

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John M. Leak S1550

f19VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

9/13/13

[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.]

State of Tennessee Rutherford County: Circuit Court October Term 1833

On this 21st day of October 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the Honorable Thomas Stuart Judge &c now sitting for said County, John M Leak a resident of the County and State aforesaid aged seventy-five 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. He stated that he was born in Amherst County State of Virginia in the year 1758 and in January 1777 (though he is not certain), he entered the service of his country from the County of Amherst as a substitute in the place of William Johnston. Declarant was then in his 17th year his Captain was David Shelton, He was marched to the Barracks in Albemarle County to aid in guarding the prisoners then at that place. Declarant remained in service one month; was dismissed and returned home. In April of the same year declarant was drafted and called into under Captain John Diggs, from the County of Amherst, and rendezvoused at the Barracks in Albemarle upon the same duty, and after a service of one month was discharged and returned home. Declarant thinks that Colonel Taylor [Francis Taylor] of the regular Army commanded the Barracks. In November of the same year declarant entered the service as a substitute for Josias Dodd from the County of Amherst and was attached to Captain John Christy and's Company, and again marched to the Barracks in Albemarle to guard prisoners; and was in service one month, was discharged and returned home. Declarant was again drafted from the County of Amherst and was attached to Captain Richard Ballinger's Company. He cannot recollect the year, but believes that it was the same year, or about the time that Arnold [Benedict Arnold] Burnt Richmond¹, or the public stores at that place, and in the month of January was marched to Albemarle old Court House and there joined a company commanded by Captain Joseph Tucker. The Corps was transported in canoes down the River within eighteen miles of Richmond, and was then disembarked and marched down to the City. When the detachment reached Richmond Captain Ballenger's Company was ordered to Hoods Fort and Captain Tucker to Williamsburg – Captain Ballenger's command was conveyed to Hoods Fort by water. The duty assigned the Corps on its arrival at the Fort was to guard it. Declarant remained in service 3 months, was discharged and returned home, and he reached home, the last of May and declarant believes that this last Tour of service was performed in the year 1781. The first of August 1780 declarant was again drafted in the County of Amherst and entered the service under the command of Colonel Daniel Gaines. The Core was 200 strong and was marched by the commanding Officer to

¹ The warehouses in Manchester Virginia, across the James River from Richmond, were burned April 30, 1781 and it is probably to this event to which the declarant is referring.

Richmond and from thence to Williamsburg, where we halted one day. The French had reached that place, and the Corps under the command of Colonel Gaines was halted until they passed in front and the whole command then marched to York. While stationed at York declarant was detached part of the time to drive a wagon for the purpose of transporting bread from Williamsburg for General Lawson's brigade. After the capture of Lord Cornwallis [October 19, 1781] declarant was detained and marched with the Army to Pages Warehouse on Pamunkey [River] and at that point was discharged and returned home. In the last campaign declarant was in service 3 months and. Declarant recollects that one Missoue [?] Was the Quarter Master and that Thomas Lowe was the deputy Quarter Master. Declarant was never in any battle. Declarant recollects of seeing at Albemarle Barracks Colonel Taylor and Lieutenant Hardin of the regular Army. And at York, he saw General Washington, The Baron Steuben, and he recollects a Frenchman a slender young man called the Marquis [Lafayette]. He saw General Wayne [Anthony Wayne], who commanded the New England Troops. Declarant has no record of his age, he was born in 1758 – Amherst County State of Virginia, and remained there after the War until the year 1795, and then moved to rock bridge County, and in 1811 moved to Knox County State of Tennessee, and then in 1821 to Wilson County, and for the last 3 years declarant has resided in Rutherford County Tennessee, where he now lives. Declarant never had but one discharge, and that was from Captain Ballenger which has been destroyed. Declarant is acquainted in his neighborhood with William H Davis, William Walker, Thomas Neville, Edmund Thompson, John Edmondson, William Thompson, Joseph Cannon, Nimrod Thompson – all of whom declarant believes would testify to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution. And in this neighborhood where declarant moved from Wilson County where he is better known he could name John Sneed, William Hall and Lemuel Moore, James Ewing, Nelson Bryan, Matthew Sumner, William Davis and Richard Hannah all of whom will testify to their belief of declarant's services in the War of the revolution and as to his character for veracity. Declarant has no documentary evidence in his possession by which he can prove his said services, and he knows of no one now living by whom he can prove them. 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 State. Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ John M Leak, X his mark

[William Walker, Theophilus W Canon and Joseph Canon gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Was pensioned at the rate of \$30 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 9 months in the Virginia militia.]