

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Puckett R8511

Rhoda

f40VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 12/4/12

[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 Tennessee, White County

On this 16 day of January A.D. 1834 personally appeared on open court before the Justices of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions of said County and State now sitting in the town of Sparta John Puckett a resident of White County Tennessee aged Sixty nine years 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 passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832. In the year 1779 as well as he now recollects he resided in Washington County in that portion of it which is now Russell County, in the Western part of Virginia, which was then a frontier settlement. He entered the service of the United States under the following circumstances. The Indians, about the period above mentioned became remarkably troublesome and dangerous to the inhabitants. The county contained four forts to wit: Richland, Elk Garden, Glade Hollow and Castlewoods. The depredations of the Indians rendered it necessary to guard these forts into which the inhabitants had fled for safety. There was also a fort called Rico fort, further West than any of the others. This Declarant among others volunteered his services under Captain Thomas Price and went to Rico fort under Charles Hays, who had a temporary command of the troops who went to that fort. Captain Price had the regular command at Elk Garden fort. At Rico fort this Declarant and the little band to which he belonged only remained a very short time -- He thinks about two weeks -- when he returned to Elk Garden fort where he was stationed under Captain Price and remained guarding the fort in all about seven years to the best of his recollection. During the whole of this period, it was customary for Captain Price to send out scouting parties every week or nearly so all the soldiers taking that service in turns. There were something like three hundred families in that fort. In the Winter Season, they could return to their homes, the Indians being generally at those periods far removed, and no danger being apprehended. In the summer season occasionally some would work in raising crops, while others would guard those at work. They were however required to hold themselves ready for service at a minutes warning. This Declarant can say with entire certainty that during this period, he was in actual and active service, either guarding the frontier or on scouting parties, two years. He hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any State. He has no documentary evidence, nor does he know of any living witness whose testimony he can procure to prove his service.

Answers to the interrogatories prescribed by the War Department and propounded by the Court--

1st. He was born in Bottetourt County [Botetourt County Virginia] Virginia in the year 1764 on the 26th day of February.

2nd. He has a record of his age.

3rd. He was living in Washington County Virginia when called into service as above stated. Since the Revolutionary War he has resided in Knox County Kentucky, Pulaski County Kentucky, and White County Tennessee where he now resides and where he has resided for twenty three years past.

4th. He volunteered when called into service.

5th. He has stated the name of the only officer who was with the troops where he served. He was in no Battle during his service. Nor was there anything very remarkable that occurred, except what was usual on the frontier.

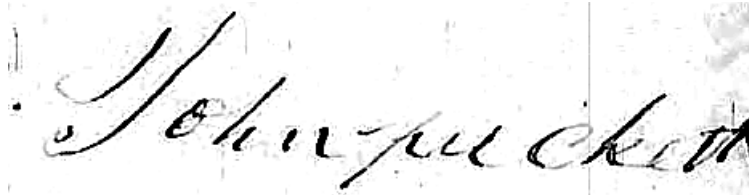
6th. He received no written discharge but what dismissed from service, as were all the remaining troops by Captain Price.

7th. He refers to the following individuals to whom he is known in his present neighborhood and who can testify as to his character for veracity and their belief of his service as a soldier of the Revolution, to wit. Turner Law Esq. William Glenn. James Davis Esq. Rev. Henry Burton.

Sworn to in open Court, 16th January A.D. 1834

S/ Jacob A. Law, Clerk of White County Court

S/ John Puckett, Seal

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Puckett". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

We Henry Burton a clergyman residing in the County of White and John Jett residing in the same County hereby certify that we are well acquainted with John Puckett who has subscribed and sworn to the foregoing Declaration, that we believe him to be sixty nine years of age, that we believe him to have been a soldier of the Revolution. We have never heard it even disputed or doubted.

S/ Henry Burton, Seal

S/ John Jett, Seal

Sworn to in open Court, 16th January A.D. 1834

S/ Jacob A. Law, Clerk White County Court

[f p. 18]

State of Tennessee White County: Sct.

On this 21<sup>st</sup> day of November 1834 George Smith personally appeared before me the undersigned justice of the peace for which County and made oath in due form of law that he is well acquainted with John Puckett who now resides in the County of White and who appears to be placed on the pension roll of the United States. He states he has known John Puckett since a boy, was raised in the same neighborhood in the State of Virginia, and from that knowledge can say with the utmost confidence that he never was a soldier of the revolutionary war. Their acquaintance and conversations sense said war confirms this opinion.

S/ George Smith

[f p. 39]

State of Tennessee Smith County Sct.

This day Edwin Pickett [sic, signed by "Jeremiah Pickett] personally appeared before me an acting justice of the peace for the County of Smith aforesaid and made oath in due form of law that he is intimately acquainted with John Puckett who now resides in the Northwestern part of White County in the State of Tennessee – that he knew him in the County of Washington in the State of Virginia during the revolutionary war, and that he can speak with great confidence and say that he was not a soldier of the revolution. In this he does not believe he can be mistaken.

Sworn to and subscribed before me the 5<sup>th</sup> of October 1834

S/ John P Williams, JP

S/ Jeremiah Pickett, E his Mark

[f p. 26]

In the case of John Puckett Pensioner John Jett is one of the witnesses who establishes his claim George Smith & Jeremiah Pickett impeach it. I would believe John Jett Statement in preference to two thousand of the others as to anything he may state. December 13<sup>th</sup> 1834

S/ John B. Forester<sup>1</sup>

M. Congress [member of Congress]

[f p. 8]

State of Tennessee, DeKalb County

On the 16<sup>th</sup> day of May 1855 personally appeared before the undersigned a Justice of the Peace and Justice of the County Court of said County (which is a Court of record) Rhoda Puckett a Resident of DeKalb County State of Tennessee age Seventy one years who being duly sworn according to law doth as her oath make the following Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions made by the act of Congress passed 3<sup>rd</sup> Feby 1853 2nd Session.

That she is the widow of John Puckett, dec'd who was a Revolutionary Pensioner of the United States at the rate of Twenty dollars per annum under act of 7<sup>th</sup> June 1832 and drew his pension at the Nashville Tennessee agency. She further declares, that she was married to the said John Puckett on the 25 of December in the year Eighteen hundred and nine in White County in the State of Tennessee by one Isaac Glenn a Justice of the Peace. That her name before marriage was Rhoda Lida. That her husband the aforesaid John Puckett died on the 30th day of September 1844. That she was married to him at the time above stated. She further swears that she was a widow at the passage of the Act and is still a widow and that she has never before made application for a Pension under said Act and that she has in her possession no record or other documentary Evidence in support of her claim.

S/ Rhoda Puckett, X her mark

Sworn to and subscribed on the and year above written before me

S/ W. H. Meggerson, JP

DeKalb County

[f p. 11: Copy of a marriage bond dated December 4, 1809 issued in White County Tennessee to John Puckett and Caleb Fraley conditioned upon the marriage of John Puckett and Rhody Lydy.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$20 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831, for service as a private for 6 months in the Virginia militia.]

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<sup>1</sup> FORESTER, John B., a Representative from Tennessee; born in McMinnville, Warren County, Tenn., birth date unknown; received a limited schooling; studied law; was admitted to the bar and practiced; elected as a Jacksonian to the Twenty-third Congress and reelected as an Anti-Jacksonian candidate to the Twenty-fourth Congress (March 4, 1833-March 3, 1837); died August 31, 1845. <http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=F000273>