

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Abraham Childers R1922

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Kentucky

Perry County Sct.

On this 17 day of Oct'r. 1832 personally appeared before the Judge of the Perry Circuit Court in the state afs'd Abraham Childers 82 years of age the 15 of Nov'r last resident of Perry County who being first duly sworn according to Law doth on his Oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provissions made by act of Congress passed June 7 1832. That he enlisted in the Army of the U. States about six months before the Battle of Brandywine [11 Sep 1777] (year forgotten) in Amherst County State of Va (where he then lived) under Capt. Sam'l. Capbell (by many caled Cavill) in the Reg't in the Reg't. commanded by Colo. Merriwither [sic: Meriwether] in the line of the State of Va. and perhaps on Continental establishment [see endnote]. In a very short time after his enlistment he was taken and place in the 4 or 5 Rg't. Va. Reg't's, and made a cook under Gen'l. Wahington and served under him as such for 18 months, After serving with him as afs'd. he was then detached under Capt. Pamphiln [possibly Pamplin] in Colo. Meriwithers Reg't. afs'd. and after serving out his term of service for three years he was honorably discharged in Va at Winchester by his Capt. afs'd about one month after Cornwallace surrender [sic: Cornwallis at Yorktown, 19 Oct 1781]. [See endnote.] During this trip he marched from Amherst to bottoms bridge, then to Morbin Hill [sic: Malvern Hill 15 mi SW of Richmond], then to four Mill Creek [sic: Fourmile Creek in Henfico County], and in dif. parts of Va, but was never was out of the State of Va except one trip to Gilford N. Carolina when he was under his Capt. in hearing of the guns [Battle of Guilford Courthouse NC, 15 Mar 1781]. He was also marched from Bottoms Bridge Va in to Maryland then to the Battle of Brandywine. He was in the Battle of Jas Town Va [Battle of Green Springs Plantation near Jamestown, 6 Jul 1781], Morbin hill [sic] and Brandywine, [interlineation] (A) wounded in left thigh at Brandywine He rembers regular officers Gen'l. Washington, & Gen'l. Layfayette [sic: Lafayette] [interlineation] (B) & Gen'l. Morgan don't remember whether Morgan was Regular or not He was born in Buckingham Count y Va. Has no record of his age. When he enterd the service he lived in Amherst County Va and since the Revolution he resided in Va and for many years in Ky where he now lives.

As to his officers he has stated all he remembers.

His discharge he has long since lost. He never rec'd any Commission, but enterd the service on his own account as a private.

As to his charracter he refers to his nighbors Thomas Francis, Joseph Hammons, And'w. Wilson.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or anuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the Pension roll of the agency of any state, nor has it ever been.

Sworn to & subscribed, this day & year afs'd.

Abraham Childers

Perry Circuit Court Ky

July (24) Term 1834

Abraham Childers (now of Laurance [sic] County Kentucky, having lately moved from Perry County Ky) in open Court before the Hon'l. Joseph Eves Judge of the 15 Judicial Circuit doth upon his Oath make the following declaration in addition to the one made by him in s'd. court on the 17 of October 1832 (Here attached by seal) He does not know at this time of any liveing witness by whom he can prove his service, nor has he any dockumentary evidence the same haveing long since been lost. He also refers to admendments made now in Court on his orriginal declaration, first interlined on page 3 oposite (A) &

B, on page 8 between the brackets. He also refers to the certificate which follows of the Rev'd. James Collins of Perry County. He is no scholler [scholar]. A. hisXmark Childers

State of Kentucky, Owsley County, Sct.

William Childers a resident of Owsley county states upon his oath, that he is the son of Abraham Childers of Perry county Kentucky. That his father applied for a pension several years ago, he then living in Perry co. That his father died in April 1849, and leaving the following legal heirs, or children (including himself,) to wit, William, Francis, Polly, Dicy, Abraham Jun, Elizabeth, Goldsby, & Seley. That his mother (Elizabeth Childers) died many years before his father, and on the 17th February 1833.

