

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John England R3350
Transcribed by Fred Weyler

f38VA
3/27/13

England John VA R3350
(p2) Virginia:

Stafford County Court, September the 8th, 1834

On the 8th of September 1834 appeared before the court John England of late a resident of the city of Richmond, but formerly a resident of this county, age seventy nine years and being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

That in the year One thousand seven hundred and eighty while engaged as an artisan at Hunters Iron Works in the county of Stafford and State of Virginia, he was drafted according to law to serve as a soldier for eighteen months in the Revolutionary War, and was immediately marched by Captain Mason Pilcher who was under the command of Colo. William Garrard, who was the Colo Commandant of the Militia of Stafford, to the place of rendezvous in Fredericksburg under the command of General George Weedon, where he remained a few weeks, when he was sent for by General Weedon and ordered to return to the place from whence he had been taken and when arms were made out repaired for the public use- stating to him that he was one of the best workmen whose services could be obtained, that arms were much wanted, rendering his country more benefit in that capacity than by remaining in the Army & gave the declarant a furlough, with orders to be at all times ready in case of necessity to march at forty eight hours notice. The declarant in obedience to his orders returned to the Iron Works and continued there the eighteen months for which he had been drafted faithfully employed in making and repairing guns for the army and always ready and willing to the call of his country whenever she might choose to change the nature of his service.

The declarant received no compensation for his work during the term for which he was drafted, considering himself as much a soldier as is in the army, and as much subject to the militia law as if he had remained under the immediate command of General Weedon, as was shown by the circumstance of his receiving a regular discharge at the expiration of the eighteen months for which he had been drafted, and which discharge has been lost or destroyed so that it cannot be produced.

And that said declarant hereby relinquishes any claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & he declares his name is not on the Pension Rolls of any agency in any state. Sworn to and subscribed to the day & year aforesaid. s/ Jn^o England

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The following interrogatories were propounded to the applicant and answered in open court.

1st Where and in what year were you born?

(p3) Answer-I was born in Buck County, State of Pennsylvania on the 29th day of September 1755.

2nd Have you any record of your age & where is it?

Answ. I have no record of my age. I have heard my parents say I was born on the 29th day of September 1755. I was bound apprentice as having benn born at that time.

3rd Where were you living when called into service, were you drafted, did you volunteer, or were you a substitute, & if a substitute for whom?

Answer. I lived at Hunters Iron Works in the county of Stafford, state of Virginia when called into service. I was drafted, not a volunteer, was not a substitute.

4th State some of the regular officers who were with the troops, & where you served such continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your services?

Answer. General Weedon had the command of all the troops assembled at the place of rendezvous in Fredericksburg, there were inferior officers who exercised authority over the men of whom I recollect Captains Fitzpatrick, Redd, and Bradford. I was so short a time in service before I was remanded by General Weedon to the Iron Works that I knew but few officers and nothing occurring during the time of my service of a general nature worthy of notice.

5th Did you receive a discharge from the service and if so by whom was it given and what has become of it?

Answer- I received a discharge from General Weedon in the beginning of year 1782. At the end of my eighteen months service & it has been long lost or destroyed.

6th Did you ever receive a commission and if so by whom was it given and what was tenor of it?

Answer. I never received a commission. I was to have had one had General Weedon not changed the nature of my service.

7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief of your services as a soldier of the Revolution.

Answer. I have spent a part of my time lately in the city of Richmond except that I have spent all my life since I came to Virginia in the county of Stafford. Robert H Hove, Samuel Gordon, Bazil Gordon, Thomas Harwood the Reverend Nath^l Greaves, Jos. Ennever, Geor Bank, & many others would pronounce me & would testify in forms of my veracity & their belief in my services as set forth in my declaration.

[routine county confirmation and certification]

Robert H Hove, Thomas Harwood, Thomas C Scott for W John Bell, decd, John M Conway clk (p8-9) Unsigned note from War Dept Pension office 23Feb1834 that no service was performed, paper work is in question, and the application is rejected.

(p17) Note that the John England case would be presented to congress

(p21) Senator W.A.Graham note that the pension law does not apply to service in a forge.

(ff) copies of the congressional record. Congressman John Taliaferro testified that he lived near the forge, knew John England to be ordered to work there, and knew that he served the country in superior fashion by his applied armor skills. Congress refused to set a pension precedent to those declared upon the unsupported "statement on oath."