

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Adam Flesher S18403

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

[A card in the file indicates that Flesher's original pension application was sent to W. G. Singleton, U. S. District Attorney, and never returned. Singleton investigated a large number of fraudulent claims from Lewis County. See the pension application of David W. Sleeth (S6111) for details. The following are Singleton's notes:]

I the undersigned Adam Flesher of Lewis County at the requisition of the Secretary of War, give the following narrative of my age & revolutionary services to wit - I was born the 29th July 1764.

In October 1781 I went to Buckhannon Fort now Lewis Cty [near the present town of Buckhannon now in Upshur County WV] with my Father and his family. he having made a settlement where Weston (the county seat of Lewis) now stands and having subsequently got a right to 400 acres. after getting to Buckhannon Fort to wit in the fall of 1781 I was on a Scout after the Indians for the first time for five days - returned to the Fort and remained there with my father and family until the succeeding spring (1782.) there were no disturbances by the Indians during the Winter. — in February late the Indians came within two miles of the Fort and killed John Finch the alarm was given. the men of the Fort including myself went out found the body and buried it - I was engaged in this matter ten days. - tuesday following the Indians killed Lieut. White in sight of the Fort. I aided in bringing in the body and in interring it. I was two days in this Service. at this time the Fort Broke up. the people at that Fort went to Richards Fort on the West Fork [on west bank of West Fork River near Spring Hill Chapel] - I aided in guarding them from the first to the latter Fort and was in that service four days - this was in the latter end of March 1782. Continued with my Father and his family at Richards Fort from this latter until March 1782 [sic] - when my Fathers family including myself went to Weston his old settlement. from March 1782 to March 1783 and up to March 1784 I was engaged in summer & fall in cultivating corn &c. whilst some were working others were watching. I worked and watched alternately as others done. I was also out several [illegible word] scouting & raingeing in the woods. I cant now recollect how often I was out in this way. - I was out five or six days at a time - in all together I think pretty nearly a month - Pringle commanded at Buckhannon Fort. I dont know rightly who commanded at Richards Fort. - this is all the service I done during the Revolutionary war. - I never was during the Revolutionary war engaged in character of a spy, nor have I to my knowledge claimed for such services.

I omitted to mention two weeks service [one or two illegible words] 1782. - 25 men including myself under Capt Geo. Jackson went from Richards Fort to Buckhannon Fort in pursuit of Indians - R H Southern took the original draft of my declaration. Jonathan Wamsley put the form. - the declaration now shown me is the same what Wamsley drew for me, I signed and swore to it — Wamsley refused to do this business for less than a year and a half pay. I agreed to give it to him. In witness that this statement is true I hereto subscribe my name.

Witness Nathan Goff,

Adam Flesher

A true copy

W. G Singleton

Note this man refused to give a statement. I thereupon collected evidence to [one or two illegible words] purposes - after a week he called upon me and beged that I would take his own statement. I done so - it is so conclusive that I deem it unnecessary to report the evidence. - he has been sued & Wamsley Indicted - the Grand Jury refused to Indict Flesher.

W. G Singleton Nov. 6 1834

Collector's Office Richmond Va June 5th 1841

Received of James Points Marshal of the W D of Virginia, two hundred and sixty two Dollars and thirty four Cents, which he says was received on account of an execution which issued from The Clerks Office of the U. S. Court holden at Clarksburg in favor of The United States against Adam Flesher's Executor, which had been fraudulently obtained from The United States for Pensions.

Thomas Nelson Coll.

State of Virginia }
County of Lewis } SS.

On this 4th day of March A.D. 1851, personally appeared before me, a Justice of the peace within and for the county and State aforesaid, Adam Flesher, aged eighty six years, a resident of Lewis County in the State of Virginia, who being duly sworn according to law, declares that he is the identical Adam Flesher, who was a ranger, or Indian spy, under command of lieutenant John P. Duvall, in the war with the North Western tribes of Indians; that he enlisted at the county of Harrison in the State of Virginia, on or about the 1st day of March A.D. 1791, for the term of about eight months and continued in actual service from that time until about the middle of August of that year when he was relieved until about the last of September in the same year, when he resumed his duty, and continued in actual service until the first of November in the same year, when he was honourably discharged at the said county of Harrison having actually served for a term of not less than 5½ months in the character aforesaid.

