

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of John Childress S3146

Transcribed by Will Graves

State of Tennessee, Rutherford County: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions November Sessions 1832

On this 22nd day of November 1832 personally appeared in open court before Henry Scott, Henry Garrison [?], Varner D. Cowen, the justices of the court of pleas & quarter sessions for said County of Rutherford, now sitting, John Childress, a resident in the County & state aforesaid, aged 77 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 July [sic June] 7th, 1832: That he entered the service of the United States as a volunteer under Colonel Shepherd in the month of May as he believes, 1780, at least in the May after Charleston was taken by the British, but cannot state the day of the month. He served in the company commanded by Captain James Shepherd. Joseph Winston & Davidson were Majors under Colonel Shepherd, whose Regiment of Cavalry collected at Surry County Courthouse North Carolina & from that place directed their course across the Yadkin River, through Salisbury & down a few miles below to Egnew's [sic, Agnew's?] where General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford] had head quarters. During this march applicant continued with Colonel Shepherd's troop of horse, with which he was sent by General Rutherford against the Tories & British to the mouth of Rocky River on the PeDee [sic, Pee Dee River]. He was there in a skirmish with the British & Tories in which the Whigs lost a few men, & the enemy were entirely defeated. Colonel [sic, General] Rutherford soon after came on to the mouth of Rocky River & sent Colonel Shepherd (with whom he still continued) back to Surry County to reconnoiter & prevent the rising of the Tories. They there scouted after the Tories until they heard of the approach of Colonel Ferguson [Patrick Ferguson]. There came a false report to Surry County that the Whig Colonel Cleveland [Benjamin Cleveland] was defeated by Ferguson. Applicant with three others under Captain James Shepherd voluntarily went to Wilkes County Court house to know the certainty of the report. They there volunteered under Colonel Cleveland & marched with him the next day towards King's Mountain. At the Cowpens on their way their spies returned & told them where Ferguson was. They hurried on their march, & fell in with Colonels Campbell [William Campbell], Sevier [John Sevier] & Shelby [Isaac Shelby]. The evening of the same day they had the battle of King's Mountain, in which applicant was wounded. After the battle was over, they marched to Colonel Walker's, where applicant remembers 9 of the prisoners were hung and Baldin [sic, Baldwin?] made his escape. Thence they went to Moravian town where applicant was permitted to return home, in the month of October as he believes, but cannot remember with certainty, 1780. He did not receive a written discharge.

Afterwards in November 1780, as Applicant believes, he was appointed forage master to the troops commanded by Colonel Joseph Phillips & stationed at Salisbury to guard the prisoners taken as he understood by General Morgan [Daniel Morgan], Major Sharpe [?] was then quartermaster. In January afterwards, 500 more prisoners were sent to Salisbury which had, as he then was informed & believed, been taken by Morgan at the Cowpens. It was then heard that Cornwallis was approaching, & the Whigs moved the prisoners from Salisbury to the next County, to Surry now on Dan River where the widow Carmichael lived, on the way to the barracks in Prince Edward or Albemarle County, Virginia. Applicant was then appointed & served as wagon master to convey the tax grain in Surry County North Carolina to Camden South Carolina for the use of General Green's [sic, Nathaniel Greene's] Army after the battle of Guilford. He was dismissed from service as wagon master in September or October 1781. Matthew Brooks was at this time his quartermaster. He received no written discharge & cannot remember dates with accuracy. But as forage & wagon master, he believes he served at least 10 months.

Applicant, soon after his discharge from service as wagon master, moved to Kentucky, Fayette

County & sought protection in Bryant's Fort [Bryan's Fort or Bryan's Station] where he was when said Fort was attacked by the Indians in the year 1782, as he believes. He was with Colonel John Todd when he pursued the Indians to Blue Lick [sic, Blue Licks] where he was defeated by the Indians under the command of Simon McGurty [Simon Girty]. In the fall after the Blue Licks defeat, applicant went under the command of General Clark [George Rogers Clark] in Colonel Daniel Boone's Regiment to the Shawnee town which they burnt having taken it without a battle. Applicant was in a scouting party near Shawnee town under Colonel Logan [Benjamin Logan] & remembers that they killed & scalped 16 Indians. He remained in Bryan's Fort for about two years & was not out of it any length of time except on the occasion of going to the Blue Licks & Shawnee Town above stated.

Applicant was born, as he was told by his parents & as he believes, on the fifth of May 1755 in Cumberland County Virginia, where he resided until about one year before the British took Charleston, then he moved to North Carolina, Surry County where he lived until after the battle of Guilford, & until he went to Kentucky as above stated. When he left Bryan's Fort he made his way to Tennessee on Red River, thence to Monsco's station [sic, Mansker's Station] 10 or 12 miles above Nashville. Applicant lived in Tennessee about two years when he moved to South Carolina, Lawrence [sic, Laurens] County where he married Martha Calhoun, a daughter of Thomas Calhoun. He resided there about 18 years, perhaps more, when he moved to Sevier County, Tennessee, where he resided till about the year 1826 when he moved to Rutherford County, where he now resides. Applicant lived in Surry County North Carolina when he entered the service of the revolution. He has no record of his age. He never served in the revolution in any capacity except as a volunteer. He knows of no one now living who remembers to have served with him in the revolutionary war, by whom he could make actual positive proof of his service. He never had a written discharge. He submits this statement with the best proof in his power to give. The following persons, his present neighbors, he believes will testify as to his veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution, to wit: Gideon Rucker, Thomas Powell, William McFerren, John Hollis & Joseph Soape [?].

Applicant in February in the year 1830 went before William Lytle Esq. Of Davidson County, Tennessee & made, on oath, a declaration for the purpose of getting a pension on account of his being wounded in the revolution. He then obtained the affidavit of Thomas Norman a fellow soldier of the revolution proving the fact of his being wounded and his services in the revolution. Said declaration & affidavit as then made are herewith transmitted. Said Norman is now dead, but was a resident of Nashville, Tennessee & for said Norman's character as a man of truth applicant refers to President Jackson, the Honorable Felix Grundy & the Honorable John Bell. The fact stated in said declaration that applicant entered the service of the United States in the year 1778, was a mistake either of himself or Esq. Lytle who wrote it for him. He thinks he entered the service in 1780, at least it was after Charleston was taken by the British as stated above.

Applicant hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ John Childress

S/ J. R. Laughlin, Clk.