

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Garland Cosby S30334

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Kentucky } S.S.

County of Henderson }

On this 26th day of May 1834 personally appeared in open court before the Justices of the County Court of Henderson County aforesaid, now sitting Garland Cosby a resident of the said County of Henderson in the State of Kentucky aged 75 or 76 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 provision made by the act of Congress, passed June 7th 1832. That he enlisted in the army of the united States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. That about the last of march or first of april in the year 1776 he enlisted as a private soldier he believes for the term of 12 months (though he is not certain as to the length of time for which he enlisted) in Louisa County in the State of Virginia in a Company Commanded by James Dabney as Captain, – John Crutchfield was Lttenant and he believes one Joseph Street was ensign, that he marched from thence to Williamsburg virginia and from thence to Hampton Virginia, that his Company was attached to a Regiment Commanded by Colo. Samuel Meredith called a minute Regiment that he was (with the Regiment) stationed at Hampton four or five months, that he marched from thence to Portsmouth or went by water, that he remained at Portsmouth in Service until the 25th december 1776, and was then discharged. He can not recollect whether he received a written discharge or not but if he did it is lost, that he was in the service at this time about nine months.

That in the year 1777 (he believes) he enlisted as a private soldier in Louisa County Va. under Captain David Anderson and was appointed orderly Sergeant to the Company by the Capt. that this company marched to Williamsburg Va. and there joined a Regiment Commanded by Colo. Grayson, that he was soon after appointed Quartermaster to Graysons Regiment the troops were encamped in the park near Williamsburg; One [John] Sanders was Capt Andersons Lieutenant – William Pettis was a major in the same Regiment – Andersons Company was drafted, or called for by rotation from the said County of Louisa but he was a volunteer – he thinks he did not receive a written discharge here as Capt Andersons Company were all discharged together, and he was in service at this time two months. He further swears that about the first of the year 1778 he thinks in February or march, he was induced to go out with a Company of drafted men from Louisa County Virginia, by one William Kellis who called himself a major and promised him (said Cosby) a commission. That he marched to Alexandria Va. and there all the troops were inoculated for the Small Pox, that after he got well of the small pox he marched from thence and joined the main Army at the Vally forge in New Jersey [sic: Valley Forge PA], and there he found that the said William Kellis was not a major, but only 2^d Lieutenant in a Company Commanded by Captain John Stith, and there he (Cosby) was returned as a drafted man, and placed in said John Stiths company, that he was afterwards appointed orderly Sergeant for said John Stiths Company Benjamin Lawson was said Stith's 1st Lieutenant the said Wm. Kellis 2^d Lieutenant and William Morlan ensign – Said Stiths Company was attached to the 4th Virginia Regiment and that commanded by Colo. John Nevil [sic: John Nevill], this Regiment belonged to Gen'l [Peter] Muhlenberg's Brigade, and major Croghorn (or Croghan) [William Croghan] was Brigade Major, the aforesaid Benjamin Lawson was Paymaster and Quarter master to the said 4th Virginia Regiment commanded by Colo. John Nevil. He does not remember the term for which Stiths Company was drafted but knows he remained in the service under said Stith until 1779 when he was appointed Forage Master to General Muhlenbergs Brigade, by Colo. Clement Biddle (who was Quartermaster General) Some few days after his appointment as Forage Master he (the said Garland Cosby) drew a Horse and a sum of money for which he gave a receipt and entered upon the duties of his office. That he marched with the Virginia Troops to Charleston South Carolina and served

said Troops as a purchasing forage master to Charleston S.C. That he was ordered back from Charleston to Camden S.C. by General [William] Woodford to Capt Young as Deputy Quartermaster who had charge of some stores in Camden. That Capt Young sent him on to Santee River to furnish Colo. [Abraham] Buford that he remained with said Colo. Ab'm Buford acting in the capacity of Forage Master until his defeat, called Bufords defeat in June 1780 [sic: Battle of Waxhaws SC, 29 May 1780] where he lost his commission or written appointment as Forage master together with all his other papers clothes and everything he had, except what was on his back, and after the defeat he returned home to Louisa County Va. and he was in service at this time two years & 3 months

He further states on his oath, that in the year 1781 he enlisted as a Soldier (a volunteer) in a company of militia commanded by Capt Hughes from Louisa County Va and he acted as Lieutenant to the company, that he marched to Williamsburg Va, but before starting the said Capt Hughes got into a fight (fisty cuffs) and got very much bruised and blacked up, and he (said Cosby) marched the Company commanding as Lieutenant to Gloucester County Va. opposite to little York, when Capt Hughes came up, but was so blacked & bruised up that he was discharged by Colo. Campbell & said Cosby appointed to Command the Company in his place this Company was attached to Colo. Campbells Regiment. That a few days after this he said Cosby was detached as a Captain, tho' not commissioned, with a Company of Infantry on the Gloucester side of James River [sic] in a Regiment commanded by Colo. James Ennis (or Innis) [sic: James Innes] that he remained in the service until he was decharged and was in service at this time two months – He states that for the times during which the services herein before stated were performed he was not employed in any civil pursuit; That he has no discharge or other documentary evidence except the Depositions of Daniel Barbee [pension application S12951], John Parker [S14081] and Asa Thomson which are herewith submitted and he is informed that it is probable said Depositions are not authenticated in conformity to the regulations of the war department, but he states that said witnesses live about two hundred miles from him, and he does not know whether they are still living as they are very old men. That he is old and infirm & in indigent circumstances and therefore unable to travel to them to retake their depositions

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present, and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any state.

