

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of William Hutchison R5457

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

Virginia

At a Court held for the County of Monroe at the Court House on monday the 17<sup>th</sup> day of October 1836 & in the 61<sup>st</sup> year of the commonwealth

This day personally in open Court before the County Court of Monroe aforesaid William Hutchison a resident of Monroe County aforesaid aged seventy 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 act of Congress of the 7<sup>th</sup> June 1832: that he entered the service of the United States under the following named Officers and served as herein stated: that in the year 1776 he volunteered to serve a tour of duty of one year as a common soldier under the command of Captain John Henderson who was sent to guard the frontier settlements of white people against the invasion of the indians, that he commenced his services at Cooks Fort on Indian Creek (now in the County of Monroe) in the month of May, as well as he now recollects. Shortly after having joined the company at the Fort, he was marched from the said Fort across New River through a part of what is now the County of Giles - a country thinly inhabited, and was kept ranging that section of country almost constantly for one year the term for which he volunteered: After having served faithfully as aforesaid, in the spring of the year 1777 he again volunteered under the command of Captain Archibald Wood who took command of the company aforesaid, for the same service, to serve as long as the Indians might disturb the white settlers as aforesaid; in the fall of the year 1777 Captain Wood's company marched up the Blue Stone [sic: Bluestone] river to the settlements of white people near it head to protect them against the Indians whilst they might be gathering their fodder; that he marched the wilderness & over mountains where it is likely few human being except Savages had ever before trod. He continued to serve in this little band of rangers (except one year that he was detached therefrom by his Captain as an Indian Spie) the full term of four years actively, arduously, and almost incessantly marching or rather ranging from Cooks Fort to Woods Fort on Rich Creek & backwards and forwards through that wild mountainous country under almost ever possible privation and difficulty; frequently carrying orders & communications, alone, from his Captain to the Forts & back again, often in the night time, when he could hear near him the shrill whistle, the yell or wary tread of the Savage. If any orders or communications were wanted to be sent express, he was generally the one selected to do it; he always performed the service however difficult or dangerous, he believes to the full satisfaction of his Captain and fellow soldiers Whilst he was under the command of Captain Wood, he, Philip Cavender and Nicholas Woodfin were ordered out or detached from the Company by that officer as Indian Spies, he continued to serve in that capacity, at the imminent hazzard of his life, lying out at night with no covering but his blanket, no shelter but the forest; when frequently the panthers scream, or Indians yell would remind of his duty. After having served four years as aforesaid, Captain [David] Gray from the County of Rockbridge Va. took command of the said company. He continued to serve under Captain Gray for the term of one year, and in the Spring of the year 1782 when all signs of Savage foe had disappeared and when there seemed to be no further use for the company aforesaid he left the service & Captain Gray returned home. He received no discharge, it was not thought to be necessary. He knew he had served his country faithfully - received the approbation of his Captain & his permission to go home. He knew no regular Officers in this service - he served with no other continental regiments or companies except the officers and company aforesaid. He has no documentary evidence of his services, but he knows The Rev. Jacob Cook [pension application R2257] & John Ellison [R3285] whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his services. He was born in the County of Augusta & State of Virginia in the year 1757. He had a record of his age in his Father's bible which was burnt when his father's house was burnt, on Rich Creek in the (now) County of Monroe Va. He lived in the County of Greenbrier Va. (which is now Monroe) when he was called into service. He has lived generally in the County of Monroe since the Revolutionary war, and he now resides in the County of Monroe. He hereby

relinquishes ever claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.

[signed] William Hutchison

Answers to the questions propounded by the County Court of Monroe to William Hutchison a revolutionary soldier in Open Court october 17<sup>th</sup> 1834

1<sup>st</sup>. I was born in Augusta County & State of Virginia in the year 1757

2<sup>d</sup>. I had a record of my age in my fathers bible but it was burnt when my Father's house was burnt on Rich Creek (now) in the County of Monroe

3<sup>d</sup>. I lived in Greenbrier County (now Monroe) when called into service; in the County of Monroe generally since the revolutionary war; and I now live in the county of Monroe.

4. I volunteered.

5<sup>th</sup>. I knew no regular officers in this service except those under whom I served. I served with no other continental regiments or companies except the Company of Capt. Henderson, Capt. Wood & Capt. Gray. I volunteered under the command of Captain John Henderson to guard the frontier settlements of white people against the depredations of the Indians. I joined this company at Cooks Fort on Indian Creek (now) Monroe County in the year 1776 I think in the month of May. We marched across New river into the (now) county of Giles & continued to range that part of the Country in search of Savages &c until the expiration of one year. In the Spring of the year 1777 I again volunteered to serve under Capt. Archibald Wood as long as the Indians might disturb the settlements of white people in that part of the country; in the fall of that year we were marched to the head of blue Stone to protect the white people there while taking their fodder. In the year 1778 or 9 which I do not recollect Captain Wood ordered me, Philip Cavender & Nicholas Woodfin out as Indian spies. This was the most difficult & dangerous part of my services having to be so much exposed & running more risques of losing my life. I served in this capacity for one year; I then joined my company again and continued to serve as before, making the time, in all, that I served under Captain Wood four years. Capt. Gray from the County of Rockbridge Va. then took the command of the Company & I continued to serve under him for one year; this was in the year 1781. In the fall of that year I, with about thirty others were ordered by Capt. Gray to go to the head of blue stone to guard the settlers there while taking fodder after marching about 20 miles all the other men refused to go any further. an old man by the name of McGuire wished to go to the said settlement, he & I got a man by the name of David Clay to pilot us the nearest way. After we had started from the Company some short distance, we formed that about ten or twelve Indians were in pursuit of us, they continued to pursue us frequently through water to our necks & mud to our knees until dark, we then heard them yell & saw nor heard any more of them. We continued our route until some time after dark when we arrived at the place were we were ordered. We had travelled near forty miles from the time we left the Company till we stopped, it was about 9 oclock in the morning when we left the Company

6<sup>th</sup>. I received no discharge, but in the spring of the year 1782 was permitted by Capt. Gray to go home.

7<sup>th</sup>. [Neighbors who can testify to his veracity and reputation as a soldier of the Revolution include] The Rev Jacob Cook James Ellison John Ellison Richard V. Shanklin James Houchins Asa Ellison John Neely & many others.

Teste Jno. Hutchison, Jr. CMC

Octo 17<sup>th</sup> 1834