



Interrogatories propounded by me the acting magistrate to Isaac Depew.

1<sup>st</sup> – Where and in what year were you born.

Answer. In the state of New Jersey Middlesex county in the year 1758 September 16<sup>th</sup> day

2 – Have you any record of your age & if so where is it?

Answer. None but the record in my Fathers Bible, which Bible I presume was taken from the county by some of his children

3 Where were you liveing when called into service where have you lived since the Revolutionary war & where do you now live?

Answer – I was living in the state of Va. Bottetourt County – & have lived ever since the year 1784 in the State of Tennessee

4<sup>th</sup> How were you called into service were you drafted did you volunteer or were you a substitute & if a substitute for whom. – I never served in any other capacity but as a Volunteer

5<sup>th</sup> State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served, such continental or militia Regiments as you recollect & the general circumstances of our services

Answer to 5<sup>th</sup> question, Gen'l Dan'l Morgan [Daniel Morgan] and Gen'l Nathaniel Green & Col Wm Campbell (who was a General after that time) I was in the Regiment of Col Wm Campbell at the Battle of Guilford [Guilford Courthouse, 15 Mar 1781] at Martinsville State of North Carolina

6<sup>th</sup> did you ever receive a discharge from the service by whom was it given & what has become of it?

Answer to 6<sup>th</sup> question, I did receive a discharge from Gen'l. Green's army by the hands of my Captain John Mills, which is lost or mislaid.

7<sup>th</sup> State the names of some of the persons known to you & by whom you can prove your character & reputation of service.

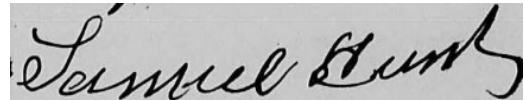
Answer to the 7<sup>th</sup>. I do not know any of my fellow soldiers who are now living, but I can refer you to many now living who can testify as to my veracity for truth & reputation of service Viz Doct John E. Cossen of Jonesboro Tenn Major Samuel Hunt.

[John E. Cossan stated that he had known Isaac Depew for more than 50 years and that he was “a man of high intellectual powers of sound patriotism & unexceptionable moral character.” He further stated that “whilst all consided Isaac Depew was a Revolutionary Soldier, still his singular oposition to those who applied, & drew pensions was a subject of common conversation, & the said Depew branded all who were able to work & support themselves as being destitute of patriotism refusing himself to become chargeable to the Government whilst able to support himself...”]

State of Tennessee } April 5<sup>th</sup> 1852

Washington County }

Then came into open Court Samuel Hunt Aged eighty one years past and made oath, that he has known Isaac Depew for more than fifty years. I served a campaign under said Depew as a captain in 1795 against the Cherokee Indians have acted as sheriff for thirteen years of my life in the County of Washington, & can state that Captain Depew is a man of unimpeachable character, & has been reputed from the information I had & was able to collect a soldier of the Revolution & I would from my knowledge of him [illegible word] his statement.



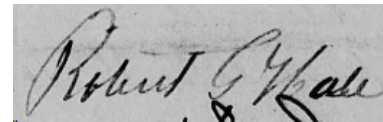
Washington County } March the 13<sup>th</sup> day 1852

State of Tennessee }

Hon J E Heath [James E. Heath, Commissioner of Pensions]

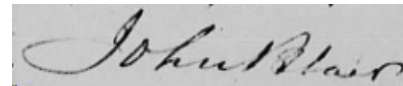
Dear. I take my pen in hand to inform you of the great parade which has lately taken place concerning Isaac Depew, a revolutionary aged ninety odd years one of the most Honest men in the country in which he lives, the old man told me some few months ago that the government had give him all

that was promised a man by the name of Thomas Guinn took a magistrate some few days ago to the house of said Depew in order to make dictation in order to draw a pension & some other person from other parts of the country met there at the same time to make said pension; the old man utterly refused to go in the arrangement, & I understood he said it would be a curse to him if he applied for said pension Mr. John Blair drew up the papers for Mr Guinn, Shortly after the parties arrayed around the old man again and to a magistrate by the name of William Mills & I understand got up a declaration & when that was offered to the clerk to have the seal attached there to & traveled a distance of about fifteen miles the other party met them there To Wit Richard Humphry & some Others A When Mr Guinn returned the papers to Mr Blair in Jonesborough twenty miles from Blountville where the seal was attached to said papers he was met there by S K N Patten & others & a great fuss took place between the parties Patten swore he would draw said pension some of the heirs of Depew was with M Patten now sir with suspicion that claim ought to be looked at the question is did Mr Depew want the pension or not, did he sign the declaration or not or did he swear before Mr Mills or not, if the pension is obtained I have no thought Mr. Depew wants it I take the liberty of writing these lines to your Honour, tho wrote in a hurrey the facts contained therein are true. Robert G Hale  
[Listed as "Pension Agent" in the 1850 federal census.]



