

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of John Hagey (Hagar) R4428      Catharine Hagey      French  
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 10 Sep 2015.

State of Tennessee } Ss:  
Davidson County }

On this 1<sup>st</sup> day of August 1832 personally appeared in open court before the county court of Davidson now sitting John Hagie a resident of Nashville in the county of Davidson & State of Tennessee aged 82 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 7<sup>th</sup> 1832. He states that he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers & served as herein stated. That he is a Frenchman by birth [see endnote], that he came over with LaFayette as a volunteer to assist the Americans in the recovery of their freedom [see endnote], that his Captain's name was Escaline that he commenced his services as soon as he landed in the United States, that he landed at New Port in the State of Rhode Island [see endnote], that his general under LaFayette was the Duc De Lausanne [Armand-Louis de Gontaut, Duc de Lauzun; see endnote] that his colonel was Polorotski a Pole [sic: Maj. John L Polereczky, pension application W10915]. that he served in the French Light-horse during the whole war under the aforesaid officers. that he marched & countermarched previous to the battle of the White Plains [see endnote] through the State of New York in a hard service that he was at the battle of the White Plains, that he recollects there were many persons wounded & killed in that battle & that LaFayette himself was among the wounded [see endnote]. That he was at the siege of York [Yorktown VA, 28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781] when the Lord Cornwallis delivered up his sword to General Washington [see endnote] that he marched there by forced marches to coop up Cornwallis & prevent him from receiving reinforcements. That after the taking of York he was marched back to Philadelphia & that he received his discharge at Newcastle in New Jersey. That he followed the banner of LaFayette and was in the service with him during his stay in America. That he preferred staying in America to going back to his native country & became an American citizen. He states that he would produce his discharge on the present occassion but that whilst he was living in Knoxville in East Tennessee that his house was burnt down & that he lost all his papers & this amongst the rest. That he has now no documentary evidence which can be produced on this subject. That being a foreigner he had but slight opportunity of getting acquainted with American officers of other regiments. That he does not now in consequence of age and infirmity recollect many things that were formerly fresh in his memory. He knows of no person now whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.

John hisXmark Hagie

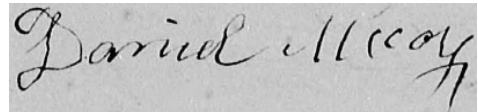
[By a letter dated 25 Oct 1837 the following two affidavits were sent to the Pension Commissioner by "Holman & Hollingsworth." Both appear to be suspect, as explained in the endnotes.]

State of Tennessee } Circuit Court  
Rutherford County } October term 1837

Personally appeared Daniel McCoy a Citizen of the County and State aforesaid, in open court, before the Hon. Samuel Anderson, presiding Judge, on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of October 1837, and made oath, in due form of law, that he is personally acquainted with John Hagey now a citizen of Nashville in Davidson County Tennessee; that he first became acquainted with said John Hagey, as well as he can recollect A.D. [page torn] at the White Plains, near Kings Bridge, in the State of New York; that said Hagey, was at that time and place a regular soldier in the army of the Revolution, and was under the command of General Lafayette in the French troops; but his company and regimental officers, he does not remember. Affiant was at that time a private Soldier in the army of the Revolution and was under the

command of the same General; and he remembers seeing said Hagey in the battle at the White Plains, which was fought between the American troops and the British troops under the command of General [Henry] Clinton. Affiant further states that said Hagey was a private soldier, and at the time above mentioned, belonged to the Light Horse. Affiant afterwards saw said Hagey as a private soldier in the Army of the Revolution, at Kings Bridge and at New York; and in 1780 he remembers seeing said Hagey on his march to Little York; and he saw him at Little York in 1781 and knows he was present in the American Army, at the surrender of Cornwallis. Affiant is confident he saw said Hagey at many other places, which his memory does not now served him to specify, as a private soldier, during the Revolutionary war, between the years 1778 and 1781 and he knows he was in the service of the United States as a private soldier from the time he first saw him in 1778 up to the surrender of Cornwallis in 1781. affiant understood from said Hagey at the time, the he had enlisted for during the war; and he has no doubt but that he was a soldier of the Revolutionary War, in the service of the United States, from the period of his enlistment until the close of the war. Affiant, as already stated, was himself a private soldier in the service of the United States in the Revolutionary War, and is now a Pensioner of the United States, under the act of Congress, passed the 7<sup>th</sup> of June 1832 [see endnote].

