

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of John Kaufmann R5798

MD VA

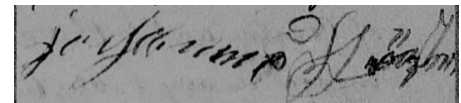
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

State of Virginia     }  
County of Augusta } ss.

On this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of January in the year of Our Lord 1845 Personally appeared before me, a Justice of the Peace in and for the County of Augusta and State of Virginia, John Kaufmann a resident of the County & State aforesaid, aged Eighty Seven 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. That he entered the Service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. First, that he served under the command of Captain Riock (in the Summer of 1777) who was ordered to seize the persons of some tories in the neighborhood of Hagerstown in the State of Maryland, and this service being completed, in the course of one month declarant was permitted to return home being then a resident of Hagerstown. Shortly after attaining his majority declarant removed to Alexandria in the State of Virginia, where he was enrolled as a volunteer private, under the command of Col Ramsay, his company officer being Capt'n. Brooks – that he entered the service (shortly after the surrender of Lord Cornwallis [19 Oct 1781]) late in November or early in December 1781, and that he continued in service as a member of a corps of cavalry until the close of the war; declarant was not engaged in any battle, but was stationed about eleven miles below Alexandria at Point no Point, and was never removed but a short distance from that point during his term of service and as he did not serve in company with any regular troops he became acquainted with no Regular Officers. But retains a perfect recollection only of Col Ramsay a citizen of Alexandria and of Capt'n Brooks who resided in that vicinity. Declarant has no documentary evidence of service and is of opinion that no discharges were granted to any of his company, as it was disbanded when peace was declared and not till then. and he farther states that he has no knowledge of any person by whose testimony he can make direct proof of service, those who were his companions in arms being either dead or removed he knows not where. Declarant further states that he was born in Pensylvania in the year 1757 on the 25<sup>th</sup> December. the record of his age was left at Fredericktown [Frederick] in Maryland whither his parents removed about the year 1765. that he was living at the places mentioned above: viz. at Hagerstown & lastly at Alexandria when he entered the service, that in the first instance he was draughted, and in the second entered a cavalry corps as a volunteer as above stated, that he did not receive any discharge, leaving the service at the time his company was disbanded as mentioned above, and that he is known to James Miller, Thomas Ralston, Wright Burgess, Wm. Ralston, Sam'l Lewis &c. the certificates of some of whom are annexed. and that he has lived in the County of Augusta Va. about forty two years. And he hereby relinquishes every 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.

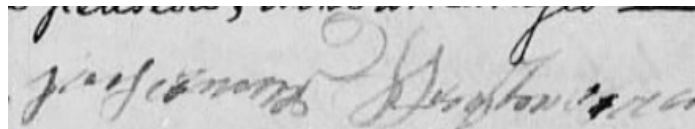
[Signed in German]

johannes Kaufm[last letters missing]



Personally appeared before me a Justice of the Peace in and for the County of Augusta and State of Virginia John Kaufmann who, being duly sworn deposed and saith that by reason of old age and consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively to the precise length of his service, but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than one year and two months as a volunteer private in a cavalry corps at the point mentioned in his declaration and for such services he claims a pension, with arrearages

[signed] Johannes Kauffmann



Washington City, April 5<sup>th</sup> 1845

Sir [James L. Edwards, Commissioner of Pensions, present] I have just received your letter, and can probably throw some light upon the subject therein mentioned. I made some of the enquiries suggested in your letter, and will give the answers as I received them.

Mr Kaufmann was in good circumstances until within a few years, and his pride would not brook the idea of receiving any thing which he regarded in the light of alms. On the death of Mr Sam'l Miller of Augusta Co. Virginia, in whose employ Mr Kaufmann had been for near thirty years, and on whose books Mr K. had credits to a very considerable amount over and above his Debit a/c. he was deprived of almost the whole amount due him, in consequence of Miller's heirs pleading the statute of limitation, in bar of the amount due K. from the estate, they also deprived him of a comfortable dwelling and out houses which he had built on Miller's premises, taking Miller's word for a deed which was never executed, Miller having died suddenly in a drunken fit. He (Kaufmann) sometime afterwards was called upon by a gentleman, whose name he did not remember, who proposed to look into his claim and give him such instructions as would enable him successfully to prosecute his claim. But he never heard anything farther on the subject. As to the other enquiry respecting the number, pay, subsistence &c of the corps to which he belonged, I could not learn any thing very satisfactory. The old man's mind had become so much shattered, and in addition to this, his knowledge of the English language was so imperfect, that I found it extremely difficult to understand a great deal of what he said, and I think he may have been mistaken, as to the date at which he entered the service, but have not the least doubt of his having been a revolutionary soldier, and such was his character, as a man of veracity, in the neighborhood where he was known, that every person who had ever heard the old man relate his story place implicit confidence in it. I conversed with some of the oldest & most respectable citizens of Augusta Co. such as knew the declarant forty years ago, and all concurred in the belief that he was engaged as his declaration represents. It was of course impossible to obtain any direct testimony, after the lapse of so many years.

With Respect/ Your Humble & Obd't Servant/ Alfred Hoss

NOTE: Kaufmann's application was suspended "for further proof and explanation."