

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Yelton (Yetton) W30810

fn24VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

7/14/11

[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. 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 fails 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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Kentucky Pendleton County: Sct.

On this 15th day of August A.D. 1833 personally appeared before W. M. Drake a Justice of the peace in and for the County of Pendleton James Yelton a resident of Pendleton County and State of Kentucky aged eighty-five 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 by reason of old age, infirmities of body and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length or exact period of his services; but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods herein after mentioned as a private Soldier in the Militia of Virginia and that he now resides about 15 miles from Falmouth the County seat of Pendleton and owing to the infirmities of body, old age and the loss of his eyesight to such a degree as to make it difficult for him to find the road unless it be one with which he is well acquainted he cannot without great inconvenience and danger appear at and in open court to make and swear to this declaration. In the year 1775 this declarant then a resident of the County of Stafford and State of Virginia was drafted into the service of the United States as a militia man and was from that time (say the middle of said year) until the close of the Revolutionary war held to militia duty and to be ready to march at a moment's warning to any point to which he was ordered indeed all the militia of that part of Virginia was so held for duty and was usually called minute men and when there was any sudden call for them they were called for and if they were wanting for a longer time than about thirty days there would be a selection by draft for so many as were wanting out of the whole who would have to serve some time for three and sometimes for six months – this declarant does not think that he served in camp for any time in the first year say 1775 but in all the years which succeeded it up to and during the year 1781 say he was thus held to duty six years and a half during which time he does believe that he performed military duty in camp and under the orders of regularly appointed officers at least five months per year and in the whole time that he performed duty as aforesaid not less than two years and six months he has no doubt but that he served a longer period but will in order to be within rather than over the time fix his service at the time aforesaid, as before stated he cannot fix the particular periods of his tours of service either as to the particular month or year except that his actual service commenced in the year 1776 and closed with the year 1781 or in the beginning of the year 1782 or at least about that time. His service usually consisted in marching out whenever called by his officers which was when the English would ascend the Potomac River the Militia would then be called and they would be kept stationed along said River and marching up and down its shores watching the enemy's movements ready to oppose them should they attempt to land as also when the enemy would be expected to cross the country to commit depredations and the period of service on such

occasions would depend upon the state of the enemy in the country or the apprehension of danger from them these services were so much of a sameness that owing to the defeat of memory as aforesaid he cannot state but few of the incidents attending said services but will relate a few of them of which he has a distinct recollection stating at the same time that he was called on and did serve several times in each of the years 1776, 1777, 1778, 1779, 1780 and 1781 but his recollection of his various tours are rather confused to speak distinctly of them. The first tour of which he has a distinct recollection was soon after or about the time of the declaration of Independence the enemy had ascended the Potomac and the militia was called out and he marched with the company to which he belonged which was commanded by Captain John James Lieutenant John Edwards Ensign not recollected and although he has a recollection of the persons of his Major and Colonel yet he cannot call to his recollection their names he on this occasion marched to the house of one Brint which was on the Potomac River and burnt by the enemy the house being burnt before or at least set on fire so that it could not be saved he with the other militia marched still lower down the River to a farm called Marlborough where he remained some time he was out this time at least three months there was other militia with him but he does not recollect anything particular about them except that they like himself belonged to Virginia. The next place that he has a recollection of having been stationed was at a place called the horse pen ford on the Rappahannock River a short distance above Fredericksburg Virginia he remained at this place and moving about from one place to another not less than three months his Captain this tour was James Primm his Lieutenant and Ensign not recollected there was several captains and their companies with him but he does not recollect the names of the officers or anything worth stating about the soldiers, the field officers not recollected the troops on this occasion was called together in consequence of a report that Talton [Banastre Tarleton] and his light horse troops was coming to lay waste the country but Talton did not make his appearance. The next at which he was stationed was at Fredericksburg Virginia he was called at this time to guard a number of prisoners of war and after remaining a short time at Fredericksburg they were removed to Winchester Virginia and he went along and when there guarded them until the militia of the neighborhood could be called out and organized which made this tour at least 4 or 5 months he was under the command at this time of Captain Primm the Lieutenant & Ensign not recollected the Colonel was William Philips no other field officers recollected there was several companies in company but their officers except those mentioned not recollected. He was called out into the service when arrangements were making to invest Lord Cornwallis [Cornwallis] and remained out some time but before he arrived at Little York his younger brother took his place and went on as this declarant's family was in a condition that demanded his presence the above are all the minute details that this declarant can't in consequence of his loss of memory may yet he will again repeat that he served many other tours of service but he cannot recollect them so distinct as to be able to give a correct account of them nor can he say what particular year any of those tours which he has described was then but does know that they were performed during the Revolutionary War and now again repeats that to the best of his recollection and belief that he did average for six years at least five months per year as aforesaid and in all did serve in camp and under orders two years and six months and was regularly each time called out according to law. He does not recollect nor did he ever know the number or name of the Regiment to which he belonged unless the name of it was the Stafford Regiment which was the name we usually called it when speaking of it to distinguish it from others. He does not recollect particularly any Continental or regular troops with which he served but was frequently with other troops the [indecipherable word, looks like "kiner"] of this time not recollected except that he

