

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of John Marsh R6922

MD VA

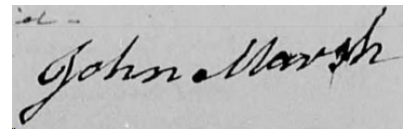
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

State of Ohio Belmont County Ss.

On this [blank] day of March AD 1835 personally appeared in open court before the Judges of the court of common pleas of said county now setting John Marsh a resident of Kirkwood Township in the county of Belmont and State aforesaid aged seventy eight years on the 30th day of Oct AD 1834 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 under the following named officers and served as herein stated. That in the year AD 1775 in the forepart of June of that year (not later than the middle of June) he volunteered in Stafford County in the State of Virginia as a minuit man in the company of Capt William Pollard Lieutenants Y. Rodger and William Burnberry, John Washington was the colonel [John Augustine Washington, brother of George Washington]

That on or about the first of July AD 1775 [probably 1776; see endnote] he was called out into actual service in the above named company and under the above named officers and in the above named county. That he joined his company at Joseph Rodges in said county and marched immediately down near to Wicomico to defend the country from the British Ships. That they there met five British vessels coming up the Potomac river, which ships came up to branch creek That he together with said company in which he served marched up the said river to watch the said ships. That after the said ships had loaded their vessels with water they sailed down the river and this applicant with his said company marched down said river watching the said vessels until the last of August (say 30th) of the same year at which time they were discharged verbally. That on the 15th or 16th of October AD 1775 he was again called into actual service in the same company and under the same officers and in the same county above stated. That he marched in the above company under the above named officers to Portsmouth in Virginia to guard provisions that he remained there in actual service until the 24th of December of the same year at which time or within a few days thereof he marched to Norfolk and was in the Battle when Norfolk was burnt on or about the first of January AD 1776 [1 Jan 1776] in which battle he was wounded in the leg. That he remained at or near Norfolk for a short time after the burning thereof and then returned to Portsmouth and remained a short time and returned home the last of January of said last mentioned year at which time he was verbally discharged. That on the first of June AD 1776 he was called out again into actual service in the same company and under the same officers and in the same county above mentioned. That he marched in said company from the said County of Stafford to Guinns Island in the Rhappahannock river [sic: Gwynn Island at the mouth of the Rappahannock River] to guard the shore from the English shiping and remained there for two months at which time he was verbally discharged That in the fall of the year 1777 he removed from county virginia to the county of Northumberland in said state and was there enroled as a volunteer minuit man in the company of Capt William Davenport [William Davenport, probably pension application W19155] Lieutenants, John Walling and N. Pittman and E. Hall was the colonel. That on the first of June 1778 he was again called into actual service in the last mentioned company and under the last mentioned officers and in the last named county and marched to the great Wicomico to defend the country from the inroads of the British and remained there six weeks at which time he was discharged verbally. That on the first of June 1779 he was again called into actual service in the same company, under the same officers and in the same county last mentioned and marched to what was then called the Ware houses. That while they were stationed at the said Ware houses the British came up in Barges and attempted to land and after an engagement in which this application took part, the British did land and burnt the said Ware houses. That he remained there a short time after the burning of the Ware houses and was discharged the middle of July 1779. That about the 15th of Sept 1779 he was called into actual service again in the same company, under the same officers and in the same county last mentioned and marched down to the great Wicomico river where the ware houses were formerly situated for the purpose of protecting the

country from the inroads of the British and their shipping and remained there six weeks at which time he was verbally discharged. That in the month of May 1780 he removed from the said county of Northumberland in the State of Va to Baltimore in Md. That shortly after he settled in Baltimore he was enroled as a volunteer in Capt Richard Ridgleys company in the month of July 1780 he was called into actual service under the command of Capt Ridgeley, Robert Smith colonel. That he marched from Baltimore down the river to defend the country from the British. That he remained in the service just four weeks at which time he was discharged verbally. That in the august of 1781 he was again called into actual service in the same company except it was commanded by John McClanan [John McClanahan?] and the same officers and at the same places last named and marched over the bay or river to North point to defend the country from the British shiping. That he continued in the service just four weeks and was then verbally discharged. That this was the last time he was in actual service during the revolutionary war. That he has no documentary evidence of his services and that he knows of no person 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 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
Sworn to in open Court March 16, 1835



We George Waddle a clergyman residing in Kirkwood Township in said county of Belmont and Andrew Barnett residing in the same place hereby certify that we are well acquainted with John Marsh who has subscribed and sworn to the above declaration that we believe him to be sevinty eight years of age. That he is reputed and believed in the neighbourhood where he resides to have been a soldier of the revolution and that we concur in that opinion. Sworn and subscribed the day and aforesaid.

Sworn to in open Court March 16 1835 [signed] Geo Waddell Andrew Barnett

And the said court at the time aforesaid propounded the following interogatories to the said John Marsh.

Q. Where and in what State were you born? In Northumberland County in the State of Virginia.

Q. Have you any record of your age? Ans. No.

Q. Where were you living when called into service? Where since the revolutionary war and where now?

Ans. When I was called in to service first I was living in Stafford county state of Virginia. Afterwards in Northumberland county in the same State and then in Baltimore city in the State of Maryland. Since the revolutionary war I lived in the city of Baltimore city Md. until 1815. Then I came to Belmont county ohio where I now reside.

Q. How were you called into service? Ans I volunteered as a minuit man

Q. State some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served; such continental & malitia regaments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Ans. There were no regular officers where I served that I can recollect. I cannot recollect the Regiments.

And for the circumstances of my service I refer you to the above statement which I have made and sworn to.

Q. Did you ever receive a discharge from the service and if so what has become of it & by whom.

Ans. Each time I was out in the service I was discharged by the Capt of my company verbally.

Q. State the names of persons to whom you are known in your neighbourhood and who can testify as to your character for varacity and their belief of your services as a soldier of the revolution.

Ans. George Waddle. Andrew Barnett – and others

War Dept, Pen Office/ March 31, 1835

Sir [John C. Fallman Esqr/ Clerk Belmont Co./ st Clairsville P.O. Ohio] The declaration of John Marsh has been ex'd & filed with suspended cases in this office. He alleges to have performed tours of military service in virginia against the British in 1777, '78, & 79. this statement does not agree with the historical facts as it regards the course of service in Virginia in those years. The British did not invade Virginia in

those years excepting for a short time in 1779. The claim is therefore considered doubtful. A pension cannot be allowed unless direct proof be exhibited of the applicants service. [see endnote]

NOTES:

Marsh's first services against the British were probably against the incursions into Chesapeake waters by Lord Dunmore, the Virginia Royal Governor, between May and August 1776. Lord Dunmore's fleet used Gwynn Island as its base of operations until it was driven off the island on 11 July 1776.

The pension act of 1832 required as proof of militia service only a plausible declaration and testimony by two neighbors that the applicant was honest and had the reputation of having been a soldier of the Revolution. Marsh's declaration of service was entirely plausible except for errors in the time when they occurred, as can be seen by reference to several successful pension applications, including those by John Cundiff (S8272) and others, which can be found by searching the pension applications for "Wicomico." The unknown author of the letter from the Pension Office was evidently ignorant of the incursions made by the Virginia Royal Governor, Lord Dunmore, into the waters of the Chesapeake, and by later provisioning raids by the British fleet.