

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of John Yates R11926

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia County of Buchanan SS.

On this 25<sup>th</sup> day of September A.D. one thousand eight hundred and fifty eight, personally appeared before me, a Justice of the peace within and for the county and state, aforesaid, Courtney Yates 95 years, a resident of Buchanan County, in the state of Virginia who, being duly sworn according to law, declares, that she is the widow of John Yates, who, according to the best information was born in Patrick county about the A.D. 1764 [sic: formed in 1791 from Henry County, which was formed in 1776 from Pittsylvania County, which was formed in 1766 from Halifax County] and died 1834 in Tazwell [sic: Tazewell] county, (now Buchanan) Virginia. He said he ran away from his father in Patrick county Virginia near the close of the Revolutionary war and enlisted under Colonel Preston [see endnote] (she thinks) who accompanied him to Guilford county North Carolina, where he joined the army, at the Blue Springs his father, George Yates, followed and would have taken him back but at the earnest solicitation of Col. Preston was permitted to remain. he finally carried his clothes to him. He said he was in the battle at Yorktown [Siege of Yorktown, 28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781], at the capture of Cornwallis [sic: Cornwallis] also at the battle at Kings mountain [7 Oct 1780]. has heard him relate frequently many rude scenes that occurred in that battle field as well as the camps since 1787 to his death.

She, Courtney Yates was married to John Yates in Russel County Virginia 1787 by \_\_\_ Greenville, an itinerant preacher – he saw a particular friend and companion of his shot down by his side, which he often related with deep sensation [illegible word] many others indistinctly recollected. he was beyond a doubt in the Revolutionary war so stated, and his name will be found on record, He was honorably discharged and retained his discharge many years, but lost it – he often met his companions in arms, when they shouldered their canes, and fought their battles over again” – but they have nearly all fallen asleep – and she will soon follow them! He was a man of medium size dark complexion, dark hair, deep blue eyes – he was wounded in the arm at Yorktown perhaps. He frequently talked of applying for a pension but was told that it would require a living witness to identify himself especially as he had lost his discharge. He was in his dotage before he learned that he was entitled to a pension. It was lately, that her (Courtney Yates) attention was directed to it by a paragraph in the newspaper, headed, “Interesting to widows”.

She makes this declaration for the purpose of obtaining a pension, also bounty land, to which she may be entitled under the different acts of Congress, approved, for the benefit of the soldier, his widow or heirs. She also declares that she has not received a certificate for a pension or land warrant nor does she believe that her husband nor anybody else ever has, nor made any other application therefor Courtney Yates [Certified by John Yates.]

State of Virginia Russell County SS

On this 30 day of March 1859 personally appeared before me a Justice of the peace in and for the state and county aforesaid Sarah Thomas (widow of William Thomas deceased) aged 98 a resident of Russell County Virginia who being duly sworn according to law says she is the daughter of George Yates, and sister of John Yates, named in the above declaration, that she was born in Patrick County Virginia, in the vicinity of Guilford county N.C. was living on big Reed Island [Big Reed Island Creek now in Carroll County, then in Montgomery and Henry counties] when John Yates, her brother entered the service in the Revolutionary war – that he continued in the service eight months – that she recollects distinctly when he, John Yates entered the service and when he returned – that he was in the battle of Guilford N.C. Battle of Guilford Courthouse, 15 Mar 1781] that she met him, John Yates at the door when he returned and ran

and shook hands with him, saw the blood on his knapsack and blankets – that he said his captain was shot down by his side and that they carried him some distance and laid him behind a log” this together with many other rude scenes that occurred both in the camp and the battle field, she has heard him relate from her youth up to his (John Yates) death, (which was in AD 1834.) She further says she has known him, John Yates and Courtney Yates (whose maiden name was Courtney Deal [Courtney Deel]) for 70 years, as man and wife (until his death) & she says she was 16 [sic] years of old when her brother returned  
[signed] Sary thomas

State of Virginia; County of Buchanan SS.

On this 28<sup>th</sup> day of September 1859 personally appeared before me a Justice of the Peace in and for said County Courtney Yates a resident of Virginia Buchanan County, aged about 96 years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on her oath make the following declaration to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed 7<sup>th</sup> June 1832 entitled “an act supplemental to the act for the relieve of certain surviving officer & soldier of the revolution”

That she is the widow of John Yates, who was a private soldier in the company of volunteers commanded by Frank Preston regiment of Virginia Militia in the Revolutionary war with Great Britain. He entered the service in Patrick County Virginia in the Volunteer Company of Capt Preston on whose plantation he was born and raised their rendezvous was at Blue Spring not far distant – he was in the battle of Guilford Courthouse – he continued in the service about eight months – he was discharged soon after the battle of Guilford Courthouse – his discharge though retained for many years, is lost. She further declares that she was married to the said John Yates in the year 1787 that her husband the aforesaid John Yates died on the 20<sup>th</sup> Nov 1832 that she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service but that the marriage took place at the time above stated. She further swears that she is now a widow and that she has never before made any application for a pension.  
Courtney herXmark Yates

[Joseph Looney, Esq., 54, certified the date of John Yates’s death, stating that he had resided with the Yates family and had “marked the superscription on his tombstone, which stands near the residence now, of the said Courtney Yates.”]

#### NOTES:

A size roll compiled at Chesterfield Courthouse VA after 1 Sep 1780 includes the following: John Yates/ age 19/ height 5 6¼/ planter/ born in Henry County/ residing in Montgomery County VA/ black hair/ gray eyes/ dark complexion/ enlisted 11 Sep 80 for 18 months.

“Col. Preston” was presumably William Preston of the Montgomery County Militia who was at the Battle of Guilford Courthouse NC. I could not identify a Capt. Frank Preston or Francis Preston.