

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Retherford S1869

f14VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

6/18/12

[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 Tennessee Knox County: SS

On this __day of January 1833 Personally appeared in Open Court before us John McMillin, William Craighead and Hugh Brown three of the acting Justices of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions in and for said County and state now sitting William Retherford a resident of said County of Knox and State aforesaid in the said County of Knox and State of Tennessee aged eighty-four 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. He was born on Cripple Creek in With [Wythe] County State of Virginia on the 10th day of June 1748 as he was informed by his parents. He has no record of his age. He was living in said With County Virginia at which place in the 1st of July 1776 he was drafted for a six months tour against the Shawnee Indians under Lieutenant George Forbus [George Forbush?] we had no Captain at the start, we had no Colonel, nor General. Rendezvoused at the lead mines in said With County at the time last aforesaid, marched into Powells Valley [Powell's Valley], to Cavans's [?]¹ Fort, we were then put under the command of Captain James Noll, we lay there about four months, we then marched to Blackmore's Fort, we were then commanded by Captain Blackmore, his Christian name not recollected, we lay there until our time was out. We had no battle. We were then honorably discharged in the 1st of January 1777 said discharge was signed by said Lieutenant Forbus, and was put into the hands of Colonel Crocket and sent to the War Department he died and the discharge was never returned. He served at that time six months. —

Again while living at the same place about the middle of June 1777 he was drafted for a six months tour against the Shawnee Indians under Captain William Harberd [possibly William Hubbard], in Colonel Christie's [William Christian's] Regiment of Militia, his Christian name not recollected, we had general. We rendezvoused at Horberds ferry [possibly Hubbard's Ferry?] in said County of With at the time last aforesaid. We marched to the Carts [?]² of Greenbrier, lay there about three months, at which place Captain Harberd took sick, went home and died and we were put under the command of Captain Harrard [possibly William Harrod], his Christian name not recollected. We then marched to the new mouth of big Kanaway [Kanawha] River and lay

¹ Cavans's

² carts

there till our time was out, and was then honorably discharged about the middle of December 1777. We had no battle his discharge was signed by said Colonel Christian and put into the hands of Colonel Crocket with the 1st one and the lost in the same way he served at this time six months –

Again while living in said With County Virginia in the 1st of May 1778 he substituted for a six months tour against the Shawnee Indians in the room and stead of Benjamin Retherford, under Captain John Draper. We had no Colonel, nor General with us, we rendezvoused at Draper's medows [meadows], at the time last aforesaid, marched to Davidsons Fort between Blue Stone and the head of Sandy River, we lay there one time was out and was there honorably discharged, his discharge was signed by said Captain Draper and given to said Colonel Crocket with the two former once and lost with them, he served at this time six months he was in no battle. He was discharged in the 1st of November 1778 –

Again while living in said With County Virginia in the 1st of August 1779 he volunteered under Captain James Blueford [Captain James Buford] in Colonel Shelby's [Isaac Shelby's] Regiment his Christian name not recollected in General William Christie's Brigade Rendezvoused at Fort Chisell [Fort Chiswell] at the time last aforesaid then marched to the long islands of hoston [Holston River] against the Cherokee Indians lay there some time we were there joined by the North and South Carolina troops then we marched through the Country destroying the Indian towns as we went and lay some time at old Conastato town, we destroyed it and then marched back to the long islands of Holston, and he was there honorably discharged about the 1st of November 1779 his discharge was signed by said Captain Bluford and given to him afterwards to take to the war Department to get his back pay he never returned it, he served at this time three months – Again while living in said With County Virginia he volunteered for a six months tour against the Tories & British under Captain James Newill, had no Colonel, it was about the last of June 1781 we rendezvoused at the lead mines and was stationed there and stayed there till our time was out which was about the last of December 1781 he was then and there honorably discharged his discharge was signed by Captain Newill and is lost he was in no battle he served at this time six months and he served in the whole two years and three months for which he claims a pension. He may be mistaken as to the dates of some of his tours above mentioned he is certain he served the full times of two years and three months. He continued to live in the said With County Virginia till about the year 1820 at which time he removed into said Knox County where he has lived ever since and still lives – He was drafted he volunteered and was a substitute as mentioned above – He recollects the names of no other Regular officers who were with the troops where he served nor no other Continental or militia Regiment nor the general circumstances of his service further than a above stated. He received five discharges which are all accounted for above. He held no commission. He is acquainted in his present neighborhood with Esquire William Sawyers, Martin Minett, Esquire, George Graves, Colonel Nicholas Gibbs all of whom he believes can testify that he is a man of veracity and that they believe him to have been a soldier of the revolution. 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 – there is no clergyman living immediately in his neighborhood nor none that he can procure who can testify to the repute of his service as a soldier. He has no documentary evidence and he knows of no living person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his actual service.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid in Open Court

S/ Wm Swan, D. Clk

S/ William Retherford, X his mark

[Samuel Kelly and Aaron Harbison gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 2 years in the Virginia militia.]

[Given how bad the spelling of this scribe was, I suspect the veteran's name might well have been William Rutherford, not Retherford.]