

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of William Givens S31058

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

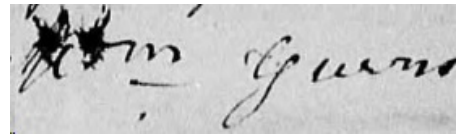
State of Kentucky } Ss

County of Union } }

On this 18th day of November 1833 personally appeared before the County Court of the County of Union William Givens, a resident of Hopkins County and State of Kentucky who was seventy one years old on the 18th day of May 1833 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 was born in Augusta County in the State of Virginia on the 18th day of May 1762, he has not any record of his age, but from what he has understood from his relations and friends, he believes that to be his age. In the year 1781 and in the month of January he believes, he was drafted as one of the Militia of Augusta County Virginia with others to be marched to join Gen'l Greens [sic: Nathanael Greene's] army in South Carolina, what prevented the march of the Company he does not know – however in the month of May 1781 he was drafted for a tour of three months in Augusta County Virginia, his brother John Givens was Captain – the Lieutenant and ensign he cannot recollect – the rendezoused at the Widow Tases (where Waynesborough now stands) [sic: Widow Teas's at Waynesboro] within a few miles of the Blue Ridge – where Col. Huggard [sic: Thomas Hugart] of the Virginia Militia took the command, Col John McCreery and Maj'r [John] Wilson were also field officers – they were marched across the Blue ridge at Rockfish Gap and then on the way to Richmond they joined the army under the command of Gen'l LaFayette near a place called Ivy creek – who was the first officer of the Regular army that he had ever seen – he came out to meet them and was attended by Gen'l Muhlenburg Gen'l Lawson and Gen'l Stuben [sic: Peter Muhlenberg, Robert Lawson, and Baron von Steuben] – they were marched about for several days – Cornwallis having possession of Richmond – When Cornwallis left Richmond they pursued, and were thus employed for some time – he was a soldier in his brothers Rifle company and was attached to the Riflemen under the command of Col Butler – he was in the attack made by Col Butler with his Riflemen and a few dragoons upon a detachment of the British army at a place called Hot Water between Richmond & Williamsburg [26 Jun 1781] – the Riflemen generally acted seperate from the troops under LaFayette, but joined him occasionally but more frequently met that division of the Army under [Gen. Anthony] Wayne – in a few days after this action [6 Jul] an attack was made upon Cornwallis when about to cross James River in which the men under Wayne suffered very much as he then understood, he was upon the left wing but was not engaged in the action – he was afterwards encamped at Deep river, while there he was one of the men selected and put under the command of Major Rucker [Elliot Rucker, pension application S46408] now of Shelby County Kentucky, who marched and took and carried off about seventy five Bullocks belonging to the British army which were enclosed near their encampment, and on the side beyond the American army – he recollects that at the time of laying down the fence and drawing out the bullocks, they had a distinct view of the British encampment – they brought the bullocks in safety to the American Camp the next day. In some short time after this his brother Capt. John Givens was permitted to return home and his company was distributed to other rifle companies and this declarant was then attached to Capt John Dickey's Militia Rifle company – and were put under the command of Col William Campbell – were marched to Richmond and crossed James River about five miles above Richmond – were marched into Amelia County crossed the Appomatox [sic: Appomattox River] at a place called Goodes Bridge, and there rested about then days of which they were in great need as they had been very constantly engaged in marching & were then marched circuitously to Petersburg – crossed the Appomatox – marched to Westham and there crossed James River marched thro Richmond to Bottoms bridge where he was discharged and received a discharge for a three months tour of duty. In a few weeks after he came home, he was again drafted for a three months tour of duty in the Rifle company from Augusta commanded by

his brother Capt John Givens – under some order or recommendation from Gen'l Washington as he understood, he was immediately detached from the Company and took charge of one of the waggons and teams that haled down the provisions – he loaded the waggon at Robertsons mill in Augusta with flour and drove it to the siege of York for the use of the American Army engaged in the siege [28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781] – when he delivered the flour there he was again ordered and did hale provisions from the public stores at Williamsburg to Little York and was employed in that manner till the surrender of Cornwallis when he was discharged and received his discharge for a three months tour of duty – he has neither of his discharges and no documentary evidence of his services. After the surrender of Cornwallis he lived in Augusta County Virginia till 1789 when he moved to Kentucky first into Fayette, then to Bourbon – and in the year 1809 or 10 he moved to Hopkins County Kentucky where he has since lived – that the application is made in Union and not in Hopkins in consequence of a slight misunderstanding with the Clerk of Hopkins

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
Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Thos Givens". The ink is dark and the handwriting is somewhat stylized and slanted.

NOTE: Thomas Givens, nearly, 67, stated that he recollected the services of William Givens.