

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Proctor R8496

f117VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

11/30/12

[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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Indiana Elkhart County: SS

On this 13<sup>th</sup> day of April A.D. 1852 personally appeared in open Court, at the Court House in Gaskins in said County, at a Session of the Circuit Court for said County, begun and held before the Honorable Ebenezer M Chamberlain, the presiding judge of said Court, John Proctor, Senior a resident of Washington Township in the County of Elkhart & State of Indiana aged one hundred years on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of February 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 provisions made by the Act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832. That he was born in the County of Stafford in the State of Virginia on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of February A.D. 1752. That he enlisted as a private in the Army of the United States in or about the year 1777 to the best of his recollection with one Colonel Elias Edmund [Elias Edmunds also spelled Elias Edmonds] and served in a Regiment commanded by the said Colonel Elias Edmund (the number of which Regiment said deponent does not now recollect []) of the Continental line under the following field and Company officers, namely General George Washington, Commander in Chief, General Anthony Wayne, Colonel Elias Edmund, also Colonel Shelton who was killed at the battle of Brandywine [September 11, 1777] (whose Christian name is not recollected) & Captain Robin Ashby who was also killed at the Battle of Brandywine. That he served as a private in said War exceeding the period of time of 3 years and was honorably discharged from the Service soon after the Battle of the Cowpens [January 17, 1781] to the best of his recollection and belief – That he enlisted for three years & entered said service at the Court House in the County of Fauquier in the State of Virginia in the State of Virginia [sic] in which County of Fauquier he resided when he entered the said Service. That he was in the Battles of Brandywine, of the Cowpens & at the Storming of Stony Point [July 16, 1779] under General Wayne who was wounded in that action, and was also in several other Skirmishes during his said service – That he marched with the Army in or through the States of North and South Carolina, Virginia, Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey & Delaware. That at the close of his term of service he received a written discharge from the proper officer, but that the same is now lost or destroyed and that there is no surviving witness with knowledge of said deponent by whom he can prove the facts detailed in the full born declaration. That he is a man of no learning having never been taught to read or write and that he states the above facts from a distinct recollection.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any State of the United States to his knowledge and further deponent saith not.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Owen Coffin, Clerk

S/ John Proctor, Senior, X his mark

[Daniel W Gray, a clergyman, pastor of the Church of Christ in Washington Township, Elkhart County Indiana, Daniel Heaton and Phineas Heaton gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

The court proceeded to propound to the applicant the following questions and thereupon received the answers there under written in open Court

Question 1. Where & in what year were you born?

Answer – I was born in Stafford County in this State of Virginia on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of February 1752 as I am informed and believe

Question 2. Have you any record of your age? And if so where is it?

Answer. There was a record of my age in the family Bible, but the Book passed into the possession of my son-in-law Joseph Hughes who is now dead.

Question 3 – Where were you living when called into service – where have you lived since the Revolutionary war & where do you now live?

Answer – I was then living in Fauquier County in the State of Virginia – after the war I moved to Kanhawa [Kanawha] County Virginia where I lived about 42 years. I then moved to Randolph County in the State of Indiana where I lived about 3 years. I then moved to the State of Illinois & lived there about 6 months. I then moved to the State of Arkansas where I lived 3 years & then moved to Texas where I lived about 11 years & I am now a resident of Elkhart County Indiana where I have resided about 6 months.

Question 4 – How were you called into service were you drafted, did you volunteer, or were you a substitute, and if a substitute for whom?

Answer. I enlisted for 3 years as a private I was no substitute.

Question 5. State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops you served in – such Continental & Militia Regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service?

Answer. General George Washington, General Anthony Wayne, Colonel Elias Edmund, Captain Robin Ashby who was killed at Brandywine and Colonel Shelton who was also killed in that action. I cannot recollect of the names or numbers of particular Regiments. I was with Morgan at the battle of the Cowpens. I was in the Battle of Brandywine & under General Anthony Wayne at the storming of Stony Point.

Question 6 – Did you ever receive a discharge from the service – and if so by whom was it given – and what has become of it?

Answer. I did receive a written discharge but cannot state the name of the officer granting it. It is lost or destroyed I have not seen it for many years.

Question 7. State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief of your services as a soldier of the Revolution

Answer. I would mention Daniel W Gray, Daniel Heaton, John Proctor Junior, Jasper Gannett & Phineas Heaton who are now here in court.

Question 8 – Why have you not applied for a pension before now – Answer – I was able to live without it until now – I thought it too much like begging.

[f p. 10: On May 28, 1856 in Elkhart County Indiana, John Proctor, 63, gave testimony that he is the only surviving child and heir of John Proctor deceased an applicant for a pension under the 1832 act at the time of his death; that his father John Proctor died January 11, 1856; that the affiant states that his father was mistaken in the grade in which he served during the revolution;

that his father stated in his application that he served as a private when in truth he served as a Sergeant; that he affiant has often heard that Thomas Huddnal,<sup>1</sup> Edward Riley and William Willson were in the war with his father; that Thomas Huddnal did the writing for his father while he served as a Sergeant; that his father claimed to have received a land warrant for 200 acres for his services in the revolution from the state of Virginia; that his father sold his land warrant to 2 brothers, George & William Richardson of Virginia for one stud horse; that his father's application was prepared by one George W. Smith who made many errors in filling out the application and who intended to cheat his father out of his pension.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Proctor". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end. It is positioned above a small square bracket.

[Facts in file: In 1851, Sarah Procter, a widow with a large family of children, was the daughter-in-law of the veteran; that the veteran lived with her before he moved to Elkhart County, Indiana; the name of her husband is not stated nor the names of any of her children; in 1857, she was living in Bowie County, TX. In 1852, the veteran's grandson, Raymoth G. Proctor was living in Miami County, Indiana; he stated he was born in 1811 at the veteran's house in Kanawha County VA. Edward Riley is referred to as the step-father of the veteran. The veteran is said to have been baptized in 1836 in Randolph County Indiana.]

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<sup>1</sup> Sic, [Thomas Hudnall S41664](#)