

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of John Parker S14081

VA PA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Kentucky } SS.

City of Lexington }

On this 26th day of November 1832, personally appeared in open court, before Charlton Hunt Esq'r. Mayor of the city aforesaid, John Parker Sen'r. resident of the count of Fayette and state aforesaid aged 78 years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth, on his oath, make the following statement, in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7, 1832.

That he was born near Valley forge, above Philadelphia on the 3^d Sept'r. 1750, as is shown by the family record of his fathers family, which is now in his possession. That he went to Louisa county, Virginia, in the year 1774, where he remained with his uncle, the Rev'd Mr Todd, until February 1776, when he joined the regiment of minute men under Col Samuel Meredith. It was on Sunday, after a sermon from his uncle, of a patriotic character, that he enlisted, together with many others of the congregation. He remembers that one of the elders, by the name of Terrell, enlisted at the same time In a few days he marched to Williamsburg, where the regiment was formed under the Colonel. The regiment had been raised to go to Carolina to quell the tories, but before they arrived at Williamsburg, other troops had been sent, and his regiment was ordered to Hampton to guard that place, as the British then lay at Guinns island [sic: Gwynn Island]. Here his regiment remained several months, when it was ordered to Portsmouth and Norfolk, where it remained until about the 1st January 1777, when it was regularly discharged He has long since lost his discharge. His service at that time was nearly eleven months.

He then went to Philadelphia to his friends, where in a few weeks, he was commissioned as a Captain of artificers, by Gen'l. John Bull of Norristown, he having the charge of erecting two forts on the banks of the Delaware, for the protection of Philadelphia. He immediately raised a company of forty men, for the purpose, and commenced about the 1st of March 1777 at Billingsport, where they built a small fort, and mounted four pieces of cannon in it, one of which was mounted higher, as an alarm gun, to give notice up the river of the approach of the enemy at the mouth. A few days after, they were ordered up the river to Red Bank opposite to Mud-island fort [Fort Mifflin], near to where many hands were employed in sinking cheveaux de frize [sic: chevaux de frise: spiked logs used to block ships]. They there built a strong fort to protect that place should the enemy attack it by land. This work being nearly completed, he went up to the city settled his accounts & resigned, having recommended Mr. Robert McGowan [pension application W8445], as his successor, which was granted. During his service as Captain of the artificers, he and his men constantly practised as artillerymen, and were intended to act as such in case of an attack being made. There was Captain Connelly from the city, who frequently drilled them at the guns. He knew at the forts, Capts Anderson & Major Ziegler. General Bull laid off the forts, and a Mr Armstrong was the surveyor, he himself several times carried the chain. He served in that capacity six months, but has lost his commission, and has no written or documentary proof to show that he has served as he has stated.

In Sept'r '77 he thinks it was, whilst he was near the valley forge, after the battle of Brandywine [11 Sep 1777], when the enemy were crossing the Schuylkill, he was requested by his father in law, with whom he was then residing, to act in his room as a guide to a scouting party which was about to be sent to observe the movements of the enemy. He went with the party which consisted of 6 or 8 files of cavalry, and having conducted them to the crossing point, he was a witness with them of the movements of the enemy after having crossed, and for several miles on their way towards Philadelphia. The party kept on the flank of the enemy at a cautious distance until they were surprised by a party of our own men in disguise, who conducted them as prisoners to where a regiment of U States troops were halted, the

commander of which recognising him, he and the scouts were discharged.

Soon afterwards he removed to Louisa county Virginia, where in January 1778 he was appointed a waggon master, with superintendance over twelve teams, two of which were his own. This appointment he received from Mr Jno Moore [John Moore] of Charlottesville, who was acting as Quarter Master Gen'l. under the order of Col Harvey, and was preparing for the reception of the prisoners of Burgoyne's army [Burgoyne's army captured at Saratoga on 17 Oct 1777 and brought to Albemarle Barracks near Charlottesville in Jan 1779]. Under that appointment he received Captains pay, viz forty dollars a month, and forage for one horse. While the teams were preparing, he went to Williamsburg, by order of Mr Moore for a large sum of money, which he brought safely, and delivered over to him. His own two teams were appraised by Mr Woodson & another gentleman, his name not now remembered. His teams were engaged for twelve months, if they should be so long wanted. He paraded the teams in Charlotteville and went to business, in which post he remained thirteen months, during which time he drew his pay as he wanted it; but lost very much in consequence of the depreciation of the continental currency, in which he was paid off. He resigned after serving the time above named and returned home, where he remained until a few days before the surrender of Lord Cornwallis [19 Oct 1781], when he went to Yorktown, its vicinity with a team, where he remained until a few days before its surrender, when he again returned home. He remained a citizen of Louisa County until 1784 when he removed to his present residence where he has remained ever since. His service as a private soldier was about eleven months, and as a captain of artificers, and superintendant of a waggon team with the rank and pay of a captain about nineteen months.

