

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Joseph West R11342

fn33VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

8/30/11

[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.]

State of Kentucky Wayne County: Sct.

On this 28th day of October 1834 personally appeared Before Roger Oatts a justice of the peace of Wayne County Kentucky Joseph West, who from bodily infirmity and age not well able to attend the County Court and is a resident of Wayne County Kentucky aged 72 years and 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 June 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. I the said Joseph West about the first of April 1778 in Montgomery County State of Virginia the precise day not now recollected by authority of the laws of Virginia was drafted as a private to guard the frontiers and forts on the frontiers and occasionally to act as Indian spies my captains name was Thomas Right [Thomas Wright?] and Lieutenant Drury Ham [?], Ensign not now recollected, we first met or rendezvoused at Colonel James Henderson's of said County of Montgomery. We then marched to Fort Lafferty on the frontiers of said County at that time. And a part of us remained in the fort, guarding it, and small Detachments of us were constantly out ranging as Indian spies & having served out my term of three months in said fort and by turns as an Indian spy I was discharged by my said Captain in writing. I then returned home. And shortly removed down on New River still in Montgomery County and in the Bounds of Captain George Paris. And in about the first of April 1779 the precise date not recollected I was appointed by the Captain George Paris with Drury Ham in said County as Indian spies. Having served a tour before the Captain & company insisted that we should act. I was thus appointed with said Drury Ham for three months to act as Indian spies. We first met at fort Lafferty, and spied the country from the fort down New River to the Clover Bottom on B[paper torn, text missing] Stone [Bluestone River] where we met other spies from the Blue Stone Settlement and returned backwards and forwards buying for Indians until I tour of three months again expired and we were discharged by Captain Paris at the garrison aforesaid in writing and I returned home.

And about the first of April 1780 (the precise date not recollected) the time the Indians commonly infested the frontiers I was again appointed an Indian spy with John Jimmerson [John Jamieson?], by the said Captain George Paris for three months in said County of Montgomery and again marched to fort Lafferty and we spied over the same frontiers down New River to the Clover Bottoms on Blue Stone. Where we met other two spies every Friday from the Blue stone settlement and we thus continued backwards and forwards buying in said frontiers and near the Expiration of this tour one evening just before dark when we were about to pitch our camp, we heard a noise like that of turkeys, the said Jimmerson said he would go and try to kill one and meet me at the camp, but against my advice. I did not like the sign. He started and was gone

[ink blot obscures one or more words] a short time & I heard a gun fire, and quickly I saw Jimmerson running towards me and two Indians in pursuit of them. I was then in the edge of a Laurel thicket & they passed me. It being nearly dark and Jimmerson getting in the Laurel thicket below me which was too thick he escaped the Indians. I went in another direction to an elevated point, in the edge of the Laurel and watched all night, at the dawn of day I took a direction to the fort and got there in about ten miles and reported the circumstances and five soldiers with myself making six started back. And after going about five miles we met the said Jimmerson coming in who was shot through the shoulder & he informed us how he got to the effect Laurel and conceal himself from the Indians. And Matthew Farlow was ordered & reporting by Captain Paris to take the place of Jimmerson with me, and having served out my last three months Tour, I was again discharged by Captain Paris in writing & returned home. I got my house and everything in it burned up about 12 years past & I think my three discharges were burnt up. I respectfully claim a compensation for three tours amounting to nine months as a private.

I the said Joseph West was born in Suffolk County in the State of Delaware on the first day of December 1762. By the Record of my Father & mother but when very young my Father & mother moved to Rockingham County in the State of Virginia, where we lived till I was about 12 years old. My father then moved to where it now is called Greenbrier County But then Montgomery County and lived in Montgomery County about 20 years. I then moved to Kentucky in Madison County Kentucky and there lived 13 years I then removed to Wayne County Kentucky where I now live and have lived about 27 years. I the said Joseph West have now, no documentary evidence & know of no person in this part of the country by whom I can prove my said revolutionary services.

I the said Joseph West do hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declare my name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.

I am well known by many in Wayne County to wit – Reuben Aard and Isaac Bond and Washington Wiley who can testify to my veracity in the above Declaration & knows of and can testify likewise to my services with General Sinclair, General Wayne & General Jackson at Orleans. Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid before me

S/ Roger Oatts, JP

S/ Joseph West, X his mark

[John Emerson & David Carinder [?] gave the standard supporting affidavit.

John Emerson
David Carinder