Futher saith not,

William hisXmark Childers

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 6th of March 1854

Owsley County State of Kentucky Sct

On this 18th day of April 1855 personally appeared Patrick Masterson before the undersigned a Justice of the Peace of Owsley County & after being duly sworn according to Law states upon his oath that he is now of sound mind but very inform in body, that he has known Abraham Childers who died in the County of Perry Ky. some six years ago who was an applicant fo a pension under the act of the 7th June 1832, for a great many years that he was an enlisted soldier from the County of Amherst State of Virginia and from the River Piney or Tie as he always understood from him and that during the station of General Washington at Williamsburgh he got acquainted with said Childers but dont know how long he served only from reputation and he then belonged to Captain Mayfields Company and to the 4th Regiment Commanded by Col. Menniwether as he was always called (it might have been Merriwether) Col. Merriwether lived at the foot of the Flowery Mountain; it was Ephraim Mayfield, Elisha Smyth first he thinks prepared Childers papers, and then Alexander Patrick, and Patrick took the affidavits of Hiram Polly and Achilles Craft [S30357] but what has become of that proof he is wholly unable to tell, that there has never been a resident Lawyer in Perry Cty as he knows of, and that he lived in that for may years previous to the Death of Childers, that he once attempted to take his affidavit, but unfortunately for him he was addicted to intoxication and upon all publick occasions he would get intoxicated so his statements was thus neglected, and his sons moved off in various parts of the Country, and at one time he proposed to go to Lawrence County Ky. and assist him in takeing the proof of Micajor Frashear [sic: Micager Frashure, pension application W3407] and Joseph Newman [S46546] Josiah Marcum [S8999] Adam Crum [S8260] George Hardwik [sic: George Hardwick S8674], but he still put it off these were Virginia Soldiers, that one Thomas Fleetwood (Fleatwood) was an associate soldier that he claimed to have been in the Battle of Gates's defeat at Camden [defeat of Gen. Horatio Gates at Camden SC, 16 Aug 1780], that he has heard the report or letter of the Comishioners of January 1855 and if that Contains all that Childers said about it it is verry imperfect, for it does not embrace but verry little of the partickulars of his service that he himself was an enlisted soldier under Jonathan Langlin and under Col. Mughlenburgh [sic: Peter Muhlenberg] who Commanded the Rigement he belonged to and that he now draws \$20 per annum for services in that war, and that leaving out all the conversations and his own personal knowledge of Childers he had a general reputation of a Revolutionary Soldier under Washington and that he has no interest in the claim whatever

Patrick hisXmark Masterson

Personally come before the undersigned a Justice of the pease of Owsley County, Patrick Masterson on this day 25th April 1855 and made oath in due form of law I lived in Perry County Ky where Abraham Childers applied for a pension under the act of June 1832. I was acquainted with him before he entered the Service of the united states in the revolutionary war. He was from the county of [blank] state of Virginia, and from the river Tie. I entered the service under col. Muhlenburgh & Johnothan Langden As well as I now recollect about the first of June before the Siege of Stony point [sic: storming of British

fort at Stony Point NY by Gen. Anthony Wayne, 16 Jul 1779] and was in the battle an attach'd to Wayns' command and directed by Washington I saw the said Childers there in that desperate Slaughter for it was nothing else but a slaughter. Childers, then belonged to Col. Merrewethers' ridgment, as we soldiers all was called him Merreweweater, it might of been spelt Meriweather. our Ridgment was placed, under Wayne on that occasion, I afterwards saw him in the service at the incampment of Washington at Morris Town New Jersey [sic: Morristown NJ] and I think I saw him at Williams Port. in this I am not positive. I think that Childers went out of the service about this time. I enlisted to serve during the war but was discharged a short time after the defeat at Yorktown. I endeavored while I lived in Perry to get him to attend to his case and I would help him to get up the proof as there were soldirs then living who would prove his service he promised but faild for whenever he went from home he got down with liquor he was strictly an honest man and when sober was relyable and respectable. There was never a resident Lawyer at Haszzard [sic: Hazard] Perry County until within the last 2 years Elisha Smith lived at least 100 miles away from Perry and only came there occasionally and about that time Patrick mooved to Texas I need not relate the circumstances that I have heard Childers speak of no one doubted his service and he possessed an unboinded reputation of a Soldier of the revolution. I think on reflection I wame[?] give to Smith my afadavit at Hazzard in Childers's behalf I have have heard him frequently speak of his brother being shot down by his side in the battle of Brandywine and some particular battle while the americans were retreating Moses Fleetwood of his company as they were going through an old field. and as they ware some large apple trees Fleetwood attempted to pull of a bunch of apples hanging on the lower limbs a that moment a musket ball struck the apples away from his hands and the clods having been turned up in the Spring and not cultivated were so large that they occationly stepped from one to another Childers entered the Service before I did and was some older than I. he always said that he served three years and some days or month. I have no interest in his claim nor am I a kind to him.

