

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of John Conaway R2244

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia } SS.

Lewis County [sic] }

On this 19<sup>th</sup> day of August AD 1833 personally appeared in open court before the Justices of the county court of Harrison County now sitting John Conaway a resident on the line between Monongalia and Harrison counties in the state of Virginia aged 71 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 of the 7<sup>th</sup> of June 1832. That He entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated  
That in the year 1776 as he now thinks he volunteered under captain Higgins on Big Cape Capon [sic: Cacapon River] in what is now Hampshire county Virginia in a company of Virginia militia to go a Tour against the Indians on the north side of Ohio river. He was marched to what was then Beeson Town (now Union Town in Pennsylvania [sic: Uniontown Pennsylvania]). Thence to Pittsburg thence down the Ohio river to some point at or near Muskingum river. Thence out to the Indian Towns some distance from the Ohio river. He cannot now remember the waters it was on (but thinks it was Sciota) nor can he remember the name of the tribe of Indians but thinks it was the Shawnees he distinctly remembers when the troops arrived the warriors were gone and The Virginia troops militia and others took the Squaws prisoners and cut down all their standing corn which grew in different places This he thinks was in August. They were at many places in the Indian country and in the fall of that year they returned to Pittsburg with their squaws and Indian children probably in October. The troops started from home in March and returned at Christmas of the second year 1776 having been engaged and about on duty nine months. Then again in 1779 He was drafted to go a Tour on the western waters. started in June 1779 to perform a tour of six months in the Virginia Militia. He started under captain Wiggins a militia officer was marched to Pittsburg in Pa. There joined The command of General [Lachlan] McIntosh ascended the Ohio river to the mouth of Big Beaver creek [Beaver River at present Beaver PA] there built a fort called fort McIntosh in honour of their General who was a Scotchman. continued there till about Christmas experienced great difficulties from Scarcity of rations. Here a serious difference arose between General McIntosh and Captn. Wiggins who resolved to hunt with his command for the relief of his and the other soldiers Genl. McIntosh thought it wholly inexpedient. refused the captain his assent put the captain in confinement The troops left the station about the month of December and returned home affiant was discharged at Christmas having been in service six months the term of his draft. both this and his other discharges were verbal for in both cases he returned home under his captain. He then removed to Pennsylvania to what is now Bedford County and in the Spring of 1780 He was ordered out by Col George Woods as an Indian Spy under captain McCall. Spied in Bedford County Pa. from March 1780 till some time in December 1780 under captn McCall on the waters of Juniata some times on Reece Town branch [possibly Roystertown Branch], sometimes at and near a place afterwards called Franck Town. Captain McCall with a large portion of his company and a another captain with a company of Pennsylvania Militia were slain in a battle with the Indians. He happened to be absent, sent to the settlement on duty at the time. He was not in the battle but he was one of the first on the ground to take up the slain and aid in burying them. There were but 16 of the two companies left but what were slain and those mostly absent on duty. He helped to bury the dead and pursued the Indians but the Indian forces augmented to about 600 and the troops had to retreat. He was discharged at Christmas. He was this season engaged as an Indian spie nine months then in 1781 He was drafted to go a tour of Three months in the Pensylvana militia. He was marched to a place on Juniata near where Bedford Courthouse now stands. He he has forgotten the name of his captn He remembers the sergents name was Beatty. in this campaign He and the troops (Pa. M[iliti]a.) built a Fort around the houses of Ashly and Woods and there acted as Indian spies. The residue of their Tour of three months to wit from March 1781 till June 1781. Then again in June 1781 He was raised out by

