

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Steel S17706

f28VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

4/18/12

[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. 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 fails 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 errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Indiana Morgan County: Morgan Probate Court November Term 1832

On this 14th day of November in the year of our Lord 1832 personally appeared before the Honorable John Matthews Probate Judge of said County of Morgan John Steel aged seventy-one years the 25th of January last, a resident of said County of Morgan who being duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following Declaration in order to obtain the Benefit of the provision made by the Act of Congress of June the 7th 1832. That he was drafted in the year 1781 [could be 1780] sometime in the month of April or May in said year for the term of three months. The object of said Expedition was to go to Richmond in the State of Virginia for the purpose of keeping the British from taking said Town of Richmond into their possession. He says he was commanded by Colonel Millonburgh [probably Peter Muhlenberg] the Lieutenant and Major's names not recollected the Captain's name under whom he served was Michael Stump. The Lieutenant and Ensign not recollected. That he served in the State of Virginia in Hampshire County in said State on the waters of the Potomac River on the South Branch of said River and from the said place where he was drafted and also place of residence he marched own in a direction of Richmond and crossed the Shenandoah River and from thence marched across the Blue Ridge and from thence on to a place called Bowling Green. And from thence to Silver Creek at which said place the British Light horse came within about two hundred yards of the American light horse and the said Americans chased the said British away and took two of the said British prisoners and the American Army was there reinforced by another Branch of said American Army commanded by General Anthony Wayne. And the American Army remained in that place about one week and from thence the Army marched on to a place called Williamsburg and the Army lay there for some days expecting to have an engagement with the said British Army but had none at which said place he says he was discharged verbally and he went home from said place.

At some time afterwards in the month of July or August in the year 1781 he says he was drafted again for the term of three months under the command of Lieutenant ___ Blue and the orderly Sergeant's name in the company to which he belonged was Simon Cochran and the other officers names belonging to said company not recollected. He says the company to which he belonged marched from the town of Moorfield own in the direction of Williamsburg and joined the Army, and the said Army was engaged from about sundown until the next morning about 9 o'clock in digging entrenchments for the purpose of securing the American Army from and unfavorable attack from the British Army. And when said entrenchments were completed the American Army went into the same and took all their arms and ammunition and then and there the two armies had a General engagement which lasted about twenty days and nights And at last the Americans defeated the British and the said British Army surrendered to the said American

Army in October in the year 1781 and the British were all took prisoners by the American Army and a part of said prisoners were taken to Winchester in the State of Virginia and a part to a place called Albemarle during said Battle this declarant says one of the British Soldiers deserted the said British ranks and run to the American Army and told the Americans where the British kept their powder and the Americans commenced firing red hot balls to the powerhouse which was heated by blowing the large Bellows until the same was blown up house, powder and all together the number of prisoners taken as well as this declarant can recollect was seven thousand two hundred and seventy-two. The American Army was commanded by General Washington in person. General Lafayette was also present at the same time the British General was by the name of Cornwallis. Said Battle took place at a place called Little York, and from thence returned to Winchester and so on home.

This declarer says he received no written discharge at either of the afore mentioned times and the said declarer in answer to the Questions propounded by the court as required by the instructions from the war Department says that to the best of his knowledge and belief he was born in the State of Virginia in Hampshire County in said State on the 25th day of January in the year 1761. He says he has no record of his age at this time that he lived in the County of Hampshire when he entered the services of the United States and remained there until the year 1794 at which time he removed into the State of Kentucky in Montgomery County in said State which was afterwards divided and called Bath, and remained there about thirty-seven years and from thence he removed into the State of Indiana in Morgan County where he now lives. This Declaration above details the manner which he was called into the service. The answer to the 5th & 6 inquiries are contained in his Declaration above so far as this declarer can recollect. That he is known to John McNabb, Andrew McNabb, James McNabb and Benjamin Badgely who can testify as to his character for veracity and their belief of his Services as a Soldier of the Revolution.

That he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure but his Brother Henry Steele [sic] whose affidavit is hereto annexed who can testify to his Services and that he has no documentary evidence thereof.

This declarer says that he was enlisted for the term of 6 months and served in the foregoing expeditions as stated above.

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.

S/ John Steel, X his mark

[John McNab, and Benjamin Badgley gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

John Steel

Benjamin Badgley

State of Indiana Morgan County: Be it remembered that on this day before me the undersigned Clerk of said County personally came Henry Steel who being duly sworn according to law deposeth and saith that he is well acquainted with John Steel who is his Brother and an applicant for a pension and that he this deponent saith he knows that the said John Steel was drafted for three months tower [tour] in time of the Revolutionary War he does not recollect precisely the

year. But this deponent saith he the said John Steel went a three months tour in the spring and returned home and went again on another three months tour in the fall of the same year – which Services were rendered in behalf of the United States in the struggle for independence and further this deponent saith not.

S/ Henry Steele

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Henry Steele". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name "S/ Henry Steele".

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$20 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 6 months in the Virginia militia.]