Patrick hisXmark Masterson

on this 6 day of October 1855 personally appeared before the undersigned a Justice of peace of owsley County William Childers and made oath in due form of law that he is the son of Abraham Childers who was an applicant for a pension from perry County Ky under the act of the 7th June 1832 My father died in Letcher County Ky on the 6th day of May 1849 that my father employed Elisha Smith & Alexander Patrick to attend to his business and gave them a power of Attorney to that effect. he was also addicted to drink and the most of his time when upon public occasions he most generally got so drunk that he was not capable of attending to any business. at the time that my father applied there was persons living who ware associate soldiers with him and he was often requested to go and take their affidavits and on several occasions he started but failed

It was also thought a long time that Smith and patrick had drawn the money as my father and his children were wholly ignorant of the pension laws and were up to last year I and the balance of the family thought the money had bin drawn. I have often heard my father speak of a circumstance that happend during a battle of thoes times one fleetwood who was an associat soldier with him perhaps at the battle of Camden as the Americans were retreating through an old field and under some appletrees attempted to pull off a bunch of apples when a musket ball from the british struck the apples and knocked them away from his hand and that the clods were so large in the field that some times they could step from one to another Col. Ephraim Mayfield was one of his officers at one time I moved of to Indiana in the year 1837 and did not return back to Letcher any more and the balance of the Children squandered in different directions so he had no one to assist him. Patrick once said in the town of Jackson, Ky that the claim woul be allowd and was partially allowd then He started once to the Sandies to take the affidavits of Joseph Numan Joseph Marcum Adam Crum and Micager Frashur who were in his company but they are all now dead and he was frequently requested to take the affidavit of Patrick Masterson [R7012] who would identify him as being in the service under Washington Stony Point,

Morristown &c and Col Merreweather at Williamsburgh while Washington was there encamped before the captur of Cornwallis at yorktown which he never took, but 2 or 3 months I had his affidavit which he did identify him as such My father has always claimed and told a grate many circumstances a bout the old war ever sense I was a child and could recollect. I am now in my 68th year and I am a member of the Reformed church and has been for years [signed] William Childers

Personally appeared before the undersigned Probate Judge of said County [sic: Owsley County], John Childers who being first duly sworn according to law, states upon his oath "I am the grandson of Abraham Childers late of Perry County Ky, who was a claimant for a pension under the act the 7th June 1832 I am now 44 years of age.

My grand father always claimd to have served in the army of General Washington and was his private cook, and that he belonged to the 5th Regiment commanded by col Merriweather at one time, and Ephraim Mayfield at another, and served as a regular soldier 3 years some odd days or months. I have heard him very often speak of the circumstance, of Moses Fleetwood who belonged to the same compay of my grandfather, while the Americans were retreating through an old field, Fleetwood attempted to pull off a bunch of apples which hung on some lower limbs and at that moment a ball struck them away from his hand, and the clods were so large that they could step from one to another He possessed a general reputation of a revolutionary soldier, aside from the knoweldge & conversation I have had with him I and my father thought until last year that when a claimant died, his claim died with him, and that was one reason that we did not attend to this business sooner and another one was we always thought the money had been drawn until we got the present Agent to examine it There never was a resident lawyer in Perry Col. Ky until within the last 2 years.

