

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of William Pelfrey R8079

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Kentucky } SS.

County of Morgan }

On this seventeenth day of September 1832 personally appeared in Open Court before the Justices of Morgan County now sitting William Pelfrey a resident of Morgan County afsd State of Kentucky aged 68 years on the 29th day of January last 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, he states he entered the service of the united states under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

he was drafted, and joined the army at or near the beaver dam old fields on or about from the 17 to last of June 1781; was attached to the infantry company commanded by James Cowdon [sic: James Cowden] - Holcome [sic: John Holcombe] was Major & [St. George] Tucker was the Col Genl [Robert] Lawson Brigadier after joining the army our first days march was to the Beaver dam old fields [possibly near Beaverdam in Hanover County] Virginia from there we were marched near old James Town & was in hearing when the battle was fought [Battle of Green Springs Plantation, 6 Jul 1781], but the army to which I was attached was not in the engagement; the day after the battle we were marched to Mobbin hills Va [sic: Malvern Hill 15 mi SE of Richmond] where we were stationed for about three weeks - and was there discharged on the 27th day of July 1781 & returned home to Henry County where I then lived; he states he knew Genl [Anthony] Wayne & Genl. Demarcus [sic: Marquis de Lafayette, often called "The Marquis" by soldiers] who commanded the regular army. Genl Wayne commanded during the battle at James Town; he states that he has no documentary evidence & that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his services

questions by the court Mr. Pelfry where & in what year were you born

Ans I was born in Cumberland County Va on the 29th day of January 1764.

question by the court Have you any record of your age and if so where is it

Ans I have none other than that which I have saw recorded in my fathers prayer book & where it is I do not now know

question by the court

where were you living when called into the service where have you lived since the revolutionary war and where do you now live

Answer I lived in Henry County Va when called into the service I have lived in montgomery County Va Floyd County Ky & now live in Morgan County Kentucky

Question by the Court How were you called into the service were you drafted did you volunteer or were you a substitute & if a substitute for whom Answer I was drafted

Qt by the court state the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served such continental & militia regiments as you can recollect & the general circumstances of your services. Answer Genl Wayne is the only regular officer that I now recollect I belonged to the infantry Regiment commanded by Col Tucker in Genl Lawsons Brigade

Qt by the court did you receive a discharge from the service and if so by whom was it given and what has become of it

Ans. I received a discharge from the service dated on the 27 day of July 1781 signed by Capt Jas Cowdon which Discharge I now have in my possession & shew to the court

Qt by the court to whom are you known in your neighbourhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and good behavior [and belief of] your services as a soldier of the revolution

Answer William Coffee & Rich'd Ferguson

I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declare

that my name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state

Wm hisXmark Pelfrey

State of Kentucky } Sct
County of Morgan }

On this 4th day of November 1833 personally appeared in Open Court before the Court of Morgan County now sitting William Pelfry a resident of Morgan County State of Kentucky age 69 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 7th 1832 - That he entered the Service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. That he resided in Henry County State of Virginia and was Drafted in April 1781 under Captain John Cunningham Abram Penn was Colonel and was marched under Lieutenant Clay from Henry Courthouse to the Beaver Dam old field there joined the main Army under General Lawson and marched to the Chickahomany [sic: Chickahominy] Ross Iron works where he was stationed a short time We then marched to within a short Distance of James Town where we was when the battle commenced against Cornwallis we was started to reinforce the American Army but did not reach the battle ground during the action We was then marched off about one mile and stationed about 4 Days we was then marched off to Mobbin Hills where we lay untill 27th Day of July 1781 when I received a written Discharge - of which the following is a Copy now in my possession

"This is to Certify that Wm Pelfry has performed a Tour of Duty in the Henry Militia and is hereby discharged. Given under my hand this 27th Day of July 1781.

Jas Cowden Capt

he has a Recollection of seeing General Wayne Gen'l. Demarquis (he thinks Demarquis) And served from the time of his joining the main army as a Infantssay company

He states that he returned home in July 181 and stood ready to obey the call of his County Colonel by an order from him untill the Beginning of the year 1782— he states he has no other evidence except the Written Discharge herein set forth of his services and knows of no person in the Country by whom he can prove his services — He hereby relinquishes his 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

