

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Robert Stewart S1256

f17VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

4/26/12

[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 Kentucky County of Owen: SS

On this 30th day of August 1833 personally appeared before Jacob H Smith a Justice of the Peace in and for Owen County and a member of the Owen County Court Robert Stewart a resident of said County of Owen in the State of Kentucky aged seventy-eight years who from bodily infirmity is unable to attend the proper Court and 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 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated viz.: Being a resident of the County of Powhatan in the State of Virginia he did in the month of March in the year 1777 as well as he remembers entered the service of the United States as a private volunteer Soldier in the company of Captain Forrest upon a term of six months and was immediately appointed by his Captain orderly Sergeant of said company and served as such during the whole of said Tour. He states that he rendezvoused with his said company at the Courthouse in Powhatan County Virginia and was immediately marched with his said Company to Manchester on James River opposite Richmond Virginia where he was kept stationed for some time and was then taken across the River to Richmond where he remained in garrison under Colonel Willis during the residue of his tour of duty from which after having fully and faithfully served as orderly Sergeant as aforesaid during the whole period thereof he was honorably discharged and returned home.

He further states and declares that in the month of September 1778 as well as he remembers he again entered the service of the United States as a volunteer upon a tour of three months in the company of Captain James Stone and was immediately elected Lieutenant thereof and served as such during the whole period of his said tour. That William Stephens was elected Ensign. He states that he rendezvoused with his Company at the Courthouse in the County of Powhatan where he still resided and that he marched with his Company from thence to Petersburg Virginia on the Appomattox River and was there stationed during the whole of his term of service his Company constituting the Garrison of that place.

He further states and declares that in the month of May 1779 as well as he wrote remembers he assisted in raising a Company of volunteers to serve upon a tour of three months, which company was designed to assist in guarding the coats [sic, coasts?] and protecting the Country from the depredations of the British. That the Company was raised and entered the service during the same month viz. May 1779 by the request and under the direction of Col.

Holkinn [?]<sup>1</sup> —that he this declarant upon the organization of the Company by the free voice thereof was elected Captain and served as such to said Company during the whole of said period of three months. That he rendezvoused his said Company at the house of this declarant's father in Powhatan County and joined Col. Holkinn who had collected several other Companies of volunteers & militia and was marched by him towards Portsmouth Virginia which place was then in possession of the British under General Matthews but was evacuated by them before they reached its vicinity – that the British had destroyed an immense amount of public & private property at Portsmouth, Norfolk, Suffolk and other places in their vicinity. He states that he was stationed at Suffolk with his Company by his Colonel to protect that place and the Country round about from the depredations of the British – that he remained in the service till the expiration of his tour when his Company was discharged and he returned home. He recollects upon this tour to have seen General Lawson, Colonels Holkinn, Parker & Green.

He further states and declares that early in the spring 1780 he moved to Kentucky and landed at the falls of Ohio in the latter part of March 1780 where there was some troops under the command of General Clarke [George Rogers Clark] at which he remained for some weeks (about three weeks) and then went to Bryans Station and remained in the Fort at that place and assisted in its protection & defense till August of the same year viz. 1780.

He further states and declares that in August 1780 he again entered the service of the United States as a volunteer upon a tour of three months in Captain Donaldson's Company – that he was immediately elected Lieutenant of the said company by the free voice thereof and served as such during the whole of his tour – that John Snelling was elected Ensign – He states that he was marched by General Clarke upon an expedition across the Ohio to Piccaway [Piqua] the principal Indian town on one of the forks of the Miami [River] – which was taken & destroyed & the corn destroyed and the Indians dispersed. A good many of the Indians were killed and the Army lost between 15 and 20 men. He states that after performing this service he returned & was kept stationed with a part of his company at the Fort at Bryans Station during the balance of his term of service.

