

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Levi Todd¹ R18516

f78VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

12/15/11 rev'd 2/28/2024

[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.]

Pension Office September 8, 1851

I have examined the claim of the Representatives of Levi Todd said to have been a Lieutenant of the Illinois Regiment & who appears to have been in service in Western Virginia at different periods of the Revolutionary War in the said Regiment; but there is no evidence of the time of his appointment, nor any of the length of his service, nor is there anything to show in what particular Corps or company he served. The Histories of the Military operations of that day show that volunteer companies of residents were frequently raised as occasion required – and that they accompanied Clark [George Rogers Clark] in his expeditions against the Indians and in the reduction of the British posts, but that they were not regulars, in service although embraced by general reputation in the Illinois Regiment. The testimony of the witnesses filed is for the most part vague and uncertain, referring generally to his services but relating nothing definite as to his rank, company or period of service. The deed of Todd's proportion of Land in the Illinois Grant does not specify rank or length of service but is simply, in consideration of military service performed by him in the Illinois Regiment.

From the fact that the name of Levi Todd is nowhere found or recognized as an officer of the Illinois Regiment; – from the additional facts that he resided in Harrodsburg (Kentucky) in the fall of 1778 and married in that year, and that in August 1782 was either a civil or military officer of Fayette County – and from the no less important circumstance that none of the deponents whose testimony is adduced are precise or definite in regard to his rank or service – the conclusion is inevitable that he was neither legally nor technically an officer of the Illinois Regiment nor embraced by the act of Congress of 5 July 1832 or the act of Virginia of May 1779 upon which the said act of Congress was founded, – and therefore that he is not entitled to half pay for life. It is an historical fact that various descriptions of troops – militia & volunteers as well as regulars, occasionally engaged in service under General Clark and were often ranked as belonging to the Illinois Regiment and Virginia State line, – but as the records of the day and other recognized evidence sufficiently show who were and were not entitled to the benefit of the Virginia law & the act of Congress founded thereon is not necessary to dwell on the subject in detail – Mr. Todd was like other patriotic men of that period of that particular section of the Country who participated in the hazards of western warfare, and who drew their proportions of land secured to them by [several words written through and illegible] in the [indecipherable word] of the N. W. territory – but who were not embraced in the Half Pay promises of the Act of the Virginia legislature of May 1779 confirmed by the act of Congress of 5 July 1832.

S/ J. E. Heath Commissioner of Pensions

¹ Va. Half Pay and Indian War 1786

[p 8: copy]