William hisXmark Pelfrey

State of Kentucky } Sct
County of Morgan }

On this 4th day of September 1845 personley appeared before the subscriber a Justice of the peace and a member of the County court of the county of morgan and the state afforesaid which said court is a court of record William pelfrey a resident of said county now in the 81st year of his age and who by reason of old age and bodley infirmity is unable to attend in open court and who being by me 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 the 7th 1832 He was drafted as a soldier of the united states and belonged to the virginia state line in the county of Henry in said state on the Day of June 1780 the day of the month not Certainly recolected out of captian John Cunninghons [sic] company to serve a tour of three months in the war of the revolution against great Britton Which tour he served fulley out and some days over the number not now recolected he was attached to Gen'l Lawsons Regiment ned ragsdale was his captian and col Tucker was his colonel and his said tour of Duty he was marched Pitsylvania [sic: Pittsylvania County] and thare joined the regmant of Gen'l Lawson aforesaid and then marched to a place called the Negroes arm a place of notoriety whare to roads came together remained there some days then to prince Edward then through the country crossing Janes [sic] river marched to a place called Hickory neck church and then to hickory nut to church [sic: Hickorynut Church 8 mi NW of Williamsburg] and thare he recollects seeing Col morgan he then marched to a bridg across a small stream and the name not known whare he was discharged by his captain Ned ragsdale and the said discharge is misplaced or destroyed in some way but how I cannot tell the discharge bearing date the 20th of september 1780 and the discharg was for one tour of duty including three months and some days not recolected When he was discharged he has a recollection of seeing Gen'l. Waine [see note below] he further states that he did not in his former declaration set fourth the Tour of duty performed in 1780 hearin

set fourth because he had not his Written discharge in his posesion and believed that without it he could not avale himself of this tour of Duty in procuring a pension He states that he again entered the service of the united states in the virginia state line as a drafted soldier in the war of the revolution against great Britton he states that he was a resident of Henry County state of virginia and was drafted in april about the first 1781 under captain John Cunningham Abraham Penn was Colo and was marched under Lieutenant Clay from Henry Court House to the beaver dam oldfield Heare I joined the main army under Gen'l. Lawson and marched to the chicahomna rass Iron works Whare we was stationed a short time We then marched to within a short distance of James Town whare we was when the battle commenced against corn wallis we was stationed to reinforce the american army but did not reach the battle ground during the action we was then marched off about one mile and stationed about four days we was then marched of to mobbing Hill where we lay untill the 27th Day of July 1781 whare I received a written discharge of which the following is a cobby of my discharge which discharge is filed in the war office department [original not found in the file]

this is to certify that Wm pelfrey has performed a tour of duty in the Henry militia and is heareby discharged Given under my hand the 27th day of July 1781

James Cowden Capt

He has a recollection of seeing Genl Wayne Genl Demarquis {he thinks demarquis} and served from the time of joining the main army as an infentry Company. He states that he returned home in July 1781 and stood ready to obey the call of his county colonel by order from him untill the beginning of the year 1782

He states he has no other indence except his written discharge herein set fourth of his service and knows of no person in the cty by whom he can prove his services

He heareby relinquish every Claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present and he declares that his name is not on the pension Role of the agency of any state

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year afforesaid

He further states that the tour of duty performed in 1780 and the tour of duty performed in 1781 as before stated in the two towers throughtout I fulley surved sex months and some days over not recolected

He further states that the tour of duty performed in 1780 is an amendment to my former declaration performed in 1781 which this is an amendment to the whole Sworn to and subscribed the day and date above mentioned

William hisXmark Pelfrey

question by the court Whare and in what year was you born

Ans I was born in cumberland County virginia on the 29th day of January 1764

Question by the court Have you any record of your age and if so whare is it

ans I have none other than that which I have received in my Fathers prayer book and whare it is I do not know now

Question by the court Whare was you living when called into the service Whare have you lived since the revolutionary war and whare do you now live

ans I lived in henry County virginia when called into the service I have lived in montgomery county virginia Floyd ky and now live in Morgan County ky

Question by the Court how were you called into the service were you drafted did you volunteer or were you a substitute and if so for whom

ans I was drafted

Qt by the Court state the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served such continental and malitia regments as you can recolect and the general circumstance of our survicies

ans general Wayne is the unley regular officer that I now recolect I belonged to the infentry regiment comanded by Col. Tucker in Gen'l. Lawsons brigade

Question by the court did you receive a discharge from the survice and if so by whom was it given and what has become of it

ans I received a discharge from the survice dated on the 20th Day of Sept 1780 signed by Capt Ned ragsdale which discharge is misplaced or destroyed in some way or other

Question by the court to whom are you known in your kneighbourhood and who can testify as to your corrector for the verasity and good behaviour your services as a soldier of the revolution

ans James Pratt and Benjamin Hamilton [pension application S31111] sworn and subscribed the day and year afforesaid

Wm hisXmark Pelfrey

[The certification by Benjamin Hamilton reads in part, "I saw the sd Wm Pelfrey returning from the surwise of the united states in 1780 and I saw his written Discharge for one tour of Duty in the henry malitia and the sd discharge was signed by cap Ned Ragsdale Dated in 1780."]

NOTE: Gen. Anthony Wayne did not arrive in Virginia until June 1781.