

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Silas Force R3650
Transcribed by Will Graves

f12VA
rev'd 3/9/15

[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 Kentucky, Henry County

On this 2nd day of September 1844 personally appeared before the Henry County Court in open Court Silas Force of the said County of Henry and State of Kentucky aged 78 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 and served as herein stated: that is to say he was born in the County of Prince Edward in the State of Virginia on or about the 1st day of January 1766 according to the best information which he has on the subject. That soon after his birth his mother died leaving 13 children to wit: Hezekiah and John Force and Judith, Polly, Keziah and Martha Force and this declarant besides six others—that after her death and he thinks in the early part of the winter 1777, '8 his father Peter Force together with the said 7 children left Virginia and came to the State of Kentucky to the present County of Bourbon and located at the fort at Martin's Station about 3 or 4 miles below Paris. He states that in March 1778 he thinks was the month and year the Indians made an attack on the fort and young as he was being only 12 years of age or thereabouts at that time he volunteered and aided in the defence of it and the Indians were repelled. He further states that in the month of June following (1778) as well as he remembered his father died leaving him and his brothers & sisters orphans and two or three days afterward an attack was made by the British and Indians upon Riddle's Station [sic, Ruddle's Station] situated about seven or eight miles from the fort at Martin's Station and that post was captured by them. He states that they heard the firing at Martin's Station and being satisfied that an attack was there made they prepared themselves at the fort at Martin's Station for defence apprehending that an attempt would be also there made and this declarant again was mustered amongst the men for its defence and they dispatched two men for reinforcements one of whom was captured by the enemy (his name McGuire) and the other escaped. On the day after the man who had been captured came to the fort in company with some British officers and they demanded a surrender and the prisoner advised that the demand should be complied with which was accordingly done and the whole number at that place became prisoners of war including men, women and children. The fort was commanded by Charles Gatcliffe [Charles Gatliff] and the prisoners there taken including those taken at Ruddle's Station (in the former was included this declarant) were all taken by the British and Indians to Detroit where many of them including declarant was kept until in the summer of the year 1782. He states that one of his sisters died or was killed on the way to Detroit that his other sisters and his brother Hezekiah together with himself were kept at Detroit and his brother John was sent to some other place. In the summer of 1782 declarant understood that an exchange of prisoners was agreed upon and he together with the other prisoners were taken to Ticonderoga and as he understood were there exchanged and were taken charge of by some American officers. He states that at that time there were 3 or 4 ship loads of prisoners to be exchanged and after the exchange they were including this declarant taken into the charge and under the care of some American officers who conducted them some distance

into the interior and this declarant and his brother John reached the County of Prince Edward in the State of Virginia about 1st September 1782 it having been upwards of four years from the time he was taken prisoner at the fort at Martin's Station until he reached his old home in the State of Virginia. He further states that Capt. Gatliffe was absent when the fort was surrendered having gone to the salt works as declarant understood. This declarant recollects well the names of various persons who lived about said fort when it was surrendered a portion of whom were among the prisoners nearly or quite all of whom he supposes are now dead. He recollects David White, Joel Hill, __ Vanhook, William Whitesides, Solomon Litton, William McGuire, Capt. Duncan, Charles Gatliffe, __ Lovelace, Samuel Poter [sic, Potter?], William Foster, Thomas Foster, Thomas Berry, William Leforce, __ Mahan, William Mahan, and Thomas Mahan and his own brothers and sisters. He supposes however that all of them are dead. His brother Jesse¹ lives now in Trimble County, Kentucky but he was not at the fort. He knows however of this declarant's absence and of his return and of it being said that he was a prisoner and was exchanged. He has a niece also in the State of Missouri daughter of Hezekiah who was six or seven years old at the time the fort was surrendered and if she is alive she can testify to the facts herein detailed she being also taken and kept as a prisoner. This declarant states that after he returned to Virginia when he was exchanged as before stated he remained in Prince Edward County four or five years then married and moved to Nottoway County, Virginia where he continued to live until about 1803 or '4 when he moved to Shelby County, Kentucky where he remained one year and then moved to the neighborhood of where he now lives in Henry County, Kentucky. He states that his original family record is lost. He also states that he knows of no one now living by whom he can certainly prove his services and his detention as a prisoner except as before stated.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or amount 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 and year aforesaid.

S/ Silas Force, X his mark

[John A. McGuire, a clergyman, and J. Chilton gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

¹ Possibly the same man as [Jesse Force S31039](#)