

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of John Adams R41  
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Kentucky }  
Rockcastle County } S.S.

On this the 28<sup>th</sup> day of January 1850 personally appeared in open Court before the Court of the County and State aforesaid (it being open & in Cession) Astin Adams a resident of the county & State aforesaid aged fifty-nine 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 provision made by the act of Congress passed on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of July in the year 1832 or any other act which may provide for him for the service of his Father (John Adams Decd) in the war of the revolution with Great Briton. That he is the son & Administrator of the aforesaid John Adams Decd & Sucky Adams his wife who is also dead. The said John Adams enlisted in the war of the revolution from the best of his knowledge & believe about the year 1778 under Col or Cap Dabney [probably Charles Dabney: See endnote.] (for the term of 18 months) in the County of Louisa and State of Virginia. Served out his time & returned home with an honorable discharge from his commander which I have often saw but is now lost or mislaid so it cannot be found. (General George Washington was his General). That the said John Adams was Orderly Sargent & acted as commissary during the aforesaid time as I was informed by him & others. That he remained at home a short time & re enlisted in the aforesaid Revolutionary war & served untill its termination in the year 1783. That he the sd John Adams was from my best information & believe Married to my mother S Adams in Louisa County Virginia in the year 1778 a few days previous to his entering in to the said Service & That the said John Adams & his mother Sucky Adams lived & cohabited together as man and wife from my first recollection to the time of his death and rased eleven children ten of whom are now living the oldest, named Lucy, is near 72 years of age. That his Father the said John Adams died in Garrard County Kentucky in the month of December 1832 & That his mother S Adams died in the County & State aforesaid in 1847. That neither of them ever drew a pension for the services aforesaid neither in money nor land & That he has often heard his father say he was in the battle of Kings Mountain [see endnote] & the Surrender of Cornwallis [sic: Cornwallis at Yorktown VA, 19 Oct 1781] the battle of the Stony Point [NY, 16 July 1779] & various others. The reason my Father nor Mother nether never applied for a pension I no not but the reason their heirs have never applied is because they could not agree but I have lately been informed that it is not necessary to have the assent of all the heirs so as I am the Administrator of my Father the said Jno Adams have thought proper to make the application hoping the department may find his statemens coroborated by reference to the rolls now in the war department & at Richmond Virginia & the proof hereto anexed. he further states that he has often heard Edward Dehouse (whoo's widow [Polly Dehouse] is now applying for a pension for his service in the said war [application W8664]) say that he & the said John Adams were in several battles together & that he was a brave & faithful soldier & that he acted during the time he was with him in the service, as Orderly sargant. Sworn & subscribed by making his mark in presece of the court the day & date above writen

Josep Houk – one of the court }

Astin hisXmark Adams

State of Kentucky, }  
Rockcastle County } SS:

On this 4<sup>th</sup> day of February 1850, before the undersigned, a Justice of the County Court of said County, personally appeared Mrs. Polly Dehouse, a resident of said County, aged ninety six years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on her oath make the following statements to be read as evidence in support of the claim of Astin Adams for a Pension for the service of his Father John Adams

dec'd. in the War of the Revolution. That she is well acquainted with Astin Adams, and has been from his infancy up to the present time. That he is a legal heir of the said John & Suckey Adams dec'd. That the said A. Adams is a man of good character – his statements on oath never have been disputed in her knowledge.

