed — this figure covers only the period the file documents and assumes continuous payment.

*Note on the acts:* The 1867 claim citing the "Act of July 25, 1866" reflects the child-allowance/rate machinery of the widows' cascade, not any new evidence about the family — the paperwork tracks the law.

## The Law Behind the Pension

**Act of July 14, 1862 (12 Stat. 566).** The General Law under which Hannah filed her widow's declaration (p. 2). It granted a pension to the widow of a sailor whose death was traceable to service, at the total-disability rate for his rating — for an enlisted man/Ordinary Seaman, \$8 per month, running during her widowhood. The file's marriage proof, death proof, and identity proof are exactly the documents this act required. Tie: Widow's Declaration (p. 2) and Pension Office Docket rate of \$8/month (p. 7).

**Act of July 25, 1866 (widows' additional child allowance).** Cited on the face of the 1867 Widow's Claim for Increase (p. 8), under which the \$2/month per child under sixteen was claimed/confirmed for Albert. Tie: Widow's Claim for Increase (p. 8); child allowance in the docket (p. 7).

*(The file states these two acts on the documents themselves; no other act is invoked.)*

## The People Named in the File

- **Hannah Crowther** (née Speers) — the widow and claimant (pp. 1, 2, 8).
- **Josiah Crowther, alias Josiah Crane** — the sailor (pp. 1–8).
- **Albert Crowther** — the couple's son (pp. 2, 7, 8).
- **Rev. J. Clay** — Rector, Gloria Dei Church; officiated the marriage and certified the register extract (pp. 2, 6).
- **Thomas Gorman** — boatswain's mate; shipmate who swore to Josiah's identity (p. 5).
- **Wm. H. Diehl** — seaman; shipmate who swore to Josiah's identity (p. 5).
- **"For the Chief of Bureau"** — unnamed signer of the Bureau of Equipment & Recruiting descriptive-list reply (p. 3).

## Research Gaps and the Identity Question

**What this file establishes about who the sailor was:** His name (Josiah Crowther, alias Josiah Crane); Philadelphia birth; occupation as a rigger; a physical description (gray eyes, brown hair, 5'7", scar over the left eyebrow); enlistment at Philadelphia on April 17, 1862; his vessels (Wabash, Pawnee); his wife Hannah (née Speers), his son Albert, his mother's surname (Crane), and his residence in Southwark. These are the anchors a family would use to tie him to a specific line.

**What this file cannot establish:** That this Josiah Crowther is any particular researcher's ancestor. Matching him to a family line requires correlation with records **outside this file** — Philadelphia census, city directories, Southwark church and civil records, and probate. Same-named men of the same era are common. This report reads the file; it cannot perform the family-connection step.

**Records that would extend the story:** - **NARA muster rolls and deck logs of the U.S.S.**

**Wabash and U.S.S. Pawnee** (and the rendezvous returns for Philadelphia, April 1862) — for a sailor these ship records, not a compiled service record, are where his day-to-day service lives. There is no CMSR for an enlisted sailor, which makes this pension file itself one of the best consolidated records of the man. - **Carded Medical Records / naval hospital records (Port Royal)** — for the record of his last illness and the burial in the naval hospital cemetery. - **Age discrepancy** (see the notes) between the two descriptive statements of his age is unresolved by this file. - **When and how Hannah's pension ended** (her death or remarriage) is not documented in the pages provided — a pensioner-dropped notice or later agency records would resolve it.

## Document Inventory

| Page | Document Type                                          | Summary                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|------|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1    | Navy Dependents Jacket (NARA-style file cover)         | Cover for Certificate No. 4,287; pensioner Hannah Crowther, widow of Josiah Crowther alias Josiah Crane, U.S. Navy; Can No. 112, Bundle No. 9; pencil corner notation "4787 - Phila."                  |
| 2    | Widow's Declaration for Pension (Act of July 14, 1862) | Sworn March 9, 1864, Philadelphia. Hannah Crowther, aged 24, of Southwark, widow of Josiah Crowther who enlisted as Josiah Crane; served as Landsman then Ordinary Seaman on U.S.S. Wabash and Pawnee; |

