

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Christopher Depoy S2166 VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

The State of Ohio, Ross County, Sct.

On this twenty first day of March in the year one thousand eight hundred and thirty three, personally appeared in open Court, before the Court of Common Pleas of the County of Ross and State of Ohio, now sitting, Christopher Depoy, a resident of Buckskin Township, in said County of Ross, aged seventy one years last August, who being 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 the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated: He first entered the service of the United States in the year seventeen hundred and eighty but the month he does not now recollect. From other data and dates, however, he states that his first entering the service must have been about the month of October. He entered the service for a three month's tour, and served accordingly as a substitute for Henry Shank a drafted Militia man in Captain [John] Rices's company. He joined Captain Rice's Company at Colonel [Daniel] Smith's in Rockingham County Virginia. From Colonel Smith's Captain Rice's Company, this declarant a member, marched to Richmond, and on towards Norfolk, near which place the company joined the main army under General Washington. [See endnote.] The army marched to Little York [Yorktown], and from Little York through the Country to Portsmouth and back again, and this declarant was discharged at Little York. He was in no "pitched battle." On one occasion he was sent out with a party to bring in some cattle. The party being attacked by some British troops, after about half an hour's firing retreated. He was frequently marched to and fro through the Country, but the object of the marching he did not understand or has forgotten He received a written discharge, signed by Captain Rice. Captain Rice and Colonel [William] Nall were together when the discharge was signed. The discharge was lost during this Declarant's residence on Rockingham Virginia – or he supposes it was then lost as he has not recollection of having seen it since that time. A short time, perhaps a month or two, after his discharge from his first tour, as detailed above, he, in the year seventeen hundred and eighty one, again entered the service of the United States for a three month's tour, and served accordingly, as a substitute for his father Isaac Depoy in Captain [George] Baxter's Company. He joined his company Captain Baxter's, near Harrisonburgh [sic: Harrisonburg], sometimes called Rocktown – in Rockingham County, Virginia, at Colonel Smith's. From Colonel Smith's, Captain Baxter's Company, of which this declarant was a member, marched to Richmond, Virginia, and were there attached to Colonel Nall's Regiment. From Richmond he was marched with Colonel Nall's Regiment, through Williamsburgh to Little York. From Little York he was marched through a cane swamp, which was passed about three moles on logs, to Carolina, and from Carolina he was marched back to Portsmouth. He was stationed at Portsmouth for short intervals, when not in the march to and fro; he was frequently marched short distances through the Country about Portsmouth, to which place as to head Quarters, he was marched back. He was discharged, and received a written discharge, at Little York, back to which place he had been marched from Portsmouth. His Major was Major Guy Hamilton [Gawen Hamilton]. He was in no battles, and had no personal [acquain]tance with any of the regular officers. He is a "Pennsylvania Dutchman" but very imperfectly acquainted with the English language. His not understanding the English language was of great prejudice to him in the apprehension and collection of details; and now greatly embarrasses him in making his declaration. Shortly, perhaps three or four weeks, after his discharge from his second tour, this Declarant was called out as a drafted Militia man, to serve, and served accordingly, a three month's tour, in Captain Leonard Herron's Company. The company again assembled at Colonel Smith's, where this declarant joined it. He was marched thence through Richmond and Williamsburgh towards Little York. His services during this third tour consisted principally in marching through the Country about Little York. He was on one occasion marched with a party to attack the British picket guards at Jamestown. This declarant was in the

rear of the party, and as soon as the van Commenced the firing a retreat was ordered. He was marched back towards Little York, near which place he was discharged about three or four weeks before the capture of Cornwallis [19 Oct 1781]. He served in all nine months, and claims a pension as for that length of time. For the last tour of three months, he received a written discharge from his Captain, Herron, but lost it during his residence in Rockingham County, Virginia. This Declarant has seen Generals Washington, Muhlenburgh [sic: Peter Muhlenberg] and [Anthony] Wayne. Gen. Wayne reached Jamestown [about 6 Jul 1781] shortly after the attack made on the British picket guards as above stated. He was born in the State of Pennsylvania; but while he was quite young, his Father moved to Rockingham County Virginia, where he resided at the several times of entering the service as above detailed, and where he continued to reside till about nineteen or twenty years ago, when he came to Ross County, Ohio, within the limits of which he has since resided 'till the present moment. He has no documentary evidence by which he can prove his services; but he expects to prove them by Adam Howard [pension application S8716]. Adam Butt & Henry Butt served with him part of the time; but as they live in the Miami County, if they are still living, he does not know that he will be able to procure their testimony. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and declares that he is not on the Pension Roll of the Agency of any State. And the said Christopher Depoy being interrogated in open Court, answered as follows towit:

When and where were you born? I was born in the Town of Reading, Lancaster County State of Pennsylvania in the year seventeen hundred and sixty one. From Reading my father moved to Rockingham County Virginia where I first entered the service
Have you any record of your age, and if so where is it? I have a record of my age, now at my own house. My Father kept a record of his children's ages, and the Bible containing it falling into the hands of my Brother John, who brot it to this state, I took from it the ages of myself and my Brothers and Sisters

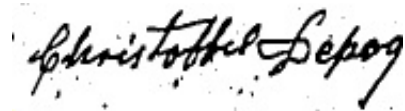
Where were you living when called into the service, where have you lived since the Revolutionary War, and where do you now live? At the time of entering the service I lived in Rockingham County, Virginia, where I lived till about nineteen or twenty years ago, when I came to Ross County, Ohio, in which I have since resided 'till the present time.

How were you called into service, were you drafted, did you volunteer, or were you a substitute? And if a substitute for whom? Twice I entered the service as a substitute, first for Henry Shank and next for Isaac Depoy; the third tour I was called out as a drafted Militia Man.

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 services. I had no particular acquaintance with any of the Regular officers. I have seen Gen. Muhlenburgh, Gen. Wayne and have frequently seen Gen. Washington, as already stated; but was little able to know or distinguish Regiments. I cannot state that I was employed in any particular service. I was pretty generally on the march through the Country about Portsmouth and Little York.

Did you receive a written discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it signed & what has become of it? For the first and second tours I received written discharges signed by my captains. For the third tour I received also a discharge signed by Captain Herron; but I lost them during my residence in Rockingham County Virginia.

Sworn and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.



NOTE: The main army under Gen. Washington did not arrive in Virginia until September 1781. Adam Howard stated that he served with Depoy in his second and third tours.