[signed] Garland Cosby

The following interrogatories were then propounded by the Court, to the said applicant Garland Cosby – and to which he gave the following answers towit.

1. Where and in what year were you born?

Answer I was born in Hanover County Virginia in the year 1758 or 1759 but which of those years I am not positive

2. Have you any record of your age, and if so, where is it?

Answer None, but from the best information I have I was born in the year 1758 or 1759 as above stated.

3. Where were you living when called into service; where have you lived since the Revolutionary war, and where do you now live?

Answer I was living in Louisa County, Virginia, every time I was called into service; I removed from thence after the war to Fayette County Kentucky, and lived there about six years – removed from thence to Franklin County Kentucky and lived there about six years – I removed then to Henderson County Ky where I now live and have resided for the last twenty one years

4. 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 volunteered every time. I was returned once as a drafted man in Capt John Stiths Company, but was not drafted.

5. 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.
Answer: I have state in the declaration the names of most of the officers the Regiments, and the circumstances attending my services, so far as I now distinctly remember them

6. 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 have no recollection at this time of having received any written discharge.

7. State the Names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighbourhood, and who can testify, as to your character for veracity and their belief of your services as a soldier of the revolution.
answer; Philip Cheancy, Joseph Crenshaw, David Wright Thomas Hart, Thomas Sanner, John Pry & John D Anderson

State of Kentucky Mercer County Sct

I Daniel Barbee aged 73 years do state upon oath that being a Revolutionary Soldier myself he knew and was acquainted with Garland Cosby in the year 1778. that early in said year said Cosby was a Sergeant in the 4th Virginia Regiment. That some time in the year 1779 he was taken from said Regiment and appointed Forage Master to Genl Muhlenburg's Brigade. And in December of said year the Virginia Troops were removed from Morris Town New Jersey from which last period I did not again see said Cosby during the War.
[signed 5 May 1830] Dan'l Barbee

Fayette County Kentucky

At the Request of Garland Cosby I give the following Statement of part of his Military Services in Virginia sometime about the last of March or first of April 1776 Garland Cosby and myself listed as private soldiers in Capt. James Dabneys Company in Louisa County Virginia Soon After our Company was marched to Williamsburg where was several other Companys all formed A Regiment commanded by Collo. Samuel Meridith Called A minute Regiment Some time after we ware marched to hampton where we was Stationed Several months and Honoured the great day the fourth of July 1776 with A Regimental parade as the sun rose with our heads powdered and buck tails in our hats as Cockaids some time after we was taken over to Portsmouth where Our Regiment was discharged about Christmas A few days after I started to Philadelphia near the place of my birth where I got a Commission and Raised A Company of men for 12 months was Station on the Delaware most of the year 1777 and never saw Garland Cosby after we was Discharged untill some time in the year 1778 I became an Inhabitant of Louisa County Virginia I have understood Mr Cosby belonged to the army and was A Quartermaster to A Regiment in the Revolutionary army which he was well Qualified to perform he is now A Resident of Henderson County Ky near 80 years of age in moderate circumstances and truely an honest Republican old Soldier So I say and believe he was my messmate in army and when he came to this state with his Family he lived with me some years
[signed 10 Mar 1834] Jno. Parker

In the year 1774 I lived in the County of Louisa & State of Virginia, and in that year I went to the same School with Garland Cosby & in the year 1775 or 1776 the Revolutionary War broke out & about that time Captain James Dabney Raised a Company of Minute Men in Louisa County, who enlisted for twelve months, & Garland Cosby was one of his Company & I understood served out his turn of service, & I recollect seeing him shortly after he returned – and I further state according to the best of my recollection, that in the year 1781 when Corn Wallace [sic: Cornwallis] was marching through Virginia I think I saw Garland Cosby in the army in the defence of his Country. And about the Conclusion of the War, he married in a respectable Family & some few years after, he moved his Family to Kentucky and I understood in very moderate circumstances. If he is now living, he must be between 75 & 80 years of age & I am told he lives in the County of Christian or in some one of the adjoining Counties & is still poor, & very dependant – given under my hand this 14th day of March 1834 [signed] Asa Thomson

NOTES:

On 15 March 1836 Garland Cosby stated that his name had not been found on the rolls of Continental soldiers and that his pension application had therefore been returned in the spring of 1835 for additional proof of his services. He stated that he had written to Abraham Buford [S46372] and Presley Nevill (an aide to Gen. William Woodford on the march from near Morristown NJ to Charleston; BLWt1596-300) for their testimony, and had learned that both had died. On 17 Dec 1835 he appealed directly to Congress, signing his petition Garland Cosby, Sr. Part of this petition reads as follows:

“Your memorialist has with some surprize noticed an endorsement on Barbee’s deposition made he presumes by the examining Officer in Washington intimating in Pretty Strong Terms that there is some discrepency between the statement of your memorialist and the Testimony of Barbee as to the manner of your memorialist entering the service in the 4th Virginia Regiment, yet if there is such discrepency your memorialist confesses it requires an accumen more acute than his to discern it. He states now for the third time that he left home with Kellis voluntarily under the promise of a Commission when he should reach the army, but was on his arrival at Valley Forge fraudulently reported by Kellis as a drafted private soldier; he then had no alternative left him but to subject himself to the penalties & ignominy of desertion, or do duty as a private, and trust to his good conduct for promotion, he choose the latter and was promoted accordingly.”

Cosby received a pension certificate for two years service dated 16 May 1836.

A note on the pension certificate states that Cosby died on 28 Nov 1839.