

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Jonathan Windsor R11703

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia } Ss.
Nicholas County }

On this eighteenth day of February 1834 personally appeared before me William Sims a justice of the peace in and for the county of Nicholas in the state of Virginia and as such a member of the County Court of Nicholas which is a court of record, Jonathan Winsor aged eighty four years on the 8th day of October next 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. He joined the volunteer company commanded by Capt Wm. Hamilton [pension application R4513] on the 13th day of September 1777 and remained engaged as a private in said company two months that being as long as he had volunteered for and at the end of said time he was discharged by his said Captain but which was not in writing. He then resided in Greenbrier County [formed from Botetourt County in 1778] Virginia and served his time in Keeney's fort [on Muddy Creek] in said County and was used in spying for indians and guarding the country from their massacres and deperadations

In the month of April perhaps the 12th or 15th, 1778 He again joined the volunteer company commanded by Captain Wm. Hamilton for six months all of which time he served and he believes a few days more, the dainger to the country not admitting of their disbandment. His time was engaged in guarding the country from the ravages of the indians and in spying for them - This service was performed in the County of Greenbrier Va. Wm. Hamilton was Capt. Samuel McClung Lieut. and Jas. Jarrett Ensign of the company. At the termination of his services as aforesaid he received a verbal discharge from the service from his Capt.

In the month of June about the last 1779 he again joined the company of volunteers commanded by the same Capt. Wm. Hamilton for a term of two months He served the term under the same company officers as he had served under during the preceeding year but he himself acted as commissary to the company. This service was principally confined to Hamilton's Fort in the same County of greenbrier and in spying for the Indians & Guarding the Country from their deperadations After the expiration of his said term of service he was discharged from the service - by his said Captain.

In the month of April 1780 he again joined Capt Wm Hamilton's company of volunteer millitia for a term of three months. He was forted at Feemsters[?] in said County of Greenbrier and was engaged in guarding against the indians and spying for them. The Indians killed and scalped a man by the name of James Monday took his wife and child prisoners and wounded Lieut Saml. McClung in the immediate neighbourhood of said company - after serving said term he was discharged from the service by his captain -

He was born in Charles County Maryland on the 8th day of October 1750 old stile - He has had a record of his age, But he does not know what has become of it -

He was living in the County of Greenbrier when called into the service and has lived in Kanawha and Nicholas Counties ever since the war. He now lives in Nicholas County - He entered the service and served as a volunteer millitia man or indian spy - He was never under any higher officer than that of a captain. The general circumstances of his service he has detailed above according to his best recollection - He received a discharge from every tour of service - but it was not in writing - He is known to James Sims and Isaac Collins of his neighbourhood, there being no clergyman of his neighbourhood who can testify to his character for veracity and their general belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution - He has no documentary evidence by which to prove his services but he expects to prove them by living witnesses. 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

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

[signed] Jonathan Windsor

Nicholas County towit

Jacob Chapman [pension application S19237] this day personally appeared before me a justice of the peace in for said County & made oath that he knew one Jonathan Windsor Now of Nicholas County, in the company of Captain William Hamilton in the County of Greenbrier Forted at Keeney's Fort in the Spring of, as he thinks, 1778. he knew said Windsor in the Spring of that year & that he continued attached to that company until the fall of the same year. That said affiant belonged to the same company with him. The lenth of time of their service in that year he does not exactly recollect. this company was engaged in guarding the frontier settlers against the depra-dations of the indians - Said affiant is about 76 years of age and said Windsor is some older. This 8 day of October 1833 [signed] Jacob Chapman

Fayette County towit

John Kincaid [S19367] aged about seventy four years this day personally appeared before me a justice of the peace in & for said County & made oath that during the revolutionary war he thinks in the years or part of the years of 1781 & 82 but he cannot be certain as to the precise year he was acquainted with one Jonathan Windsor who according to his recollection was forted at some fort in Greenbrier County he thinks "Hamilton's" and was under the command of Capt Hamilton He certainly belonged to some fort but owing to this afiant being called off on distant service he cannot state the particulars. I also certify that John Kincaid is credible Given under my hand this 1st day of Sepr 1834 William Morris JP