That she knew his Father and Mother, John & Suckey Adams, previous to their marriage and from the date of their marriage up to their death. That she was present at the time of their marriage and saw them married, which was in the year 1778, a few days before the said John Adams entered into the said service. That they were married by John Todd in Louisa County Virginia, according to the law and customs of that Country. That they lived and cohabited together as man and wife until separated by death. That they raised eleven children, ten of them are now living, the oldest, (Lucy) 72 years old. That the said John Adams enlisted in the service of the Revolutionary War with Great Britain, under Col. or Capt. Dabney in Louisa County Virginia in the year 1778 and served in the 2<sup>nd</sup>. Virginia State Regiment he enlisted for the term of 18 months. That she stayed with his Wife until he served out his term, when he returned home & had an honorable discharge from his Commander which I have often seen. He remained a short time at home with his family (having one child at that time) and re-enlisted in said War, and served to the termination thereof in the Spring of 1783. He died in Garrard County, Kentucky on the 23<sup>d</sup>. day of December 1832, and his Wife Suckey Adams died in the aforesaid County in the year 1847. I have often heard my Husband Edward Dehouse, speak of the said John Adams's gallantry and bravery in said War, with whom he served a portion of his time. That he saw him in the Battle of King's Mountain, Stoney Point, the Surrender of Cornwallis and various other minor Battles. That always appeared to possess a superior bravery and firmness to almost any other man in time of a Battle. That he would load & shoot with as much composure as if shooting at a mark, altho' the dead and wounded were falling all around him. She further states that she was present at the time he enlisted, saw him enlist and enter into the service, and that he the said John Adams, was Orderly Sergeant and at times acted as Commissary. That he was stationed a portion of his time not far distant from where she lived. That her and his Wife frequently visited him at his station while he remained there, saw him acting as Orderly Sergeant and at times as Commissary, dealing out provisions, &c. while in the service of the said Revolutionary War. That a short time before the marriage of the said John Adams it was said all who was married would not be bound to go to the War, that there was some talk of the said John Adams not marrying until he returned, but Todd, the Minister told him he had better marry then, that there was a very great demand for women at that time, so much so that the marriages in one neighborhood amounted to very often 25 per day & that if he waited until his return he might probably lose his gall – so they accordingly married, but it did not stop him from going to the War. That she saw and conversed with Dabney after the War, that he gave her husband and John Adams great praise, and said that the said John Adams was Orderly Sergeant which service he performed faithfully. That George Washington was their General with whom they were very much pleased.

Polly herXmark Dehouse

State of Kentucky }  
Rockcastle County } SS:

On this the 26<sup>th</sup> day of February 1850 before the undersigned Justice of the peace for the County & Sate aforesaid personally appeared Mrs Polly Dehouse aged 96 years a resident of said County after being first duly sworn according to law doth doth make on her oath the following statements. To be read as evidence for the within applicant for a pension. States – That she lived in the same county with John Adams Deceased & Sucky his wife before & after there marriage in the State of Virginia that she was present on the day of there marriage & saw them married. that they were married by one revd John Todd in Louisa County Virginia in the early part of the year Seventeen-hundred-and-seventy-eight (1778) & that herself and the said John & Sucky Adams Deceased mooved to the state of Kentucky about the same time & settled not far distant apart – that she frequently saw them after they mooved and that thay lived and

cohabited together as man & wife until they were separated by death that they raised a large family consisting of eleven children ten of them now living. To wit: Lucy Riggsby aged seventy-two years Margret Dehouse aged seventy years Overton Adams aged sixty-five years John Adams sixty-three years Jas [James] & ~~Mary Adams alias Mary Dehouse~~ (twins) aged 61 years. Astin Adams (the within applicant for a pension due the aforesaid Sucky Adams his mother for the services of the aforesaid John Adams in the Old war) aged fifty nine years Thomas Adams aged fifty seven years William Adams aged fifty five years Patsey & Sucky Adams (Twins) aged fifty One years Mary Dehouse is dead [the reason her name is lined through above]. The ballance of the above named Children of the said John Adams and Sucky Adams his wife deceased are all the children of the said John Adams and Sucky Adams his wife deceased are all the children that is now living of their decent and that the said John Adams died in Garrard County Kentucky in the year eighteen hundred And Thirty two and that Sucky Adams wife of the aforesaid John Adams died in Garrard County Kentucky at the Residence of one William Richerson on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of March (1846) in the year eighteen hundred and forty six as she has been respectfully informed by person who seen her die and that she never was married after the death of her aforesaid Husband John Adams but remained a widow till death and that the said John Adams deceased enlisted in the Service of the Revolutionary war under Capt or Col Dabney in Louisa County State of Virginia in the earley part of the year Seventeen hundred and seventy eight a few days previous to his marriage that she was present saw said John Adams enlist and entered into the Service of the old war. She thinks for during the war that he the said John Adams served upwards of two years and came home on a visit to his family having a discharge or furlough from his offier for ten days this furlough was signed by Major Nelson caling him Orderley Sargant saying the said Adams had served his Countrey honerbley in Capacity of Commissary and orderley sargant for upwards of two years and that she always will recollect of his showing his friends what wonderful feets he could perform on horseback the said Adams had a beautiful clay Bank horse it seemed the horse knew how to do every thing the said Adams told him to do the said Adams went through a great many maneuvers with Sword in hand on his fine horse and the said Adams would load and shoot on horse back the Company of his friends thought quicker than any of them could on the ground and that said Adams remained a short time with his family and left for the war for he the said Adams said he must return to his Regiment before his furlough expired and that she stayed with Sucky Adams the wife of the aforesaid John Adams the most of the time while said Adams was in the Service of the old war. That the said Sucky Adams frequently visited her Husband the aforesaid John Adams while in the service and took her with her and that she always seen the said John Adams acting as Orderley Sergeant calling the Roll and acting as Commissary isuing out provissions to the solders and that the said Adams served Till near the close of the old war & think that said Adams returned from the aforesaid war in the Spring 1783 and that she well recollects it was not quite a year after John Adams the aforesaid returned from the war till her first child was borned and her first Child was born the first of January 1784 and that she saw and conversed frequently with Col Dabney after the close of the said war. That he said that the said John Adams served under him a portion of his time & the greater portion of his time he served in a cavalry company under Mager Nelson and that he was orderly sergeant and Comissary which service he performed faithfully and that she was also informed by the said John Adams deceased and others that he was in the battles of Bunker hill [sic: 17 June 1775] Brandwine [sic: Brandywine, 11 Sep 1777] the surrender of Cornwallis & some others not now recolected. and she further states that she has not sane the discharges & furlow of the said John Adams deceased for many years and that she is informed by his son John Adams (who had the possession of them last) that they were destroyed by moth or mice.

