

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John White R11423

fn27VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

9/9/11

[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 Virginia Louisa County Sct.

On this 13 day of June 1843 personally appeared before the subscriber, a Justice of the peace in and for the said County and a Judge of the court thereof being a court of record John White a resident of the County aforesaid aged about ninety one 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 June 7th, 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. That is to say – That he was drafted as a Militia man from the County of Louisa aforesaid while the Prisoners were at the Albemarle Barracks and marched to the Barracks in the fall time of the year, as a private, in the company of Capt. [?] Harris, served three weeks and was discharged. That he does not remember the names of the superior officers, nor any [indecipherable word] circumstance except that he saw the Hessians drawing up large trees of wood with ropes. That immediately upon his return he marched again in the Militia of the said County as substitute for his brother William – marched from the County under Captain James Byant [? Byars?] served in the Country above Hanover Court House, Hanover Town, and Grainger's old field – two months as a private, and was discharged. That he saw no enemy and remembers nothing of note. There were no regular troops and he does not remember any other officers. That as soon as his time was out he was taken in his own time and did not come home. He thinks that Captain this tour was Henry Johnson and he served two months again as private of militia, and was discharged. That he served this tour in the same neighborhood and remembers no particular incident connected with this service. That his memory is much gone, and he was constantly in the service, either in his own tour, or that of his brothers so that he cannot distinguish very clearly between his different tours, but he thinks his next tour was under Captain Hughes and in the place of one of his brothers. He did not reach home before he was again called out and served again two months, as a private in the militia. That he was in the same country this tour, and marched sometimes into James City County, and sometimes into New Kent – Hughes did not command him the whole time of this tour, but he does not remember who succeeded him. He thinks he did not reach him after this tour before he was again called out. He thinks Yancey [perhaps Charles Yancey] was his Captain – though he is not certain. He does not remember whether he was in his own time or that of one of his brothers. He thinks he was again in the service two months as private in militia and in the same country. That all attempts to distinguish the rest of his tours, for the following year would be in vain. He remembers that he spent the whole of the next winter constantly in the service, then the following summer also. He remembers several captains' names – and several colonels – that he is Captain Turner Anderson and Captain Richard Philips, Colonels Nelson and William Philips – During the whole of this time he saw no regular soldiers nor their

officers. He remembers the militia of Spotsylvania, Hanover and Fluvanna. He remembers several incidents one being a very large slab of meat boiled at New Castle – another was that he was sent into the Hospital at Richmond to attend Siner [?] Gooch who had been bitten by a spider – and there he saw many wounded man. One he remembers was a bayonet through the body, and he saw a silk handkerchief drawn through his body. That in the whole of this time he was in no battle, and saw no enemy. That he was in service in the militia in James City County when the British came into James River, and they retreated to Richmond and formed the line of militia at Richmond. Saw the British burn the warehouse at Manchester and then they retreated into Hanover. He joined a party of volunteers to cross over to Manchester to remove or destroy some flour and he remained in the house destroying the flour till the light horse came galloping into the town. He had to run very fast and wade into the River and [indecipherable word] into the boat. They then retired into Hanover thence into Caroline, and when near the Bowling Green there was a great thunderstorm which frightened the men much. Thence to the neighborhood of Fredericksburg where they stayed 3 days and washed their clothes, and cleaned their guns. Thence by the wilderness and into Madison where they joined Trayne [?]. Thence to the Rockcon [Raccoon] ford where they remained till they heard the British were at Louisa Courthouse – when they marched to Brooke's bridge and there they heard the British were at Boswell's. They then marched by the Doctor's road to Boswell where the British had retreated. Then they cleared a road from Boswell's to Walker's Tavern – and he assisted in clearing the road. Thence they marched to Columbia or the point of Fork by Richmond to York town where he served as a private of militia until after the surrender of the British. He thinks he marched under Captain Phillips – but he was arrested at Walker's Tavern; and he does not consider him afterwards. At the Rackcon [Raccoon] ford he attracted the attention of the Marquis for his having called a squirrel and stitched the skin upon his hat and made a cockade of the tail within the Marquis took him to attend upon him and he continued to wait upon him until after the surrender, except while they were clearing the road. That he always marched in line with his gun, and always answered to his name at muster – but in camp he waited upon the Marquis. At the siege of York the Marquis stayed in a large house some distance from the town and he stayed to get supplies and wait upon him. He saw the British marched out and stacked their arms. That he saw no regular troops till they joined Wayne when he saw his Army and him. That by reason of great age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively to the precise length of his service, but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following grades. For at least 2 years I served as a private in the Virginia militia and for such service I claim a pension. That he was born in the said County of Louisa in May 1752 as he has heard but his register has been burned in his house which was burned up and he has no record of his age. That in the great lapse of time all his witnesses have died except William Michie – by him he can prove some part of his services and to the rest of his service he has no witness – and that he has no documentary evidence. To the first question prescribed by the War Department he answers I was born in Louisa County upon Goldmine Creek. I suppose in May 1752.

To the 2nd – no I have not it got burned up

3rd – when called into service I was living upon Goldmine at my father's I have since lived at a heap of places in the same County and I now live in the same County.

4th – I went some times as a substitute for my brother William but generally I was drafted.

5th – Wayne & the Marquis and I remembered no others. I recollect the Army commanded by Wayne and the Marquis but the militia did not associate with the regulars – I went with any

whenever was called – and answered to my name whenever I was called – I served most of the time about Hanover, Louisa and Court House and Grainger's old field – and then I was at the siege of York and in the wild Goose chase.

