

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Fleming Cobbs BLWt83776-160-55 Sally Cobb VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

Virginia, Kanawha County To wit

On this 11th day of June 1833 personally appeared in open court, before the county court of Kanawha county, Fleming Cobb, a resident of said county and state aged sixty six years, who being duly sworn, doth on his oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress, of 7th June 1832 [providing pensions only for soldiers during the Revolutionary War, 19 Apr 1775 - 11 Apr 1783].

That he was born in the month of December, 1767, in the county of Buckingham, Virginia, and there continued to live until the year 1787, when he moved to the county of Albemarle, same state, where he resided until Autum of 1789, when he removed to the county of Kanawha, where he now lives and has since lived without interruption. In February or March, 1791, he was enlisted as an Indian Spy by Col. George Clendenin, at that time Lieut. Col. of Kanawha county, and continued except during three or four of the severest winter months, actively to serve in that capacity, and in that of a soldier, for the defence of Clendenin's, Frontier or Elk Fort, of which William Clendenin was captain, until the Spring of 1793, when he enlisted as First Sergeant under Capt. Moses Mann, who was then marching with a small body of men to the Kanawha frontier or frontier of Western Virginia. This company was raised principally in Bath and Greenbriar [sic: Greenbrier] counties, virginia, for the defence of the frontier Garrisons, and in arriving at that at the mouth of Great Kanawha, or Point Pleasant, a part was there stationed, and a part continued on to the fort at Belville, also on the Ohio, about 40 miles above. this declarant was stationed at the former, and continued in service, actively employed most of the time, for the period of six months. while at this fort he was frequently out scouting in company with Col. Thomas Lewis, Major Leonard Cooper and Capt. Mann – and for the residue of six months was confined at the Garrison, for the defence thereof under strict military regulations. Col. Thomas Lewis had a general superintendence of this fort.

During the winter the whites were seldom disturbed by Indian encroachments, the former as well as the latter, spending most of that season in hunting, and the garrisons, consequently, were not guarded.

As above stated, this declarant was drafted by Col. Clendenin on the last of February or first of March, 1791, as a Spy for Elk or Frontier Fort (as it was originally called) and continued to act as such until November of that year. During that time when not actually on duty in that laborious and hazzardous capacity, he was stationed at the fort, as a common soldier, for its defence. He was usually four days out, ranging the woods, and two in the fort. During that year he had for an assistant Spy, Charles McClung, sometimes David Robinson, and at others Joe Burrell and Tom La Masters. On being discharged in the month of November, this year, this affiant took up his residence with Thomas Upton, with whose family he came to Kanawha county, in 1789 and continued with him until again called into service, by Col. Clendenin, on the 1st of March, 1792, when he resumed the station which was vacated on the opening of the winter preceding. For the same Fort he was this year Spy until the first of November, and had for his companion, as such, John Young, for the period of 4 or 5 months. Being supposed skilful in the business, this declarant had a new hand, John Morris, for the residue of this year.

For his services as Spy this applicant each year, to wit, 1791 and 1792, received the sum of £60, or five shillings per day, Virginia currency – but no rations. The term of his service each of these years was eight months, and he received pay for that period as a Spy. For his sevices as first Sergeant, six months, at Point Pleasant, this applicant does not remember what pay he received. He is not aware that there is any person living, with whom he served at this place. He has no written discharge, nor did he ever receive one. The period of his actual service, first as spy, and then as Sergeant under Capt. Mann, is twenty-two months. He was born in Buckingham in 1767, and moved to Kanawha, after living two years in

Albemarle, in 1789, and in Kanawha has since continued to reside
He hereby 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.

There is no clergyman residing convenient to him, or in his immediate vicinity.

[signed] F. Cobbs

Michael Newhouse deposeseth and saith that he came to the County of Kanawha in the winter of
1785 and became acquainted with Fleming Cobb in the year 1790 He is knowing personally to Fleming
Cobbs service, as Spy, at the fort on Kanawha River, about a half mile above the mouth of Elk River,
during two years, to wit: 1791 and 1792 – and that he, this deponent during this time, was living in said
fort.

Since the year 1790 this deponent hath known Fleming Cobb, and he believes that the facts
contained within his declaration hereto annexed are true, and that as such, full credit ought to be given to
them.

Michael hisXmark Newhouse

NOTES:

Also certifying Cobbs's service were the following: Martin Hammock (pension application
R4529); John Young (W7377), whose statement was crossed out; and Andrew Donnally, who came to
Kanawha County in June 1790.

On 12 June 1854 Sarah Cobbs, 79, applied for a pension stating that as Sarah Morris she married
Fleming Cobbs on 10 Jan 1796, and he died on 10 Jan 1846. This claim was rejected, because Fleming
Cobbs did not serve during the Revolutionary War. The file contains a copy of part of the family record
certified by Thomas U. Cobbs as being from his father's Bible and transcribed below. In an application for
bounty land dated 3 Nov 1855 Sally Cobbs stated that the marriage was solemnized by James Johnson, a
Baptist preacher.

The application for bounty land stated that her husband had served for some time during the
Revolutionary War, but that seems unlikely since he was not yet 16 when the war ended. The rejection of
the claim for bounty land prompted an exchange of letters between her agent and the Commissioner of
Pensions. The following will convey the flavor of the correspondence:

Gallipolis O April 14 1856

Hon Commissioner of Pension

Sir As long as you are bound to act for widows you must expect their continued demands on
you for bounty lands

Here is Sally Cobb, a coming, she says to Dolly Alten[?], "Madam my husband served as well as
yours, and I demand a warrant as well as you. my claim is numbered 223261 under act of 3^d March 1855,
for services in the war of the revolution when soldiers were making forced marches, on frozen ground
half shod, and literally famishing for hunger, determined to maintain the declaration of independence,

Don't let the old lady scold any more/ Respectfully/ Lewis Newsom

Family Record. Marriages

Flemming Cobbs was married to Sally Morris 10th January 1796.

Fleming Cobbs was born 25th December 1767.

Sally Cobbs his wife was born th

Fleming Cobbs, his book, bought out Arbuckel's store 20th of March 1806.