

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of Arthur Travis S1262
Transcribed by Will Graves

fn15SC
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State of Kentucky, Livingston County

On this third day of December 1832, before John Smedley, Christopher Haynes and David W. Patterson Esquires, justices of the County Court of the County and State aforesaid, now sitting, Arthur Travis, a resident of said County and State, aged sixty nine 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 7th, 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated:

In the early part of the year 1780, in the County of Chester, State of South Carolina, I was drafted in the militia of that state as a private to stand a tour through the Summer of that year against the British and Tories. In this service I belonged to the Regiment commanded by Colonel Lacey [Edward Lacey] and in the Company commanded by Captain McGrief [sic, probably Patrick McGriff] and by Captain Hardridge [?]. Shortly after rendezvousing, we joined General Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter] and remained under his command during the whole service; and the principal part of which time I was a spy selected out of my company. In this capacity I endured many hardships and dangers as the Country at that time was overrun with Tories and small British detachments and the enemy had established many posts in the Country. After the reduction of Charleston (which happened in May of the same year) it was impossible for us to take a stand and we had constantly to shift our quarters. The Whigs were generally in small companies and various officers doing whatever in their power, but they were not able to effect much, until the arrival of General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] with an Army from the Northward. During this time (the summer of 1780) General Sumter collected all the troops in his power and took a stand at Ramsour's Mill in North Carolina; from thence after a short stay he returned to South Carolina. The news of the approach of some regular troops, and of the coming of General Gates [Horatio Gates] to the South encouraged many Whigs to joined the Army, and Sumter's Army increased after reaching that state. In August (I think) Sumter lay on the West side of the Wateree [River], where some of the South Carolina militia joined him, and in the same month, not far from Camden, we captured an escort of clothing, ammuniton &c. for the Garrison at Camden, and took a good many prisoners. After the battle of Camden, and the defeat of Gates, General Sumter immediately retreated up the South side of the Wateree with his prisoners, but after marching with all the speed in diligence in his power, we were overtaken at the Catawba Ford and defeated by Tarlton [sic, Banastre Tarleton], who came upon us by surprise and killed a good many of our men. After this disaster, many of that South Carolina troops returned home, but some remained, and re-assembled and amongst that latter was myself, and the most of my company; and still remained under Sumter who still remained in the field, and we were constantly engaged in restraining foraging parties from Camden and other places. We lay encamped on Broad River where we had a sharp conflict with a British detachment, in which they were repulsed, with the loss of their commanding officer and several men. After this action we crossed Broad River and formed a junction with Col. Clarke [Elijah Clarke] and a

Colonel Brannon [sic, Thomas Brandon], and marched towards 96; but hearing of the approach of a British reinforcement he changed his plan and retreated as fast as possible to the Tyger River; but before crossing it, Tarleton came up and commenced the attack, but was repulsed with considerable loss. Our loss was but few. Shortly after this (I think in January 1781) I was taken a prisoner by the Tories, and carried to the British Army under Cornwallis, and detained a short time, when I was released and immediately entered my old company. The battle of Rocky Mount was fought in the year 1780, in which I was engaged, under Sumter, but which I omitted to mention before. This was a British fortification and Sumter endeavored to storm it, but failed after two attacks and some loss. Our forces were divided into three divisions led by Colonels Neal, Brandon & Bratton, and the attack was made from three points at the same time. Colonel Neal's division (in which I was that day) advanced through our old field and was much exposed. Colonel Neal was killed in the attack on this place. -- after my release from the British, I was now and then engaged against the Tories during the year 1781 -- and indeed I was a spy almost constantly during that year, but not being always in service, I cannot now speak of the precise length of time, nor say how many tours I was out, nor how long each time. These things must therefore pass for nothing. But from the time I first entered the service in the early part of 1780 to my release from imprisonment which was about first February 1781, I was in constant service as much as eight months at the least. How long I remained in the same service, after being released, and after rejoining my old company, I do not now remember, but it was not long. I therefore claim for eight months only, and for this much I know I am entitled. After the War, I enlisted under Captain Herman Davis to go a campaign under General Wayne and was detained over five months in Charleston on account of this service and was there discharged, which I sold to a Jew for a few goods. I declare that I know of no person now living with whom I served, and who can prove my service, but I have brother with whom I was raised and he knows of my serving as a Soldier of the revolution. I have no documentary evidence that will prove it, having received no written discharge from my service under Sumter. There is one Josiah Hill with whom I served, who moved to Alabama several years ago, and I have since heard he is did -- if he was living I could prove all I have stated. I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present -- and declare that my name is not on the pension roll of the Agency of any State whatever. And the court propounded the following questions to the said Travis directed by the War Department, to which he made the subjoined answers.

Question by the court

1. Where and in what year were you born? Answer I was born in the County of Rowan, State of North Carolina on the 26th day of June 1764.
2. Have you any record of your age, and if so where is it? Answer: I have the family record in a family Bible at home.
3. Where were you living when called into service; where have you lived since the Revolutionary war, and where do you now live? Answer: I was living in the County of Chester, State of South Carolina, where I entered the service; and I remained there until the year 1779 when I moved to this Country where I have lived ever since.
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 was drafted.
5. 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. Answer: I served altogether with militia, under Sumter, and did not personally know any regular officers. As to militia regiments, I know of Colonel Brandon's, Bratton's, Neal's and Lacey's and some North Carolina regiments but the officers names I do not now remember.
6. Did you ever receive a discharge and if so by whom was it given and what has become of it? Answer: I received no discharge from the service under Sumter, as his troops were pretty well dispersed before I was released as a prisoner, and my Captain gave no discharges that I know

of.

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: William Hughes, James Wheeler, William Stewart, Esquire, William Clark, James Cruse Esq., Colonel Joseph Hughes, and many others are known to me, and would testify as to my character.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Arthur Travis

And on the same day John Travis, a resident of said County, came personally into Court, and being duly sworn, deposed on oath, that he is the brother of the above named Arthur Travis whom he has known from his earliest recollection. That he (the said John) was born on the third day of November 1773 – that the said Arthur did enter the service in the County of Chester South Carolina, and was afterwards taken a prisoner as he has stated in his declaration. That the said John, well remembers when his brother returned from the War. That he himself was too young to engage in the War but he distinctly remembers that his brother Arthur did serve in it as stated.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/John Travis

[John Travis, a clergyman, William Clark, James Wheeler and William Hughes gave the standard supporting affidavit.]