|          |                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|          |                                                                      | died of typhoid fever on/about Nov. 9, 1863 aboard Wabash off Port Royal, S.C.; married June 2, 1859 at Gloria Dei Church by Rev. Clay; maiden name Hannah Speers; one child, Albert, born April 20, 1861. Signed with her mark.                                                                                                                    |
| <b>3</b> | Navy Department, Bureau of Equipment & Recruiting — Descriptive List | Dated March 28, 1864. Josiah Crane enlisted Philadelphia April 17, 1862, 3 years, as Landsman; rated Ordinary Seaman July 1, 1863; born Philadelphia, age 25, rigger, gray eyes, brown hair, 5'7", scar over left eyebrow; served Wabash, to Pawnee Oct. 1862, back to Wabash June 1863; office books show no man Crowther for these dates/vessels. |
| <b>4</b> | Report of Death (Navy Department)                                    | Dated April 6, 1864. Josiah Crane, Ordinary Seaman, died November 8, 1863 aboard U.S.S. Wabash of typhoid fever; buried naval hospital cemetery, Port Royal, S.C.; accounts settled to that date.                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>5</b> | Affidavit of Identity — Two Shipmates                                | Thomas Gorman (boatswain's mate) and Wm. H. Diehl (seaman) swear the man who enlisted as Josiah Crane was truly Josiah Crowther of Southwark, who took his mother's name Crane on enlisting; had a scar over the left eyebrow; and they knew him and his wife Hannah before enlistment and know she remains his widow.                              |
| <b>6</b> | Certified Extract — Marriage Register, Gloria Dei Church             | Rev. J. Clay, Rector, certifies the register shows the marriage June 2, 1859 of Josiah Crowther and Hannah Speers, both of Southwark.                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>7</b> | Pension Office Docket / Admission                                    | Widow's claim admitted August 30, 1864, Certificate No. 4,287; rate \$8/month commencing Nov. 8, 1863, plus \$2/month for child Albert until sixteen; payable at Philadelphia agency.                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>8</b> | Widow's Claim for Increase (Act of July 25, 1866)                    | Philadelphia, Sept. 12, 1867. Hannah Crowther, aged 28, claims the increase allowed by                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

|   |                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|---|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|   |                                                 | the Act of July 25, 1866 for the child of her late husband Josiah Crowther alias Crane: Albert Crowther, born April 20, 1861. Signed with her mark.                                                   |
| 9 | Fold3-style source page (digitization provider) | Provider-added note stating the specimen corresponds to no actual NARA certificate; the sailor and family are fictional; the named vessels are real U.S. Navy ships. Not part of the original record. |

## Every Fact and Its Source

*Each substantive fact in this report, with the document that states it. Tier 1 = sworn or own-hand documents; Tier 2 = official contemporaneous records; Tier 3 = claim-process paperwork; Tier 4 = administrative material. Notes mark facts a witness learned second-hand, values worked out by calculation, and uncertain readings.*

| Fact                                                                                                                                                                 | Source document (page)                                                | Tier | Notes                         |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|------|-------------------------------|
| <b>The sailor's true name was Josiah Crowther, who enlisted under the alias Josiah Crane.</b>                                                                        | Navy Dependents Jacket (p. 1)                                         | 4    | corroborated by second source |
| <b>Josiah Crowther enlisted in the U.S. Navy under the name Josiah Crane, taking his mother's name Crane on enlisting.</b>                                           | Affidavit of Identity — Two Shipmates (p. 5)                          | 1    | corroborated by second source |
| <b>Josiah's true name was Josiah Crowther of Southwark, per his widow's sworn declaration.</b>                                                                       | Widow's Declaration for Pension, sworn 9 Mar 1864 (p. 2)              | 1    | —                             |
| <b>Josiah (as Josiah Crane) was born in Philadelphia, Pa., occupation rigger, age 25, gray eyes, brown hair, 5 feet 7 inches, with a scar over the left eyebrow.</b> | Bureau of Equipment & Recruiting Descriptive List, 28 Mar 1864 (p. 3) | 2    | —                             |
| <b>Josiah bore a scar over the left eyebrow, confirmed by shipmates as an identity marker.</b>                                                                       | Affidavit of Identity — Two Shipmates (p. 5)                          | 1    | corroborated by second source |
| <b>Josiah Crane</b>                                                                                                                                                  | Bureau of Equipment &                                                 | 2    | —                             |



