

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Stephen Woodson R11835

fn15VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

10/13/11

[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 & County of Powhatan, to wit

On this first day of September in the year 1832, personally appeared before me John Porter a justice of the peace of the aforesaid County of Powhatan, John Stephen Woodson, a resident of the said County aged 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 act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

That he was born in the year 1756 in the County of Goochland & State of Virginia & continued a resident of that County until he was about twenty-two years of age. That being old & extremely infirm in body his recollection is indistinct about many matters connected with his Revolutionary services, but that he was one of the earliest who entered into the service of his country, having volunteered his services when only sixteen or seventeen years of age to go forth against Governor Dunmore, & having, during this tour, been in the engagement at the Long Bridge, which is in the neighborhood of Norfolk – That this engagement was in the fall & that Charles Scott from Hanover County, who afterwards became General Scott & another man from the same County whose name he does not recollect, were officers in this engagement – & that at this time he was from home, as he supposes, about two months – That not long after – how long he does not remembered – he again volunteered his services & went down to York Town, & at the time was from home about two months – That he was at the Norfolk when it was fired by the orders of Governor Dunmore. That after his second term of service had expired & he had stayed a time at home, he again volunteered his services & although a resident of Goochland County, joined a horse company from the County of Prince George & thus became a member of the State Troops of Virginia. That of this troop of Horse, Theodorick Bland was Captain, Cole Lieutenant & John Henry, son of the celebrated Patrick Henry, cornet. That they marched to Williamsburg & stayed in Wales' [?] grove near the town, about ten days. That they then started to the North & before getting very far, Bland resigned his place as Captain & Cole filled it up – That they joined Taylor's Legion somewhere at the North but where he does not recollect. That he was in the engagement at Germantown & in a variety of skirmishes with small parties. That on one occasion, a party of five & twenty men himself one of the number crossed the Schuylkill [River] in a boat with a view of reconnoitering a party of the enemy, & Captain Cole and lost his life by a shot from the opposite shore. That after they landed on the other side of the Schuylkill, he well remembers the circumstance of being chased while thus reconnoitering & whilst his party was retreating [?], by a British horsemen & the awkward predicament of the Briton by the failure of horse to leak a stone fence, the horse halting midway upon it – That he was at the North nearly two years & spent his first winter, pretty much, in the neighborhood of the Valley Forge – that he was called from the North to the South sometime after the middle of the year (dates he does not

well remember) for he well remembers that his troop of Horse crossed the River at Richmond on the 22nd day of September. That they went on to North Carolina & fought in the battle at the Cowpens [January 17, 1781] – That on this occasion, he acted as Lieutenant of his troop of horse. That after this battle, Tarleton was near overtaking the troops in crossing some River – the Yadkin he believes – That after this engagement they marched to Richmond in Virginia where they were discharged by Colonel Washington, but this discharge he has lost. That this, as he believes, was in November, & that then he had served two years lacking a few days as a trooper in the regular service. That he there John Diggs or Richard Holt, both [indecipherable word¹], was the Captain of his Troop of Horse in the engagement at the Cowpens – That after receiving the discharge from Colonel Washington, he, on several occasions, on his own account, & especially when Phillips [General William Phillips] was committing his depredations in the neighborhood of James River, went [several indecipherable words] in the neighborhood of Williamsburg. That in every occasion his services was voluntary – having never gone out except as a volunteer. That as he has before said, he was born, as he has always understood in the year 1756 & that consequently he is now 76 years of age. That after living in Goochland County until he was about twenty-two years of age he removed into the bordering County of Powhatan & there lived until he was forty-two years of age when he removed to the County of Henry in the Western part of the State. That he remained about twelve years & then removed to the State of Kentucky where he lived fifteen years – that after this he returned back to his native State where he has continued to live in different Counties with his connections until the present time – and that now he is & is likely to continue a resident of the County of Powhatan. That his having changed about so much in life from place to place renders it more difficult for him to procure the necessary evidence.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.

Sworn to & subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

- John S. Woodson

[Thomas Porter and William Wingo gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

¹ Cadettes,