The affidavit of William Meriwether,² taken at the Town of Frankfort, on the 11th day of January 1833, to be laid before the Governor and Council of State of Virginia, or laid before any court of record in said State, or elsewhere, on behalf of the heirs and legal Representatives of Robert Todd and Levi Todd, deceased. This affiant being of lawful age and first duly sworn and cautioned, charged and sworn, deposeth and saith; that in the month of August or September in the year 1779, he said William Meriwether joined Captain John Rogers' Troop of light Dragoons, which were raised in Spotsylvania and Culpeper counties State of Virginia by said Rogers, by then under an act of the General Assembly of the State of Virginia, passed in 1779: which, when raised, was to be sent to the Western Country to join General George Rogers Clarke's [George Rogers Clark's] Regiment; That by virtue of said statute John Rogers was duly commissioned Captain of said company of Dragoons, and did thereafter march to the Illinois country to join General Clarke's Regiment: that shortly after Christmas in the year 1779 & 1780 said troop of dragoons landed at Fort Pitt then called by that name: where Pittsburgh now stands. The River Ohio then froze up; so that the troop was detained there until the spring of 1780 when the ice broke up, when the Troop went down the River, to the Falls of the Ohio, and from there to Fort Jefferson a few miles below the mouth of the Ohio, on the Mississippi River, where the said Rogers Troop of Horse joined for the first time General George Rogers Clarke's Regiment. That when the Troop got there, Clarke's Regiment were on the ground. That said Troop together with said Clarke's Regiment built a Fort called Fort Jefferson: That some time before that, that is in the winter of 1779, Clarke had taken Vincennes & Kaskaskia and many other places of the British posts in the Illinois Country. That at Fort Jefferson or at the Falls of the Ohio, when this affiant's Troop joined Clarke's Regiment, he well recollects that Robert Todd and Levi Todd were there in Clarke's Regiment, and acting as a commissioned officers in said Regiment: but the precise rank they or either of them held he does not, at this distant date recollect, but that they were both commissioned officers he does not doubt, and is entirely confident that they were. He states that he cannot but believe that Levi & Robert Todd, who were brothers, went into the Regiment when it was raised, and marched from Virginia in said Regiment to the Illinois country, because he knows they were with Clarke when he first joined them at Fort Jefferson or the Falls of Ohio in the spring of 1780. That the whole country was a wilderness for 400 miles distant, that he was ever afterwards acquainted with General Clarke and many other officers, who was in said in a Regiment, and he never understood anything to the contrary, but always understood that the said Levi & Robert Todd completed the entire expedition in taking the several British Posts in Illinois. That in the fall of 1780, Clarke's Regiment came from Fort Jefferson to the Falls of the Ohio, while the troop of Rogers, under the command of John Montgomery, was taking and destroying other posts of the Enemy in the summer of 1780. That the said Troop came also to the Falls of the Ohio, where he thinks he again saw Levi and Robert Todd; in the service, acting as commissioned officers in said Regiment. That in the year 1781, after the surrender of Lord Cornwallis, the Regiment of Clarke was reduced, and Robert Todd went into Virginia and married in 1782, and said Levi Todd remained in Kentucky and was in the blue lick Defeat [August 19, 1782], fought in 1782, in the month of August as he understood and believes, where Colonel John Todd was slain. This affiant was confident that Levi Todd performed as much service in Clarke's Regiment as Robert Todd because they were in the same service and left the service at the same time, as this affiant believes. This affiant was not again required by General Clarke to go into the service, nor was said Robert or Levi Todd as he ever understood. That this

² [William Meriwether \(Merewether, Merriwether\) S47954](#)

affiant is now in the 75th year of his age and has resided in Jefferson County eight miles from the falls of the Ohio ever since that. That in said Troop of Captain John Rogers he was appointed an orderly Sergeant, and acted as such until the month of April 17[last two digits overwritten and illegible] when he was appointed and acted as Lieutenant in said Troop of Horse by said General G R Clarke in the place of James Meriwether, who had resigned in said Rogers Troop and accepted a commission in Colonel Charles Dabney's Regiment of Virginia, on State Establishment. That from examining a Memorial to the Congress of the United States made by Thomas W Gilmore, who was a Commissioner on the by half of Virginia on the 19th of December 1831, He finds that a board of Field officers composed of Colonel Muter, Colonel Dabney, Colonel Allison, Major Dick, Major Nelson and Major Meriwether who were convened at Richmond Virginia in February 1782 & 1784 who have made a Report of the officers of General G. R. Clarke's Regiment entitled to a commutation pay under the act of the General Assembly of Virginia of 1779, is defective in this, that on said Roll, the names of Captain Edward Worthington, Captain Keller, Captain Bowman, Captain George and the said Levi Todd are not found although they and each of them to this affiant's personal knowledge were in said Clarke's Regiment, when this affiant joined it in the spring of 1780 and remained in said Regiment as this affiant believed as long as many whose names are found on said Roll; and some of the aforesaid persons remained in service longer than some whose names are on said Roll. And further sayeth not.

W. Meriwether

[p 11: copy]

The Affidavit of Benjamin Roberts,³ taken at the house of Mr. Bergen in the County of Shelby, on the 14th day of January 1833.

