

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Stapleton R10064

Mary

f37VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

4/16/12

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading fails to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call errors or omissions to my attention.]

[f p. 7]

State of Tennessee Hawkins County: October Term 1832

On this 2nd day of October 1832 personally appeared before the Judge of the Circuit Court for the County & State aforesaid William Stapleton a resident of Lee County in the State of Virginia aged about seventy-six 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 provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

That he enlisted in the Army of the United States in the year 1777 with John Posey & served in the 7 Regiment of the Virginia line under the following named officers one Colonel Lewis [perhaps a reference to Andrew Lewis who commanded at Gwynn Island in 1775-76] appeared to have command of the Regiment, that from this officer he got his discharge at Williamsburg but owing to the indistinct recollection which old age has caused this Declarant now to have of those times, he is not able to state the name of any other officer. That he recollects his Captain however he was always with him during the service that after his enlistment he was marched by his Captain from the County in which he lived on to York that the Regiment in which he served was stationed at this place for about three months in expectation that the British forces would land at this place that at York the oath of Allegiance was administered to & taken by the Declarant the Original of which certificate that he had taken the said oath is appended to this Declaration marked exhibit A, that from York the Regiment to which this Declarant belonged was marched to the seaboard that they halted opposite to and Island called Gwinn's Island [Gwynn Island], that they were encamped at this place for some time before the British forces made their appearance, that the British under the command of Lord Cornwallis did at last make their appearance that they heard the firing of their cannon on the water the night before they landed on the Island that in the morning about day light they landed all their forces on the Island, that on this Island the British remained about two months as well as this Declarant can now recollect, that as soon as Cornwallis landed on the Island the Americans began to throw up Breast-works & plant their artillery for the purpose of driving the British from the Island, that after they planted their cannon they commenced cannonading the British & throwing fire bombs to the ships that the British were so annoyed that they were compelled to leave the Island after having three of their ships burnt, that the British forces entered their ships & sailed towards the South, that after Lord Cornwallis was driven from this landing, they remained guarding the sea shore for some time & then marched to Williamsburg into winter quarters that he here they wintered & in the Spring this Declarant was discharged; that after he got his discharge he returned to his home in Botetourt County that he served as a regular under this engagement twelve months. This Declarant further states that he lived in Montgomery

County in the State of Virginia when he volunteered again in the service of his Country sometime in January 1781 under Captain James Barnett, that the Regiment was commanded by Colonel Crockett that they set out from Montgomery for the purpose of marching into Carolina to assist that State in expelling the British forces therefrom, that the Regiment to which this Declarant belonged joined the Army commanded by General Green [Nathanael Greene] before they got to Guilford Courthouse that they reached Guilford where they had an engagement [March 15, 1781] with the British stationed there under the command of Cornwallis, that this Declarant was not in the main action but was in the reserve that the Americans were defeated that from this place this Declarant returned home without getting any discharge that he served in this expedition about two months making in all the time he served in the revolutionary war as a regular & a volunteer 14 months that his discharge as a regular he has lost he does not now know how but so it is he cannot now produce it.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present and his name is not on the pension roll of any agency of any State, or (if any) only on that of the agency of the State of Virginia. Sworn to & subscribed the day and year aforesaid.
S/ W. B. Mitchell, Clerk
S/ William Stapleton, X his mark

[f p. 15]

State of Tennessee Hawkins County: Personally appeared before me, the undersigned, a Justice of the Peace, for the County & State aforesaid, William Stapleton who being duly sworn, deposeth and saith, that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he has made some mistakes in his declaration in the names & grades of Officers and term of service &c which mistakes were afterwards made plain to him when he came to converse with his wife & received and read the deposition of Thomas Goodson Senior hereto annexed marked exhibit B. That some of the mistakes made by this applicant & which are corrected by Goodson's deposition are as follows, this Applicant states in his Declaration that he enlisted in the service of the United States under Captain John Posey in the year 1777 & belonged to the Regiment under Colonel Lewis whereas it ought to have been stated, as will appear from the said Deposition of Goodson which refreshes the recollection of this Applicant, that he enlisted at the same time with Goodson under Captain Thomas Posey early in February in the year 1776 & joined the 7th Regiment commanded by Colonel Dangerfield [William Dangerfield] & that Andrew Lewis was Brigadier General, that on account of great loss of memory produced some years ago as he believes by a severe pain in his head which was so violent that it caused one of his eyes to burst, he has made the mistakes above mentioned & some others which he now corrects since he converse with his wife & read Goodson's deposition that the officers names & circumstances stated in said Goodson's deposition he adopts as his own statement which he believes to be true, although they may go further & contradict some statements made in the Declaration of this Applicant which deposition of Gibson he refers to as part of this amendatory statement & he also refers to the deposition of Samuel Marion hereto annexed marked C. This applicant further states that the reason he made his declaration in one County & state while he lives in another is that he lives within two miles of the line & having a great many friends & relations living in the County & state where he has made his Declaration & having a better opportunity to have his business attended to, & having formerly lived there, he preferred & did make his declaration in Hawkins County State of Tennessee where he lives in Lee County State of Virginia. This applicant further states that there is no Clergyman living in his neighborhood. This Applicant further states that he was born in Augusta County in the State of Virginia in the year 1757 as well as he can recollect