I and my father never attempted to interfere with his claim until he died,

There is many other circumstances that I could mention, one in particular of my great uncle, brother to my grand-father being killed in the battle of Brandywine, and was shot down by the side of him Moseby Childers was the one that was killed in the battle of Brandywine. That my grandfather Abraham Childers died in what is now Letcher County Ky on the 6th day of May 1849.

This 13th October 1855

[signed] John Childers

Powel [sic: Powell] County State of Ky Sct

on this 28th day of November 1856 personally appeared before the undersigned a Justice of the Peace of said County Stephen Arther [R271] who being first duly sworn according to law States that he is now an applicant for a pension under the act of Congress passed the 7th of June 1832 that he was born on the 8th day of March 1760 I was acquainted with Abraham Childers late of Perry Co Ky who was also an applicant under the above act since we were boys in fact we were raised close together I was raised in Bedford County Va and Childers was raised in the adjoining county Amherst but in the same neighborhood and close together and about the conclusion of the war Childers moved to buckingham county That said Childers entered into the service of the revolutionary war some considerable time before I did. all those who entered was placed in Service at Liberty [present Bedford City] I was present when the most of my acquaintance left Liberty in their company a man by the name of Langden was the recruiting officer who enlisted or procured the enlistments in Bedford and the adjoining counties there was of my acquaintance who went the same time that Abraham Childers went William Childers Moseby Childers Moses Fleetwood John Fleetwood Joseph Numan and Thomas Arther the Childeresses lived on the river Tie it emptied into the James river and in this country it would be called a creek Some time after they left the county in Capt Cabbells company I heard of the battle of Brandywine and that Moseby Childers was shot down by the side of his Brother Abraham Childers and that William Childers was taken a prisoner of war and he never returned as I always understood During their absence I heard of battle or siege of Ticonderoga [sic] of the victory of General Stark at Benington [sic: John Stark, Battle of

Bennington VT, 16 Aug 1777] Stillwater [Bemis Heights NY, 7 Oct 1777] Saratoga [Burgoyne's surrender, 17 Oct 1777] Stony Point and the massacre at Wyoming [near present Wilkes-Barre PA, 3-4 Jul 1778] The said Abraham Childers returned home together with the Fleetwoods, my Brother being killed about 3 or 4 months before I entered the service I had repeated conversation with them before I entered and they all told me never to go into the regular service, that to volunteer, for a regular soldier lived a dog's life I entered the service in June before the battle of Guilford into the company commanded by Thos Leftdrige [sic: Thomas Leftwich] and belonged to the 9th regiment commanded by Col. [William] Trigg and Walters was my lieutenant There is a great many circumstances connected with the service of those persons before mentioned that I could relate but it was all hearsays, and what I understood from them I know, that Abraham Childers, and those others entered into the service of the united states I am positive into the company of Capt Samuel Cabell some time before the battle of Brandywine and they left in said company and did not come back until some 3 or 4 months before I entered the service under Capt Leftdrige and I know and recollect perfectly well that there was letters frequently sent home from them about what was going on and I know that said Abraham Childers was out as much as three years. I am positive as before stated it was 3 years and some months Abraham Childers at one time came to see me on the subject of his claim he then lived in Perry Co Ky I think it was upwards of 20 years ago and he said that he would have my affidavit taken and that one Smith or Patrick would come and attend to it but no one ever came for that purpose. I have no interest in the claim whatever nor am I a kind to the Childers in any way

Stephen hisXmark Arthur

NOTE:

"Capt. Sam^l. Capbell (by many called Cavill)" probably refers to Samuel Jordan Cabell of Amherst County, who was a Captain in the 6th Virginia Regiment beginning in 4 Mar 1776, then Captain of a rifle company in Col. Daniel Morgan's Regiment from 1 Aug to 1 Nov 1777. There was no Col. Meriwether in either regiment, but Col. Thomas Meriwether commanded a militia regiment.

The declaration is obviously confused about Childers's service. If he enlisted in the regular army about March 1777 and served three years, he would have been released about the spring of 1780. His service within the state of Virginia appears to have been in 1781 as a militiaman.