

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Mahan S17563

f34NC/VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

4/5/09: rev'd 5/27/16

[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 Kentucky, Whitley County: Sct.

On the 19th day of October A.D. 1833 personally appeared before me Preston C. Berry a Justice of the peace for Whitley County Kentucky James Mahan a resident of said County and state aforesaid aged 78 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,

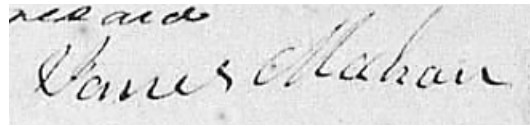
That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. That he volunteered on the 14th of May 1774 under Capt. Jacob Drenin as an Indian spy that he then lived in the state of Virginia on the Monongahela River and was marched from thence to Fort Pitt and from thence crossed the Ohio and marched against the Shawnee Indians on the Chillicothe River and was engaged in actual service not less than 6 months. That he then in the fall of 1775 Enlisted at Fort Pitt under Capt. Aston [Captain George Aston] and was stationed at Fort Pitt and retained there to guard the Indian prisoners until they were dismissed and sent home -- during the time he was at Fort Pitt Capt. Aston was killed by a man by the name of Dedrich Smith [Devereaux Smith],¹ he states that he was in actual service under Capt. Aston not less than one year and was discharged that he then enlisted under Capt. Gibson at Fort Pitt to march to Williamsburg by the salutation of the people on the frontier and at Fort Pitt he put another man in his place and he continued at Fort Pitt as a spy and guard under the command of Capt. David Scott Lieut. John Mahan who was under Col. Crawford for at least six months and was discharged. That he then volunteered under Capt. McFarland who was under General McIntosh [Lachlan McIntosh] and marched against the Indians at Tuscarobus River [sic, Tuscarawas River] and built Fort Lawrence [sic, Fort Laurens] that he served in this campaign not less than seven months and [was] discharged sometime in the winter and returned home on the Monongahela River and remained inactive until the march following then received intelligence that the Indians with some British had the siege Fort Lawrence that he then called a meeting of the people (as the muster) to raise a company to march to the relief of Fort Lawrence

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the [indecipherable word]² and he raised a company but a difference took place between him and a man by the name of John Simpson who was a Tory or unfriendly to the American cause he Simpson abused the men in the Fort and the Americans and swore they ought all to be scalped and that resisted the insult and personal engagement ensued in which engagement he received a severe wound in the abdomen in consequence of which wound he was unable for the service about 12 months. That he then volunteered and was engaged as a spy on the frontiers under Capt. Robert Ferrell from spring to fall of the year a term not less than six months and was discharged. That he then removed to Greene County Tennessee. That he then volunteered as a Capt. and raised a company of Militia and joined Col. Sevier [John Sevier] and marched into the Cherokee Nation and was in two small engagements at Highwasa [sic, Hiwassee] and Chilhawa [sic, Chilhowee ?] that he was engaged on this expedition as Capt. not less than six months and was discharged he states that he got a discharge from some of the tours of duty but that he has lost them believing that they were of no use to him that he was in actual service not less than three years and one month as a private and six months as a Capt. he states that he knows of no surviving witness that he can prove his claim by, 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.

S/ James Mahan

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James Mahan". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

The following interrogatories were then propounded to him by Preston C. Berry a Justice of the peace for the County of Whitley and State of Kentucky

Question 1st Where and in what year were you born?

Ans: In Virginia between Manchester and the Warm Springs in the year 1755

2nd Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Ans: First on the Monongahela River State of Virginia then in Greene County Tennessee and now in Whitley County Kentucky for the last 35 years.

3rd Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

Ans: yes my age is recorded in my family Bible now in my possession

4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom?

Ans: first a volunteer 2nd enlisted and last a volunteer

5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Ans: I recollect at Fort Pitt Colonel Crawford Col. Neville and General McIntosh but whether they were regular Continental or militia I cannot recollect. I also recollect General Lewis and Gov. Dunmore I was frequently sent on expresses from Fort Pitt to General Lewis and Dunmore's Troops. That he first volunteered in 1774 and was stationed at Fort Pitt under Capt. Drenin as a spy that he had frequent excursions on the front tears and acted as a spy and guard 6 months that he then enlisted at Fort Pitt under Capt. Aston and was continued at Fort Pitt to

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guard the Indian prisoners until they were dismissed during which time Capt. Aston was killed by a man by the name of Dedrick Smith he served under Aston 12 months and was discharged that he then enlisted under Capt. Gibson to march to Williamsburg but by the request of the people of the frontiers and at the Fort he was retained at Fort Pitt he was retained as a guard and spy under Capt. David Scott and Lieut. John Mahan who was under Col. Crawford for 6 months. That he then volunteered under Capt. McFarland and was under General McIntosh and marched against the Indians on the Tuscarawas River where we built Fort Laurens that he served 7 months in this campaign and was discharged and returned home in the winter and remained there until he got wounded that he then removed to Tennessee that he then raised a company and served 6 months in the capacity of a Capt. in the Cherokee war under Col. Sevier.

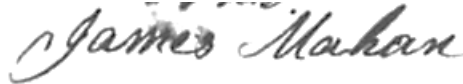
6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

Ans: He recollects of having received a discharge but by whom it was given he does not recollect that he kept it in his shot bag some time and lost it.

7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

Ans: William Siler, Baker E. Watkins

S/ James Mahan

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James Mahan". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "S/ James Mahan".

[William Siler, a clergyman, and Baker E. Watkins gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Facts in file: in 1837 the veteran was living in Cole County Missouri with his children, names not given; there is no family data in this file; veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum.]