

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of John Christian S12689

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Kentucky }
County of Fayette } S.S.

On this first day of December 1832 personally appeared in open court before C. Hunt Esq'r. Mayor of the city of Lexington, now sitting John Christian a resident of said city, aged eighty 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 was born in Ireland in the year 1752, and came to America in 1760; that his father had a record of his age, but he does not know what has become of it; that he resided on Clynch river [sic: Clinch River] in Fincastle & afterwards in Washington county, when he was called into service; that after the war terminated, he lived some years in East Tennessee, and then removed to Kentucky where he has resided ever since.

That he entered as a volunteer in Captain D. Smiths [Daniel Smith's] company in an expedition against the Cherokee Indians in the year 1776, and remained on duty in that service from 1st Aug't. until sometime in September. For two months prior to that time he had been regularly enrolled in the frontier troops to guard against the Indians and served as such, drawing pay & rations. And in the year 1777-8-9-80 & 1781 he was each year not less than four months each year in actual service on the same frontier. Col. Arthur Campbell commanded the militia of the county during the whole time. Capt. Smith was afterwards promoted to be Col. or Lieut. Colonel, and John Kincaid was made Captain. William Bowen was also a lieutenant in the company and was afterwards promoted to be captain.

He was frequently during his service, engaged in short expeditions against predatory bands of Indians who occasionally infested the frontier. He was not during that time in any battle with the Indians; but he was engaged in the battle of Kenhawa in 1774 against the Shawanees [sic: Battle of Point Pleasant against Shawnee Indians, 10 Oct 1774], as a private in Capt. Andrew Lockeridges [sic: Andrew Lockridge's] company, under Col. Charles Lewis, who was killed in the battle. He never received a discharge from his service, neither has he any documents to shew his services, nor are there any living witnesses in his reach, by whom to prove them. He is entirely blind, and has been so for 23 years, and is unable to procure evidence which might be perhaps otherwise obtained. Sometime during Mr Monroe's administration [4 Mar 1817 - 4 Mar 1825], he applied to the government for a pension, and then filed in the department at the city, the testimony of Capt. John Kincaid, proving the leading facts of the above statement, to which he refers for the truth thereof.

He refers also to Mr. M. McCalla, Doctor Pindell, John Norton, Robert Frazer, W. T. Barry to testify as to his veracity, and the belief of his having served as a soldier of the revolution.

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 and year aforesaid; John hisXmark Christian

Lexington 3 Dec'r. 1832.

Dear Sir [George Breathitt, Esq. Washington]. I forward the declaration & proof in case of John Christian [several illegible words] applying for a pension under the late law. His case is so very simple that it can be easily decided, and his situation is so critical, that I must beg an early decision of it. He has been blind for 23 years, has an old wife, who with himself would have been sent to the poor house, but for the humanity of an old woman, who is also poor. This man has supported himself for many years by selling almanacs, but was knocked down in the street about two months since, and has been a cripple ever

since, by a horse running against him.

I sent another case, that old Mr Parkers to your care last week. Excuse me for thus troubling you.
I hope to see you in a few days or weeks in the city./ Your sincere friend/ Jn. M. McCalla