

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of Charles Stuart R10148

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

[Capitalization partly corrected.]

State of Virginia } SS

Jackson County } On this day 1 Day of May 1832, Personally Appeared before me Thomas Cain a Justice of the peace in & for this said County of Jackson & State of Virginia Charles Stuart a resident of the County & State aforesaid Aged Seventy three 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 of 7<sup>th</sup> June 1832 that he entered the service of the United under the following named officers & served as herein stated

That in Monongahalia [sic: Monongalia] County & State of Va about 2<sup>st</sup> day of June in the year 1780 [see endnote] he was drafted in the Va. militia & placed under the command of Captn Peter Pickinpau Lieutenant Thomas Harrison Ensigns name affiant does not recollect. Major Charles Martin Affiant says he was marched to Martins fort in the County & State aforesaid and was stationed at said fort for the express purpose of defending & guarding the same from the attacks of the Indians who had invaded the County & murdered several persons to wit James Stuart & A M Smally & took several prisoners affiant states that he was engaged in guarding and defending Martins fort on Crooked Run in Monongahalia County Virginia & the Country & water courses adjacent thereto & protecting & holding in check as far as possible the Savage Indians who were continually committing outrages & murdering the inhabitants of northwestern Virginia untill about 3<sup>st</sup> day of October 1780 when he was discharged from the service by his Captain Peter Pickinpau having serve four months as a private soldier Again in the spring of 1781 declarrant believe to the best of recollection about first day of April 1781 in Monongahalia County Va affiant volunteered his service & was placed under the command of his former officer & was marched from Stuarts fort [on Stewart Run near Hagans] to Harrisons fort [near Bowlby] both the above forts were situated in Monongahalia County Va the Indians had made an incursion & murdered 2 men mamed the one – Wright & the other Crawford a woman named Pindall was also killed [see endnote] – The above murders were committed near Harisons fort in the County & State before named from fort Harrison declarrant was marched in pursuit of the Indians to the head of Duncards Creek [sic: Dunkard Creek] a water of Monongahalia [sic: Monongahela] River near the head of Duncard Creek affiant says the party to which he belonged found a surveyors chain which the Indians had carried off & which chain belonged either to Crawford or Wright that killed as before stated Affiant says he followed the Indians on the waters of Middleisland [Middle Island] Creek a water of the Ohio River Capt Pickenpau dispared of overtaking the Indians & affiant returned to Stuart fort in Monongahalia County Va. where he was discharged by his said Capt Peter Pickenpau after having served on the above tour twenty days. Again about 25<sup>th</sup> day of April 1781 in Monongahalia County Va affiant was ordered to repair to fort Harrison aforesaid by John Evans [pension application S8444] Colonel of Monongahalia County affiant was placed under the command of Lieutenant Thomas Harrison & detailed for the express purpose of performing the duties of an Indian Spy & was marched in obediance to the orders of his said Lieutenant he was marched to various places & spied in the vicinity of fort Harrison to wit on the waters of Monongahalia River Declarrant was then discharged by Lieut Thomas Harrison at fort Harrison aforesaid after having served twenty days a private soldier an Indian Spy

Declarrent having returned home to Stuarts fort in the County of Monogahalia situate upon Camp Run affiand was ordered by his said Col Evan to hold himself in readiness to march at a moments warning as it was not certain that the Indians had so far left the country as to authorise, a carelessness upon our part and also ordered affiant to keep up a vigilant watch and guard in and about the said Stuarts fort, in which

service declarant was engaged until some time about the last of October, which brought about the time of year when the Indians usually ceas'd. their depredations upon the White settlements in western Virginia Declarant was in the spring of the year 1782 recommended by the County Court of Monongahala to the Executive of Virginia as a Lieutenant in the room of Lt James Ivins who had resignd, and was commissioned accordingly. Early in the spring of the year 1782 the settlements were again compelled to repair to the forts in their several neighbourhood and by order of the said Col. Evans to keep up a watchfull vigilenc to prevent a surpris upon the inhabitants About the last of August we received information that a large number of Indians, ware inbodied and that it was expected that our forts and settlements would be attacked. Col. Evans gave orders that declarant shoul'd. take five men and march upon a spying expedition in the direction that the Indians was most likely to be met with. Declarant and men did march & crossed the Monongahala River by the head of Scotts mill Run to Dunker Creek thence down said creek crossing said river & by Harris' fort home, having satisfied our selves that it had been a false alarm. After our return home we continued to watch and guard the forts until the fall of year 1782. Declarant states that in the spring of the year 1783 the inhabitants ware again compelled for fear of an attack by the Indians to assemble in forts, and affiant was ordered by his said Col. Evans to command at Stuarts fort, and keep up a constant examination, and enquiry in the neighbourhood, for the enemy and, to be at all times in readiness to march, in the latter part of this summer the Indians made their appearance in our neighbourhood and killed two of our neighbours and carried of som property Declarant was ordered to take the command of 15 men and make persuit which he did We assembled at Morgantown & cross'd. the Mongahela and marched from thence to Stradlers fort [Statler Fort on Dunkard Creek] from thence to the head of Buffalo. here finding that the Indians had been too long gone to be overtaken before they could reach the Ohio River and our force being two small to pursue them further in safety we determined to return to the Fort Stuarts Fort which we did and continued to guard the Fort until the last of October at which time we ware discharged by Col Evans. Declarants services in the Revolution now ended having served as Indian Spy and private soldier eleaven months and as Lieutenant Commandant of Indian Spies about twelve months.

