

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Christian Snidow S17112

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 29 Jan 2014.

State of Virginia }

County of Giles } to wit:

On this the twenty sixth day of May in the year one thousand eight hundred and thirty four personally appeared in open court being the county Court for the said County of Giles now sitting, Christian Snidow a resident of the County of Giles and state of Virginia aforesaid, aged seventy four years on the 15th day of March last, 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 the 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

He entered the service in the Virginia Militia in the month of May 1776 in that part of the then County of Montgomery which has since been made the said County of Giles as a volunteer under Captain James McCorkle and Lieutenant John Lucas [pension application W5468] marched from thence to the waters of Wautauga on Holstine [sic: Watauga on Holston River] now in the State of Tennessee on an excursion against the Cherokee Indians and was in the battle of the Long Island of Holstine [sic: Long Island of Holston at present Kingsport TN, 20 Jun 1776] where the Indians were defeated by the Regiment to which his Company was attached, commanded by Colonel Montgomery, whose given name he believes to have been John [John Montgomery] but does not distinctly recollect. He understood the same Col Montgomery was afterwards attached to the Regular Service. He does not recollect the name of the Major of that regiment. From the last named place he was marched together with the regiment, to the part of Tennessee where Knoxville now stands, in the neighbourhood thereof, where they were stationed three or four weeks, [illegible word] scouting throughout the adjacent country, where he was discharged in the month of August, having served three months. Very shortly after he returned home (his place of residence having been in the County where he was first called into service and being now the same [near present Pembroke]) he was again drafted into service and marched therefrom in the first part of September of the same year (177[page torn] to the County of Greenbrier, now Monroe, and was stationed at Woods fort [4 mi NE of Peterstown] under the command of Capt Thomas Burk, Lieutenant Henry Patton and Ensign William McMullen, for the term of three months. He together with the Company to which he belonged ranged the Country from said fort situated on Rich Creek, to Cole River [probably Coal River W of present Charleston WV], a distance of about 100 miles. After a service of three months he was discharged at said Fort.

He was next drafted into the service in the early part March 1777 in the same County, and march to Culbertson's bottom in same County (now Giles), a distance of about 20 miles, and was there stationed and served three months, under the command of Captain Thomas Burk and Lieutenant Henry Patton. During this tour of service the Company scouted and ranged the country from the said station to Paint Creek and Cole River, defending the frontier settlers from the attacks and incursions of the Shawnee Indians. After serving three months he was discharged at said fort. He next entered the service as a volunteer, and was marched from home to Barager's fort, then and now in the County of Montgomery, and was stationed and served there three months under the command of Captain John Floyd, the father of the late Governor of Virginia, after which he was discharged.

He was next ordered into service in the early part of March 1778 by Colonel William Preston, and marched to North Carolina against the Tories acting as Lieutenant in the Company, commanded by Captain John Lucas, he having been commissioned, as such, in said Company, subsequent to his last above named tour of service. They marched to Salem in the State of North Carolina, and there met with and joined the regiment commanded by Colonel William Campbell, and from there they were marched to the Hawfields [in Alamance County] (a distance of about twenty five or thirty miles) in pursuit of the

tories. Colonel Campbell having been informed that they were assembled there. Not finding the tories at the Haw fields as was expected, they were marched from thence to the Catawba (a distance of about 60 or 70 miles), where it was also represented that the tories had assembled to the number of two or 300, but they also failed to find any tories here. After remaining on the Catawba and finding no tories where it was said they had assembled, they were marched down that river for three to four days, and were there, by the order of Colonel Campbell, marched back to Salem, where he, with his company was discharged having served three months in this tour

He was next ordered into service by Colo. William Preston in the early part of July 1778, and marched as Lieutenant with his Company to the Lead Mines [near Fort Chiswell in the County of Montgomery, now Wythe, to guard them against the attack it was supposed would be made upon them by the tories, where he remained for the space of six or eight weeks after which he was ordered by Colo. Preston to march from thence and attend and guard, with thirty men, two waggons, laden with ammunition to Salem in North Carolina, which was for the use of the regiment there stationed under the command of Colo. William Campbell. An individual by the name of Bowen, as Ensign, succeeded him in the command at the Lead mines. His tour of service having expired about the time of his arrival at Salem, he and his Company were discharged, and returned home, having served three months.

Still acting as Lieutenant, he was again ordered into service with his Company by Colo. William Preston on the 3rd day of April 1779 and stationed at Snidow's Fort on New River for the purpose of scouring the surrounding country, and of defending the frontier settlement against the invasions and depredations of the Shawnee Indians. He served on this tour three months, at the expiration of which he and his Company were discharged.

He was in the early part of September of the same year (1779) ordered by Colo. William Preston to Preston's fort in the County of Montgomery to act in the capacity of Lieutenant in the Company commanded by Capt. John Floyd, for the purpose of guarding the fort and for the purpose last above named, and also served in this tour three months and was discharged.