Deponent being of lawful age, and first duly cautioned, charged and sworn, saith that he was a commissioned Captain in Clarke's Regiment of Illinois, and acted as such in Slaughter's Corps of two companies, which he commanded as Major. That this affiant served from the winter 1780, at the Falls of Ohio, Kaskaskia & Fort Jefferson until the said Regiment was disbanded in the Fall or winter of 1781. And that whilst this affiant was in the service as aforesaid, he became acquainted with Captain Edward Worthington, who was a Captain in said Regiment, and also with Captain George, Captain Keller and Lieutenant William Meriwether, and that they and each of them served in said capacities until the Army was disbanded, and they were all supernumeraries on the reduction of said Battalion or at the time they were disbanded. To this affiant's personal knowledge the said Worthington lived in Mercer or Lincoln County Kentucky before his death. This affiant understands that the names of the foregoing persons are not on a roll made out by the Report of a board of Field Officers who sat in Richmond Virginia in 1782, which this affiant has examined. This affiant is certain that the foregoing persons ought to be on said roll if any who are on said rolls are entitled to half pay because they and each of them were supernumeraries and liable to be called into service at any time until 1783; but neither of the aforesaid persons were ever again called into service after they were disbanded by General Clarke. Further sayeth not.

S/ Ben. Roberts

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³ [Benjamin Roberts S31343](#)

The Deposition of Benjamin Briggs⁴ of Lincoln County State of Kentucky aged sixty-nine years.

This Deponent having been first duly sworn deposed and saith, That he removed to the now state of Kentucky in December 1777 & became acquainted with Levi Todd in the year 1778 who then resided in Harrodsburg. That Levi Todd was married to this Deponent's sister during that year in the winter 1778. That he knows of his own personal knowledge that Levi Todd was an Officer in that year in the Illinois Regiment commanded by General George Rogers Clark and understood that he was a Lieutenant. That he said Todd accompanied said Regiment in the expedition during that year which resulted in the capture of Kaskaskia, & Vincennes and other British Posts in the Western country, and was with said Clark as an officer for several years afterwards. This Deponent states that in the year 1782 he (the Deponent) accompanied an expedition commanded by said General Clark against the Indian towns called the Piqua towns on Mad River in the said State of Ohio, and said Todd was also an officer he thinks either a Captain or Major on that expedition & under said Clark and knows that said Todd was on every expedition from the year 1778 to the year 1783 and was always with Clark & an officer under him. That he also knows of his own knowledge (having accompanied the expedition himself) that said Todd commanded a Regiment under said Clark in the year 1786 on an expedition against the Indians in the now State of Indiana. This deponent states that said Levi Todd died about September 1807 leaving the following children his heirs and legal representatives viz. Hannah wife of the Reverend Robert Stuart, Elizabeth Carr, wife of Charles Carr, Nancy Todd wife of Dr. John Todd, David Todd, John Todd Jr., Maria L Todd, Robert S Todd, Samuel B Todd, Jane Breck wife of Daniel Breck, Roger North Todd, Margaret Rodes wife of William Rodes & James C Todd all of whom this Deponent believes are now alive –

S/ B. Briggs



[attested September 6, 1833]

[p 44: a copy]

Lexington Fayette County September 11th '82 [1782]

Sir, No. 2 W

The officers civil as well as military of this County beg the attention of your Excellency & the honorable Council. The number of the enemy that lately penetrated into our country, their behavior, adding to this our late unhappy defeat at the Blue Licks, fill us with the deepest concern & anxiety, the loss of our worthy officers & soldiers, who fell there the 19th of August we sensibly feel & deem our situation truly alarming. We can scarcely behold a spot of earth but what reminds us of the fall of some fellow adventurer, massacred by savage hands, our number of militia decreases, Our widows & orphans [orphans] are numerous. Our officers & worthiest men fall a sacrifice. In short Sir, our settlement hitherto formed at the expense of Treasur[e] & much blood seems to decline & if something is not speedily done we doubt will wholly be depopulated, the Executive we believe think often of us & wish to protect us, but Sir, we believe any military Operations that for 18 months past have been carried on in consequence of orders from the Executive, have rather been detrimental than beneficial, our militia are called on to do duty in a manner that has a tendency to protect Jefferson County, or rather Louisville, a town without inhabitants, a Fort situated in such a manner that the enemy coming with a design to lay