Declarant is not certain whether he can prove his services by any person now living as he is now old and infirm so that he cannot travel in search of his old comrades, bu whom alone he could prove his services affiant is also two infirm to travel to the court hous of Jackson County from which he resides twenty miles. Declarant can refer to [blank space] two citizens of the County of Jackson who can testify to their beleav of declarants having been a soldier of the Revolution and the opinion of the neighbourhood Declarant hereby relinquishes all claim whatsoever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the roll of the agency of any state or territory. Subscribed & sworn to the day and year a fore said [signed] Charles Steuart

The following are declarants answers to the interogatories prescribe by the War department.

- 1 I was born in Lancaster County & State of Pennsylvania in the year 1761 as I always heard & believed.
- 2 I have no record of my age
- 3 When I was called into service I lived in Monongahalia County Virginia Since the revolutionary war I have lived Monongahalia Wood & Jackson Counties & State of Virginia where I now reside
- 4 My first tour I was drafted My 2<sup>d</sup> tour I was a volunteer. After that I acted under the orders of my Colonel at the latter end of my service I served as a Lieutenant by virtue of a commission signed by the then Governor of Virginia whose name I have forgotten & as such I commanded Indian Spies
- 5 I served with Virginia millitia & Indian Spies & no other troops to the best of my reccollection so I never was attached to the regular army. I only became acquainted with the officers under whom I served to wit Capt Pickenpau Lut Harrison Col John Evans &c I do not reccollect the No. of any regts whatever I have detailed the circumstances of my service as well as I can reccollect in my declaration
- 6 My discharges & commission I have lost or mislaid many years ago

7<sup>th</sup> I am known to [blank space] two of my neighbors who can testify as to my character for veracity & their belief of my having served as I have stated

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid. [signed] Charles Steuart

[John Ewine and Alpheus Cain certified Steuart's character and reputation as a soldier.]

[The following report is by US District Attorney Washington G. Singleton who investigated many pension applications from present West Virginia. For details see my appendix in the pension application of David W. Sleeth (S6111). The report is much faded.]

Charles Steuart – Suspended

Thomas Boggs a Magistrate of Jackson County says he has known Charles Steuart for many years. lives a neighbour to him – thinks him too young to have done service in the war of the Revolution.

Mrs. Stewart wife of Charles Stewart says they were married 48 [first digit faint] yrs ago. her husband was then in his 21<sup>st</sup> year of age – the year previous to their marriage – her husband was out in the Indian War. –

[illegible word or abbreviation]. I called at Steuarts House on the 28<sup>th</sup> Dec'r 1834 [last digit faint]. he was from Home. had gone to Kenhawa [sic: Kanawha] for salt[?]. some sixty miles from Home. – he lives .5 miles from the County Seat– made his declaration before a Magistrate in the country. – it was written by one of the Lewis county agents. – I understand from different Gentlemen that Steuart is a [illegible word] Harty man, and is in the Habit of going to the County Seat every week of his life – I left word for Steuart to meet me at the County Seat. he did not attend – the General opinion is that he has no well founded claim to a Pension. – the fact of his having made his declaration in the country is prima facia evidence[?] of fraud.

W. G Singleton

Jany. 2, 1835.

NOTES:

According to *Chronicles of Border Warfare* attributed to Alexander S. Withers, the raid on the Stuart and Smally families near Martin's Fort occurred in June 1779. The book also relates the attack on Wright, Crawford, and Mrs. Pindall.

"Lewis county Agents" refers to a group of corrupt pension agents from Lewis County who filed numerous fraudulent pension claims. A note in the file reads as follows: "Messrs Mitchell & James M Camp agents." Singleton suspected John Mitchell and James M. Camp of being part of the Lewis conspiracy.