He states and declares that soon after the expiration of his above named term of service he left Bryans Station and went to Boons Station [Boone's Station] where he remained during the year 1781 except when absent as an Indian Spy – that he did in the month of April 1781 as well as he now remembers entered the service as a volunteer Indian Spy under Major Harlan for the term of six months and continued actively engaged as such during the whole term of his said engagement. That his duties as such required him to assist in ranging a large tracts of wilderness between Boons Station and the Ohio River.

He further states and declares that in January 1782 he went from Boons to Ashton's Station. In the month of May as well as he remembers the Indians killed a man at that Station whose name he has forgotten and carried off a Negro the property of Captain Ashton. Captain Ashton immediately raised a company of about 25 or 30 men and he this declarant became a volunteer soldier therein the period of engagement was in definite and Captain Ashton forthwith engaged in the pursuit of the Indians and on the second day they overtook them and had a severe action in which Captain Ashton and eight of the men were killed & several other men severely wounded – the balance of the Company including this declarant were compelled to retreat and they returned to the Fort at Ashton's Station. He states that soon after their return to the Fort they

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*Col. Holkinn.*

received a small reinforcement from Hoys Station which swelled their numbers to about 30 effective men and this declarant was elected Captain of said company and took the command thereof by the consent of Colonel Logan and by his order took charge of the Fort at said Station. It was about the 1st June 1782 that he took command of said company and fort as above stated and he continued at the Fort and in the command thereof till sometime in August of the same year when he was called upon by Colonel Logan to join him with his said Company to assist in the pursuit of a large body of Indians and Canadians who had besieged Bryans Station and were then retreating that he accordingly obeyed the call and joined him with his Company somewhere between the 10th & 20th of that month – that he went in pursuit of them under Colonel Logan and they calculated upon overtaking and reinforcing Colonel Boone & others who were already before them – that the day after they set out they met Colonel Boone & some of the men who went out with him and from them they learned the disaster at the Blue Licks [August 19, 1782] – they kept on to the Battleground which presented a frightful spectacle and collected and buried the dead – that General Clarke directed a pursuit of the Indians and he continued with his company as Captain thereof upon the expedition – they pursued them to their Towns, old Chilicothe, new Chilicothe, Piccaway &c and burned them and destroyed their corn. As soon as the object of the expedition was completed they returned and he this declarant by the instructions of Colonel Logan again stationed himself at the Fort at Ashton's Station and continued in the command thereof and of his said Company till about the 1st November 1782 about which time all further danger from the savages disappeared. He states that he served as Captain during the said year from the 1st of June till the 1st of November comprising a period of 5 months during which time he served constantly and faithfully in said capacity – that he served as a private in said company under Captain Ashton for about two weeks comprising the time previous & subsequent to his death up to the time of his (declarant's) election as Captain – that the period of engagement when he entered Captain Ashton's Company was not fixed – that when he took command of the Company there was no time specified for its continuance in the service – the Indians were exceedingly troublesome during that year as all who were in Kentucky at the time can testify and it required the constant and unremitted exertions of all the able-bodied men in the country to protect it from there incursions.

He further states and declares that he performed various services upon a small scouting parties against the Indians over and above those already enumerated but he cannot now from his advanced age and loss of memory state them with any degree of precision. He is certain, however, that he did perform the services above named at the times and in the manner stated. He is certain from his present best recollection that he did not serve less than six months as an Indian Spy – six months as an orderly Sergeant, six months as Lieutenant and eight months as Captain of Companies during the War of the Revolution and for those services he asks his Country for a pension.

He states that he has no documentary evidence of his services and that he at this time knows of no person except Jacob Hunter and Sherwood Maddox by whom he can prove them or any part thereof.

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 and subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ Robert Stewart, X his mark

Interrogatories propounded to the above applicant by Jacob H Smith the Justice of the Peace

above mentioned

1<sup>st</sup> Where and in what year were you born?

Answer. I was born in Powhatan County Virginia in the year 1755 from the best information which I have on the subject.

2<sup>nd</sup> Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

Answer. I have a record of my age in my Bible.