⁴ [Benjamin Briggs S30889](#)

waste our country would scarcely come within 100 miles of it & our own Frontiers open & unguarded. Our inhabitants are discouraged his now near two years since the division of the Country, & no Surveyor has ever appeared among us, but has by appointments from time to time deceived us, our principal expectations of strength are from him, during his absence from the country Claimants of land disappear when if otherwise they would be an additional strength. We entreat the Executive to examine into the cause and remove it speedily – If it is thought impracticable to carry the war into the enemy's country we beg the plan of building a garrison at the mouth of Lime Stone [Limestone] & another at the mouth of Licking formerly prescribed by your Excellency might be again adopted & performed – A garrison at the mouth of Lime Stone would be a landing place for adventurers from the back parts of Pennsylvania & Virginia, adjacent to a large body of good land which would be speedily settled. Would be exactly in the enemy's principal crossing place, not more than fifty miles from Lexington our largest settlement, & might readily be furnished with provisions from above, till they would be supplied from our settlements here. Major Netherland we expect will deliver this he will attend to give any particular information that may be deemed necessary.

Humanity towards inhabitants destitute of hopes of any other aid; will surely induce your Excellency to spare from the interior parts of the State 200 men and a few pieces of Artillery for these purposes above mentioned. We are Sir your Excellency's most Obedient Vy [very] Hble [Humble] Srt [Servants]

S/ Daniel Boone
S/ Levi Todd
S/ J. Patterson
S/ R. Netherlands
S/ Eli Cleveland
S/ William Henderson
S/ William McConnall
S/ John Craig
S/ William McConnall

I certify that the foregoing letter is truly copied from the first volume of Illinois papers now in this office endorsed volume 1 Executive Department.

Given under my hand at the Auditor's Office Richmond Virginia this 28 February 1851
S/ Ro Johnston
First Auditor

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State of Virginia County of Culpeper: Scilicet

This day Peter Triplett⁵ of said State & County made oath before me a Justice of the Peace within the same, in due form of law, that he said Triplett is now ninety seven years old & upwards – that in the War of the Revolution he said Triplett was in the Illinois Service, under Captain George Rogers Clark in the Western country as a private soldier – and whilst in that service he knew Lieutenant Levi Todd who was a Lieutenant in the Illinois Regiment & served in it to the end of the War. He knew Major Crittenden having carried him on his back from the boat to the shore & in April 1783, when Crittenden was elected to the Virginia Legislature, Lieutenant Levi Todd was then in actual service. I also certify that said Triplett is of sound mind & memory & that in my opinion his evidence is worthy of all credit. Given under my hand & seal in my

⁵ [Peter H. Triplett W2706](#)

official Character aforesaid the 20 day of December 1850

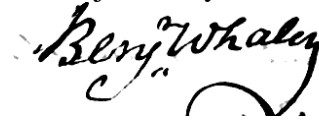
S/ Wm T. Humphreys, JP

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State of Kentucky Fayette County Sct.

This day personally came before the Subscriber a Justice of the Peace in and for the County aforesaid Benjamin Whaley⁶ aged about seventy three years, being a credible witness and made oath, that in the year 1781 he descended the Ohio River from Pittsburgh to the falls of Ohio and was attached to Colonel Zachariah Morgan's Virginia Regiment as a Captain in said Regiment. That he then became acquainted with Colonel John Todd, & Captain Robert Todd officers in Colonel G. R. Clark's Regiment commonly called the Illinois Regiment. That he understood then & since from Levi Todd, his said Brothers John & Robert & from many others engaged in service in said Regiment that Levi Todd was then, and had been for two or three years previous an Officer in said Regiment on the Expedition against Kaskaskia, Vincennes &c. That this deponent afterwards became acquainted well with said Levi Todd & remained so till his death, & from conversations with him & others, knows, & believes that he was an Officer (he believes a Lieutenant) in said Clark's Regiment from the time of Clark's first expedition (he thinks from recollection 1779) until they were discharged as supernumeraries Officers in the latter end of the year 1781 or beginning of 1782. That said John & Robert have both been dead for many years – and further saith not.

S/ Benj. Whaley

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Benj. Whaley". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "S/ Benj. Whaley".

[attested May 17, 1833]

⁶ [Benjamin Whaley S31472](#)