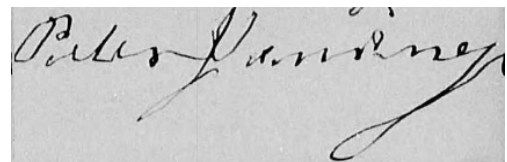
Subscribed & sworn to before me this 24 October 1837  
in open court Saml Anderson/ Judge &c



State of Tennessee } Circuit Court  
Rutherford County } October term 1837

Personally appeared in open court on this 24 day of October 1837, Peter Jennings, a free coloured man and a citizen of the County & State aforesaid, before the Hon. Samuel Anderson presiding Judge, and made oath in due form of law that he was a soldier of the Revolutionary war, in the service of the United States, and that he is a Pensioner of the United States under the Act of Congress of the 7<sup>th</sup> of June 1832. [see endnote] Affiant also makes oath that he is personal[ly] acquainted with John Hagey, a citizen of Nashville in Davidson County Tennessee, as has been acquaint[ed] with him for the last twelve or thirteen years; that [he] has frequently conversed with the said John Hagey about the occurrences of the Revolutionary war, and especially about the operations of the Revolutionary troops under the Command of General Lafayette in New York, who operated in concert with the detachment of troops to which affiant belonged; and also, about the battle at the White Plains in New York, in which battle affiant was; and affiant states that from said conversations and the facts therein mentioned by said Hagey, he entertains no doubt but that said Hagey was a soldier of the Revolution in the service of the United States. Affiant also states that he was at Nashville Tennessee in 1824, when General Lafayette visited that place, and saw said Hagey in conversation with General Lafayette, and well remembers that General Lafayette recognized him as one of his soldiers of the Revolutionary war [4 May 1825].

Subscribed & sworn to before me in open court this  
24<sup>th</sup> Octr 1837 S Anderson/ Judge &c



Nashville May 14<sup>th</sup> 1841

Dear Sir [addressee not stated] I have never attempted to address a man of your talents before, and if I prove to be an Awkward hand you must pardon me. I shall endeavour to make my epistle as short as I can to explain what I want. I am a son of John Hagey's and a house carpenter by trade and have my father and Mother to support by my daily labour I find I have hard work to do it but ever willing to do so. I expect you are well acquainted with his case, as he saw you in Nashvill where he resides. his case is this he was a soldier of the revolution and has never got any pention he has petitioned time after time and he

has had promis upon promises he will get his pention the reason I write now is he says you said he must remind you of it when you arrived at Washington. He has great confidence in you as a man in you station and tells me you will do something for him. This much would be doing him me and his friends a great favour indeed to get a few lines from you hands nameing what you think can be done for him I would that he could know what to expect whether he could hope for any thing or not if you can let him know do so as it would take you but few minits and would afford him so much satisfaction I need not say any thing more as you know more about it than I can tell. his papers and documents are in Washington you could see them. writ to him if you pleas if I have ered in this forgive.

There is no news worth your attention. On to morrow will be quit a sollem day with all our stores and shops will be closed and a general fasting with all it causses solemnity now we shall have preaching at all the churches in the Citty.

P.S. write to the Old man soon

Yours most respectfully [signed] George W. Hagey

For his Father John Hagey

State of Tennessee }

County of Davidson }

On this 8<sup>th</sup> day of July in the year 1859 personally came before the undersigned, the Judge of the Court of Davidson County Jas Whitworth which court is a Court of record having a seal John Hagey a resident of Nashville who being duly sworn according to law, states that he is 58 years old, that he is the son of John Hagey or Hagar as he is sometimes called and Catharine Hagey his wife & his, deponents mother: that deponents mother is now living at the age of one hundred and five years but that she is wholly incapable of doing or understanding anything, & he therefore now makes this affidavit in her behalf for the purpose of obtaining from the government of the united States, the pension which she may be entitled to, under the laws of the U.S. as the widow of John Hagey, or Hagar or Hague who was a Revolutionary soldier and served as he has always been informed by his father & has heard him speak of, & that the said service was performed by his father under General Lafayette, as one of his Guard as he has always understood from him together with the following circumstances viz. when General Lafayett visited Nashville his farther came from Allabama to see him and on his return home he said that Lafayitt remembered him and empraced him and was rejoysed to see his farther as he told him That his father & mother were married on the [blank] day of Revolutionary War in the year about the close of the Revolutionary war in the town of Harrisburg County of Dauphin & State of Pensilvany by [blank] & that they reared a family of children named & aged as follows. Mary who married Steven H Cheek about 72 years Cathrine married Joseph Becker about 70 years Elizabeth married Nicolass Bishop about 68 years Susan married Hiram W Martin about 66 years John Hagey about 58 years Sary married James Nealy about 56 years Margaret married Odle B Thrift about 54 years Nancy married John E Wilson about 52 years George W Hagey about 50 [or 52] years Mariah married Jenkins 48 years those are all of the Children except those that died without heirs