Among the officers in Col. Merediths regiment whom he recollects were Major James, Captains Dabney, Allen & Thompson, Commissary John Hawkins and Surgeon Dr Ried of Richmond. There were many officers of various grades with whom he had no particular acquaintance, but saw and knew them, during his continuance in the service, such as Generals Washington, [Anthony] Wayne, Lafayette, Col. Worth & General Potter; also Captain [James] Calderwood, who was killed at Brandywine, and Major Stewart.

He has no witnesses within reach by whom he can prove positively his various services, but he sends herewith such testimony, corroborating his statement as he has been able to procure. In addition thereto he refers to the Hon W. T. Barry, Capt Jno Fowler, Joseph Ficklin, Daniel Bradford, Oliver Keen, and Jno. M. McCalla, who have known him personally for many years, for testimony as to his character for veracity, and their belief as to his services 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 or territory.

Sworn & subscribed the day and year aforesaid

[signed] Jno. Parker

Thomas Bodley now in the 61st year of his age, being duly sworn states on oath, that John Parker who has made the foregoing declaration is the acknowledged brother of this affiants Mother, that he has been well acquainted with his said Uncle from his earliest recollection, and has frequently heard all the circumstances set forth in said declaration, related by said Parker, and by Robert Parker, Robert Megowan [Robert McGowan], Maj'r William Meredith, Sam'l Meredith, Lewis Bullock this affiants mother and others; and has no doubt of the correctness of said statements. This affiant was old enough to recollect many occurrences that took place during the Revolutionary War, and remembers to have frequently heard it mentioned by Robert Megowan & others (since dead) that the said John Parker served in the army as a Captain of Artificers and as a Waggon Master. And the circumstance of said Parker going as a guide to a detachment after the battle of Brandiwine (dressed as a Quaker) was mentioned to Gen'l LaFayette when he visited Lexington and was recollected by him. [signed] Thos. Bodley

Also Mary Megowan about 75 years of age, and sister of the said John Parker, states upon oath that she well remembers the time that her s'd brother went to Virginia to her uncle Todds, and that she heard her father say that he had joined the army. Her father went to Virginia to see him, at which time her brother was at Portsmouth with his regiment, and came some distance to see her father, as she was told by him. Soon after her brothers return, she heard of his appointment as Captain of artificers and of his being engaged in erecting two forts on the Delaware. This she heard at the time from her brother and also from her late husband, who succeeded her brother in that command. She was not then married. These circumstances were matters of conversation in the family and well known to all at the time. She does [not?] know any thing of his services in Virginia as Waggon master. And further saith not.

Sworn to the day and date above written. [signed] Mary Megowan

Also William Parker aged about 66 years, being a brother of said applicant, who states upon oath, that he corroborates the statement made by his sister Mary McGowan, as to hearing of his brother having entered the army in Virginia, which he obtained from his father, who went to that state to see him. He recollects of the return of his brother to Pennsylvania about the end of '76 and that about the month of Feb'y. 1777 he commenced raising men in his vicinity under his appointment as captain of artificers from Gen'l. Bull, and that he marched from home with those men to engage in the erection of the forts named in his declaration; and that during his service he sometimes came home to see his friend, and would then return to his men. This deponant then resided with his father in Philadelphia county, about 25 miles above the City near Valley forge. He remembers that his brother began to raise his men in February and that he came home in the following August in bad health, having resigned his commission. In the year 1795 this affiant resided at the mouth of Kentucky when the late Martin Hawkins came there from Virginia. In conversing with him about John Parker, said Hawkins informed this affiant of his s'd brother having served some time as a waggon master during the revolution in Virginia, and that he had a team under his command and was a long time serving in the army with him, as a commissary.

Sworn to and subscribed the day above written. [signed] William Parker

NOTE: On 13 Feb 1844 John Parker, Jr. applied for an increase in pension as one of the surviving sons of John Parker, Sr., who died on 28 May 1837 leaving no widow. He listed the other surviving children, all living in Fayette County, as follows: Elizabeth Parker; Mary Craig, wife of Joseph Craig; Margaret Bryan, a widow; Nelly (Eleanor) Todd, wife of William L. Todd; Nancy Bowman, wife of William Bowman. On 16 June 1848 John Parker, Jr. and William L. Todd together applied for the increased pension.