Greenbrier County towit} october 22nd 1834

This day personally appear John Patterson [R8003] a creditable citizen who ought to be believed an before me a justice of the peace for said county and made oath that one Jonathan Windsor who is now of Nicholas or Fayette County was in fort on Muddy Creek Greenbrier County which fort was commanded by Captain Hamilton a part of each year from 1777 until 1780 this affiant is about 75 years of age and does not know the age of Windsor but believes him to be some older John Patterson

[The following report is by District Attorney Washington G. Singleton who investigated many pensioners and applicants from present West Virginia. For further discussion see the pension application of David W. Sleeth (S6111). During his investigations, Singleton convinced the Pension office to reverse its policy of granting pensions for service against Indians on the frontier, even when they served under duly commissioned officers like Capt. Hamilton. Singleton also frequently gave more weight to anonymous opinion than to the sworn testimony of witnesses. These or other reasons explain why Singleton argued against a pension for Windsor.] Jonathan Windsor-

I called at the Home of William Sims, the Son in Law of Windsor - haveing understood that he Windsor was to be found there. Windsor however was from home distant 40 or 50 miles and not expected to return soon - Sims informed me that he had frequently heard his father in Law Windsor detail his services as a soldier. the detail in substance was that during the war of the Revolution he was forted at different forts in Greenbrier county - at the several forts at which he was stationed the inhabitants [illegible word] their families land - the people of the Forts excludeing himself were clearing lands & cultivateing corn and would beat off the Indians when assailed by them which attacks of Indians were frequent. Sims never heard his father in Law say he was in regular service or under any regular officer -

the neighbourhood opinion so far as I could collect it is decidedly against Windsor -

W. G Singleton Jan 15, 1835

I am informed that Windsor has not yet obtained a certificate - W G S.

Since makeing the forgoing Report I learn from Robert Kelly Esqr that he Kelly was on the bench when Windsor made his Declaration and that he recollects that Windsor stated that he served 3 tours of three months each - one tour at the Point on Kenhawa [sic: Point Pleasant at the mouth of Kanawha River] - two tours in Greenbrier county - but whether this service was done before or after the summer of 1783 he Kelly cant recollect - W G Singleton

State of Virginia }
Kanawha County } SS.

On this 18th day of October 1837 personally appeared before the Judge of the Circuit Superior Court of Law & Chancery for said County, Jonathan Windsor, a resident of said county and state aged 87 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 1932. That he enlisted in the militia of Virginia in the year 1778 under Captain William Hamilton in the county of Greenbrier in said state, in the month of April, he thinks but possibly it might have been March, as a volunteer - Samuel Lewis being the Colonel of the county - Samuel McClung was Lieutenant of the company to which the declarant belonged and James Jarrett, ensign - That he continued in said company seven months or until about the first of November, receiving pay at fifteen pence, Virginia currency, per day, exclusive of rations. Receiving his discharge in November 1778, he took up his residence on the then frontier settlement of Greenbrier cultivating a small plantation for subsistence. During the said period of his service he was in no engagement - but the Indians, during that period made an attack upon Donnally fort, twelve miles north of Keeney's Fort, at which this applicant and his company were stationed. In the month of June 1779 (having lived upon his plantation during the interval) this declarant was appointed Deputy commissary by William H. Cavendish, then Commissary as this applicant thinks, of the county of Greenbrier the same officers, just named, continuing in service. To the best of this declarant's knowledge and belief, he continued in office as Deputy Commissary not less than three months, receiving pay at the rate of one dollar per day. He returned to his plantation after being discharged as aforesaid, and continued thereon until early in April following (1780) - at which time the Indians made an incursion into Greenbrier, wounded Lieutenant Samuel McClung, who had refused to go into the fort "until" as he said "blood or hair was taken" - killed an old man named James Munday, who had likewise refused to go into the fort, and took his wife and child prisoners. The militia were immediately thereafter placed under pay again, and this declarant volunteered under the same officers before referred to, and continued in service for three months, to the best of this declarant's knowledge and belief. He was then discharged and returned to his plantation. He continued on Muddy Creek, in the county of Greenbrier, until the year 1788, when he moved to the Kanawha river, now Kanawha County, where he is now residing. He was born in Charles County, Maryland, on the 8th of October, 1750, old style - In 1776 he moved to the county of Greenbrier and continued on the Indian frontier until peace was declared by Wayne's treaty [Treaty of Greenville negotiated by Gen. Anthony Wayne, 3 Aug 1795]. He was in no engagement during his service, but his duties while in service as a private were at all times active, as a guard, in and about the Garrison. He received no written discharge. He will here state that he received for his services in 1780 the sum of \$700 or \$750 in continental money.