he state that he has frequently herd his farther & mother say that there house was burned in three miles of Noxvill [sic: Knoxville] E. Tennessee and all there papers and other things burned up, but he was two young to remember it himself

that he refers to the annexed affidavit of Michael E Degrove of Nashville, and Williamson H Horn of Nashville as regards the reputation of the marriage & living together of his father & mother as man and wife, & to the date of death of his father, which took place on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of July in the year 1841 in the town of Nashville & State of Tennessee County of Davidson & that he remembers to have heard his father speak of the following men & officers with whom & where he served viz Gen Washington Lafayett and Gen Rushambeau a french man he dose not no that he spells the last name corect at White Planes and York Town and a number of other places & with other officers but dose not remember there names

& further saith naught

[signed] John Hgey

State of Tennessee }  
 County of Davidson } On this 8<sup>th</sup> day of July in 1859 personally came before the undersigned Michael E Degrove of Nashville aged 65 years and Williamson H Horn of Nashville, aged 60 years who are known to me to be credible and disinterested witnesses & after being duly sworn according to law state, that he Michael E Degrove was in comand of the Artilerry company at the reception of Lafayett in 1825 and left his company and went to the platform on which Lafayett was placed and soon after Lafayett took the stand John Hagey was assisted upon the stand and Lafayett embraced him and they both shed tears and from what I could gather was that the old man John Hagey had come to this country with him and served with him in the war of the Revolution. Deponant further states that he was acquainted with John Hagey and Catharine Hagey and that they lived together as man and wife and rased a large family of children with most or all of whom he is acquainted and with John hagey who makes the Decleration for his mother Catherine Hagey he has been acquainted for 30 years and states that he is a repputable man and that he would give him full faith and credit on oth or otherwise. Williamson H Horn states that he was a member of the Lafayett gards on the occasion above refered to of Lafayetts reseption at Nashville and witnessed the meeting between Lafayett and John Hagey and that after they had embraced and ware both in tears that Lafayett turned round to the company on the stand and said he recognised one of his old soldiers of the Revolutionary war they ware both mutch affected Deponant further states that from 1825 up to the time of his death on the 13<sup>th</sup> of July 1841 he was well acquainted with John Hagey & his wife Catherine Hagey and that they lived together as man and wife and that Catherine Hagey is still living as the widow of John Hagey and has never been maried since his death as above, said to be 105 years old Deponant refers to life of Lafayett by William Cutter page 366 [see endnote] as a true and further discription of the above meeting and to the annexed slip containing an account of his death taken from the Christian Advocate a religous paper published in Nashville in the year 1841 Deponan further states that he has been acquainted with John Hagey the declarent for his mother Catherine Hagey and states that he is a repputable man and that he would give him full faith and credit on oath or otherwise and further these Deponants sayeth not [signed] M E DeGrove M. H. Horn

AN OLD SOLDIER FALLEN.

Mr. John Hagey, aged, we understand, ninety-three years, died in this city on Tuesday night the 13th ult. Mr. Hagey was a native of Germany and came to America in company with La Fayette, and fought in the Revolutionary War in aid of our country's independence. He was one of La Fayette's life guards. When this distinguished chieftain visited America and passed through Nashville in 1824 [sic], Mr. Hagey who then resided in Huntsville Alabama, came on foot more than a hundred miles, to meet once mode [sic] his old general. We are told by those who were present at their meeting, that it was a moment of thrilling interest. Mr. Hagey threw himself suddenly and unexpected before La Fayette; the General immediately recognized him, and with a familiar tone exclaimed, "Why John is this you!" and in a moment they were closely embraced in each other's arms.

Mr. Hagey was for more than fifty years a devoted christian, and faithful member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

He died triumphantly. His funeral took place at the McKendree church on Wednesday 4 o'clock P.M., and was attended by an immense concourse, of about five thousand people. He was buried with Military honors.—Nashville Christian Advocate.

Department of the Interior/ November 2<sup>d</sup> 1859.

Sir [Hon. George C. Whiting, Comm'r. of Pensions],

I have carefully considered the claim of Catharine Hagie, widow of John Hagie, for bounty land under Act of March 3<sup>d</sup> 1855, &c, and also for pension under Acts of June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832, and July 7<sup>th</sup> 1838, upon which an appeal has been taken from your decision.

