

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of William Powers S18164

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia }

Lewis County }

on this first day of october 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of the County Court of Lewis County now setting William Powers a resident of Hackers creek neighbourhood in the County of Lewis and State of Virginia [now Barbour WV] aged 68 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 in the year 1781 in the County of Monongalia and State of Virginia in the month of March of the year last afore said he volunteered as a private soldier and was plased under the command of Capt Joseph Greg- [sic] other officers names not recollected. Capt Gregory commanded a company of indian Spys and affiant volunteered as a private indian spy at the time he affiant was plased was plased under the command of said Capt Gregory affiant was stationed at powers fort on Simpsons Creek in the County of Monongalia State of Virginia [Powers Fort in present Harrison County WV, said to have been built by John Powers in 1771] and was engaged in spying the Countery from said fort to the river ohio over the Counterys which now composes the Countys of ohio Tyler Wood Lewis Harrison and Randolph Countys untill sometime in the month of November 1781 at which time he affiant was discharged by his said Capt Joseph Gregory having served nine months as a private indian spy under the command of Capt Joseph Gregory — again in the month of march on the 2nd day he thinks, in the County of Monongalia and State of Virginia in the year 1782 he volunteered as a private indian spy for nine months and was plased under the command of Capt Josep Gregory other officers names not recollected and was stationed at powers fort on Simps Creek [sic] in the County of Monongalia and State of Virginia and was engaged as in spying the country from said fort to the river ohio over the country which now composes the Countys of ohio Tyler Wood Lewis Harrison and Randolph Countys - affiant continued in spying the country as afore said untill sometime in the month of december 1782 at which time he was discharged by his said Capt Joseph Gregory having served nine months as a private, indian spy again in the month of march 1783 in the County of Monongalia and State of Virginia affiant volunteered and was elected by a company of indian spys (to wit a company of volunteers) to the office of Ensign or 2nd Liuetenant and was duly commitioned and on the 4 day of Aprill 1783 affiant marched his men from powers fort on Simpsons Creek to the moth [sic: mouth] of Bingamon Creek in the County and State last above said [now Harrison County WV] whare affiant stationed part of his soldiers at a place whare there had bin an old indian town the remainder of his soldiers he stationed at the mouth of Jones run a Branch of tenmile Creek in the county and state aforesaid about thirty miles distant from the mouth of Bingamon creek whare affiant stationed part of his soldiers affiant then ordered a class of his men for regular towers of service which they performed whilst affiant was engaged in traveling from station to station planing and regulating his men untill sometime in the month of September 1783 at which time affiant discharged his men and returned home the following are the occurances which took place during affiants several towers of service during his first the indians came in to the neighbourhood and kild John Tommis his wife and six of his children and took one prisoner also at another time the indians come and killed John Owens and John Juggins during his 2nd tower under Capt Gregory The indians come into the neighbourhood of Simpsons Creek and killed James owings and took prison Gibert Husted during the tower which affiant served as Ensign the indians come into the neighbourhood of Simpson Creek and stole several horses belonging to Maj'r Benjamin Robbison and John and owings owing [sic]. the indians ware pursued by Robuson and others but did not overtake them. affiant has no documentary evidence by which he can prove his services by and knows of no person by whom he can prove them except he can by Alexander West [pension application W6450] and adam Flesher [S18403]

to whom he is known

The Court then proceeded to propound the several interrogatories prescribed by the War department to which affiant answers as follows and says to the first

1) I was Borned in the County of Frederick state of Virginia in the year 1765

2nd. I have a record of my age recorded in my fathers Bible and that shows me to have bin Borned in the year 1765.

3 When called into service I was living in Monongalia State of Virginia and have lived since the Revolution in Harrison County Virginia untill within a few years since which time I have been living in Lewis county Virginia whare I now live

4th. all my times of service I was a Volunteer

5. my service being confined to the north western part of Virginia I did not become acquainted with any of the regular officers nor Ridgments of either the State or Continental line

6) When I served as a private I was regularly discharged, but all my discharges are lost or mislaid when I served as an officer to wit an Ensign, I was commitioned, but by whome my commition was signed I now do not no I got my house burned and all that was in it and I supose it was consumed by the fire

7 I am known to John Brown and John Schoolcraft who can testify to my character for verasity and as to there belief of my having bin a soldier of the Revolution-

I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pention or anuity except the presant and declare that my name is not on the pention Roll of the Agency of any State Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

[signed] William Powers

[Notes by W. G. Singleton. See note below.]

