

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Payton Horton S2320

f23VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

4/28/14

[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. The word 'illegible' or 'indcipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. 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 skills fail 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 material errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Kentucky County of Knox: SS

On this ___ day of ___ 1832 personally appeared before Joseph Eve Circuit Judge of the 15th Judicial district including the County of Knox John Payton Horton a resident citizen of Lynn Camp Creek in the County of Knox and State of Kentucky aged 74 years next December who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed June the 7th 1832.

That he was drafted in the militia of the United States in the year 1777 in the fall season of the year Black Vol Payton [Valentine Peyton or Payton] Captain, Lemuel Jackson Lieutenant, John Ross Ensign, Harry Lee Colonel. I was living at the time of this draft which was for three months in Prince William County Virginia.

The object of this draft was to raise troops to keep Philadelphia from falling into the hands of the British – Before we got to Philadelphia the British had taken it. We were encamped at a little village the name not remembered, not very far from Philadelphia, we were so near that we could distinctly hear the British cannon fire in Philadelphia – There was a General with the troops where I was stationed but I cannot recollect his name. I did not see Washington this Tour though I understood he was stationed not far from us – I remember now my General was named ___ Weeden [George Weedon]. I never expected to be called upon to give an account upon my oath of those times – from Prince William we marched through Lee's town and Frederick's town – I think they called it 140 miles from where I lived to Philadelphia – I received no written discharge for this service but when my time (3 months) was out I returned home with my Captain Black Val. Payton – he was called Black to distinguish him from another Captain Payton called White Vol. Payton.

The second time I was drafted was also in the month of September, I remember born was getting a little hard, but whether it was in 1778 or 1779 I cannot speak positively from the loss of memory – this Tour was also for three months under my former Captain Black Vol Payton in Prince Williams [sic] County Virginia – this draft was to raise men to save the country against the British who had in their shipping ascended the Potomac River. I did not quite serve out this tour but when the British descended the River were discharged but received a credit for the full three months as though it had all been performed – we did not march in this Tour out of our own County but was employed chiefly in guarding Dumfries and Colchester – Harry Lee was again our Colonel. I received no written discharge for this service. I now remember that this service was in 1778 because in 1778 I performed another Tour of three months which I am going to describe – and in the fall afterwards 1780 enlisted for 18 months which expired on the 8th of

March after Cornwallis was taken [October 19, 1781].

In my third Tour for three months which I now feel pretty confident was in the fall of 1779 I was Drafted under my former Captain Payton – during a considerable portion of this Tour I was engaged in cutting out a road through Fairfax, Dumfries, Fredericksburg & Falmouth – we were told that this was for the purpose of enabling Washington to follow Cornwallis – I saw Washington during this Tour and joined his troops at Dumfries – Washington traveled the road we had cut out for him. I received no written discharge for this service.

In the fall of 1780 on the 8th of September I enlisted as a private under Captain John Tibbs – Lieutenant James Watson – Ensign (William Melton I believe) Colonel Lee for 18 months – we rendezvoused at Dumfries in Prince William County Virginia – Thence we marched to Manchester – we encamped there some time – we were alternately marching & encamping in Virginia from the time of my enlistment until my discharge – it is impossible for me to point out our route we were in Richmond, Falmouth, Williamsburg, Norfolk and many other places of less general notoriety – I was at Yorktown at the taking of Cornwallis. I believe my Regiment was the 25th but I would not be positive – there was a heap of broken Regiments and companies and I may and probably did belong to many other regiments during this service – I was discharged in Fredericksburg on the 8 March 1782. I received a written discharge for this service signed by Colonel Tolls which I kept until peace was made – when I returned home. I showed my discharge to Colonel Peyton – Colonel Ewell and all our leading men in Prince William some years ago I went to the Federal City with James Green and examined the records in the war Department for the name of my Captain Tibbs and my own name – but they could not then be found. I then went to Dumfries in search of my Captain and there I learned that Col. Tibbs a near relation of Captain Tibbs that my Captain had some years before moved to Kentucky and had died. I then made an application¹ for a pension and prove my service in Culpeper County Virginia by Landy Watters [?]² and George Pusby [? or Purley]³ – I could also at that time and place have proved my services by George Figgins but I was told by Squire James Green that two witnesses were sufficient – Charles Shackelford then the states atto [attorney?] prepared my papers – the same papers were afterwards sent back by the war Department with a declaration that I was too rich – James Green is now dead – my witnesses were living the last I heard of them but I am now too old and poor to travel to that country again if it is possible to save me this trouble and expense.

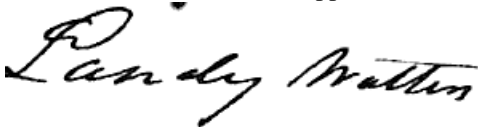
My services were in every instance as a private.

1. I was born in Prince William on the Potomac River in December between Christmas and new year in 1759

2nd. There was a record of my age in my father's Bible which by accident was torn out.

3rd. I was living in Prince William County Virginia when I was drafted and when I enlisted – I lived there until the close of the revolution. I moved to Fauquier and then to Culpeper and in

¹ This file contains no earlier application.

² 

³ 

January 1831 moved to my present place of residence on Lynn Camp Creek Knox County Kentucky

4th. My 3 first Tours of three months each was as a draftsman – my last Tour of 18 months was under an enlistment

5th. General Washington, Marquis Lafayette, General Weedon, General Morgan and General Lincoln – I do not remember with certainty the number of any of the regiments with which I served even militia or Continental

6th. For the first three tours of 3 months each I received no discharge – for my last Tour of 18 months I received a written discharge which was signed by Colonel Tolls but now lost

7th. I am known in my present neighborhood to Jesse Fowler, Jesse Moore, William Duese, Elijah Harris, William Mullins (James Moody whom I knew well in Virginia) and many others besides my sons John B. & Will Horton who are also my neighbors and who have for 30 years heard me speak of my revolutionary services and who knows the truth of the statement I have made about preparing my proof in Culpeper County, Philip Buracre now of this County who has lately removed from Culpeper knows the same facts, all of whom if present I would doubt not testify to my character for veracity and their belief of my services as a revolutionary soldier.

I hereby relinquish every claim to a pension whatever or an annuity except the present and I declare my name is not on the pension roll of any state or agency.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ John Payton Horton

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Payton Horton". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.

[James Moody & Philip Buracre 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 service.]