

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Childress (Childers) S2423

f34VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 11/2/14

[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 'indecipherable' 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 Tennessee, Knox County: County Ct. January Sessions 1833

On the 9th day of January 1833, personally appeared in open Court, at a Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions now sitting for the County aforesaid, being a Court of record, John Childress a citizen of said County aged seventy three 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 provisions of an act of Congress passed 7th June 1832--

That he was born in Albemarle County, Virginia on the 2nd day of December 1759, where he resided but a short time until he removed to Amherst County, Virginia where he continued to live at the time of the commencement, and during the continuance, of the Revolutionary war, and after its termination to the year 1785 or 86 as well as he now recollects. That sometime in August 1778 as well as he now recollects the militia of Amherst County were called out and put under the command of General McIntosh [Lachlan McIntosh] and Colonel Broadhead [Daniel Brodhead], and he now thinks that he entered the said Army as a volunteer and was immediately put under the command of Captain Roger Shackelford who was detailed for the purpose of driving and taking care of the beef cattle intended for the supply of the Army – that the said Army under the command of said General McIntosh marched from Amherst County, through Stantown [sic, Staunton] Virginia and crossed the Allegheny mountain and Braddock's old trace and crossed the Monongahela River at a place called the boat yard – from here the Army marched to the Ohio River and built Fort McIntosh, which they occupied a few months, and then crossed the Ohio River and marched to the Muskingum River where they remained some time, but how long applicant does not now recollect – applicant states that after the time the Army left Amherst County he with some others under the command of the said Captain Shackelford were ordered to take charge of the beef cattle and drove them on in the rear of the Army until they crossed the Monongahela River at the Boatyard as above mentioned, when the said Captain Shackelford was ordered to drive on a portion of the Cattle to the place where the said Fort McIntosh was afterwards erected, and applicant under the command of Captain Richard Gaffert [?]¹, was ordered to drive the balance of the Cattle down upon Raccoon Creek for the purpose of procuring pasturage – applicant states that he remained on Raccoon Creek herding the cattle under the command of the said Captain Gaffert until the Army had returned from the Muskingum to Fort McIntosh, when the said Captain Gaffert received orders to drive the Cattle into a settlement on Muddy Creek and expose them to sale the Army having marched back and being discharged – applicant states that in pursuance of his orders the said Captain Gaffert drove the said cattle of which he had had charge, to Muddy Creek and there sold them, after which applicant and those who had been with him under the command of said



¹ Gafford?

Captain marched back and were discharged in Staunton-- applicant states that he reached home on the 22nd of February and he thinks he was discharged on the 20th two days before, and he states that his discharge mentioned a "six months service" -- applicant states that during this whole service he never was in actual contact with the Main Army, but always in its immediate neighborhood and at all times subject to the commands and discipline of the commanding General – applicant states that sometime in the fall of 1779 he together with a portion of the militia of Amherst County was ordered out for one month to guard the Hessian prisoners then stationed at Albemarle barracks-- that he entered the Army at some place in Amherst County, and was enrolled into a company commanded by Captain Richard Woodruff, which company was attached to a Regiment under the command of Colonel Taylor [Francis Taylor] – with this Company and Regiment applicant marched to Albemarle barracks where he remained during service until the month for which he had been ordered out, had expired, when he was discharged and returned home. Applicant states that sometime in the spring or summer of 1781 the militia of Amherst County were drafted among whom a certain William Davis was drafted, but he being unwilling from some circumstances to go, he hired applicant as his substitute accordingly applicant met his company at Amherst Courthouse and enrolled himself as a substitute for said William Davis into a Company commanded by Captain William Tucker, under whose command applicant with his company marched directly to Mawbin Hills [Malvern Hills], here our Company lay about a week and we then marched directly to Williamsburg, where we remained two or three days and then marched directly to the halfway house, between old Hampton and Little York, where we met the Main Army of militia under the command of General Nelson [Thomas Nelson] -- here we remained about two weeks, when all the militia then present marched under the command of General Nelson to Little York, where we met with the regular Army under the command of Lafayette – applicant well recollects that while they lay at York Lafayette gave them a sham fight and then reviewed their troops – applicant states that he had entered the service for two months only, but at the expiration of this time, the new levy not having arrived to supply their place, they were retained very much to their dissatisfaction, for two or three weeks after the two months for which they had been drafted, had expired, when they were marched back to Richmond and there discharged – applicant states that although, he had entered the service for two months only, yet it was nearly three months before he was discharged – applicant states that he has served as above mentioned one campaign of six months against the Indians as a private in the Revolutionary war, one campaign of one month as a private in guarding the Hessian prisoners, and one campaign of two months and fifteen days as a substitute against the British Army making in all nine months and fifteen days actual Service – for which he claims a pension – Applicant states that he has a record of his age in his family Bible was taken from an old record in his Mother's Bible – he states that he lived in Amherst County during the whole time he was in the Army and afterwards until sometime in the year 1785 or '86 when he moved to Burke County North Carolina where he continued to live about one year, when he moved to Wilkes County N. C. where he lived about seven or eight years, and then moved to the same neighborhood in Knox County Tennessee, where he has continued to live ever since and now lives – applicant states that the persons in his neighborhood who have long known him, and who can testify to his veracity and the reputation of his military services are, Joshua Frost, Page Portwood, James Epperson. Applicant states that he received written discharges for each of his campaigns, that he afterwards transferred all his claims upon the Government to different individuals, and gave them up his discharges, and he does not now know where they are to be found – he states that he now has neither of said discharges nor any documentary evidence whatever of his said services, nor does he know of any person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his services – he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity, except the present, and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.

Sworn to and subscribed in open Court the ninth day of January 1833.

S/ Wm Swan, D. C.

S/ John Childress

of John Childress

[Joshua Frost (clergyman), Page Portwood and James Epperson gave the standard supporting affidavits.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$31.66 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 9 months and 15 days in the Virginia militia.]