having no record of his age. This applicant further states that on account of loss of memory he had at the time he made his declaration forgotten a spell of sickness he had during the time he was an enlisted soldier that on account of forgetting this he made a mistake in the length of time he served as a regular & the time for which he enlisted which mistake he now discovers since Goodson's deposition reminded him of the spell of sickness. That from the time he enlisted to the time he received his sick furlough which was a short time before Christmas as appears from Goodson's deposition was about ten months that he was sick four months, that after he recovered from his sickness spoken of in Goodson's deposition he again entered the service under Captain Roberson & served out the two years for which he had 1st enlisted which fact Goodson's deposition & pension shows he therefore states that according to the best of his recollection, which has since been refreshed in the manner above stated he served not less than the periods mentioned below: For two years I served as a regular soldier under the officers at the time stated in Goodson's deposition for two months I served as a volunteer at the time & under the Officers mentioned in my declaration and for such service I claim a pension. This applicant further states that the said Thomas Goodson whose deposition is hereto annexed, is now, as this applicant is informed, drawing a pension for services rendered to the United States at the time this applicant served, & by reference to the papers of the said Goodson it will satisfy the Department of his credibility.

Sworn to and subscribed before made this night day of August 1833
S/ N. Fain, JP S/ William Stapleton, X his mark

[f p. 18]

Ex B

Virginia Floyd County Sc.

This day Thomas Goodson Senior¹ personally appeared before me William Young a Justice of the Peace for the said County and made oath that William Stapleton a soldier of the Revolution, enlisted in the Continental service for the term of two years in the early part of the month of February 1776 in the company of Captain Thomas Posey and joined the Regiment at Gloucester Courthouse Virginia under Colonel Dangerfield, and marched from there to Guinns Island under the command of Brigadier General Andrew Lewis – the number of the Regiment was the 7th Virginia Regiment – this deponent states that he, William Stapleton, received a sick furlough a few days before Christmas in the same year from Colonel Crawford and that he knows of the applicant letting sick for the space of four months at least after getting home in the County of Botetourt, this deponent states that in consequence of the loss of his papers, and of memory in consequence of old age, etc. he cannot state with precision the day of the month when they enlisted nor when they received their furlough but is confident that he has not overreached it – he the Deponent says they both enlisted at the same time and returned at the same time and under the same circumstances.

Sworn to before me this 8th day of July 1833
S/ Wm Young, JP

[f p. 13]

State of Tennessee Hawkins County

"Exhibit C"

This Day Samuel Merrion² aged 78 to the best of his information having no record of his age

¹ [Thomas Goodson S6901](#)

² Sic, Samuel Marion FPA S4180

personally appeared before me William Babb a Justice of the Peace in said County and made oath that William Stapleton was a listed soldier in the Continental Service in the year 1776 in the company of Captain Thomas Posey this Deponent saith that he 1st got acquainted with said William Stapleton at little York and marched from there to Gloucester Court House Virginia and from there to guins Island [Gwynn Island] under the command of Brigadier General Andrew Lewis the Number of the Regiment was the 7th Regiment of Virginia and is Deponent saith that he understood that said Stapleton when in camp that he was enlisted for 2 years and this Deponent states that he was marched sometime in July or August to Philadelphia and left said Stapleton at guins Island under the same officers and this Deponent further saith not.

Sworn to and subscribed his name this 19th day of August 1833

S/ William Babb, JP

S/ Samuel Marion, X his mark

[f p. 4: On January 3rd, 1846 in Hawkins County Tennessee, Mary Stapleton, 85, a resident of Hawkins County Tennessee made application for a widow's pension under the 1836 act as the widow of William Stapleton, a pensioner of the United States for his service in the revolution; that she married him December 8, 1793; that her husband died June 10, 1835 and that she remains his widow. She signed her application with her mark.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 2 years in the Virginia service.]