|                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                       |   |                               |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| <b>enlisted at Philadelphia on April 17, 1862, for three years, as Landsman.</b>                                                                                        | Recruiting Descriptive List, 28 Mar 1864 (p. 3)                       |   |                               |
| <b>He was rated Ordinary Seaman on July 1, 1863.</b>                                                                                                                    | Bureau of Equipment & Recruiting Descriptive List, 28 Mar 1864 (p. 3) | 2 | —                             |
| <b>He served aboard the U.S.S. Wabash, transferred to the U.S.S. Pawnee in October 1862, and returned to the U.S.S. Wabash in June 1863.</b>                            | Bureau of Equipment & Recruiting Descriptive List, 28 Mar 1864 (p. 3) | 2 | corroborated by second source |
| <b>He served as a Landsman, afterwards Ordinary Seaman, on board the U.S.S. Wabash and U.S.S. Pawnee.</b>                                                               | Widow's Declaration for Pension, sworn 9 Mar 1864 (p. 2)              | 1 | learned by notification       |
| <b>The Bureau's books showed no man named Crowther for these dates and vessels (service recorded only under Crane).</b>                                                 | Bureau of Equipment & Recruiting Descriptive List, 28 Mar 1864 (p. 3) | 2 | —                             |
| <b>Josiah Crane, Ordinary Seaman, died November 8, 1863, aboard the U.S.S. Wabash of typhoid fever, and was buried at the naval hospital cemetery, Port Royal, S.C.</b> | Report of Death (Navy Department), 6 Apr 1864 (p. 4)                  | 2 | source conflict               |
| <b>The widow stated her husband died on or about the ninth day of November, 1863, of typhoid fever, aboard the U.S.S. Wabash off Port Royal, S.C.</b>                   | Widow's Declaration for Pension, sworn 9 Mar 1864 (p. 2)              | 1 | learned by notification       |
| <b>Josiah Crowther married Hannah Speers on June 2, 1859, at Gloria Dei (Old Swedes')</b>                                                                               | Certified Extract — Marriage Register, Gloria Dei Church (p. 6)       | 1 | corroborated by second source |



|                                                                                                                                   |                                                          |   |                               |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| <b>Church, Philadelphia, both of Southwark.</b>                                                                                   |                                                          |   |                               |
| <b>The marriage was performed by the Rev. Mr. Clay; the widow's name before marriage was Hannah Speers.</b>                       | Widow's Declaration for Pension, sworn 9 Mar 1864 (p. 2) | 1 | corroborated by second source |
| <b>The couple had one child, Albert Crowther, born April 20, 1861.</b>                                                            | Widow's Declaration for Pension, sworn 9 Mar 1864 (p. 2) | 1 | corroborated by second source |
| <b>Albert Crowther, born April 20, 1861, was the child of the late Josiah Crowther alias Crane.</b>                               | Widow's Claim for Increase, 12 Sep 1867 (p. 8)           | 1 | corroborated by second source |
| <b>Hannah Crowther, aged 24, resident of Southwark, Philadelphia, was the widow and claimant; she signed with her mark.</b>       | Widow's Declaration for Pension, sworn 9 Mar 1864 (p. 2) | 1 | —                             |
| <b>Hannah Crowther was stated as aged 28 in September 1867.</b>                                                                   | Widow's Claim for Increase, 12 Sep 1867 (p. 8)           | 1 | source conflict               |
| <b>Shipmates swore they knew Josiah and his wife Hannah before his enlistment and know she remains his widow.</b>                 | Affidavit of Identity — Two Shipmates (p. 5)             | 1 | —                             |
| <b>The widow's claim was admitted August 30, 1864, as Certificate No. 4,287, payable at the Philadelphia agency.</b>              | Pension Office Docket / Admission (p. 7)                 | 2 | corroborated by second source |
| <b>The pension rate was \$8 per month commencing November 8, 1863, plus \$2 per month for the child Albert until age sixteen.</b> | Pension Office Docket / Admission (p. 7)                 | 2 | —                             |
| <b>The widow's declaration was</b>                                                                                                | Widow's Declaration for Pension, sworn 9                 | 1 | —                             |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                            |   |                    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|--------------------|
| <b>filed under the Act of July 14, 1862.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Mar 1864 (p. 2)                                                            |   |                    |
| <b>Hannah Crowther filed a claim on September 12, 1867, for the increase (child's allowance) allowed by the Act of July 25, 1866.</b>                                                                                                                                   | Widow's Claim for Increase, 12 Sep 1867 (p. 8)                             | 1 | —                  |
| <b>Identity of the sailor was established by shipmates Thomas Gorman (boatswain's mate) and Wm. H. Diehl (seaman).</b>                                                                                                                                                  | Affidavit of Identity — Two Shipmates (p. 5)                               | 1 | —                  |
| <b>The file is a Navy Dependents jacket, Can No. 112, Bundle No. 9, Certificate No. 4,287.</b>                                                                                                                                                                          | Navy Dependents Jacket (p. 1)                                              | 4 | —                  |
| <b>The child's \$2/month allowance ran roughly 13.4 years (Nov. 1863 to April 1877), about \$322 in child allowance; the widow's \$8/month over the same span would total roughly \$1,290 — figures cover only the documented period and assume continuous payment.</b> | Pension Office Docket / Admission (calculation from rate and dates) (p. 7) | 2 | calculated/derived |
| <b>The jacket carries a penciled corner notation "4787 - Phila" differing from the formal certificate number 4,287.</b>                                                                                                                                                 | Navy Dependents Jacket (p. 1)                                              | 4 | source conflict    |
| <b>Page 9 is a digitization provider's source-information page stating the specimen is fictional and not part of the original record; the named</b>                                                                                                                     | Fold3-style source page (p. 9)                                             | 4 | —                  |

