

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Stivers S17707

f30VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

4/28/12

[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.]

The State of Ohio, Adams County: SS

On this 25th day of October in the year 1832, personally appeared in open Court, before the Court of Common Pleas of the County of Adams and State of Ohio, now sitting at West Union in said County, John Stivers, a resident of Sprigg Township in said County of Adams, aged sixty-seven years sometime next month, 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.

At the time of his first entering the service he resided in Spotsylvania in the State of Virginia; that he entered the service as a substitute for a class of men living in Orange County Virginia. The Class being required to furnish a man, 3 or 4 men belonging to the class came on to Spotsylvania to procure a substitute; and finding this Declarant in a neighbor's cornfield, the more easily prevailed on him to enter the service, as four of his older Brothers were enlisted as Regulars. He accordingly engaged as a substitute for the class from Orange for five months time. He entered the service as a substitute as aforesaid in the month of May 1780; – but the day of the month he cannot recollect. From Spotsylvania he went to Orange Court House, where he joined the Company commanded by Captain Robert Daniel; his Lieutenant, Young [perhaps William Young]; his Ensign, Jameson [perhaps William Jameson]. From Orange Court house, Virginia, he was marched to Hillsborough, North Carolina, Colonel Spencer [Joseph Spencer] in command – the troops crossing the Roanoke, the Dan, the Little & Big Pedee. There were no troops at Hillsboro at the time of Colonel Spencer's reaching that place; – though this Declarant understood that troops had but a short time before left Hillsboro, and appearances seemed to confirm the information. Shortly after reaching Hillsboro, other militia joined them under Colonel Spencer. Colonel Spencer and those under his command including this Declarant remained at Hillsboro a considerable length of time, but for what reason or object he is unable to state, as he never knew. From Hillsboro Colonel Spencer with his Command set off on the march to join the Army under General Gates [Horatio Gates]. They crossed the Deep River, where they remained for a few days – perhaps 3, 4 or 5 days. They then proceeded to Little Pedee, where they encamped a short time; thence to Big Pedee. Just as the troops under Colonel Spencer had crossed the Big Pedee, an express arrived from General Gates. Colonel Spencer and those under him able to march at once sent off to join General Gates; but this Declarant, his Captain, and sixty other men from sickness and debility being unable to march, recrossed the Big Pedee, for safety as he supposed. His Lieutenant Young and Ensign Jamison, marched on with Colonel Spencer. Colonel Spencer as this Declarant understood was taken prisoner at Camden – Gates defeat [August 15-16, 1780]. This Declarant remained at Big Pedee until he was again

able to March – but how long he cannot recollect. Colonel Spencer's command by sickness and the disaster of Camden were so much thinned & scattered that they returned to their homes in small squads. This declarant set off from the Big Pedee for his home in Company with fifteen others, Captain Daniel still remaining at Big Pedee with a few men. He cannot tell precisely at what time he reached home; but he is under a strong impression that on the third week after reaching home he was at a "corn husking" – having so far recovered. He recollects that sometime after reaching home, an advertisement appeared notifying those who had been out under Colonel Spencer to attend at Orange Court and receive discharges – but he has no recollection of having attended, or of having received a discharge.

In 1781, – about the first of June as well as he recollects, but the very day he cannot recollect – he again entered the service in Rockingham County, Virginia, in Colonel Harris's mounted Company. He entered for a three months tour, as a substitute for a little Dutchman named Peter Coger. Colonel Harris's Mounted Company rendezvoused at a small Town called Harrisburg. Here they were marched to Albemarle Court House and on the direction to old Richmond falling in with the troops under Generals Lafayette and Wayne. From the time of falling in with Lafayette, Colonel Harris's Mounted Men remained with the regular troops and near them to the end of their three months tour – the whole marching through Richmond, down to Chickahominy, General Lafayette and Colonel Harris's Mounted Men remained in the vicinity of Chickahominy till the end of the three months for which this Declarant entered the Service. Colonel Harris's Mounted Company were then discharged, and this declarant distinctly recollects to have received of Colonel Harris a written discharge. Whatever became of his written discharge, he has no recollection. He recollects, however, very distinctly the circumstance of his receiving it – the officers were sitting under a small protection from the sun made by planting forks, and laying across and over them the tops of little pines. The other Officers of the Mounted Company this declarant does not recollect, if any there were – nor can he tell wherefore a Company of about sixty Mounted men should be commanded by one bearing the title of Colonel – he supposes however that the command had previously been that title. In the last tour, Colonel Harris's Mounted Men were generally kept on the scout and at hard service as this declarant thought. They were often sent out on the night expeditions when the regular mounted men remained in camp. The declarant became well acquainted by sight only with Lafayette and Wayne – though he had no particular personal acquaintance with either. He recollects to have seen Colonel Morgan come with his men marching into Richmond. He cannot state anything particular about the different regiments – he looked up to his immediate Commander and did not know any distinctly nor did he inquire much beyond – being quite young. The Declarant has three Brothers living as far as he knows – one living in Spotsylvania County Virginia, named Peter Stivers – one on Red River, a branch of Kentucky River in Estill County Kentucky named William Stivers, – and one living near the falls of the Ohio, named Edward Stivers. Either of those Brothers if still alive could prove this declarant's service. Except them, he knows of no person by whom he can prove his Service. He has served in all 8 months and for that length of time claims a pension. 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.

And the said John Stivers being interrogated by the Court made to the following questions the subjoined answers.

1st Where and in what year were you born?

I was born in Lancaster County Pennsylvania, in the year 1765.

2nd Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

I have no record of my age. The family record I understand is in possession of my Brother Edward.

3rd Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

At the time of 1st entering the service I lived in Spotsylvania County Virginia; thence I removed to Redstone Township, Fayette County, Pennsylvania; thence to Kentucky; thence to Adams County, Ohio, where I have lived for the last 27 years, with the exception of one year spent in Brown County of Ohio.

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

I entered as a substitute both times – 1st for a class of men and next for Peter Cozer

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.

On my first tour of five months there were no regular troops with those with which I served – nor can I tell what officers commanded the Militia that fell in with us at Hillsboro. On my second tour Generals Lafayette and Wayne commanded the regulars, with whom Colonel Harris's Mounted Men served. Particular regiments I cannot name. Colonel Harris's Mounted Men were generally actively engaged on short excursions frequently in the night.

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

I have no recollection of having received a written discharge from my first tour – Colonel Harris gave me a written discharge from my second tour – but what became of it I know not.

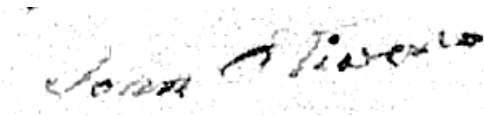
7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

I will on this [indecipherable word] refer to William Edgington, Peter Pence, Michael Roush, William Russel, Member of Congress, William Hook, William Mattox, Cardiff F. Rawlings, John Bryan, James Hook, John R. Connell, &c Thomas Kirker &c

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid

Attest

S/ John Stivers



S/ Joseph Darlinton, Clk. N. C.

[Thomas Kirker, a clergyman, and William Edgington gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$29.16 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 5 months in the Infantry and 3 months in the cavalry of the Virginia service.]