

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of John Mitchell R7274 NJ
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

State of Virginia } ss.

Lewis county } On this 15th day of November 1833 personally appeared before me the subscriber a Justice of the peace in and for the said county of Lewis in the said State of Virginia John Mitchell a resident citizen of Harrison county near the line which seperates Harrison and Lewis counties and nearest to the Justice of Lewis than any in Harrison aged seventy four 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 provisions of the act of congress of the 7th 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 volunteerd as a minute man to be ready at the firing of a cannon or any other signal which should be agreed on. He was under a captain Gerard. He lived in Morristown [NJ]. He was forthwith called out in July 1776 was marched to a place called Elizabeth Town. Thence to Baskenridge [sic: Basking Ridge] and to several places in Jersey that he has forgotten the name under Col Smith and General Heard or Herd [Nathaniel Heard]. He was out two months as a private minute man and returnd home in September 1776 was again forthwith called out and marched under his same captains same Col. & same General marched to Elizabeth Town from thence to Baskenridge again from thence to other places to him now unknown. He was continued three months this tour in the service and was discharged by his captain Gerard (Daniel) [Daniel Gerard] He thinks. He was discharged at Elizabeth Town in Jersey in January 1777 He went home. Then again in March 1777 He was called out (having served the previous year in all five months as a private minute man in captain Gerards company) Then he in March 1777 was ordered as a minute man under captain Joseph Hall He was marched to a place called Ramapough [sic: Ramapo] thence to other places & to a place called Springfield there had a battle with the British [see endnotes] Col [Benoni] Hathaway commanded the americans. This was not far from Morristown The americans claimed the victory. from here he was marched into Pensylvania to Chester thence to Philadelphia. Thence to Brandywine. Thence to fought a bloody battle [Battle of Brandywine, 11 Sep 1777] in this battle General Washington was defeated by the British. The British then took possession of Philadelphia [26 Sep 1777]. The americans marched to Germantown there about one months after the battle at Brandywine we had a battle at Germantown [4 Oct 1777] where we were again defeated by the British troops. Gel. Washington with his troops went to Cherry valley [sic: Valley Forge] to winter He was permitted to return home in Nov'r. having served as a minute man and private soldier this tour full eight months. Then he remained at home till in April 1778 when he was again ordered out as a minute man under captain Sutton His same col. Hathaway he was marched from Morristown in Jersey to Springfield thence to Elizabeth town thence to a place called Monmouth where some time in June or July we had a battle with the British [28 Jun 1778] That he was in this battle on a hot day. The americans claimed the victory on this day. form here was again marched to Baskenridge and discharged having served this tour four months as a private soldier & minute man in this year 1778. In Augt. 1778 He was again ordered out for one month marched to Elizabeth Town & other places was in no battles was let go home in Sept 1778 having served one month this tour under captain Jacob Hall as a private a minute man. Then in April 1779 he was ordered out under captain Joseph Halsey Col. Hathaway was orderd to Baskenridge thence to different other places names forgotten under General Lee at last was marched to Paulus Hook where in June or July (he thinks the latter month) had an engagement with the british [sic: 19 Aug 1779 under Maj. Henry Lee of VA] we claimed the victory having killed & taken prisoners about 200 Englishmen. here in July [sic] (about the last) 1779 he was discharged having served three months this tour as a minute man a private. Then again in August 1779 he was ordered out under captain Gerard was march from Morris county to Springfield thence to Lyons farm 10 miles distant thence to Baskenridge

and to other places under Col. Hathaway till in Nov'r. when he was suffered to go home having served three months this tour as a minute man soon after some troops became mutinous and refused to do duty untill they were paid for past service He does not now remember whether they were Jersey or Pa. troops but he was again called out in Dec'r. 1779 under his old captain Gerard Col. Hathaway and General Heard. He was marched to a place called Chatham and there stationed untill the revolting soldiers submitted to duty again which he thinks was in February 1780 He was discharged having served two months this tour. In May 1780 he was again ordered out under his first named officers marched to Chatham again continued there two months was discharged in July 1780 having served two months. In July 1781 He was ordered towards Virginia was taken sick did not perform any services again He served in all not less than two years and four months as a private soldier during the revolutionary war. He is now very infirm & destitute. He has no documentary evidence he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his services as a soldier of the revolution although some of his fellow soldiers are certainly alive. 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. Subscribed and sworn to this day and year aforesaid.



The several interrogatories prescribed by the war department were propounded to the declarant to which he answered as follows viz.

- 1st That he was born in Morris County in Morristown in Jersey in 1759 as he has always heard.
- 2^d That he has no record of his age.
- 3rd That he was living in Morristown in Jersey he lived there till the year 1800 when he removed Harrison county Virginia where he now lives along the line which seperates it from Lewis county Va.
- 4th That he was a minute man the whole of his service and was called out without any limitation other than the emergency which caused the call or arose whilst he was in the field.
- 5th He was in the battles of Brandywine, Germantown and Monmouth under the command of the chief General Washington. He saw General Lee – Lacy his own Genl. Heard and others He saw continentals & state troops Va. Pa. Jersey & New York regulars and militia He does not remember the names or Nos. or names of regts. The general circumstances of his service is set forth above as nearly correct as a frail memory enables him now to do.
- 6th He rec'd. discharges signed by each of his captains above named at the end of his several tours. He kept none of them any time they were soon mislaid or lost most of the first were gone before he rec'd the last one.
- 7th That he is known to many persons in his present neighborhood both in Harrison and Lewis counties amongst them he will name John Hays & John White highly respectable men who can testify as to his character for veracity and their and the neighborhood belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution There are no clergymen residing near him. Sworn and subscribed this day and year aforesaid.



[Certified by Samuel Z Jones (pension application S18474) as Justice of the Peace.]

[The following report is by US District Attorney Washington G. Singleton who investigated hundreds of pension applications from present West Virginia. For details see my appendix to the pension application of David W. Sleeth S6111. Singleton wrote on this report "Not entitled."]

John Mitchel. Applicant

on July the 11th [1834] Mitchell gave the following narative of his age and services in the war of the R. was raised in Morris County New Jersey and is in his 73rd year of age – that three years before the R

War closed he was placed on the Muster Roll and afterwards stood as a minute man until the war closed – he was called out for short trips – the first time at Springfield under Capt Daniel Gard for ten days. was in the Battle of Springfield – Next trip was out at the time the Pennsylvania troops revolted under same Captain was in this service ten or twelve days. these two trips comprise all his services. Calvin Waldo wrote his declaration. gave him the same statement in substance he now gives. Swore to his Declaration before Jones of Lewis county.

Joshua Cole & Benjamin Conrad have known this man for many years. have conversed with him frequently about his age, from his own repeated statements cant exceed 60 yrs old.

a Copy W. G Singleton/ Nov. 17, 1834

NOTE: Engagements occurred at Springfield NJ on 17 Dec 1776 and 23 Jun 1780.