

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Reuben Lawson S1547

f12VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

9/10/13

[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.]

[Note: The images of the following document as posted on Fold3.com. are illegibly faint. Consequently, the following transcription was made from documents posted on HeritageQuest.com.]

State of Tennessee Monroe County: On this 17 day of June 1833 personally appeared in open court before the Justices of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, now sitting, Reuben Lawson a resident of said County, aged seventy-three years – who being duly sworn deposes and saith 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 was born in 1760 in Pytsylvania [Pittsylvania] County Virginia & that he has a record of his age left by his father who is deceased. When called into service he was living in Pittsylvania County Virginia; He remained in Virginia a year or two after the Rev War, when he moved to Hawkins County East Tennessee where he lived till eight years ago when he moved into Roane County, adjoining said County of Monroe, where he lived till last March when he moved into said Monroe County –

In 1776 a campaign was entered against the (he then, he thinks, Shawnee) Indians for a term of three months; by what authority he cannot tell. He served under John Donaldson Captain, George Winston 1st & John Quinn [could be John Guinn] 2nd Lieutenant, James Morrison Ensign, under command of Colonel Preston of Montgomery County. Said company collected at Pittsylvania Court House, then marched to Colonel Preston's, then crossed Licking Creek, where he was stationed on the frontiers. He served the three months for which he was drafted and about three weeks longer. He was with no Officers he remembers besides those stated. He received a discharge (which he has lost) from Captain John Donaldson; he served as a private and remembers nothing of importance that occurred in the campaign.

About 4 years after the above named service (in, he supposes, 1780) – intelligence came to Montgomery County Virginia where he then lived that Cornwallis was about ravaging the country and that the company he belonged to furnish he thinks 8 or 10 men who were to be drafted if they did not volunteer to March against Cornwallis, and meet him about Salisbury. Before they were required, he thinks 12 or 14 men went, the Captain, William Babbitt promising any who should go more than were required, indemnity against a future draft. Applicant went under Lieutenant Benjamin Baily, till they joined other troops, having marched 2 or 3 days. What officers he then went under he does not know. The troops marched through the country, into North Carolina: but he recollects note towns through which they marched. He served in the cavalry this tour, and as a private. They did not fall in with Cornwallis – a retreat was ordered,

he does not know by what account. He was engaged in this campaign not less than 3 weeks. – He received a discharge from, he thinks, Benjamin Baily Lieutenant, but is not positive. The discharge is lost.

About a year he supposes, or between that and 2 years after the last named service (in 1781 or '82) a draft by what authority he cannot tell was called for, to go against the Cherokee Indians, and for private & Lieutenant Benjamin Baily were ordered out of Captain William Babbitt's company to which applicant belonged. The draft was for 3 months, Infantry. He forgets the name of the Captain, and also the other officers. They started from Montgomery County where he then lived, and were ordered to long islands on Holston, in what is now Sullivan County Tennessee. They found some troops at Long Island under whose command he cannot tell: but Colonel William Campbell had gone off against the Cherokee Indians with most of the troops stationed there. Applicant remained at the Island until many of Colonel Campbell's troops returned; whether Colonel Campbell came to the Island he cannot tell. Sometime after the return of the troops he received his discharge. How many troops were at the island he cannot tell. There was a small Fort there, but most of the troops camped out – He thinks he received his discharge from Lieutenant Benjamin Baily but cannot be certain. He received the discharge for 3 months which was lost. Six months and six weeks in all – and always a private of Infantry – he never served with any regular troops.

The following persons are at present his neighbors and can testify as to his character for veracity and their belief in his services as a soldier of the Revolution – viz. Joseph Walker, Samuel Duggen, David Stewart & William Harden – he has no documentary evidence & knows of no one who can testify to his service.

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. The individuals who certify below applicant has known the most of their lives and he has to substitute Esquire Chesnut for a clergyman as he has become acquainted with no clergyman in the County of Monroe, and cannot procure, without great inconvenience, and going to another County, a clergyman to certify for him.

S/ Reuben Lawson, X his mark

[Henry Chesnut Esquire & Samuel Grigsby gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$25.24 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 6 months and 21 days in the infantry and 21 days as a private of the cavalry in the Virginia service.]