Col. Woods as an Indian Spie under Segeant Beatty for three months. He spied mostly in Bedford County from June 1781 till October 1781 He was discharged. Then in March 1782 as well as he can recollect He was again raised out by Col. Woods as an Indian spie for three months in Bedford County under Captn. \_\_\_ He cannot now remember the names of any officer except his brother Thomas Conaway who was the orderly sergeant. He spied from March 1782 till June and was discharged verbally. Then again in June 1782 He volunteered his services at the request of Col. Woods to act as an Indi. spy for three months He was then ordered to ship from Bedford fort for Franks Town a distance of from 70 to 100 miles mostly a wilderness They spied up to Franks Town found it deserted. could get no provisions were compelled on their return to kill game for subsistence contrary to their general orders which was not to shoot except at Indians. He does not remember the names of captain or Leut. this Tour his second brother Thomas was sergeant again. He continued this tour from June 1782 till October and was discharged this last tour was for three months he was verbally discharged by his colonel Geo. Woods. To recapitulate He acted as nearly as he can now recollect the tours set forth above to wit from March 1776 till Christmas of that year. Then again from June 1779 till December 1779. Then again in Pa. as an Indian spiy from March 1780 till December 1780. Then gain in 1781 He was drafted served three months from March 1781 till June 1781. then again in June till October 1781 [sic]. The in March 1782 till June 1782. Then as a volunteer from June 1782 till October 1782. In all not les than three years as a private militia man and Indian spy from 1776 till 1782. He never obtained a written discharge. He cannot remember the names of regts. or Genl. or field officers except his own and not many of them He was very young when he started and the great lapse of time together with a decayed memory here conspired to errase from is recollection the scenes of his youth and many of the occurrences of the war. He remembers such things only as made a strong impression at the time He remembers amongst the slain of captains McCalls men a soldier named Dugan who was dreadfully mangled a stake drove through his body into the ground. The appearances in the the weeds showed plainly that more than Dugan had met death there he was a brave and robust man we concluded that he had killed several Indians before he fell. we however found no dead Indians it was the Indians custom to conceal when they could their dead. being victors in this occasion they had done so. affiant has no documentary evidence. He knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his services. There is no clergyman residing near him

He hereby relinquishes his every claim to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.

sworn and subscribed this day and year aforesaid [signed] John Conaway

The court propounded to declarant the seven several interogatories prescribed by the war department to which he gave the following answers Viz.

- 1<sup>st</sup>. That he was born on the 6<sup>th</sup> of October 1762 according to his parents account given to him.
- 2<sup>nd</sup>. that He has no record of his age.
- 3<sup>rd</sup>. He lived in Hampshire now called Virginia in his first and second tours then He removed to Pennsylvania. continued there till 1815 when He returned to Virginia to Morgantown Thence to the line between Monongalia and Harrison counties where he now
- 4<sup>th</sup>. That he volunteered first. then drafted then again in Pa. was ordered out as an Indian spiy then drafted three months then ordered out as a spy again. Then again ordered out as an Indian spiy. then volunteered as an Indian spy.
- 5<sup>th</sup>. He remembers General McIntosh. He saw many field officers whose names He was young. He remembers three of his captains. Higgins, Wiggins and McCall which last was slain as aforestated. He distinctly remembers his Pa. Col. George Woods. He does not remember the names of regts or corps He saw at Pittsburg in 1779 Virginia and Pensylvania troops continental state troops & militia He thinks he the heard that a man named [Col. John] Gibson commanded at Pittsburg he does not remember his name nor does he remember that he ever saw him
- 6<sup>th</sup>. He rec'd. seven verbal but no written discharges. The last verbal discharge was by Col. Woods.
- 7<sup>th</sup>. He is known in his neighborhood to William McRae and Daniel Arnett they can testify as to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution There

are no clergymen residing near him.

[signed] John Conway

[The following report is by District Attorney Washington G. Singleton who investigated many pensioners and applicants from Harrison and other counties of present West Virginia. For details see pension application S6111 of David W. Sleeth.]

John Conway. Applicant - Hials from Harrison cty -

the undersigned was informed by Thos P. Ray [Clerk of Harrison County Court] that Jno Conway called on him for the purpose of makeing a Declaration for a Pension under the Law of 1832. that upon examanation ascertain that he had no claim to a Pension & so told him

W. G Singleton Nov. 28, 1834

Not Entitled -

NOTE: Most of the service described in Conway's pension application, if they were performed, would have been eligible for a pension. It is likely, however, that whatever service Conway actually performed were ineligible, as Thomas P. Ray to ld him. As frequently happened in Harrison County, some other agent apparently submitted a fraudulent application. At the end of the pension application is the following note: "Report to Jonathan Wamsley at Weston Lewis County Virginia." Wamsley prepared many fraudulent claims.