does recollect that he was a short time near the French troops as they passed on to Little York and supposes that the reason of his recollecting them is that their military equipment was so splendid and so far excelled anything of the kind which he had ever seen that their appearance made a more lasting impression on his mind than any other troops he was with or near. He does not recollect anything of consequence in relation to any of the Continental or regular officers he may have been with some of them but does not now recollect if he did see General Washington, Steuben and Lafayette but does not recollect to have served in company with any of them but supposes that for a while that his officers received orders from Lafayette. He was born sometime in the beginning of the year A.D. 1748, the month nor day not recollected. He knows his [age] only by reference to the age of one of his older brothers named Charles Yelton who is long since dead but whose age is registered in an old Bible now in the possession of his descendants the difference of the age of his brother and himself being recollected. He has no record of his age there was one in an old Bible of his father's but it has been destroyed by time. He was born in Stratford County Virginia and resided in the same County and State until the fall of the year 1785 when he removed to Amherst County same State and there resided until the fall of the year 1803 when he removed to Iredell County State of North Carolina and resided there until the spring season of the year 1819 when he removed to the State of Kentucky and in fall season of said last year he settled in the County of Pendleton and State of Kentucky where he now resides and has resided ever since. He has no record evidence of his services and he does not recollect that he ever received any discharge from the Service in writing but thinks that he was always discharged by word-of-mouth if however he ever did receive any discharge in writing he has lost or destroyed it and does not recollect it. He does not know of any living person by whom he can prove his services except that Elizabeth Henson his sister in law and William Yelton this declarant's brother both of whom can speak as to a part but neither of them can speak as to all of their own knowledge his sister in law however can speak in general terms as to the length of time this declarant was absent from home for the purpose of serving she having lived at that time in the family of this declarant. In all the service this declarant performed he was a private soldier. He refers to Mr. George Taylor and Charles Tucker his neighbors who will state what his character as a man of truth and as to the general belief of the neighborhood as to his being a revolutionary Soldier there being no clergyman residing in his neighborhood whose attendance he can procure without great difficulty such as he cannot encounter owing to his infirmities. 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 State or territory.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

S/ W. M. Drake, JPPC

S/ James Yelton, X his mark

I William Yelton<sup>1</sup> a younger brother of the above applicant and at this time a pensioner under the law of 1818 and 1820 do hereby certify that I believe him to be 85 years of age and that although I have not a knowledge of all the services of the above said James Yelton yet I do know that he was out as he states several times and do further believe from the many times that he left home to go into the service and the general report of his services at the time in the neighborhood where we then lived that he did serve at least the time which is set forth in his declaration to which he has sworn and subscribed.

S/ William Yelton, X his mark

[Elizabeth Henson also gave a supporting affidavit.]

[George Taylor and Charles Tucker gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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<sup>1</sup> FPA S35753

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for two-year service as a private in the Virginia militia.]