

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of Robert Cook S30963

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

Commonwealth of Kentucky } Sct
Calloway County }

On this 23 day of Oct 1832 personally appeared in open Court before Rezin Davidge Judge of the Calloway Circuit Court now sitting Robert Cooke a resident of the said County of Calloway aged seventy seven 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 act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. That about the month of August 1776 he was drafted and entered the service in Mecklenburgh [sic: Mecklenburg] County North Carolina (the place of his residence) for a three months tour to go against the Cherokee Indians under Captain Huggins That he with about 2500 men rendezvoused at a place called the pleasant gardens on the head of the Catawby [sic: Catawba] River from which place they all marched under the Command of General [Griffith] Rutherford to the Cherokee nation He states that he was in the battle of the horse shoe [possibly in Henderson County NC] where the Indians were defeated after a fight of two hours He states that they then marched through the nation, laid waste their villages burnt their houses cut up and destroyed their corn &c They then marched home and were discharged their time of three months having expired About the June following as well as he can recollect he enlisted and entered the service for the term of two years under Capt Michael Dixon Rendezvoused at a place called the Cross Roads on the other side of the Catawby River from Mecklenburgh from whence under the command of Colonel Ferrel and General Jack he marched to the Georgia frontier on the River Ogeechee [sic: Ogeechee River] Here the army was divided and put into a chain of forts 15 miles apart and 6 in number built and established for the purpose of keeping in check the Creek Indians and protecting the frontiers Here he remained till his term of service had expired which was two years when he was marched home & discharged in Camden [SC] About the time of Bufords defeat 1780 [defeat of Col. Abraham Buford at the Battle of Waxhaws SC, 29 May 1780] I was taken prisoner by Tarltons horse [sic: Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton's Legion] whilst I was acting as a spy by order of Major Davay [sic: William Richardson Davie] Tarlton carried me to Camden district about 50 miles & after questioning closely without getting any satisfaction he permitted me to go home upon parole, where I immediately volunteered under Col Kimbrel and Capt [Nettles] Nettles and served six weeks against the British. by this time the Tories were so bad that I could not stay at home and I immediately proceeded to Rowan County and joined the army under Gen'l. Davedson [sic: William Lee Davidson] who was endeavoring to interrupt Cornwallis' advance towards Salisbury. I however staid but a few days as Davidson advised me to go home to Mecklenburg and raise a company as a Volunteer Captain for the purpose of watching the tories and British which I done immediately. I raised them for one year and kept them in service during that time. About the time I got up my company Gen'l [Horatio] Gates came along: I called on him at Lynchs Creek to know if he would accept of the assistance of my company. He told me he should be there during the that night and the next day, and that I might prepare & go with him I immediately departed and prepared my company but when I returned the next day to Lynches creek instead of finding Gates resting his men I met his men coming back from their defeat [at the Battle of Camden, 16 Aug 1780]: during this year I kept my company principally in the woods while we scoured the country and watched the tories and British Our time was mostly spent in South Carolina on Lynch's Creek Black River and Wateree. Shortly after Gates defeat I had a sharp engagement with the tories near Waxhaw Creek on the road leading from Charlotte to Camden several were killed and my Lieut. Run[?] was badly wounded. I served out my time one year and discharged my men I was next drafted & entered the service in a company of light horse for three months under Capt Grimes & Lieut Polk We Rendezvoused on little River on the North side of the Yadkin. Here we were under the command of Genl Rutherford, but Col [Robert] Smith commanded the horse. Our captain Grimes was promoted to the rank of Major and Polk became our Capt. We marched on toward Wilmington. The [illegible word] attacked about 80 tories near that place & killed 25 of their number [one or

two words are obscured by a blot here and at each of the following places marked X] mile farther up we attacked the British and [X] at the Brick house opposite Willmington we laid [X] [illegible word] but could do nothing by way of dislodg[X] for want of a field piece [15 Nov 1781]. shortly afterward [X] a severe engagement with about 250 Tories at [X] raft Swamp below Willmington & defeated them We served out our time and were discharged This was the last campaign in Carolina. This applicant states that he has long since lost his discharges and that he has no documentary evidence of his services nor any evidence better than he here adduces He states that he was born in Mecklenburgh County North Carolina: That he lived in that state in South Carolina and in Georgia till about 35 years ago when he moved to Kentucky in which state he has resided ever since 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 whatever

Robert hisXmark Cook

Calloway County Commonwealth of Kentucky Sct

Personally appeared before the undersigned an acting Justice of the peace in and for the County & Commonwealth aforesaid Robert Cook who being duly sworn deposeth and saith that in relation to the objection of the War Department of his not having proved his service as a captain in the Revolutionary war he has only to say that he never was commissioned as a captain That he merely served as a Volunteer Captain as stated in his declaration for one year without any commission But he states that he claims no pension for serving as a Captain and he hereby Relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension for having served as a captain in the war of the Revolution provided the department will grant to him such pension as a private may be entitled to under the law of the 7th June 1832 which is all he asks and which will be all sufficient to support him in his old infirm & decrepid condition He states that his services in the Revolutionary war as a private will amount to more than two years independent of his service as a captain as will appear from his declaration to which he makes this affidavit as an amendment and he hereby waives every claim which he may have upon the government from having served as a captain as he has stated and requests all his service to be considered as the service of a private and prays the pension of a private for the services he has rendered his country in the Revolutionary war he states that he was born in Halifax County Virginia in the year 1755 as he believes but is not certain; he doubts whether he is not older than this statement would make him He has no record of his age: which was inserted in his father's bible at his birth but which he has not seen since the Revolutionary war He states that he was raised in Halifax County where he was born till he was seven years old when he removed to Mecklenburg County North Carolina where he was raised & where he resided during the Revolutionary war in which state and the state of Georgia he continued to reside till about 36 years ago when he moved to Kentucky where he has continued to reside ever since He has resided in Calloway County about four years and previous thereto he resided in Union County Ky He states that after having served his first tour of three months under Captain Huggins as stated in his declaration he received a written discharge signed by said Huggins That after having served the two years (for which he enlisted) under Capt Dixon and Col Ferrel as stated in his declaration he received a written discharge signed by Col Ferrel that after having served six weeks under Capt Nettles and Col Kimbrel he received a written discharge signed by Col Kimbrel after which he returned home raised a company and served as a volunteer captain for one year as stated in his said declaration and which service he prays may be considered as the service of a private That after having served three months in the light horse as stated in his declaration he received a written discharge signed by Capt Polk. all these discharges have long since been lost as he has before stated He knows of no living witnesses whom will testify to his services but his neighbours to wit General A H Davis James Greer David Hodges James Martin Thomas McCain Nelson Owens Henry Darnal George Miller and many others will bear ample testimony as to his character for veracity and as to his reputation of having served as a soldier of the Revolution for which services he now prays a pension

[signed] Robert Cook