He further states that he is the identical Adam Flesher who was a corporal under command of Capt. William Lowther in the said Indian War, that he enlisted at the said county of Harrison on or about the 1st day of March A.D. 1792 for the term of about eight months, that he was stationed at Flesher's upper station in the said county of Harrison, (the present site of Weston, in the county of Lewis,) had 8 men placed under his command that he continued in actual service at said Station and in ranging the frontier country in order to discover or repel any hostile Indians in any of their incursions into the Settlements from the said 1st day of March A.D. 1792 until the 1st day of November, 1792 when he was again honourably discharged at the said county of Harrison.

In January 1804, he had the misfortune to get his dwelling house consumed by fire, and all his goods and papers, so that he has no discharge or documentary evidence to present. He knows not whether any of his companions in arms are living by whom he could prove his said services, nor does he remember to what regiment he was attached, what its number was or by whom commanded.

He makes this declaration for the purpose of obtaining the bounty land to which he may be entitled under the "Act granting bounty land to certain officers and soldiers who have been engaged in the military service of the United States" passed September 28th 1850.

Adam hisXmark Flesher

State of Virginia }
County of Lewis } SS.

On this 9th day of June A.D. 1856, personally appeared before me, a Justice of the Peace within and for the County and State aforesaid, Elizabeth Flesher, aged seventy nine years, a resident of of the County and State aforesaid, who being duly sworn according to Law, declares that she is the widow of Adam Flesher, deceased, who was an Indian Spy detailed and ordered out by Col. John Pierce Duval Commandant of a regiment of Militia in Harrison County, Virginia. That her said husband commenced his services as a ranger or Indian Spy, in Company with a certain James Tanner, in the Spring of the year 1788, and continued in said service until Nov of that year, That his field of operations was the Country bordering on the Ohio river in North Western Virginia. That he again entered the service as ranger or Indian Spy, under Command of said Duvall the first of March 1791, and continued said services until about the middle of August, in that year, then resumed his said services about the first of Oct. 1791 & continued them for about one month, and that her said husband, under Command of Col. William Lowther of Harrison County Va. was entrusted with the Command of Flesher's upper Station, the site of the town of Weston, Va. had the office of Sergeant conferred upon him, had ten men placed under his command, Viz. Peter Bennett, Samuel Bennett, Lewis Bonnett, Jacob Starcher, Thomas Shaw, Joseph Glanfield, Peter McKinsey, &c. that he continued in this last service in the said Indian War, from early in the Spring of 1792 till late in the Fall of that year. That her said husband at the end of each term of service was honorably discharged. But in the year 1804 had the misfortune to get his house consumed by fire and with it all his papers of every kind, so that there is no documentary evidence within the reach of the said widow by which to support the above detailed facts.

She further states that she was married to the said Adam Flesher, in Harrison Co. Va on the 22^d day of Feby A.D. 1792 by one Joseph Chenowit - a Methodist minister, and that her name before her said marriage was Elizabeth Stotts, That her said husband died in Lewis County, Va. on the [blank] day of Nov. A.D. 1854 and that she is now a widow.

She makes this declaration for the purpose of obtaining the bounty land to which she may be entitled under the "Act approved March 3^d 1855. Elizabeth herXmark Flesher [Certified by George Butcher who received bounty land for services in the Indian Wars.]

I, George W. Clutter, Auditor of Public Accounts, hereby Certify, that it appears from the original Rolls on file in this office "of Captain William Lowther's Company of Volunteer Militia, ordered into service under the Instructions of the Executive of the 12th of December 1791" - that Adam Flesher served as Corporal in said Company from the 15th day of March 1792 to the 1st day of December 1792 and that he received as pay for said service the sum \$52.25. — Given under my hand at the Auditors Office in the City of Richmond Va. the 3rd day of October 1856.

G. W. Clutter Aud. P. Accts.

NOTE: On 10 May 1860 Elizabeth Flesher applied for her own pension as well as her husband's suspended pension. In this application her maiden name is spelled Stoats, and the date of Adam Flesher's death is given as 4 Nov 1854. Two acquaintances of Adam and Elizabeth Flesher certified a copy of three entries in the family record from Elizabeth Flesher's Bible, transcribed as follows:

Adam Flesher was Born July the 29th day in the year of our Lord 1764.

Elizabeth Stoats was Born Oct the 12 day in the yeare of our Lord 1776.

Adam Flesher and Elizabeth Stoats was Married the 22 day of Febuary in the yeare of our Lord 1792.