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, if any, only on that of the agency of the state of Virginia [signed] Jonathan Windsor
Where and in what year were you born.

Ans. I was born in Charles County, Maryland, on the 8th October, 1750 old style.

Have you any record of your age and if you have, where is it?

Ans. I have at home - in my bible.

Where were you living when you were called - or when you volunteered in the service - where have you lived since the war, and where do you now live?

Ans. I was living on Muddy Creek, in Greenbrier County, when I volunteered, at the several different times stated above, and I have lived since the Revolutionary War, and am now living in Kanawha County, Virginia

How were you called into service - were you drafted - did you volunteer, or were you a substitute and if a substitute, for whom?

Ans. I volunteered.

State the names of your officers, and the general circumstances of your service.

Ans. The same as stated in my Declaration.

Greenbrier County Virginia Towit

This Day Personally appeared before me a justice of the peace in and for the County afore s'd John Patterson and made oath that he was personally acquainted with Jonathan Windsor of Kanawa County and was intimately acquainted with him in the years 1778 and 1779 and 1780 being in Hamiltons fort as their home when at home part of the same time and serving under the same officers to wit Viz: Captain Hamilton Lieutenant McClung and Ensign Garrett and he further states that he would give full Credebt to any thing that he the said windsor would state on oath Touching his Militea Service in the years above mentioned Given under my hand this 28 Day of October 1837

Jas McClung

Greenbrier County Virginia Towit

This Day personally appeared before me a justice of the peace in and for the County afore said Isabell Hamilton and made Oath that she was personally acquainted with Jonathan windsor of Kanhawa County and Recollects that her husband Captan Hamilton had Troops under pay under his command & continue from the year 1776 untill the year 1786 Dos not Recolect what year nor Dos she Recolect perticularly that Jonthen windsor was one of them but thinks it verry passeble as he windsor lived about their fort part of the above time and has no Doubt but he windsor was one of the Troopes their under her husband and further states that she has no Reason to Discredit anything that he the said windsor would state Tuching his militia servises on Oath Given under my hand this 28 Day of October 1837

J L McClung

Kanawha Va. 4th Dec. 1837.

Sir: Your note of the 17th ult. was duly received. You require Jonathan Windsor, an applicant for a pension, to state whether or not, he is a resident of Kanawha, and whether he did not reside in Nicholas, a make, some years since, an application for a pension in that county. The first fact ought to have been stated in the application now before your Department. If it is not, it is an error of mine, for I distinctly recollect that he told me he was a citizen of this county - and my recollection is little less distinct, that he stated he had been a resident, uninterruptedly, since the period of his emigration from Greenbrier in seventeen hundred, and ninety some odd, perhaps. He lives in the extreme upper end of this county - is very decriped and old. I cannot, therefore, conveniently get his affidavit to these facts.

He also informed me of the fact that some few years since he applied for a pension in Nicholas. That county adjoins Kanawha, and the Court House is convenient to the abode of Windsor. This was the inducement to apply through the court of that County. He also stated, in reference to that application, that the malice of his wife had prompted her to circulate a report through the county that he was not in service as stated in that application - and that that report had probably operated against its favorable consideration. These matters I ought to have stated in my letter enclosing his last declaration. I have always understood that Windsor was one of the pioneers of this county and that he was engaged in the early frontier war. The oldest residents of this county - and many of them are highly respectable, concur in that belief.

There is no doubt on my mind, whatever, of the truth of his statements - and on comparing his last declaration with that made in Nicholas (though I have never seen the latter) it will, perhaps, be found that there is no material discrepancy.

Yours &c. James M. Laidley