

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Obediah Prewett R8458

f11VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

11/20/12

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading fails to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Virginia Mason County: SS

On this 14 day of May 1834 personally appeared before me William Stephenson a Justice of the Peace in & for the County of Mason & State of Virginia Obadiah Prewett a resident Citizen of Mason County Virginia aged 79 years 6th day of July last past 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 7th of June 1832 that he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers & served as herein after stated. That to the best of his recollection in the month of May in the year 1778 Declarant thinks on the 2nd day of said month he was drafted in the Virginia militia from Goochland County for a tour of 3 months & placed under Captain Miller. Declarant does not recollect his subaltern officers' names, from Goochland Affiant was marched to Richmond thence to Williamsburg thence to Jamestown affiant was engaged in guarding & defending the Country adjacent to Williamsburg & Yorktown till his tour of 3 months expired affiant then returned his arms to the magazine at Williamsburg & was granted permission to return home I General Nelson who commanded the Virginia militia in this section of Country. Affiant then returned home to Goochland County after having served 3 months as private soldier again deponent believes about the first day of October 78 = he was again drafted as above stated he thinks under Captain Edward Duke he cannot remember the subaltern officers neither is he positive that Duke was his Captain's name the declarant is old & his memory very bad from Goochland aforesaid Declarant was marched to Richmond again & thence to Williamsburg & into Isle of Wight [County] & thence to Petersburg at this Place his term of 3 months expired & he was released by new recruits. Affiant then returned to his home to Goochland County – again affiant recollects there was snow on the Ground at the time he was released the reason given by the declarant for being drafted the 2nd tour so quick is as follows he says so many men deserted & he evaded their regular tours that such as would stand in defense of their Country was in consequence thereof more frequently called out declarant says that he a served on the last mentioned tour 3 months as a private soldier. Again in the year 1779 he thinks April of that year he was again called out by rotation he knows it was early in the spring because he says fire was acceptable to warm by on his 3rd tour he was again marched to Richmond Williamsburg & King William Court house declarant recollects of being at King William Court house the day after a militia company had been principally cut to pieces by the Enemy's dragoons he also thinks while on this 3rd time a British deserter – Informed affiant's Colonel Morris that a British vessel had run aground in James River Colonel Morris made an attack on the vessel but the ship returned a shower of shot which caused our men on shore to [indecipherable word] affiant was leaning aside [?] & picking his gun flint Colonel Morris cursed affiant & told him to stand up at the same time Colonel Morris pulled man from behind a tree &

took his place affiant told his Colonel it was foul play – Affiant's tour of 3 months having expired he was relieved at a place the name he has forgotten somewhere between James & York Rivers – affiant recollects in some Lacey & Colonel Morris he cannot recollect any other officers' names on his 3rd tour – Again in April declarant believes about 9th of said month 1781 he was again called out for 3 months tour under Lieutenant David Rutherford Major McCluman, Major Armistead the only officers whose names affiant can recollect – was again marched to the [indecipherable word] of Richmond Williamsburg & across James River into Isle of Wight – & generally in that section of the state affiant cannot relate his marches with much precision his memory being very imperfect. Declarant's 4th tour of 3 months having expired – he was relieved at Matthews Springs about 12 miles below Richmond & returned to his home in Goochland County Virginia after having served 3 months as a private soldier – Affiant was again called in the service for a 3 months tour he thinks September 1781 to march to Yorktown affiant fell sick on the march at a place called Westham & received a furlough from Colonel Ewell & returned home his Captain's name he thinks was Curd also affiant says he suffered from sickness on his return home for want of water & other necessities of life he thinks that he suffered – on his 5th & last tour more hardships than in all his former tours combined affiant served 4 tours of 3 months each & was called out 5th tour & fell sick Affiant cannot say that his declaration is exactly his mind is very frail & he can only relate his narrative to the best of a very feeble memory – declarant says he is confident his tours commenced about 3 years before the capture of Cornwallis & he positively states that he served for distinct & separate tours of 3 months each & was called out 5th tour & fell sick the applicant is very indefinite in consequence of his old age & bad memory declarant has no documentary evidence to offer neither does he know any person he can prove it by & he says it was not customary to give 3 months man written discharges when their tours expired they were generally relieved by fresh recruits he served with & in the Virginia militia he knew in the service General Nelson, Colonel Morris & Curd, Major McCluman & Armistead of the Virginia militia he served with no other kind of troops than the militia he cannot recollect the number of the Regiment to which he belonged he cannot travel to the Courthouse of Mason County from which she lives 11 miles being in firmed & unwell at the present time he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & he hereby declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any State or territory whatever.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid

S/ Obadiah Prewett, X his mark

Applicant answers to the interrogatories prescribed by the War Department

1. I was born in Goochland County Virginia in the year 1755 on the 6th day of July as I have always heard & believed
2. I have no record of my age –
3. I was living in Goochland County Virginia when I was called out since the revolution I have lived in North Carolina and Virginia where I now live in Mason County Virginia
4. I was drafted & served by rotation regular tours of 3 months each as a private soldier & was called 5th tour & fell sick
5. I knew General Nelson, Colonel Morris & Curd, Majors McCluman & Armistead all of them I think belonged to the Virginia militia I do not recollect the number of Regiment, but I am inclined to think I belonged to the 5th Virginia Regiment of militia I am not certain of the fact the circumstances of my service have related as well as I can recollect the date of my services I have arranged to the best of my recollection

6. I never received a discharge in writing I was relieved by those whose turn came after mine.

7. I am known to Walter Newman & Martin Kaufman 2 of my neighbors who can testify as to my character for veracity & [indecipherable word] & the neighborhood belief of my having been a soldier of the revolution. Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid

S/ Obadiah Prewett, X his mark

[Walter Newman & Martin Kaufman gave the standard supporting affidavit.]