The soldier in the application he made in 1832 declares that he came over to this country with La Fayette, as a volunteer to assist the Americans in the Revolutionary war, and that he served as a private in

the regiment of Light Horse under Col. Polorotski and Capt. Escaline, to the end of the war. His claim under the Act of June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832 was rejected, and since his death the widow has renewed it, and asserted in her own behalf her title to bounty-land and pension.

To justify the allowance of either of the claims for pension it is necessary that the soldier should have “served in the Continental line or State troops, volunteers or militia,” [See endnote] And to obtain bounty-land under the Act of 1855, that he should have been regularly mustered or paid by the United States.

His own statement shows that he could have come under neither of these conditions, for he served (if, indeed, he rendered any service) in the French Troops, and was paid by the King of France.

I am of the opinion, therefore, that these claims are bad, and accordingly affirm your rejection of them.

The papers which accompanied your report are herewith returned to your office.

I am, very respectfully,/ Your Obd't. Serv't.. J. Thompson, Secretary

To the Honorable Senate & House of Representatives in Congress assembled

Your petitioner Catherine Hagie aged 105 years a resident of Nashville Tennessee widow of John, who was a soldier of the Revolution & who shortly after the passage of the Revolutionary Pension law, 7<sup>th</sup> June 1832 applied for his pension and was denied.

Now respectfully sets forth that she has applied as widow aforesaid for a pension under act 7<sup>th</sup> July 1838 & also for Bounty Land act 3<sup>rd</sup> March 1855, & May 1856. both have been denied, after appeal to the Honorable Secretary of the Interior & being fully convinced that she is entitled now appeals to your Honorable bodies for the allowance of Land & Pension. She refers to the papers hereunto annexed marked A. B. C. D. E. & F [not found in the file]. In the next place a reference is made in the original papers on file in the Pension office & especially to the Commissioners letter of the 27<sup>th</sup> September 1859 to be found in said office – also Bill of the House of Representatives No 473 founded on Report No 640 of the 1<sup>st</sup> Session of the 26<sup>th</sup> Congress –

Your petitioner further respectfully represents that although her husband held no rank as did (his General) Lafayette, the patriotism of the latter was no more patent than that of the former, the soldier offered his life (had no fortune) as a sacrifice in the cause of this Nation of freedom; he was saved, he chose this Country as his home, his General returned to the Kings allegiance and its profits, revisiting this country after the lapse of a number of years, is received with open arms by millions of grateful persons forming a free and independent & happy nation one he materially assisted to its freedom; is princely honored and princely rewarded pecuniarily; the soldier patriot is left to die in want and bury him “with his old cloathes around him.” They carved not a line and his poverty raised not a stone.

But the nations gratitude left him alone with his glory.

even when General Lafayette at the very moment he was receiving the highest honors & homages of the People forgot not but says to this poor soldier on first seeing him (Hagie had walked 100 miles to meet him) – John is that you? Then turns to the populace and surrounding soldiers of the Revolution, his hand on his shoulder and says to them “this soldier served through the Revolution with me, he was one of my men. This fact is proven by the highest testimony that the State of Tennessee can afford. Still is he denied!!

Further your petitioner would say although her husband applied 27 years ago for his pension & the fact of his having rendered the service had never been disputed! the age and period has arrived & the impeachment of the words of Lafayette is recorded “if indeed he rendered any service.” Although as before stated, he was recognized by the highest authority and one who your petitioner would hardly believe could have erred in this case, as it is well known he had similarly recognized many patriotic soldiers of the Revolution as well as officers during this sojourn in this country; this instance of this peculiarity is not animalous, it was almost universal with him, more so probably than any commander the world has ever known. It may not be out of place to remark that had the Executive impeached LaFayettes words during his life, his autograph confirmation of them could have been readily obtained. Aye, with

what lively feelings of happiness would this patriot have signed such proofs as would inscribe upon the Escutcheon of the United States, in letters of brilliants the proof of the “gratitude of this Republic” and refute the old adage of the Ingratitude of Republics, as also preserved his word as his bond.

Your petitioner places her case in your hands & as in duty bound will ever pray.

Catherine Hagie widow of John by her Attorney J E Hassler

Washington City 15 December 1859

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

May 8, 1860.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. THOMSON, submitted the following REPORT.

