

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of John Acree R21

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Tennessee }
Sullivan County } On this 22 Day of August 1832 personally appeared in Open Court before
the Justices of the Court of Pleas and quarter Session for said County
now Sitting John Acree a resident of the County and State aforesaid 72

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 entered the service of the united states a drafted soldier in the year 1776 [see endnote]. that he was drafted in Carline [sic: Caroline] County in the State of Virginia and placed under the command of Capt'n. James upshaw [sic: James Upshur] & Col'n Sanders and was marched to James Town in s'd State and joined the main army at that place under the Command of Gen'l. [John] Green. he was then marched near Petersburg [sic: Petersburg] in s'd State the army was then ordered on to Norfolk where he remained six months, and was then marched to york Town in s'd. State where he remained untill he was discharged by Cap'n. James Upshaw of a service of Eighteen months, which discharge he has casually lost.

On the tenth of April 1780 he was again drafted in the same County & State, for another campaign of eighteen months, under the command of James Upshaw under whom he had formerly served, and was marched to Norfolk in the State of Virginia where he joined the main army under Genl Anthony Wayne [arrived in Virginia June 1781], where he continued for about four months, and was afterward marched to Petersburg then was returned to James Town, and was there kept as guards, and from thence was taken to York Town, and was there continued until the Battle [Siege of Yorktown, 28 Sep - 19 Oct], in which he was engaged where Cornwallis surrendered being about the close of his service of eighteen months. On the British being marched to the Boling green [sic: Bowling Green] this declarent was with other troops discharged at s'd Boling Green by Genl. Wayne, after haveing been three years in active service as a soldier under his two engagements thus set forth. that he has no documentary evidence & that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension except the present, & declares that his name is not on the roll of the pension agency of any State. Nor is there a resident clergyman in his vicinity by whom he can establish the facts required by the regulations of the War Dept.

Sworn to & subscribed in open Court this 22^d August 1832

[signed] John Acree

State of Tennessee }
Sullivan County } On this 28th day of March 1833 Personally appeared before me David
Shawn one of the Justices of the peace in and for said County John Acree whose declaration pension is enclosed & in explanation of it to remedy the defects specified in the within Brief made oath in due form of Law that he was born in the County of Caroline State of Virginia on the 2^d day of March 1760 That he has record of his age in his possession – that William Deeny & Edward Cox of his vicinity are persons known by him to have reputation knowledge of his said services, & also know his character for veracity & can state their belief of his services in the Revolution. That in explanation of that objection in the Brief under No. 5 he can state, that whatever may have been the laws or authority for calling out the militia for a term of time more than three months, the fact is so, that G1 Young the Militia General of that Division with other officers had such arrangements made as to prolong the time of service to eighteen months & this declarent under what was called at the time drafts was taken into service the two several times set forth in his original Declaration & served out the term of eighteen months on each occasion. on this matter he cannot be mistaken for he has the most perfect knowledge of the very day on which he entered the second time of service, which was stated in his original declaration on the tenth day of April 1780, and

was in service without having served out his time of time in the attack & surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown. This declarant states that he understood that the militia being called out for so short a time as three months, induced the field officers to make arrangements for the Militia being classed and each class to furnish a man for eighteen months. He believes that this was not peculiar to his own vicinity in the war of the Revolution, but was practised in the remote western parts of Virginia, as will be seen from reference to the Testimony of Col William Snodgrass [pension application X927], whose affidavit is herewith sent, & who was not only a revolutionary soldier himself, & possessed of the most ample means of being informed, but whose respectability will insure certainty as to the credit due to her statement. Sworn to & subscribed before me this 27th day of March 1833 [signed] John Acree

NOTES:

In Oct 1778 the Virginia legislature authorized 18-month drafts of one man of every 25 militiamen.

On 13 Jan 1844 Lucy Acree, 69, applied for a pension stating that she married John Acree on 21 Nov 1793, and he died 2 Mar 1838. As evidence she submitted the following family record, said by Lucy Acree and son Matthew Y. Acree to be a copy of one transcribed by John Acree about 1831 but lost beyond recovery:

Lucy Schools, the daughter of John Schools, and Salley, his wife was Born June 30th in the year 1774

Also was Married to her well beloved husband, Nov'r. 21st day the year, 1794

Elizabeth Acree, the daughter of the above was Born February 21st, the year, 1795,

Matthew Y. Acree, was Born June 21st, day in the year 1796,

Salley Acree, was Born July the 21st, day, in the year 1798,

Uriah Acree was Born Dec'r 2nd, day in the year 1800,

Susanna Acree was Born April, 19th, in the year 1803,

Fanney Acree was Born Feb'y. 8th, in the year 1806,

Polley Acree, was Born August 4th, day in the year 1808,

John Acree was Born Dec'r. 13th, 1810,

Lucy Acree was Born Dec'r 5th, 1812,

William Acree was Born June 7th, 1815,

The claim was rejected because the pension act under which she applied provided only for widows who married before 1 Jan 1794. Subsequently she reapplied, this time submitting what was claimed to be the original family register with two differences: 1) the following entry was added:

John Acree, the son of Abraham Acree and anne his wife, was Born March 2nd, day, 1760,

and 2) a "3" was crudely written over the 4 in the year of marriage. The pension office interpreted this as an attempted forgery, rejected her claim once more, and initiated a criminal investigation. She applied again on 31 Oct 1848, and on 7 Feb 1853 Matthew Y. Acree assigned power of attorney to pursue his mother's claim.