

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of William Cornwell S21125

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

State of Tennessee }

Jefferson County }

Personally appeared before me George Branner one of the acting Justices of the Peace in and for the County of Jefferson aforesaid William Cornwell a resident of the County and State aforesaid aged Eighty two 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 7 1832. That he entered in the service of the United States and served in the Revolutionary War as follows.

In the month of February 1777 he volunteered and entered the Service, of the United States, was enrolled in Captain Witchers [William Witcher's] Company at Pittsylvania Court House Virg'a, thence he was marched to the Long Island on the Holstein river [sic: Long Island of Holston River at present Kingsport TN], where he was commanded by Col. [Evan] Shelby, at which place he was stationed, and kept in service three months, untill the term of time for which he entered the service expired – was discharged, received a discharged which he has mislaid or lost.

In the month of May 1777 he volunteered & entered the service of the United States at the Long Island on the Holstein river he was enrolled in Captain Joseph Martins Company – was commanded by Col. Shelby at which place he was stationed three months. was discharged. received a discharge which he has mislaid or lost.

In the month of March 1779 He volunteered and entered the service of the United States enrolled himself in Capt David Cardwells [David Chadwell's?] Company rendezvouzed at Fort Parris [sic: Fort Pearis at present Pearisburg] on New River where he was stationed for some time – thence he was marched to Col Preston's House [William Preston's house at present Blacksburg] and was kept guarding it from the ravages of the Indians British and Tories, thence he was marched to Hatfields Fort[on Stony Creek near Pearisburg], where he remained in service untill the Term of his service expired, was in service three months received a discharge which he has mislaid or lost

And afterwards towit in the latter part of the year 1780 or early in 1781. He again Volenteered, and entered the service of the United States, enrolled himself in Capt James Sheltons Company, was commanded by Col. Lions [sic: James Lyon] was stationed at Sheltons part of his time & part at Moores was in several scouting parties against the Brittish, was marched to join the main army at the Battle of Guilford [Guilford Courthouse NC, 15 Mar 1781], but did not reach the place in time, thence he was marched back to Sheltons where he was discharged having been six months in service received a discharge which he has mislaid or lost

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

Sworn to & subscribed before me the 5th day of February AD 1834. [signed illegibly]

The following interrogatories were propounded to the applicant by the Justices of the Peace before whom this declaration is made

Question Where and in what year were you born

Answer I was born in Amelia County in the State of Virginia in the year 1752.

Question Have you any record of your age and if so where is it

Answer I have no record of my age.

Question Where were you living when called into serv[ice] where have you lived since the Revolutionary war and where do you now live

Answer I was living in Pittsylvania County in the State of Virginia when called into service, after the

Revolutionary war was over I moved to Wythe County Va. thence to Jefferson County Ten where I now live

Question How were you called into service were you drafted did you Volunteer, or were you a substitute and if a substitute for whom

Answer I served as a Volunteer during my whole service.

Question State the names of some of the Regular Officers who were with the Troops, where you served, such Continental and Militia Regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service

Answer In the first Tour of duty that I performed there was Captain Witcher – Col Shelby – Second tour Captain Joseph Martin & Col Shelby. Third David Cardwell Captain – no other Officer of higher grade. My Fourth & last Tour Captain Shelton & Col Lions – does not recollect any thing about the Regiments.

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

Answer I did receive a discharge from each tour of duty two of which was signed by Col Selby one by Captain Cardwell and one by Col Lions which discharged I have mislaid or lost that they cannot be found.

Question State the names of Persons to whom you are known in your present neighbourhood, and who can testify as to our character for veracity and their belief of our services as a soldier of the Revolution.

Answer I can prove my actual service towit one tour of duty by Captain David Cardwell of Claibourne County Ten and my whole service by William Hays [pension application S38797] of Jefferson County, and my character for veracity and good behaviour and their belief of my Revolutionary services by the Rev'd Andrew Gass and Abraham Palmore of Jefferson County.

[signed illegibly]

State of Tennessee } This day being the 23^d of July 1833 personally appeared before me Peter Neal
Claiborne County } one of the acting Justices of the peace who wholds the court of please and quarter
sessions held for said county the same being a court of Record David Chadwell aged about ninety five
years and made Oath that he is well acquainted with William Cornwell who is making an application for
a pention and has been so acquainted with him since the year of 1779. he states that he at that time
resided in the County of Henry in the State of Virginia and I was there appointed to the command of
Capt. and I then took the command as such for the terme of three moths and I now Recognise the said
Cornwell as being one of my men who did serve under me in that campaign and from thence we marched
to New River where we joined the Regiment commanded by Col. William Preston where we were
stationed until my Terme of Servis Expired and I then Rece'd. my discharge from Colon'l William Preston
and Returned home and I also Note that the said Cornwell did serve under me as a true whig in the caus
of his country for the Terme aforesaid of three month and further this affiant saith not
Sworn to and subscribed to before me Peter Neil Justice of the peace for Claiborne County

David hisXmark Chadwell