

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Uriah Ashcraft R278

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia } SS.

Harrison County }

On this 24<sup>th</sup> day of October 1833 personally appeared before me Jonathan FitzRandolph a Justice of the peace in and for Harrison County in the said state of Virginia Uriah Ashcraft a resident of Harrison County in the said 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 provisions of the act of Congress of the 7<sup>th</sup> 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 1778 In August of that year he was drafted to serve a tour of duty of three months in the Pennsylvania Militia under Captain Moses Sutton attached to a regiment commanded by Colonel John McClalland. He was marched to Red stone fort then called where Brownsville now stands was stationed there and ordered to build boats and guard the fort untill in December of that year (1778) when he was discharged having served more than three months this tour as a militia man. Then again in the spring of 1779 in March He volunteered in Fayette County in Pa. to serve six months in the Pa. militia under captain John Hayden of Fayette county He was again marched to Redstone fort there stationed again under Col. Crawford were engaged in building boats and preparing for an expedition down the [Monongahela and Ohio] river against the Indians. Here he was engaged all summer sometimes working at the boats and sometimes spying west of the Monongahala river untill in October of that year when he was discharged having served this tour more than six months the term for which he volunteered. Then in the Spring of 1780 He again volunteered to serve nine months in a company of Pennsylvania militia under Captain Robert Ritchie. again placed under the same Col. John McClelland was marched to UnionTown in Pa. Thence to Redstone thence to Pittsburg in Pa. There he was stationed by orders of General [Edward] Hand and captain Ritchies company some of them were detailed to build boats and some sent as spies up on the north side of the Alegany [sic: Allegheny River] and some to Matures Island five miles below to guard Beef cattle which were kept there for safety. here he continued from the time of his arrival in May 1780 till December 1780 when he was discharged having served full nine months this tour as a militia man in Captn Ritchies company of Pa. M'a. Then in 1781 He came to Virginia to what is now Harrison county He was drafted to serve six months under Captn Manuel Brown Col Bradford He was marched by Staunton to Richmond He started in March 1781 arrived in the neighborhood of Richmond on Bacon branch in May was stationed near Shockod[?] Hill sometime in the summer and driven from there by the British under Cornwallis marched up the country till met more troops from Pa. under Genl. [Anthony] Wayne we returned to Richmond from there to New Kent from there to Williamsburg from there to little york his captain and most of his men agreeing to stay in the service three months longer at Yorktown in October [19<sup>th</sup>] The americans took Cornwallis and his troops. from thence His captn and men under Col. Darke guarded the prisoners taken there to Winchester in Va. where in December 1781 He was discharged haveing served not less than nine months trip although his draft was for but six He returned home and in July 1782 the appearance of Indians in what is now Harrison caused him to volunteer his service again to spie after Indians again He entered as a volunteer in a company of militia under Captain Herbert [probably Harbert] to serve three months as an Indian spie he was stationed at Herberts fort [sic: Fort Harbert on Tenmile Creek] in what is now Harrison county and spied in what is now Harrison, Tyler, Wood and Brook [sic: Brooke] counties till the month of November when he was discharged having served three months and more this tour under his Captain Herbert & Col Martain [sic: probably Martin] In May of this year some Indians made an assault on declarants house He closed his door and snapped his gun three times at one in the yard others came up five in number declarant called aloud to the men to come This artifice succeeded the Indians fled hastily fearing danger The neighborhood [illegible word] and before we were aware of being near The Indians fired on us and escaped one ball passed through a hankerchief around John Haymonds head another through the sleeve of Captn

George Jackson without injury to either we returned home. [See note below.] Then in March 1783 He was again drafted to serve three months under captain George Jackson Col W. Lowther [William Lowther] He acted as an Indian spie from March 1783 till in July of that year in what is now Harrison County Virginia This was his last service during the war of the revolution. He does remember General Washington Lay Fayette [sic: Lafayette], [George] Weedon, [Benjamin] Lincoln, Wayne & Muhlenburg [sic: Peter Muhlenberg] at Yorktown. He saw continental and state troops Pa. & Va. Militia but does not remember the Nos. or names of regiments. He saw English and French officers He served in all more than three years as a private soldier in the M'a. and as an Indian spie He has no documentary evidence knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his services. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever 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.

