

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of John Cosby S30340

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Kentucky } SS.

County of Barren }

On this 12th day of March 1835 personally appeared before Thomas S. Denton a Justice of the Peace for the County of Barren, John Cosby a resident of said County of Barren and State of Kentucky aged 97 years on the 16 Dec'r. 1834, who being first duely sworn, according to law, doth on his oath make the following Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions made by the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

That he was born in Hanover County, Virginia, on the 14th day of December 1737, and when called into the service of the United States in the Revolutionary War he was living in Louisa County, Virginia. He served as a private soldier in the Virginia Militia, in the 10th Regiment, which he thinks was commanded by Genl. [Thomas] Nelson, the other officers of the Regiment are not now remembered. He states that on the 13th day of Sep. 1777 he appeared before Thos. Poindexter [Thomas Poindexter] in Louisa County and took the oath of allegiance to the State of Virginia, as is evidenced by a certificate of that date herewith filed marked as A. Subsequently to that time he entered the service under Cap. Garrard Miner [sic: Garrett Minor], Lieutenant Bias Thomarson [possibly Byers (Tobias) Thomason, pension application W6281], other Company officers not remembered. He joined the Company in Louisa, and proceeded to Puncheon Camp, where he served six weeks as a private soldier. The object of the Company was to assist in guarding & protecting the country against the Enemy. At the end of the 6 weeks he received a discharge signed by Cap. Miner, and went home.

He then joined the company of of Cap John Bias [sic: John Byers] in Louisa County, the other company officers not remembered, and thence went again to Puncheon Camp, where he served 6 weeks for the same purpose, and received a Discharge signed by Cap. Bias, and went home. Puncheon Camp his below Richmond and the Maubin Hills [sic: Malvern Hill, 15 mi SE of Richmond].

He then joined the Company of Cap. William Harris at Poindexters Tavern in Louisa County, and went from thence to Matthew's Spring [possibly Mathis Spring near Fourmile Creek in Henrico County], where he served 6 weeks for the same purpose, at the end of that time received a written Discharge signed by Cap Harris, went Home. Geo Morris [George Morris] was the orderly sergeante of this Company, & the other company officers are not remembered.

He served another term of 6 weeks under the same Captain at the same place and for the same purpose, & received another written discharge signed by the same officer, and again went home.

He served another Tour of six weeks under Cap. John White at Matthew's Springs, for the same purpose. The other company officers not remembered – after serving out the 6 weeks, he received a Discharge signed by Cap. White and returned home.

He afterwards joined the company of Cap. Robert Mosby in Louisa County and marched to Macky's Mills [Mackie's Mill] on the south side of James River, and assisted in driving the British from the Mills, some of whom they shot and others were taken prisoners. He does not remember his other Company officers. From Macky's Mill he went to Petersburg [sic: Petersburg] where at the end of six weeks service on this Tour he received a written discharge & went home.

He again went out under Cap. James Watson, Lieutenant Harry Johnson [Henry Ashton Johnson], other company officers forgotten, & was marched to Albermarle Barracks for the purpose of guarding the Hessians of Burgoyne's Army who were prisoners there [captured at Saratoga on 17 Oct 1777 and kept at Albemarle Barracks near Charlottesville from Jan 1779 through Feb 1781]. Here he also served six weeks and received a written Discharge signed by Cap Watson & went home

He again went out under Cap William Harris, other company officers not remembered, and was marched down below Williamsburgh [sic: Williamsburg] where he met the Americans retreating before Cornwallis & his army, & applicant & Company fell in the rear of the retreating army, which was commanded by the French General De La Fayette [Marquis de Lafayette]. He thinks, Gen'l. Nelson was with the retreating troops. When they came to Broxbridge on the Pamunky River [sic: probably Brocks Bridge on North Anna River, not Pamunkey River; probably June 1781]] & had crossed the same and taken up the bridge, the American Army made a stand. Here applicants term of service expired, and having served six weeks, he received a discharge signed by Cap. Harris & went home.

He served another Tour and or Cap. Geo Lumson [sic: George Lumsden], Lieutenant Samuel Pettis and was marched to the Matoponi [sic: Mattaponi] River. Here Cap Lumson went home, and Lieutenant Pettis took the command. Other Company officers are not remembered. The company joined its Regiment in Gloster [sic: Gloucester], and commenced operation against the British in Gloster just opposite to Little York. Here applicant continued in service at the Siege of York until Cornwallis surrendered [19 Oct 1781]. Having served six weeks, he received a written Discharge signed by Sam'l. Pettis & went home.

Applicant served in all 12 months & 2 weeks as a Private in the Virginia Militia, in (he thinks) the 10th Regiment.

In answer to the interrogatories prescribed by the War Department, he would say:

1. He was born in Hanover County, Virginia, on the 14 Dec'r. 1737.
- 2nd. He has no record of his age in Kentucky, but understands there is one in Virginia
- 3 When called into the service and during the entire period of his service he lived in Louisa County Va.; after the War he lived in Louisa County for some time, then in Ambermarle for upwards of 20 years and then in Barren County upwards of 21 years.
4. He thinks the manner in which he was called into service every time was called drafting.
5. He served in troops where he saw George Washington, La Fayette, Gen'l. Nelson, Maj'r. McGill, Maj Wm. Armstead [William Armistead] and others; but he dont remember the names or No's of any Regiments except the 10th Regiment Virginia Militia.
6. He did regularly receive discharges as is before stated, and they are now lost or mislaid
7. He would name Reuben Bates, Smith Hawkins, Joel Dickerson, Russell Barrack, William Edmunds John Kooney, John Cole Sr. Benjamin Martin Sr., Hudson Martin, David Denton [W8662] and many others [to testify to his character for veracity and the belief of his services as a Revolutionary soldier] This Applicant states that the foregoing Declaration is made according to the best of his recollection, which is now much weakened by years and the varied incidents of a long life; but yet he verily believes it substantially correct in every particular. He labours very much under the infirmity of old age, and the faculties of his mind as well as the energies of his body are much shattered.

He has no documentary evidence, except such as is herewith transmitted, and knows of no one except David Denton & Reuben Bates by whom he can prove his services & their affidavits are sent herewith.

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

Sworn and subscribed the day & year aforesaid before me [signed] John Cosby

I DO hereby certify, that John Cosby hath taken and subscribed the oath or affirmation of allegiance and fidelity, as directed by an act of General Assembly entitled An act to oblige the free male inhabitants of this state above a certain age to give assurance of allegiance to the same, and for other purposes. Witness my hand and seal, this 13th day of Sep'r. 1777 Thos. Poindexter