Wm Powers. Served two years.

Christopher Nutter [pension application W5434] has known Mr. Wm. Powers since 1773. they were raised boys together and were in service some times together, at other times at different stations & under different commands in the western Region of Virginia all through the war of the Revolution. Powers is a man of 'truth & Honesty" He Nutter has understood that after Clarks expedition [George Rogers Clark's to Illinois, 1778] and during the War of the Rev. Powers commanded a company of Rangers

Note Isaac [sic] Powers. but declined to interrogate him in referrence to his own case because I found it indispensably necessary to a succesful prossecution of my investigation to make terms with some one or mor of the Pensioners, for the purpose of Eliciting the truth. understanding that Mr. Powers and a Mr. Christopher Nutter were men of extraordinary memories and Intelligence and that they were early settlers of the County? and know every man in their region of country that were engaged in Indian fighting or otherwise. I determined to let them rest for the Present at least - through these Gentlemen I obtained most essential information.

I am enclined to think that they are entitled to all they draw. I derive this opinion from the General belief of the country in which they live. - without the aid of these me we should be unable to get along with the prosecutions & such instructed under the direction of the Secretary of War. under the circumstances I would respectfully suggest the propriety of continueing Powers & Nutter on the Pension Roll. Write to me on this subject

W. G Singleton Nov. 10, 1834.

NOTES:

W. G. Singleton investigated a large number of fraudulent pension applications from Lewis County. See the pension application of David W. Sleeth (S6111) for details. Powers's pension was later temporarily suspended in 1840 as the result of the following letters in Powers's pension file:

"McWhorters mills va April 11th 1840

Sir I Write for Information there is one Wm Powers in Lewis County That draws a penchian as a soldier of Revolutionary War, and I have Been Informed that he never was in the War and never was only on But varry few Indian Scouts, and there was the Mosses Bennetts, Adam Flesher [pension application S18403], Hezekiah Hess [S8707] and several others that Renderd like

serviss that was Drawing pentians, they was stoped and [illegible word] and had to pay the amt Back that they Drawed. If one Draws Why not all. But my opinian acCording to act 7th June 1832 that Mr Powers is not Intitled to to Drawn on Cent his one Brothern in Law told me that Wm Powers never was In the Revolutionary War the fact I Expect Can Be proving that he never was in War, and If he is Intitled to pay other is that has Been stoped on account of not Being in the War. It is my sole wish for all person that was in the War to Draw pentians, and those that was not in not to recive pay for Services that they never Render Please Write to me.
McWhorters mills va Respectfully John H. Hays”

McWhorter Mills va April 4th 1841

Sir Recd your Letter of March 12th

I Enclose to you affidavit of Phebe Cunningham that is drawing a pension at this time [application W4166]. It Can be proved that Power said sent [since?] and before that he got his pensian that he never was in the Revolutionary War - by John Nicholas and David W. Sleeth [S6111]. I have been from home for some time. I wrote to you concerning the Land that is owe Captain John Bailey [see below] from government. I have bought James B Bent Dulaney Bent Benjamin H Beall the Husband of Lydia Beall formely Bent that are the heir of Sarah Bent that was a sister Capt John Bailey. there is some heir of Catherine Hays that was sister of Capt John Bailey I shall get. and they are all the Heir of Capt John Bailey of Revolutionary War and Belonged to the Virginia State Line and if you will due the writing and send them to me so as I can have proof take as to write of these heirs and I sucksed in geting money I will give you one Hundred Dollars I understand that there is 4000 acres owe Bailey from government. please write to me on this Subject. the money that Bailey admtr [administrator] draws from government was only his half pay and not for his Land yours &c John H Hays
[An empty folder of a John Bailey is labeled as follows: “Clark’s Ill Regiment Va.
N. A. Acc. No. 874 05.0007 Half Pay Pension File not identified for this Half Pay”]

Powers’s pension was restored in response to numerous testimonials that he was a leading citizen, former Justice of the Peace, and Sheriff, and after investigation revealed that Hays was a fugitive from an indictment for forgery.

On 13 Nov 1840 Col. William Martin, 78, of Harrison County, swore that William Powers was the son of John Powers, and that the register in the elder Powers’s Bible stated that William Powers was born 9 Nov 1765.

On 29 May 1855 Powers applied for bounty land.