

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Lafoy S10971

f58NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 10/9/08 & 10/26/14

[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. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. 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 skills fail 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 material errors or omissions to my attention.]

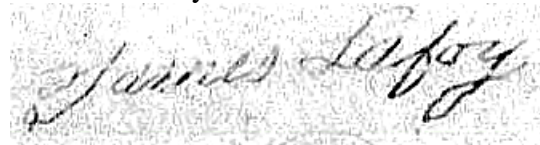
State of Alabama, County of Washington

On this twenty sixth day of May in the year Eighteen Hundred & thirty three personally appeared in open Court before the Honorable Joseph D. Lister Judge of the County Court of Washington County Alabama now sitting James Lafoy of said County of Washington aged Seventy five 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 7th June 1832. That he entered the service of the United States in Surry County, North Carolina under the following named officers. He entered a company as a private soldier commanded by Richard Goode, Captain; Joseph Winston was Major. He was drafted about the beginning of the War; was in an expedition against the Cherokee Indians [summer of 1776] and was under the command of General Christie [William Christian] from Virginia. This applicant served three months in the expedition. He does not remember the time when he entered the service. He lived in Surry County in North Carolina when he was drafted as before stated; went from Surry County to the Tennessee River about the mouth of Nickajack Creek and burnt some Indian Towns. Two or three years after this period and as this applicant believes early in December in the year 1777, it being understood that the British were about to land at Charleston, this applicant took the place of one Hutchins as a Substitute who was drafted for five months, and served as a drummer and was under Captain Peter Pinckney, Richard Goode, his former Captain, was Major. Lock [Francis Locke] was Colonel of the Regiment to which he belonged. This applicant went with his Regiment to South Carolina and afterwards to the neighborhood of Savannah River; was under General Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln], served the five months and then one month in addition under the orders of General Lincoln, because the reinforcements did not arrive. In the autumn of the Year 1779 this applicant joined a company of twelve months Cavalry volunteers raised by Captain William Sheppard [William Shepherd] in Surry County North Carolina, and served as a Trumpeter ranking as a private soldier. He was employed for the space of twelve months against the Tories. After the expiration of the twelve months the most of the Company determined to continue in the Service and elected Joseph Phillips Captain; was in a Battle with the Tories in which upwards of two hundred of them were defeated at the mouth of Rocky River in North Carolina [probably a reference to the engagement at Ramsour's Mill, June 20, 1780]. This battle was fought as the applicant believes in the month of June 1780. He then with his company joined a Regiment commanded by Colonel Benjamin Cleveland & was at the

Battle of King's Mountain [October 7, 1780], and was with Colonel Cleveland who commanded the left column, Col. Shelby [Isaac Shelby] commanded the middle and Col. Williams [James Williams], the right. Col. Campbell [William Campbell] was the commander in Chief. This applicant after the Battle of King's Mountain joined a company commanded by Captain Hill [Robert Hill] and again served as trumpeter it being a volunteer company of Cavalry, and was in the Battle with the British at Guilford [Court House], where General Greene [Nathanael Greene] commanded the American forces and Lord Cornwallis commanded the British. About tree months after the Battle of Guilford Court House, and as this applicant believes, in the month of June 1781, he joined a volunteer company of Cavalry and served as Trumpeter under the Command of Captain Minor Smith and went to the neighborhood of Cross Creek in North Carolina in pursuit of Colonel Fanning [David Fanning], a Tory. The Company to which he belonged was under the command of Colonel Smith and Major Grimes. From Cross Creek he went with his company to the neighborhood of Wilmington North Carolina, and had two Battles with the Tories and one Battle with the British at a Brick House [November 15, 1781] across the River opposite Wilmington. About this period, information was received of the surrender of Lord Cornwallis [October 19, 1781] and the company to which this applicant belonged was disbanded, and he returned to his residence in Surry County North Carolina. This applicant served under each of his commanders for the full time that the troop volunteered or was drafted for and was always regularly discharged, but does not recollect ever receiving but one written discharge which has been lost. He has no documentary evidence of the facts he has stated nor does he know of any person now living by whom he can prove them. This applicant served under Captain Cristie [sic, Capt. Goode?] three months, under Captain Pinckney six months, under Captain Sheppard Twelve months, under Captain Phillips one year and two months, under Captain Hill three months, under Captain Smith five months, making in all three years and five months and during all this period of his service ranked as a private soldier. This applicant was born in France in the Town of Bordeaux on the 20th September 1757 as appeared from a certificate of his birth signed by a French Priest once in his possession, which was copied into his Family Bible, the original certificate was lost with many other papers in a Creek in the Indian Nation in the year 1812 while this applicant was moving from Georgia to Alabama. This applicant came from France to the United States with his Father & Brother, who have since died, and from his early childhood until the year 1795 resided near Salem in Surry County North Carolina then removed to Abbeville District South Carolina and remained there until 1803 then removed to Franklin County, Georgia and remained there until the year 1812 when he removed to Washington County Alabama where he has resided until now, and where he will continue to reside.