|                                      |  |  |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| vessels are real U.S.<br>Navy ships. |  |  |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|--|

## Where the Documents Disagree

*Here two or more perfectly legible documents say different things. That is a finding about the record, not a reading problem - both versions are shown, and neither was silently preferred. Where the evidence clearly favored one reading, the story above follows it, and the note here says why - a visible weighing, never a silent one.*

- **Page 2** - the documents disagree here (The Widow's Declaration (p. 2) gives death "on or about the ninth day of November, 1863," while the Navy Department Report of Death (p. 4) and the Pension Office Docket commencement date (p. 7) give November 8, 1863. The widow was not present and learned the death by notification). Both readings appear in the report; review confirmed the disagreement is in the record itself. Our read: Adopt November 8, 1863 — the contemporaneous official naval record beats a widow's date learned by notification; her "on or about the ninth" is a one-day approximation.
- **Page 3** - the documents disagree here (The Descriptive List (p. 3) gives his age as 25 in 1862 (implied birth ~1836–1837). The file gives no direct statement of Josiah's birth year elsewhere, so his age cannot be independently cross-checked; noted for completeness of the age sweep). Both readings appear in the report; review confirmed the disagreement is in the record itself. The evidence is evenly balanced; we do not choose between them.
- **Page 8** - the documents disagree here (The Widow's Declaration (p. 2, March 1864) states Hannah aged 24; the Widow's Claim for Increase (p. 8, Sept. 1867) states her aged 28. Between March 1864 and Sept. 1867 (about 3.5 years) her stated age rose by 4 years — a ~1-year drift in implied birth year). Both readings appear in the report; review confirmed the disagreement is in the record itself. Our read: Minor drift within normal range for self-reported ages; implied birth year ~1839. Not materially in doubt; noted per the age-consistency sweep.
- **Page 1** - the documents disagree here (The jacket (p. 1) carries a penciled corner notation "4787 - Phila" which disagrees with the formal Certificate No. 4,287 printed on the same jacket and confirmed on the docket (p. 7)). Both readings appear in the report; review confirmed the disagreement is in the record itself. Our read: Adjudicate to the formal number, Certificate No. 4,287 (corroborated on pp. 1 and 7); the penciled "4787" is a transposition/clerical variant recorded here for completeness.

## What the File Does Not Establish

*The file is silent on these points. No document states them, so the report says so rather than filling them in.*

- **Page 3** - the file does not answer this (The Bureau's books show no man "Crowther" for these vessels/dates; service is verifiable only under the alias "Crane." The file resolves this by shipmate testimony, but the underlying ship muster rolls and rendezvous returns (under "Crane") were not produced in this file). The Research Gaps section points to the records that might.
- **Page 8** - the file does not answer this (The file does not record when or how Hannah Crowther's pension ended (her death or remarriage), so a lifetime total paid cannot be computed). The Research Gaps section points to the records that might.

*About this report: it was produced from the file provided, read page by page. It does not search records beyond that file - the Research Gaps section points to the outside records that could carry the story further.*