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

Answer. I lived in Powhatan County Virginia when I entered the service upon my three first tours in 1780 I moved to Kentucky and resided there when I entered the service upon my other tours of duty. Since the revolutionary war I have lived in Fayette County Kentucky till about 18 years ago when I moved to the County of Gallatin now Owen County Kentucky on Eagle Creek and have there continued to reside ever since.

4<sup>th</sup> How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom?

Answer. I was a volunteer in all the services which I performed.

5<sup>th</sup> State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Answer. I recollect to have seen in my service in Virginia Colonels Willis & Green & General Steuben who I believe were regular officers. I recollect also in the same service Colonels Holkinn and Parker who were militia officers. In my service in Kentucky I recollect General Clarke and Colonels Todd, Logan, Trigg and Boone before my first tour I served as orderly Sergeant in the company of Captain Forrest a portion of the tour I spent in Garrison at Manchester Virginia on James River and the balance of the time at Richmond Virginia under Colonel Willis. Upon my second tour I served as Lieutenant in the company of Captain James Stone and was kept stationed at Petersburg Virginia on the Appomattox River. Upon my third tour I served as Captain of my Company which I raised under the instruction of Colonel Holkinn. Virginia was then invaded by General Matthews who had his headquarters at Portsmouth but before we reached the vicinity of that place he had evacuated it. After this I moved to Kentucky and in August 1780 I entered the service as Lieutenant in the company of Captain Donaldson. We were engaged upon an expedition conducted by General Clark against Piccaway which we took & burned & dispersed the Indians. In 1781 I acted as Indian Spy for six months under Major Harlan. In May 1782 I volunteered upon an expedition against a party of Indians in the Company of Captain Ashton and we had a Battle with the Indians and were defeated – Captain Ashton & eight of the men were killed. Upon our return to the Fort at Ashton's Station I was elected Captain of the Company and continued in the command thereof from that time till 1st November following. Most of that period was spent in the Fort of which I had the command. In August 1782 I joined an expedition against the Indians with a company and came under the command of Colonel Logan. On this expedition we buried the dead after the battle of the Blue Licks & pursued the Indians and burnt their Towns and destroyed the corn.

6<sup>th</sup> 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 received a discharge signed by my Captain from my 1st tour which I have lost. This was the only discharge I ever received.

6th. Did you ever receive a Commission and if so by whom was it signed and what has become

of it?

Answer. I received a commission as Lieutenant in the tour which I first performed as such, which was signed by the Governor of Virginia and which I have lost – this was the only commission I received though I afterwards acted first as Captain whilst I remained in Virginia & afterwards as Lieutenant & Captain in Kentucky.

7<sup>th</sup> 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 in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

Answer. I will name John Cobb and James Baxter as persons to whom I am known.

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid

S/ Robert Stewart, X his mark

[James Baxter, a clergyman, and John Cobb gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

The deposition of Lewis Vallandingham<sup>2</sup> taken in the Town of Owenton Owen County Kentucky on the 31st day of August 1833 to be used on behalf of Robert Stewart an applicant to be placed on the pension roll of the United States as a revolutionary officer and soldier – this deponent being first duly sworn states that he is a resident of Owen County Kentucky and is on the pension roll as a soldier of the revolution under the act of June 7th 1832 – he states that he is acquainted with the said Stewart and knew him slightly during the revolution – that the first time he ever saw him was at Bryans Station sometime in the year 1780 – he saw him frequently afterwards in Kentucky during the revolution and knows that he served as Indian Spy and as an officer but he cannot state what his services were particularly – he thinks he served once as a Lieutenant perhaps in Captain Donaldson's Company and he is impressed with the belief that he afterwards had the command of at the Fort at Ashton's Station – he is very certain that he also served at some time after 1780 as a Captain upon some expedition against the Indians during the war – he states that he has no doubt but that said Stewart served faithfully as an officer & soldier for he was highly esteemed at the time by those who were intimately acquainted with him and much commanded for his bravery.

