

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Jacob Fifer R3534 Katharine Fifer MD VA NC
Transcribed, translated, and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

State of Kentucky/ Nicholas County ss.

On this the 24th Sept 1832 personally appeared in open court before the Court now sitting Jacob Fifer a resident of said County of Nicholas & State of Kentucky aged seventy eight 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 passed June 7th 1832. That he entered the service of the United States as an enlisted soldier under Capt William Hiser in Col Hoosucker's Regiment of Maryland troops – he thinks in March 1776 for the term of twelve months & served out his time – that Co Wm. Chester [William Chester] was his Lt. Colonel.

That after serving this first term as a regular soldier he again entered the service of the U States as a substitute militiaman (the year he does not recollect) and served a tour of three months under Capt Carter and he marched with the Company to Wheeling to guard & protect the settlements of the white population. When he performed this tour of service he resided near Sheppardstown in Virginia [sic: Shepherdstown, now in WV] – that he served this tour as a substitute for one Hensley who was drafted That he rec'd a discharge from his Capt at Pittsburg & that it has been long since lost.

That afterwards the year not recollected, he again entered the service of the U. States as a substitute for a man who was drafted, but his name he cannot recollect, and served a tour of three months at Norfolk Virginia – that he served this tour in Capt Johnsons Company under Gen'l Muhlenburg [sic: Peter Muhlenberg], that this expedition was against Arnold, who was fortified there [Gen. Benedict Arnold, winter and spring 1781]. That after serving this tour he rec'd a discharge, which is lost That afterwards & near the close of the revolution he again entered the service of the United States as drafted militiaman under Capt James Wilson in Col McDowells [Joseph McDowell's] Regiment of North Carolina Militia – that he does not recollect the year but he had removed from Virginia & was living in Lincoln County N. Carolina, where he was drafted that he served the tour of three months under Capt Wilson against the Indians.

The said Fifer further states that he saw Gen'l Washington at Philadelphia, when he was a regular soldier and saw him also at Fort Washington & at Fort Lee on North River [Nov 1776] – that he does not recollect to be able to mention the names of others besides those officers under whom he served & whose names have been mentioned & that he marched thro N. Jersey & Pennsylvania in his first tour of 12 months. He states that he was born in Lancaster County Pennsylvania – that he has no record of his age but believes he is seventy eight years old – that he resided in the different states as above related during the revolution – that he resided in North Carolina after the revolution until about twenty years ago, when he removed to Kentucky & settled in Washington County – that he has resided in several counties in Kentucky since and now resides in the County of Nicholas, where he has lived for the last thirteen years.

The said Fifer states that he knows of no person whom he can procure, whose testimony he can get and that he has no documentary evidence

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatsoever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any state. Sworn to & subscribed the day & year afores'd
Jacob hisXmark Fifer

Personally appeared before me a justice of the peace for the County of Nicholas in the State of Kentucky jacob Fifer, who made oath that the reason why he did not procure a Clergyman to Certify to his credibility & the opinion of the neighborhood as to his revolutionary services, was that no Clergyman resided in his immediate vicinity.

And that the reason why he did not procure one or two witnesses to prove his services is stated in his

Declaration that “he knows of no person whom he can procure, whose testimony he can get” &c
the said Jacob Fifer states also that his name was pronounced during the revolutionary war as it now is
spelt Sworn to before me this 10th day of April 1833

NOTE:

Jacob Fifer received a pension for only nine months service, probably because a year's service in the Continental line could not be verified by finding his name on a roster.

On 2 April 1840 Katharine Fifer, 76, unsuccessfully applied for a pension stating that she married Jacob Fifer in Lincoln County NC on 18 Feb 1784, and he died on 6 April 1838. Her claim was certified by her brother, John Speagle. Susan Speagle also certified that she had been married in the house of Jacob and Katharine Fifer in 1787.

On 6 April 1854 Catherine Hill of Nicholas County KY unsuccessfully applied for a pension as the child of Catherine Fifer.

The file contains a record of the births of her children in German, translated below.

An marie was born in the year 1783 on 8 December
Susana and Sara[?] were born in the year 1786 on 14 December
Christina was born in the year 1789 on 24 September
Elizabeth was born in the year 1792 on 26 February
Barbra was born in the year 1793 on 22 May
Frenn[?] was born in the year 1794 on 10 August
Margreta was born in the year 1795 on 19 February
Gertraut[?] was born in the year 1797 on 4 November
Katarina was born in the year 1799 on June 21
An marie is 39 years old
Susana and Sara[?] are 36 years old
Christina is 33 years old
Elizabeth is 31 years old
Barbra is 30 years old
Frenn[?] is 29 years old
margreta is 28 years old
Gertraut[?] is 25 years old
Katarina is 24 years old
Jacob Pfeiffer was born in the year 1801 on 12 April
Maglalenna[?] was born 1803 on 15 March
Joseph Pfeiffer was born 1805 on 2 June