He was next ordered into service about the middle of October 1780, and by order of Colo. William Preston marched into North Carolina for the purpose of joining Colonel William Campbell's troops. On his march to North Carolina with his Company, he met with Captain Patten near the aforesaid Lead Mines, who took command, as Captain, of this declarant's Company. They then continued their march to Salem in North Carolina where they joined Colo. Campbell's troops. A few days after the arrival of this declarant at Salem, Colo. Campbell, with the main body of the troops, there stationed, marched to Guilford, and left this declarant in the command of thirty men to guard the Moravian towns [Bethania, Bethabara, and Salem] from the attacks of the tories. He remained at Salem till the expiration of three months from the time he was called on this tour of duty, and was then, with his company, discharged and returned home, having served the full three months.

He was next ordered into service by Colo. William Preston about the 1st of February 1781. On this occasion he was ordered by Colonel William Preston to march as Lieutenant, under Captain James Burns to North Carolina with the regiment commanded by said Preston for the purpose of joining the American troops at the Moravian town under the command of General [Andrew] Pickens. They arrived at Salem on the 14th day of February, and on the day previous (the 13th), Cornwallis with his forces, had left the Country and march towards Guilford. The American troops followed them, and on the Alamants [sic: Alamance Creek] about 18 miles from Guilford Court House, the regiment commanded by Colo. William Preston, together with some of the North Carolina troops had an engagement with a portion of Cornwallis's army, in which the Americans were defeated [skirmish at Clapp's Mill, 2 Mar 1781]. On the same evening this declarant with the other part of the American troops marched to Guilford Court House, where they remained three or four days, and this declarant was attached, as Lieutenant, to a Company commanded by a certain Captain Simpson, whose given name, he believes was William [William Simpson]. He with said Company was ordered to march and did march to the Yadkin not far from Salisbury for the purpose of defending and protecting the Country from the tories, at which place he remained with said Company five or six weeks, and was discharged and returned home, having served

three months on this tour.

He was next and lastly called into service about the first of September 1781, and was ordered by Major Joseph Cloyd to take command, as Lieutenant, of the Company at Pearis fort, on New River in Montgomery (now Giles County) in the corps of Captain Pearis who was called off to North Carolina. He remained at this fort in defence of the same and of the surrounding country, for the space of two months, and was discharged.

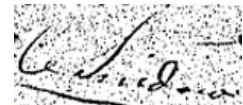
His whole term of service, as a private, was twelve months, and as Lieutenant, was twenty months

His Commission as Lieutenant, he has long since lost. He received written discharges from the most of the above named tours of service, but has lost them. From the other tours he received no written discharge, to the best of his recollection.

He has no documentary evidence of his service. He, however, believes that he can adduce living evidence of the most of his service, above stated, as will appear by the subjoined affidavits. He has no record of his age. He had one but has lost it. He, however, distinctly recollects the day of his birth, as stated in said record.

Of the written discharges above alluded to, he recollects that two were signed by Colo. William Campbell. – two by Colo. Burk and one by Capt. Burns. He does not recollect by whom the others (there having been, he thinks, one or two other written discharges) were signed. He does not recollect by whom his commission as Lieutenant was signed.

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 first aforesaid.



NOTES:

Snidow's claim was certified by Thomas Farley (pension application W7244), John Lucas (W5468), Parker Lucas (S8868), John Lybrook (R6540)

In 1834 Snidow's pension and many others were suspended by the Commissioner of Pension, James L. Edwards, pending an investigation by Washington G. Singleton. A letter to Edwards by Snidow's agent, Thomas J. Boyd of Wythe County, dated 21 Sep 1834, reads in part:

"I have just rec'd. a letter informing me that the payment of the claim of Christian Snidow, of Giles, which was lately allowed, is suspended. On receiving the letter giving me that information, I showed it to Mr. Singleton, the U. S. Atty for the Western District of Va (now here attending the Federal court held at this place). That gentleman informs me that the payment of all claims West of the Alleghany in Va. has been suspended till he completes an investigation of all of those claims, which he has begun in north western Va. & will bring on to the Tennessee line as his leisure my permit. He thinks it will be at least twelve months from this time before the claims in this part of Va. can be investigated. I have taken the liberty to write, therefore, and beg to be informed whether there are no exceptions to this general suspension of payments."

As detailed in my appendix to the pension application of David W. Sleeth (S6111), the main focus of the investigation was Jonathan Wamsley of Lewis County in present West Virginia. A letter from Boyd dated 29 March 1835 quotes another letter as follows: "The Commissioner of Pensions has agreed to allow the claims, provided the Clerk of the court will certify that Wamsley, the celebrated fellow from Lewis County, had no agency in procuring the claims."

On 25 March 1835 Snidow stated that he had lived in Giles County for about 62 years (including about 33 years before its formation from Montgomery County), and before that had lived in Botetourt County. Giles County was, in fact, formed in 1806.

A letter in the file states that Christian Snidow died in Oct 1836.