

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Merriday (Merideth) Canaday R1655

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

The State of Ohio

Scioto County – Court of Common Pleas

On this Ninth day of September A.D. 1834 personally appeared in open Court Meredeth Canaday a resident of Brush Creek Township in said County of Scioto & State of Ohio aged as he has always been informed & verily believes eighty years on the fifteenth 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 Provision, made by act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. "that he enlisted in the Army of the United States in the year 1779 on the Twenty first day of January at the house of Cap'tn Billy Walker [William Walker] in Culpepper County Virginia about sun set of the day. That he enlisted for during the War – In a Company of volunteers commanded by Capt'n. Madison whose christian name this Declarant thinks was William [William Madison]. One Benton was the Lieutenant of said Company. They were marched to some Barracks in Albemarle County in the state of Virginia commonly called Albemarle Barracks where they were encamped for some time, and there for some time they guarded some prisoners [captured at Saratoga on 17 Oct 1777 and taken to Albemarle Barracks Jan 1779]. This Deponent thinks there were about five hundred men at the encampment under the command of Colonels [Francis] Taylor & [Charles] Lewis. Colonel Taylor was commonly called Colonel Frank Taylor & Colonel Lewis was commonly called Colonel Ande Lewis. This Declarant supposes that Colonel Lewis was for some time the superior officer – though he recollects that Colonel Taylor one day said to him this Declarant that he Colonel Taylor "was governor of this Place." That while laying here and on the day the above remark was made Colonel Taylor gave to this Declarant the paper or furlough hereto exhibited for the purpose of going to Culpepper County to see a Brother this Declarant had residing there. That there was at the Barracks an officer called Capt Phillips but this Deponent recollects no more of him than that he was said to reside in Louisa County Virginia & that one night at said Barracks Capt'n Phillips appeared to be the officer highest in command & had the Troops under Arms during the night. When they left the Albemarle Barracks they were marched down towards York to protect the Country & to keep Cornwallis in check. [See endnote] He thinks the object was to prevent parties from the Camp of Cornwallis from scouring the Country &c. They were at first under the command of a French General [Marquis de Lafayette] who commanded them until Gen'l Washington took the command [Sep 1781]. That he don't recollect the name of that French Officer – But he was a Youngerly man & was called among the Troops "General the Marquis" of "General Marquis" His Title he recollects but his name he cannot recollect. That in the month of July or August following said enlistment He this declarant was by a written paper under the hand of Colonel Taylor discharged from further active duty until an old sore on his leg something like a fever sore should be healed. That that paper or discharge he kept until about twelve or fourteen years ago when he burnt the same at his own house in this County in the presence of Hezekiah Canaday [Hezekiah Kennedy, as he signed] his son & one Aaron Wallace. That that sore on his leg has never become heeled up & still continues to afflict him. this Declarant was never in any Battle but was in actual service from the time of his Enlistment in January 1779 as aforesaid until the month of July or August next following making six months at Least. That after his said Discharge he returned to said Culpepper County where he resided until some time in the year 1795 when he removed to the neighbourhood of Lexington in Kentucky in the neighbourhood of which he continued to reside until about sixteen years ago when he removed to the neighbourhood where he now lives in Brushcreek Township Scioto County Ohio. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of any agency in any state. [signed] Merriday Canaday

And the following questions were propounded by the court & answered as hereafter appears

Where were you Born & in what year"

I was Born in Essex County Virginia on the Rappahannock and was Born in the year 1753 as I have learned & always understood from my Parents

Have you any Record of your age & where is it.

My age at that date was recorded as I have stated in a Book which is now in Virginia. I have formerly seen it but never since I left Virginia nor do I know where it now is.

Where were you living when called into service where Have you lived since the Revolutionary War & where do you now live.

I enlisted at Culpepper Va where I then lived & where I lived after service until I removed to Lexington in 1795 I now in Brushcreek Township in this County & have lived here for sixteen years or thereabouts

How were you called into service &c?

I was a volunteer

State the names of the Regular Officers who were with the Troops where you served such Continental & Militia Regiments as you can recollect & the general circumstances of your service.

I cant state further than already stated in the Declaration

Did you ever receive a discharge from the service if so by whom was it given & what has become of it I never Received any but the one before spoken which was burnt as I before stated

State the names of the persons in you neighbourhood to whom you are known & who can testify to your character for veracity & their belief of your services as a soldier in the Revolution. Thomas Brown Esqr John Wilson & the Rev'd John Dewit live in my neighbourhood – Mr Dewit is sick & not expected to live. He is the only clergyman in the neighbourhood with whom I am much acquainted.

[signed] Merriday Canaday

Albemarle Barracks March 9th 1779

Meredeth Canaday a Soldier in Capt Madisons Company of Volunteers from Orange County has leave of Absence from this [illegible word] till Monday next the 16 Instant when he is to return.

Fra Taylor Lt Col'o.



NOTES:

Cornwallis entered Virginia in the spring of 1781, and Gen. Lafayette had direct command of troops in Virginia from March 1781 until Washington arrived. Canaday therefore appears to have reentered service after his furlough.

Hezekiah Kennedy Esq., stated that about 12 or 14 years before "he saw his father the above Declarant burn up a paper purporting to be a discharge signed by the name & in the Hand Writing (to the best of Deponents Judgment) of the furlough hereto annexed which Discharge purported to discharge said Meredith Canaday from active service until he had recovered from a Lameness."

On 30 Dec 1853 "Zanthus Canaday & Hezekiah Canaday, heirs at law of Meredith or Merriday Canaday" assigned power of attorney to obtain bounty land.