Subscribed and sworn to this day and year aforesaid. Uriah Ashcraft  
The said Justice propounded to declarant the seven several interrogatories prescribed by the war department to which he answered as follows viz.

- 1<sup>st</sup>. That he was born in Lancaster county in Pensylvania in the year 1762.
- 2 That he has no record of his age
- 3<sup>rd</sup>. That he was living in Pensylvania in Fayette County from there he removed to Virginia Harrison county now that he has lived in different places in said county lives now 14 miles from the Courthouse.
- 4<sup>th</sup>. That he was drafted first then volunteered then again volunteered then drafted, then volunteered and lastly drafted
- 5 That He saw Generals Washington, Layfayette, Wayne, Lincoln, Weedon, Muhlenburg. He saw state & continental regulars and Militia Va. Pa. & Maryland troops He does not remember the names or Nos. of regts. The general circumstances of his service are set forth above as well as he can recollect.
6. That he believes he rec'd. discharges in writing from each of his captains he has lost them all.
- 7<sup>th</sup>. He is known in his neighborhood to Francis Goodwin & Col Daniel Morris 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 living near him.

Subscribed and sworn to this day and year aforesaid. Uriah Ashcraft

[The following two reports are by District Attorney Washington G. Singleton who investigated many pensioners and applicants from Lewis, Harrison, and other counties of present West Virginia. For details see pension application S6111 of David W. Sleeth and the note below.]

#### Lewis County

Uriah Ashcraft. aged 71. Served 2 yrs. & 9 mos.

Christopher Nutter [pension application W5434] aged 74 has known Ashcraft for forty years. - says he is an old man. knows nothing about his revolutionary services.

Benja. Copeland [sic: Benjamin Coplin, S10464] aged 82 yrs. has known Ashcraft [for] fifty years. he came to Western Virginia before the Rev. War closed (he thinks in the year 1781) and settled at Coons[?] Fort [probably Fort Koon on West Fork River]. never heard of his having done revolutionary services. nor does he believe he ever did.

See Jonathan Wamsley letter to J. S. Edwards. Wamsley himself decides against this mans claim to a Pension. It must be a bad case indeed if Wamsley decides against it

Respectfully Reported

W. G Singleton Special Agt. July 1834

I the undersigned Uriah Ashcraft at the requisition of the Secretary of War, give the following statement of my age and Revolutionary Services - to Wit - I was born the 6<sup>th</sup> day of April 1765 - as I have always understood from my Parents - in the month of July 1782 I summoned[?] into service by Capt Moses Sutton as per the paper hereto annexed [?] - I Rendevouzed at Beeson town [Beesontown] now Union Town Pensylvania - and marched under Capt Robert Richie to

Harmonstown to relieve the people that Indians had Hemed up there - and remained for one month. was drafted for that length of time —

in the fall in the same year I think in October, I went from the same place as a substitute in the place of John[?] Johnson under Capt. Brown to Fort Leganere [sic: Fort Ligonier] for one month. this was also a draft for one month.

in April 1783 I marched from same place. was drafted - under Capt Evans to Stradlers Fort on Duncan Creek [sic: Fort Stradler or Statler on Dunkard Creek in Monongalia County]. this was also a draft for one month -

in June or July in same year, I served another month near Morgantown. I think under Capt Evans. perhaps I was out twenty days scouting in the fall of the same year - and this comprises all my services rendered up to the end of the year 1783 - Jonathan Wamsley wrote my declaration. I made to him precisely the same statement that I now make. I agreed to give him one half of what was drawn. In Witness that this statement is true I hereto subscribe my name  
Nov 19, 1834

[signed] Uriah Ashcraft

Test Nathan Goff [Pension Agent at Clarksburg]

NOTES:

Ashcraft's encounter with the Indian is told on pp. 294-295 of A. S. Withers's *Chronicles of Border Warfare*, published in 1831.

Jonathan Wamsley tricked several old, illiterate men into putting their Xs on fraudulent pension declarations. The file does not include a letter from Wamsley to J. L. Edwards, who was the Commissioner of Pensions.