This applicant hereby relinquishes 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.

S/ James Lafoy

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James Lafoy". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, slightly textured paper.

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ J. D. Lister, Judge

[John Shoemaker, a clergyman, and Samuel Frisbie gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

1st: When and in what year were you born?

Ansr: I was born in the City of Bordeaux in the Kingdom of France in the year 1757.

2nd Have you any record of you age and if so, where is it?

Ansr: I have a record of my age in my Bible at home.

3rd Where were you living when called into service? Where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Ansr: I was living in Surry County North Carolina and continued to live there until the year 1791; then emigrated to Pendleton District South Carolina and resided there and in Franklin County Georgia until the year 1812; then moved to Washington County Mississippi Territory (now Alabama state) where I have resided ever since and still remain.

4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer, or were you a substitute and if so for whom did you substitute?

Ansr: I was drafted to go against the Indians my first service; the second term I was a substitute for John Hutchins and the other times I was a volunteer.

5th State the names of some of the Regular Officers who were with the troops where you served, such Continental and Militia Regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Ansr: When I went out under Captain Pinckney I was a drummer in the militia service, and in each subsequent tour I was in the Horse troops and was Trumpeter. We were sometimes amongst the regular troops and was under Generals Lincoln & Greene.

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

Anrs: I received only one discharge and that was from Major Goode for one term of service which discharge has long since been destroyed.

7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood, and who can testify to your character for veracity and good behavior and your services as a Soldier of the Revolution.

Ansr: the Honorable William Crawford, Ptolemy T. Harris, John H. Owen Esq., James Magoffin Esquire and many other men of high respectability.

S/ J. D. Lister, Judge Cty. Ct.

[On February 18, 1836 in Washington County, Alabama, Lafoy filed another application giving a shorter version of his services but essentially restating what was set forth in his earlier application. P 40-41. This application was supported by James Myers, a clergyman, and Joseph Black giving the standard supporting affidavit.]

State of Alabama, Washington County April 16th, 1836

Personally came before me William Grimes a Justice of the peace in and for said County James Lafoy who being duly sworn according to law on his oath makes the following statement to wit. That the first tour of service mentioned in his declaration (hereto annexed) amounted to £17 and some shillings the exact amount he does not now recollect and that his pay was 2 shillings per day which would make a term of service over 5 months he further states that he does not recollect the year in which this service was rendered but that it may the succeeding year a treaty was held with the Cherokee Indians at the long Island on Holston River.

This deponent further declares that from the lapse of time his great age and consequent loss of memory he cannot state the precise time he served in each tour but that it was as near as he has stated in his declaration as he is able to recollect, but as to the general circumstances of the service it made such a lasting impression on his mind that he can state them with some degree of precision.

Sworn to & subscribed before me
S/ William Grimes, JP

S/ James Lafoy

Mr Lafoy states that during his 3rd tour of service which was under Captain Shepherd he was stationed at Surry Court house in North Carolina that during this tour the Company to which he belonged went to Chisels' lead mines on New River and brought 200 pounds of lead each for the use of the public. That at the same term he went in pursuit of a Colonel Roberts that was collecting some Tories about the Flower Gap in the mountains and followed him to the three forks of New River, but that Roberts made his escape into South Carolina to the British. That the principal business of the company was to keep order and reconnoitered the country to discover the movements of the British & Tories.

That in his 4th tour he was under Joseph Philips that during this term they defeated a company of Tories on Pedee [River] after this they heard of another Company made by a man named Reid that they went after them and took them and carried Reid to Moravian town in North Carolina found that he had a commission from the British and there they hanged him and Mr Lafoy states that during all the time he was in the Horse troops the made Surry Courthouse North Carolina there place of refuge and there they had forage for their Horses & provisions for themselves but that the chief part of their time they were scouting after the enemy in some direction &c

Subscribed before me
S/ William Grimes

S/ James Lafoy

State of Alabama, County of Washington

On this __ day of August in the year A.D. 1836 personally appeared in open Court before the Court of Common Pleas now sitting James Lafoy a resident of the State and County aforesaid age 79 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 7, 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States or the State of North Carolina (but which he does not know) before the declaration of Independence to go against the hostile Cherokee Indians for this tour he was drafted under Captain Richard Goode & Major Joseph Winston and served as ~~drummer~~ during this term Burnt the Indian towns on Tennessee River about Nickajack, but this deponent does not recollect the date of the year nor the length of service, but distinctly recollects that his pay was 2 shillings per day and that the whole amounted to upwards of 17£ therefore he believes he served 5 months & two thirds or 6 months, but is unable to state the precise time.

This deponent states that his 2nd tour was as a substitute for John Hutchins under Peter Pinckney Captain Major Goode & Colonel Locke that the Company was to go to Charleston but on their way they heard Cornwallis had left that place and landed at

Savannah they changed their course and went to Purrysburg above Savannah and there joined General Lincoln. That in this tour they rendezvoused at Salisbury NC about the first of December 1777 but does not recollect the very day of the month he remembers distinctly that they were at the High hills of Santee on Christmas Day and crossed the River at the Eutaw Springs. That in this tour he was detained one month over his term of engagement waiting reinforcements to join the Army and was discharged the first of June 1778 that for this term he received a discharge from Colonel Locke and went to Charleston to see his father in this last mentioned tour he served as drummer and for 6 months as he believes.