6 – I never received a written discharge – if I did I forgot it –

7th – Parson Roberts, John Burt, Bickerson T. Winston and all my neighbors

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 or territory.

S/ John White, X his mark

[James D Roberts, a clergyman, and Pleasant Haskell gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

State of Virginia Louisa County, to which, Personally appeared before me, a Justice of the peace in and for said County, William Michie, a resident of said County aged seventy-nine years and a credible person and made oath that John White a resident also of said County, served as a private in the militia of said State with me the said Michie 9 weeks under the command of Captain Fox a part of the time, Major Campbell, Colonel Armstead, General Nelson and General Lafayette; that the Company to which we (the said Michie and White) were attached was not stationed at any one point, but was marched through the Counties of Louisa, Spotsylvania, Hanover, Henrico &c and finally discharged at the Maubin Hills [Malvern Hills] below the town of Richmond in said State sometime during the month of July in the year 1781.

S/ Wm Michie

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wm Michie". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background. The first letter "W" is large and prominent. The signature is followed by a vertical line.

State of Virginia Louisa County SS

On this 9 day of October 1843 before the Subscriber a Justice of the peace in and for the County aforesaid duly authorized by the laws of the said State, to administer oaths, personally appeared John White a resident of the County aforesaid and made oath. That from the great length of time since the revolutionary war and his advanced age, it is probable that his present recollection of his services in the Militia in that war, may be different, from what it was when he made his former declaration, but that from having turned his mind much to the subject, since he made his said Declaration, he has more confidence in his present recollection of those events, than his former recollection of them. And that he desires his present Deposition to be received as his narrative to obtain a pension under the act of June 7 1832.

That his first service was as formerly stated at the Barracks, but he thinks & was in the fall of 1778 and not of '79 as formerly stated. He recollects guarding Beeves in the mountains – and seeing full grown pumpkins. In this tour he served three weeks as private in the militia under Captain Harris. That in the spring of the next year, he went again into the Militia from the County of Louisa, as substitute for his brother Billey, and served as private under Captain James Byars [Byant?]. Marched into the lower counties, about Hanover Court House – Hanover town, New Kent and Charles City, Holt's Forge – where he saw the first Indians he ever saw. To the Malvern Hills and to Richmond and served two months and was discharged. That as soon as this tour was over, he went again in his own time in the same grade and served two months in the same region of country. He thinks Captain Byars was his Captain still, though of this he is not sure. He was so constantly in the service and saw the same places, so often, and under so many officers that he cannot positively state who were his officers at all times. If a pension cannot be allowed him on account of services so indistinctly recounted – he desires that these tours, may be

stricken from his claim. He served two months in this his third tour, and was discharged. He only remembers the same places in this tour, as mentioned in the last tour: That he did not return home after this tour but continued in the service in his Brother Billey's tour, in the same region of Country. He remembers the incidents of this tour, one was seeing the largest Kettle of meat he ever saw, boiled at New Castle in Hanover and being at a Mill in Charles City where the water had been drawn off to prevent the enemy from using it, and the men lived on soft crabs. Philips he is sure was his Captain in this tour. That in this tour he served two months as private in the Militia and was discharged. That he did not return home after this tour, but was drafted in his own time – and served his 5th tour under Captain Hughes. This tour was in cold weather, and was in the same neighborhood, and he does not remember anything particular concerning it. He served 2 months as private of Militia and was discharged. That his next tour he served under Captain Harry Johnston as a substitute for his same brother. He was in the same region of country in this tour was once he thinks at Richmond, and from thence went to Chickahominy Swamp and Goodalis [?]. In this tour he remembers that snow was upon the ground. George Michie was Lieutenant or Ensign. He served two months as private in Militia and was discharged. Again – he continued in the service in his own tour, and this was under Captain Fox [perhaps John Fox] and Colonel White. He remembers of this Tour only the fun and sport they had Fox. Fox was a fine fellow and his men were very happy. He remembers being at Malvern Hills and Richmond and that Chickahominy Swamp – Served two months and was discharged and was in this tour a private of Militia. That after this he continued in service in his brother Billey's Turn – and was again under Johnson. His time was in warm weather. He only remembers marching backwards and forwards through the same country – was at Chickahominy Swamp, Granger's old Field – Hanover Court House – Hanover Town and back again. In this tour he again served two months as private of Militia and was discharged. That he did not return home, but stated in service under Captain Billey Walker in his own time. This was in the fall and winter season. They were in the neighborhood of Malvern Hills, and there he and his Captain quarreled and after he was discharged. They stripped to fight. They did not fight, but he and Walker's cousin [indecipherable word or name] fought about the same quarrel after the war at Louisa Court-House. In this tour he served three months and was discharged. That he can distinguish no other service till the British came into Virginia. He was in the service at that time – in his own time was in James City County under Captain Philips and the Americans marched up the North side of the James River while the British were on the South side. Saw Manchester burned and remembers the tobacco smoke from the burning warehouses. [Several indecipherable words] time of Battle of Richmond. A party volunteered to go across to Manchester before the British reached Manchester to destroy flour. The British light horse galloped into the town before they had finished and the party retreated and he being late in seeing the enemy, and getting out of the house the Boat had put off and he had to jump into the River and swim to the Boat. From thence they marched to Goodaly [?] and took the Negro foot road and then the events happened which he set down in his declaration. And the two terms which he served this year he was under Captain Philips. The first tour he served three months as private in his own tour: The second tour he served for his Brother, and in that he also served three months as private of Militia.

S/ John White, X his mark