He states that the said Stewart now lives in Owen County Kentucky.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

S/ Lewis Vallandingham, X his mark

The deposition of Sherwood Maddox<sup>3</sup> taken at the house of the subscribing Justice on the 31st of August 1833 to be used in favor of Robert Stewart a revolutionary soldier – this deponent being of lawful age and duly sworn deposes and says that he is now about 72 years of age and is on the pension roll of the United States as a revolutionary soldier under the act of 7th of June 1832 – that during the revolution he was a resident of Powhatan County Virginia and was then well acquainted with the said Robert Stewart who was at that time a resident of the same County and so continued till about 1780 when he moved to Kentucky – that while the said Stewart was living in Powhatan County during the war, he this deponent remembers that he served in the company of Captain Forrest. He also recollects that he served in the company of Captain Stone as a subaltern officer he thinks as Lieutenant. He is indeed convinced that he did so serve as a Lieutenant in the said company. This deponent also recollects that afterwards the said Stewart as he at the time understood raised a company of volunteers – he saw the company paraded at the

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<sup>2</sup> [Lewis Vallandingham \(Vallandigham\) W2977](#)

<sup>3</sup> FPA W2823

house of the father of the said Stewart who lived in the immediate neighborhood of the residence of this deponent and was there present when the company started into the service and the said Stewart had the command of the company and was said to be its Captain – this deponent cannot say how long said Stewart served but knows that he was absent upon each occasion for some time some time after the return of said Stewart from the mentioned tour which he performed as Captain as above named he moved to Kentucky as deponent understood which he thinks was about 1780 – a few years after deponent came to Kentucky he met with the said Stewart and they renewed their acquaintance and for 18 years past they have lived within 8 or 9 miles of each other. He further states that he and said Stewart both lived in Owen County – that Stewart is a man of high esteem as an honorable and truthful man and has been confined to his house by bodily infirmity for about 12 months past and is now so infirm that he does not believe him able to attend court to make his declaration.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

S/ Sherwood Maddox, X his mark

Also the deposition of Jacob Hunter<sup>4</sup> taken at the same time and place as the above and for the same purpose who being 1st duly sworn deposed and saith – That he lives in Owen County Kentucky and has lately made his declaration to be placed on the pension roll of the United States as a revolutionary soldier which has not yet been acted upon that he knows of – he states that he was well acquainted with Robert Stewart of Owen County Kentucky who is about making his application to be placed on the pension roll & made his declaration before Jacob H Smith a Justice of the Peace for Owen County for that purpose on yesterday – that he became acquainted with him at Bryans Station in 1780 and knew him intimately till some years after the war but has heard nothing from him for a number of years until since this deponent made his own declaration and presumed that he was dead – this deponent saw him yesterday having gone for that purpose to his house – this deponent also states that the said Stewart served as Lieutenant in the company of Captain Donaldson in the expedition of General Clarke against Piccaway in 1780 – this deponent served in the same expedition and frequently saw said Stewart – this deponent also states that said Stewart served some time in 1781 as a spy but how long he can't say – this deponent also states that in the year 1782 the said Stewart was at Ashton's Station and had the command of the Fort after Captain Ashton was killed by the Indians in a battle – this deponent was there once in that year and saw him – he the said Stewart was also during the same year in the expedition against the Indians after the battle of the Blue Licks and had the command of a company under Colonel Logan. This deponent was also in said expedition this deponent thinks that he could not have acted as a Captain in 1782 less than 5 or 6 months and perhaps more – he may have acted much longer for Captain Ashton was killed in May and the Indians continued very troublesome till late in the fall – the tour that said Stewart took as a Lieutenant under Captain Donaldson was for 3 months.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

S/ Jacob Hunter, X his mark

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$283.33 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service for 8 months as a Captain; 6 months as a Lieutenant; 6 months as a Sergeant; and 4 months as a private in the Virginia militia.]

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<sup>4</sup> FPA W9046