Hon J E Heath Jonesborough April 6 1852

Enclosed you will receive the application of Isaac Depew for pension under the act 7<sup>th</sup> June 1832. He stands solitary & alone of that patriotic band in this section, being 94 years of age, he never could consent to become chargeable to his Government until the grasp of old age had deprived him of the ability to support by manual labour. please have it examined & report to me  
respectfully/ your obt servt/ John Blair



Pension Office,/ July 27, 1852.

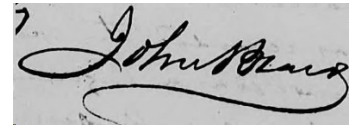
Sir [John Blair, Esq.]/ I have examined and filed the application of Isaac Depew for the benefit of the Act of June 7, 1832. The reason assigned for his failure to apply for a pension until this late day is not satisfactory, and it is very doubtful whether any of the service alleged is embraced by the pension laws. Before his claim can be admitted the service claimed must be sustained by the testimony of comrades, or other evidence equally satisfactory.

Jonesborough September 20<sup>th</sup> 1832

Sir:/ The pressure of other business has prevented my writing you sooner in reference to the claim of Isaac Depew, an applicant for the benefits of the act of 1832. in your communication of the 27<sup>th</sup> July you say "the reason assigned for his failure to apply for a pension until this date is not satisfactory." I am at a loss to know what is required to be satisfactory what would be required Depew is one of the most respectable men in his county. Shewed, that from principle he was opposed to the act of 1832 so far as it allowed pensions to persons able to support themselves. this was a subject of general notoriety. He was possessed of property as well as health & ability to subsist without the aid of the Government, & conscientiously refused the boon, he has lived to old age when declining health loss of property & inability to subsist by labour removes his well grounded objection in earlier life & he is left of the few survivors not one living in his County. The act of 1832 was liberal in its provisions & hundreds who did not need the aid obtained it without either record evidence of service or proof of associates, but according to your printed regulations, which I need not repeat, this was general so far as regarded the militia except Va & New hampshire Depew was a Virginia militia man, served in several calls, & his

service, if he served at all, must be embraced by the pension laws. I wish to know, if he is not found on the rolls of Va militia in your office as it seems they are all for the [illegible word] from the regulations under the act of 1832 so saying. If his name is not there found why it is in vain to further prosecute the claim – if there found certainly the pension laws do embrace his case. as to the calling in comrades at this day, it is like calling spirits from the deep, – they would not answer. I presume from the regulations that the rolls of the Virginia militia are in your office & if so if his name on search cannot be found then the matter must end – for comrades are gone as well as the almost universal band who served in that patriotic struggle, & if held to proof now the proof is gone. be pleased to inform me if you have the rolls of the militia in your office & if so whether his name is not there: as to his reason for not earlier applying it is a matter of such notoriety that all his neighbours know his reasons the hundreds of pensioners who came under the act of 1832 when congregated semiannually had the subject of Captain Depew's objections to the healthy property holding soldiers drawing a pension

Respectfully/ John Blair

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John Blair", written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

Pension Office/ Feby 14 1853

Sir [John Blair Esq]/ There is no evidence in this office of the service of Isaac Depew of Tenn. His service must be established by the testimony of those who served with him or were in a position to know of his service. I refer you to my letter of July 27 1852

NOTE:

Heath's reasons for denying Depew's claim are disingenuous. Contrary to his assertion, Depew's service was covered by the Pension Act of 1832, and dozens of applicants were pensioned for service in the same campaigns that Depew claimed.

In addition, the regulations of the pension office did not absolutely require that a militiaman submit a comrade's testimony or that his name be on a roster, except in the case of New Hampshire, where such rosters existed. (Rosters also existed for Virginia State troops, which is apparently the source of John Blair's belief that rosters for Virginia militiamen were in the Pension Office.) The Pension Office's own regulations state that for militiamen (except from New Hampshire) their declarations of service and statements certified by the court of two persons (one a clergyman if possible) attesting to the age of the applicant and his reputation as a Revolutionary soldier could serve as proof of service.

Finally, the regulations for administering the Act of 1832 do not require any explanation for a delay in applying.

It is likely that Depew's claim was actually rejected because of the letter by Robert G. Hale. For other cases in which claims were rejected based on unsworn allegations, with different reasons given for the rejection, see my endnote to the pension application of John Gibson R3996.