

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of John Coates S10131

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

Halifax County State }  
of Virginia } SS.

On this 25<sup>th</sup> day of November 1835 personally appeared in open Court before the Court of the County aforesaid now sitting John Coates sr a resident of said County and state aged 73 years the 24<sup>th</sup> day of the present instance who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832. That he was drafted for a six months tour of duty in the County of Spotsylvania in the state aforesaid (in which County he then resided) in June in the year 1780 and marched on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of the aforesaid month from the aforesaid County of Spottsylvania in a company of Malitia commanded by Capt. [Thomas] Minor of said County of Spottsylvania: we marched from the aforesaid County of Spottsylvania to Richmond where we remained several days and drew our arms. From thence we marched through Petersburg - thence to Hillsborough in the state of North Carolina. and at Hillsborough Capt Holiday [sic: John Holladay; see note below] took command of our company and there we were attached to the second Regiment commanded by Col. George Stubblefield, Lt. Col. [Joseph] Spencer and Major [William] Mosby and the said Regt together with several others remained at Hillsborough several days. From Hillsborough we marched under Genl. [Edward] Stevens to Rutldges Mills [sic: Rugeley's Mill] in the state of South Carolina at which place we joined the main army under General [Horatio] Gates the evening before the battle near Camden in the state of South Carolina which said Battle took place on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of August 1780 and I fought as a soldier in said battle and the said Capt. Holiday was killed in said battle and our second Lieutenant John Chew lost one of his arms in said battle and he was taken a prisoner and the aforesaid Lieut. Col. Spencer was also taken a prisoner. And from the aforesaid Battle-ground we returned to the river Pedee [sic: Pee Dee] where we remained several days and from whence we marched back to Hillsborough where we remained about two or three weeks. From thence we were marched off in the aforesaid state of N.C. probably about 50 miles and stationed in an old field (the County I do not recollect) three or four weeks and we were occasionally marched from place to place in the adjacent country for a considerable time and at length we were marched back to Hillsborough where we delivered up our arms and were discharged. And our company at that time was commanded by Lieutenant Lewis Holaday [Lewis Holladay] under the aforesaid Col Stubblefield and General Stephens. The second tour of duty I performed was a two months tour I was a substitute for William Rash of the aforesaid county of Spottsylvania in the spring of 1781 and took the said Rash's place in Capt Chews company (commonly called little John Chew) in the county of Hanover near Dandridges mills: and our company was attached to Col. Mearawether's [sic: James Meriwether's] Regt and Major Hardaman [sic: Hardiman] commanded as a Major in said Regt and we never remained long at a place we spent our time in marching - from place to place some times in pursuit of the enemy and sometimes retreating and at length we were stationed in the woods on the river Chickahominy where we were discharged. The third tour I was drafted as a private in the said Capt Lewis Holadays company from the aforesd County of Spottsylvania for a two months tour which I performed faithfully. I was at the siege of York [28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781] and the surrender of Lord Cornwallace [sic: Cornwallis] the 19<sup>th</sup> of Octo 1781. and was one of the guard who guarded some of the prisoners from York to Winchester and we gave up our arms when we returned to Fredericksburg at which place I was discharged. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any State. Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

John Coates Sr.

The amended declaration of John Coates Sr in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed June the 7<sup>th</sup> 1832, who states upon Oath that he is utterly unable to furnish the War Department with a more accurate account of his Revolutionary Services

relative to the periods lengths and grade of each time of service with the names of Officers than that given in the former declaration bearing date the 25<sup>th</sup> day of November 1835, a copy of which is herewith inclosed. He is considerably advanced in Years and his Memory very deficient to what it was in the early part of his life and he regrets very much indeed that he is unable to furnish the information above alluded to. The reason he did not make an earlier application to the War Department he removed shortly after the close of the Revolutionary war from the County of Spottsylvania in which he resided in the time of the Revolutionary War to the County of Halifax in which he now resides and did not know of any person by whom he could prove his services until a considerable time after the passage of the pension law, of the 7<sup>th</sup> June 1832. He received information in the aforesaid County of Halifax (from a Gentleman from Spottsylvania) that Thomas Cason and William Cason were then living whose affidavits are also herewith inclosed and after receiving the information aforesaid as soon as circumstances would permit Viz in November 1834. he visited the said Thomas Cason who then resided in the County of Caroline and William Cason who then resided in the County of Spottsylvania and he obtained their affidavits. But on his return to the County of Halifax he was informed that the affidavit of William Cason was not in due form, and he postponed the retaking of the said affidavit of William Cason until November 1835. He was compelled to make his visit at a leisure time of the year as it respected ploughing &c as he was at that time and remains to be the owner of only one horse he is in very indigent circumstances old and infirm. The distance from his residence to that of his witnesses is about 150 miles Consequently in making the two trips he traveled about 600 miles: And after completing his testimony and making his declaration before the County Court of Halifax he requested his agent Mel Sprague not to forward his papers by mail that he preferred that his papers should be presented by his Agent in person, and as such they were not presented to the War Department until very recently.

Subscribed to this 10<sup>th</sup> of August 1836. [signed] John Coates Sr

Spottsylvania County }  
 State of Virginia to wit }

I William Cason an old revolutionary Soldier of the county aforesaid do hereby certify that John Coates (now a citizen of the county of Halifax and State aforesaid) an old revolutionary Soldier marched with me in a tour of duty of six months in a company of Malitia the 10th day of June 1780 from the aforesaid county of Spottsylvania which said company was commanded by Capt. Minor of the aforesaid county of Spottsylvania; we continued together in the aforesaid company and march together to Hillsborough North Carolina at which place Capt. John Holladay took command of our company and we were marched from Hillsborough by the said Capt. Holladay under Genl. Stevens to Rutledge's Mills at which place we joined the main Army under Gen'l Gates the evening before the Battle near Camden in the State of S. C. which said Battle took place on the 16th day of August 1780; And then said Coates and myself were in said Battle; and I was taken a Prisoner in said Battle; consequently we were parted; and I saw the said Coates no more until I returned home which was after the expiration of the six months term of him the said Coates and from the frequent conversations which I have with said Coates after my return home before and immediately after the end of the revolutionary War I have no doubt but what he the said Coates did serve out the balance of the said six months faithfully and was honourably discharged. Given under my hand this sixth of Feb.[?] 1835 [signed] William Cason  
 [See also William Cason's pension application S9157. Thomas Cason deposed that he marched only as far as Petersburg with Coates; see Thomas Cason's pension application W8574.]

NOTE: For accounts of the replacement of Thomas Minor by John Holladay as Captain, see the pension applications of Thomas Minor (W5374) and of John Keeton (S13614).