This applicant states that his 3rd tour of service was as follows. That in August 1778 at a General muster in his County it was stated that each County had to raise a Horse Company to suppress insurrections in their state for one year, that for this purpose he volunteered under Captain William Shepherd their first expedition was over the mountains to Chisels' Lead mines on New River after lead and brought 200 pounds each on their horses to Surry Court House NC after this they went out as Rangers in pursuit of Tories but our Station was at Surry Court House when not otherwise engaged during this tour we went in pursuit of a gang of Tories commanded by Colonel Roberts he fled we pursued him over the mountains he went into South Carolina and we returned to our station in this chase we joined a company from Wilkes County.

This applicant states that his 4th term was as follows to wit. That Captain Joseph Philips who had been acting as a recruiting officer, proposed to command a company of volunteers (or as he understood at the time enlisted man) for the purpose of suppressing all disorder and crime by Tories or otherwise, that he joined Captain Philips about the first of November 1779 with the understanding that they were to remain [in] service to the end of the war, soon after joining Captain Philips they went after a company of Tories collected under Colonel Bryan in the fork of the Yadkin River he fled for South Carolina our company hearing of a body of Tories further down the Yadkin went on them defeated them killing some and taking some prisoners & then returned to Surry Court house, that on their return to their Stationed they heard of a Captain Reed who had raised a company of Tories in the lower part of Surry County they went immediately in pursuit of them took them all and carried them to Moravian town NC searched Captain Reed found he was commissioned by the British a Captain over the Tories, he was taken out and hanged &c. They then joined the troops of Wilkes & Rowan counties and went to meet a Colonel Ferguson who was marching through the Country he turned his course for King's Mountain at which place we fell in with them and defeated them by killing & capturing their whole force amounting as he believes to upwards of 1000 man, that in this battle his company was under the command of Colonel Cleveland: but that Colonel Campbell was the head commander after the battle the British prisoners were sent to the North he does not recollect to what place, that the troops where he belonged to charge of the Tories and started from King's Mountain to Moravian town with them but hearing that the British was about to head them to release the prisoners turned their course through the mountains and arrived safe at Moravian town, the prisoners were kept there in a large house built for that purpose, that on their return to this place Captain Philips had become so exhausted by privations and fatigue likewise old age, that he declined further service; Consequently we were dismissed by Captain Philips as he believes 1st December 1780.

This applicant further states that his 5th tour was as follows to wit. That early in 1781 Cornwallis was marching through the Country spreading terror & confusion wherever

he went. That the first February 1781, he volunteered under Captain Robert Hill, Joseph Winston Major for the purpose of driving Cornwallis out of the Country; when Cornwallis heard of the intended attack to be made on him he left Hillsboro NC for the South that they met with him at Guilford on the 15th of March 1781 after which Cornwallis fled from there and they returned home to their former Station; was out at this time 3 weeks as he believes.

About the first of July 1781 heard of Colonel Fanning's success against the Whigs down the Country that his Company went immediately in pursuit of Colonel Fanning but he fled and they went on down the Country after the Tories, heard of some British Stationed at a brick House near Wilmington went there found it a dangerous undertaking to take the house by storm it being well secured by pickets &c they then sent for a field piece to beat down the House, but heard Cornwallis taken and the war at an end. During this tour he was under Captain Mynard Smith [Maynard Smith], Major Graham and Colonel Smith and that they returned home the first of December 1781. That during his whole service except the 2 first tours he belonged to the light Horse troops and was bugler or trumpeter.

This applicant avers that he lived in Surry County North Carolina at the time he entered the service and remained there till after the close of the war, that he does not know who was regular officers nor the numbers of any Regiment that he was attached to but that he has in the above declaration given a schedule of his services and could relate a great deal more corroborated in with the same if necessary in this applicant further declares that he does not know of any person by whom he can prove the facts of his service &c &c

He hereby relinquishes 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. Sworn to & subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ James Lafoy

[James Myers, a clergyman, and Joseph A. Huber gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[On December 3, 1838, Lafoy gave yet another declaration before Josiah D. Lister claiming his pension rights under the 1832 Act. Fn pp. 52, et. seq. He adds some details such as a reference to going to the Two Sisters Ferry on Savannah during the tour to Purrysburg; that Col. Williams was killed at King's Mountain; that 10 Tories were sentenced to be hanged by a Court Martial held after the Battle of King's Mountain; that General Pickens was at the Battle of Guilford.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$58.33 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831 for service as a private in the infantry & cavalry as a trumpeter tear for 8 months as a private of infantry, 4 months as a private in the cavalry and 3 months as a private serving as a trumpeter tear.]