

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Coursey R2308

Susannah Coursey

f17VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

12/22/19

[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. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. 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 skills fail 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 material errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Tennessee Bedford County }

On this 6th day of August 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of the Court of pleas & Quarter Sessions for Bedford County being a Court of Record now sitting James Coursey a resident of Bedford County in the State of Tennessee ^{aged about 84 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 provisions of an act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States as a revolutionary soldier in the year 1774 as volunteer for a tour of 3 months under Captain Abram Penn [Abraham Penn] in Henry County Virginia. Colonel Gooden of the Militia in Henry County sent Captain Penn's company consisting of 45 or 50 men to Botetourt County (Virginia) to be commanded by Colonel Christy [William Christian] – when Penn's company to which this applicant belonged arrived there Colonel Christy sent them on to Fort Kenhawwa [Fort Kanawha] with a view of their proceeding further on to the Indian Settlements on the Ohio [River], but when Captain Penn's Company arrived at the Fort the [they] found that the company which had been stationed to guard the Fort had already proceeded to the Indian Settlements on the Ohio – Captain Penn then remained at the Fort for the purpose of guarding it until the three months for which this applicant had volunteered expired – the company then returned home and was verbally dismissed or discharged by Captain Penn.

In the spring of 1775 or 1776 this applicant from the failure of memory cannot recollect but to the best of his recollection it was in the spring of 1776 he again volunteered under Captain Abram Penn in Henry County Virginia for a term of three months service and his company marched down on James River to James Town to guard the Magazine and the Breastworks at that place against the British where this applicant remained until his three months expired or probably a little longer – during this tour of service Lieutenant Henry Lyons was the lieutenant of his company. At the expiration of this tour this applicant was verbally dismissed or discharged by Captain Penn.

After this applicant' return from James Town the Militia company to which he belonged in Henry County Virginia drew numbers to serve according to the number drawn this applicant drew number (10) and his time to serve did not arrive until shortly before the Surrender of Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown [October 19, 1781] when he was with some of his neighbors sent to Yorktown to fight the British – but before they arrived there this applicant was taken sick and furloughed by a Lieutenant Clay who had charge of him and some others – his Captain whose name he does not recollect having gone on before – he then returned home and never served

anymore as the war ended about this time.

This applicant states that during his first tour of service under Captain Penn Joseph Martin was his Lieutenant and Bryce Martin his ensign – This applicant further states that he was acquainted with no regular or militia officers during the revolutionary war but those mentioned in this declaration except Colonel Tunstall [William Tunstall] Major Well's [John Wells] & Major Redd [John Redd] and some other militia officers in the County where he resided. This applicant further states that he has no documentary evidence of his service and he knows of no person now living by whom he can make any proof of his services – at the time he was furloughed by Lieutenant Clay he received a written furlough which he will enclose with this declaration if he has not lost it¹ – during the different terms of service above mentioned he served as a private Soldier. This applicant was born in Granville County North Carolina his father left his mother when he was a child and his mother married John Couch who removed and carried him to Virginia – he was born the 16th day of January 1748 or 1749 he does not recollect which – this he learned from his mother but he has no record of his age – he was about 24 or 25 years of age when he first entered the service of his Country in the revolutionary war at which time he was living in Henry County Virginia where he also resided at the close of the war. This applicant is acquainted in his present neighborhood with the Rev'd John Rushing, Barney H. Haley, William Sims, William Smothersman & others all of whom will testify as to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a revolutionary soldier. This applicant states that he removed from Henry County Virginia to Maury County Tennessee about twenty-eight years ago and from thence to Williamson County, from thence to Rutherford County, and from thence to Bedford County Tennessee where he has resided for about nine years and now resides – he states he only claims a pension for six months although he served something longer than that time.

He hereby relinquishes 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 to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid

S/ James Coursey, X his mark

S/ Jos McKisick, Clk.

[James Haley and John Rushing gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 7: On September 9, 1843 in Bedford County Tennessee, Susannah Coursey a resident of said County aged between 86 and 87 years, filed for a widow's pension as the widow of James Coursey; she states her husband's service included service under Captain George Penn's Company as well as Captain Joseph Martin's Company; she states that part of her husband service was rendered on Smith's River; that she married James Coursey in 1777 but does not remember the day or month; that her husband died on May 8, 1840 and that she has remained his widow. She signed her application with her mark.]

[p 9: On October 18, 1843 in Bedford County Tennessee, Nancy Haley (formerly Nancy Coursey) and Charles Coursey, citizens of Bedford County gave testimony that they are the 2 oldest children of James and Susannah Coursey; that Nancy was born on January 26, 1778 and that Charles was born on June 4th, 1780. Both signed their affidavit with their marks.]

[p 11: On October 16, 1843 in Bedford County Tennessee, James Sanford, 81, gave testimony

¹ The furlough is not part of the documentation in this file.

that he was well acquainted with James and Susanna Coursey; that Susannah's maiden name was Susannah Bennet; that they were married by a minister named Robin Stogden. He signed his affidavit with his mark]