Polly herXmark Dehouse

[A deposition by Thomas Ramsey on 25 Mar 1850 repeated many of the above statements and added the following: "he further states that he carried on the Blacksmith trade some fifteen years near the said John Adams Decasd and that the said Adams Deceased was a Customer of his during that time and that he has

often heard his Father Thomas Ramsey [pension application S35604] and said John Adams Deceased Conversing relative to their old Scrapes in the war and talking of the many Battles they was in and the hardships they experaned... and has herd his said Father often speak of the said John Adams being a valiant whig and of Being in the battles of Camden [see endnote] Kings Mountain and various others... in the Cavalry service."

NOTES:

Charles Dabney was Lieutenant Colonel in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Virginia Regiment of Foot from 23 June 1777 until he resigned 14 Sep 1778. In Jan 1779 he became Lt. Col. in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment in the Virginia State Line. In Jan 1782 Dabney became Commandant of the Virginia State Legion, which absorbed Maj. John Nelson's Regiment of Virginia State Cavalry. Maj. John Nelson's Regiment of Virginia State Cavalry was attached to Lt. Col. Charles Porterfield's Cavalry at the Battle of Camden SC on 16 Aug 1780.

At the Battle of Kings Mountain SC on 7 Oct 1780 there were few if any troops from east of the Blue Ridge Mountains or from the Continental army.

The file includes extensive correspondence regarding evidence for John Adams's service. The major additional items from the correspondence follows:

4 Feb 1850: Lucy Rigsby, 72, claimed to remember when her father returned from the service in the summer of 1783, because "they heard he was killed in Battle, and her Mother and her had been out somewhere when he came home when she saw him she screamed yaunder is your Father and run off and left her."

25 Feb 1850: Astin Adams deposed that he believed his father had been in "the second State Regiment of Virginia," married Sucky Parish in the early part of 1778, and died 10 Dec 1832.

11 Apr 1850: After learning that the battles of Bunker Hill and Brandywine occurred before his father entered the service, Astin Adams stated that he had been mislead by the statement by Polly Dehouse. He stated that he had also been mistaken about the year of his mother's death – that she actually died in Mar 1846.

22 June 1850: Astin Adams stated that he had thought his father was in the 2<sup>nd</sup> State Regiment, because he had been informed that Col. Dabney and Maj. Nelson were in that regiment, but he did not understand the difference between a State Regiment and a Continental Regiment. Having been informed that the rolls of the Continental Line at Richmond list two infantrymen and one cavalryman named John Adams, he was confident that his father was the cavalryman.

26 June 1851: John Adams submitted the following found among his father's old papers:

"Sir. The 9<sup>th</sup> division of Militia that is laid off to recruit a man for the Continental army in which you are included are to meet at Mr. Joseph Thompsons Ordinary on Fryday the 26 Instent for that purpose therefore you are requested to meet at the aforesaid place on the day mentioned.

I am yor Hble Servt.  
Geo. Meriwether  
Febry 18 1779."

To Mr. Jno. Addams

A Joseph Thompson was Ensign in the Louisa County Militia.

At the same time John Adams submitted fragments of an original family record as follows:

John Adams was Born Oct the 10<sup>th</sup> 1754

Sucky his wife was Born Jan the 14<sup>th</sup> 175 [page torn here and elsewhere indicated by \*]

They was married June the 4<sup>th</sup> 1778 by Revt. John Todd in Louisa Co. V.A.[?]

\* Adams was Born May the \*

\* Adams was Born Ap \*