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the petition of Catharine Hagie, widow of John Hagie, for a pension for the revolutionary services of her husband, having had the same under consideration, beg leave to report:

That it appears, in the year 1832, the husband of the petitioner applied for a pension under the general law of that year, but that his claim was rejected, for reason that he came over to this country with the French army, and that his service was entirely in that army, and under French officers, and not in either the “Continental line, State troops, volunteers, or militia,” as was required by the act of June, 1832, in order that the applicant should receive the benefits of the above-mentioned act.

It also appears by his own declaration that he came to this country with General LaFayette; was attached as a Frenchman to his troop of French light-horse, and that all of his service was performed in that troop, and under foreign officers, holding their commissions from Louis XVI, King of France, and consequently were paid by that government.

It has been the uniform practice of this government to deny claims of this character, as such *soldiers* (foreign officers were expressly excluded from the benefits of the act of 7th June, 1832) were not embodied in the American army, but were allies, and served in conformity to the treaty of alliance entered into on the 6th February, 1778, and ratified on the 5th may following.

Your committee report that, as the husband was not entitled under the act of 7th June, 1832, the widow has no claim under the act of 7th July, 1838, which is based upon the former act, therefore recommend that the prayer of the petitioner be denied.

NOTES:

Hagey is said to have been born in Alsace, which was claimed by both France and Germany.

Hagey could not have served at the same time under both Lafayette and Lauzun. Among the many discrepancies in Hagey’s declaration is that he arrived with Lafayette at Newport RI. Lafayette’s first arrival in America was near Georgetown SC on 13 June 1777. On 11 Jan 1779 he left for France to obtain support for the American cause, and he returned on 28 April 1780, landing at Boston. Hagey may have been recruited by Lafayette in France and arrived at Newport with Jean-Baptiste-Donatien de Vimeur, comte de Rochambeau on 10 Jun 1780.

Lauzun was not “under LaFayette.” Lauzun and his corps of Foreign Volunteers (Volontaires-étrangers de Lauzun) arrived with Rochambeau and remained under Rochambeau’s command. Lafayette, in contrast, was a commissioned General in the Continental Army and commanded American Troops. Lauzun and Lafayette were seldom, if ever, together. Both were at the siege of Yorktown, but Lauzun was at Gloucester, while Lafayette was on the other side of York River.

The Battle of White Plains NY occurred on 28 Oct 1776, before Lauzun or Lafayette arrived in America. Hagey may have been referring to a little-known skirmish between a small party of Loyalists and a patrol of Lauzun’s troops about 15 mi NNE of White Plains on 17 July 1781. (Desmarais, N. *The Guide to the American Revolutionary War in New York*. Ithaca NY: Busca. 2010.) Lafayette was in Virginia at that time. The only engagement in which Lafayette is known to have been wounded was the Battle of Brandywine PA on 11 Sep 1777. It is doubtful that Hagey could have known so much about Lauzun’s corps unless he served with him rather than Lafayette.

Kings Bridge is about 12 mi SW of White Plains. John L Polereczky in his pension application W10915 stated that “he was at Kingsbridge, when the American army fought the British.” This engagement may have been the failed assault on 3 July 1781 by Lauzun’s troops on the British post at Morrisania, about 5 mi S of Kings Bridge.

Lafayette departed from New York for Yorktown (commonly called Little York) in March 1781. Lauzun’s Legion departed New York for Yorktown with Rochambeau on 19 Aug 1781.

Cornwallis did not surrender his sword to Washington. Pleading indisposition, he delegated the task to Gen. Charles O’Hara.

Pension application W965 was filed by a Daniel McCoy of Rutherford County TN, but it stated that he did his entire service against Indians along the Susquehanna River in PA, and that left the service in 1778. His pension did not claim service under Lafayette or at any of the places mentioned in the 1837 statement above. McCoy signed his pension application with an X rather than his full signature.

The pension application of Peter Jennings S4436 did not claim that he was at the Battle of White Plains. Like Hagey, Jennings claimed that Lafayette recognized him in 1825.

Nothing in the pension act of 1832 explicitly excluded foreigners.

The excerpt on p 366 of William Cutter’s *Life of General Lafayette*, published in 1856; reads as follows: “At Nashville, forty officers and soldiers of the revolution had assembled from different parts of the state, to bear a part in the triumph accorded to their old general. One of them, a very aged man, but full of life and activity, had travelled more than one hundred and fifty miles, ‘to see the young general.’ Seizing him warmly by the hand, he exclaimed—‘I have had two happy days in my life—one when I landed with you on the American coast, in 1777, and this, when I see your face again. I have lived long enough.’ The old man’s name was Haguy. He was a German. He had come to America in the same vessel with Lafayette, and had served under his orders during the whole war.”