

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of James Mitchell S2836

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Tennessee }

Robertson County }

On this ninth day of August 1832 personally appeared before me Milton Bourne a justice of the peace in the County and state aforesaid James Mitchell a resident in the County of Robertson and State of Tennessee, and after being duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following statement.

That in the fall of 1776 he lived at the house of John Rodgers in the County of Bedford and State of Virginia that he volunteered in a rifle company under Capt. Christopher Irvine and served a tour of two or three months against the Cherokee Indians, Col. [William] Christian was first, and I think Col. Russel [sic: William Russell] was second in command.

The s'd Mitchell doth further state on his oath, that on the first day of January in the year 1777 he enlisted in the army of the United States in the Continental line under Capt. George Lambert in the County of Bedford State of Virginia, for the term of three years. I served under Col. Abram Beufort [sic: Abraham Buford] also a Col. — Davis [sic: William Davies] and a Col. [Burgess] Ball; I have a distinct recollection of an officer much beloved by the men whose name was Samuel Jordan Cavel [sic: Samuel Jordan Cabell], whose title run thus. — Maj. of the tenth Virginia regiment, Maj. of Brigade, Brigade inspector, Sub-inspector, and Agetant General. My Captain George Lambert was broke of his commission for stealing a hat. I think that Archibald Moore succeeded Capt Lambert who I believe was my first Lieutenant, Andrew Rodgers [pension application S35635] was my second Lieutenant, he (Rodgers) resigned his commission after serving 12 or 15 months; Rodgers is dead, his name may be found on the pension roll, embraced under the Act of 1818. When first I joined the service I belonged to the fourteenth Virginia Regiment, but was afterwards reduced to the tenth.

When I joined the regular army we were marched to Dumfriese [sic: Dumfries] Va. and was inoculated with the smallpox, from Dumfriese we marched to Alexandria Va. (now in the District of Columbia) at which place we remained some weeks, untill we got well of the smallpox or vaccine, from thence we marched through Georgetown and other places not now recollected, and early in the month of June 77 we joined the main army under the command of Gen'l. Washington in the state of N. Jersey, about which time I think that LaFayette received from Gen'l. Washington the command of a Maj. General [from Congress at Philadelphia, 31 July 1777]. The first winter we lay at Valley forge in the State of Pennsylvania. I was in the battle of Monmouth under Gen'l. [Charles] Lee on the 28<sup>th</sup> of June 1778. the following winter we lay at Middle Brook [Middlebrook] in the State of New Jersey, not far from New Brun[swick] During the year of 79 we were marched to many places, but I cannot state with any precision the names of them.

In the fall or beginning of winter 79 we had built our winter huts in the vicinity of Trenton N. Jersey; but received orders for those whose time of service would expire on the first of January following to be marched to Philadelphia, at which place many of the soldiers were discharged; myself and others were retained for the purpose of guarding some prisoners to Fredericktown in the State of Maryland; at which place I received an honourable discharge for three year's service; I received my discharge from Col. (probable Maj.) Hill, his christian name not recollected [probably Thomas Hill].

I disposed of my discharge for a trifle, shortly after an Act of Congress making provision for the Officers and Soldiers of the Revolution who had received their wages in a depreciated currency.

In the Spring of 1781 I volunteered in Bedford County Virginia in a rifle company; Jacob Moone [sic: Jacob Moon] was my Captain, Benjamin Rice was first Lieutenant, and myself first Sergent, we were under the command of Col. Charles Linch [sic: Charles Lynch] untill we joined Gen'l. [Nathanael] Greene, we

marched to Guilford Courthouse in the State of N. Carolina I was in the heat of that battle on the 15<sup>th</sup> of March, my Capt. (Moone) was killed, Benj. Rice succeeded him, and I was promoted to Ensign [see endnote]. At this battle the British kept the field, but soon left it; we pursued them nearly to their shipping but could not get another fight out of them; the Virginia volunteers left Gen'l. Greene with the regulars, and returned home; I think I served about 2 months this tour. during the Summer of 81 I served another tour of a few weeks, and the same fall I moved from Bedford County Va. to what is now Mercer County Kentucky, where I had many little skirmishes with the Indians.

In 1807 I moved from Mercer County Va. to Robertson County Tennessee my present residence; should I live until the 17<sup>th</sup> day of November next I shall be 78 years of age; Springfield my county town, is a distance of fifteen miles from me; a greater distance than I have traveled for several years, I think I could travel that far, but it would be attended with much inconvenience, such being the case, I have made my declaration before a Justice of the peace, who constitutes one of the judges of our County Courts, and submit it to the department with such other evidence as I have been able to procure, as I am in possession of no papers that would go to establish my claim

I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, embraced in an Act of Congress, passed on the 7 June 1832, and do further declare that my name is not on the Pension Roll of the Agency of any State.

[signed] James Mitchell

[Nathaniel Terry (pension application W3054) stated that he had known Mitchell in the war. Henry Ayres or Ayers (W445) stated that he had been raised a neighbor to Mitchell and after discussing the war with him had no doubt of his service.]

NOTE: The rank of Ensign was granted only by commission from the Governor, but the Governor sometimes signed blank commissions to be filled out by officers in the field.