

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Conrad Lear S31210

f22VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

9/14/13

[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. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. 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 skills fail 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 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Kentucky County of Todd: SS

On this 14th day of October 1833 [could be 1832] personally appeared in open court before the Todd County Court Conrad Lear aged 94 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 he enlisted in the Army of the United States about the first of January 1775 under Captain Ross who did not belong to the Regiment of Cavalry commanded by Colonel Washington [William Washington] but was only a recruiting officer, the Company to which I was attached did belong to Colonel Washington's Regiment, and I was trumpeter for Colonel Washington and belonged to his life guard, which consisted of the company to which I was first attached, our first Captain died and our second was wounded at the ~~Germantown~~ battle of Brandywine [September 11, 1777] from my extreme age I cannot remember my Captains' names nor can I remember the names of my nearest neighbors at sometimes with whom I have had the most intimate acquaintance. I left the service shortly after the Germantown battle [October 4, 1777]. I resided in Lancaster County Pennsylvania when I entered the service and fought in the battle at Boston, the battle at New York, the battle of New London Connecticut, the battle of Princeton in New Jersey, the battle of Brandywine, we took five hundred Hessians in all those battles I was commanded by Colonel William Washington and having book little to do with the inferior officers from my extreme age I cannot remember the names. During my service, I marched through Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Vermont, Connecticut and Massachusetts, I served at so early a period it is extremely difficult to procure testimony. I think it is probable that my name is on the rolls of the Continental troops. I have could prove my service by at least one hundred individuals & if traditionary evidence were admissible.

I received a wound at the battle of Brandywine in my leg now visible I received a wound in my breast at the Germantown battle.

I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.

1st I was born in Lancaster County Pennsylvania in the year 1738

2nd. I have at this time no record of my age but I had a certificate from the clergyman who christened me which I lost when my house was burnt about seven years since, my chest in which my papers were, was taken and carried off and found in the woods broken open and all my papers taken out

3rd. I was living in Lancaster County Pennsylvania when called into service. I lived 3 years in

Lancaster after the war I then went to Lincoln County North Carolina where I lived 14 years I then came to Kentucky Christian County lived there 3 years then moved to Logan lived there 10 years, then moved to Muhlenberg lived there 2 years, then moved to place I now to where I now live in Todd County Kentucky and have lived here ever since.

4th. I enlisted in the service

I am acquainted with Jordan Solomon, Daniel Carson, Asher Shelton, who are clergyman Silas Drake also a clergyman in my present neighborhood & Colonel RB New Firm's [?], M. Geam [?], Colonel S. H. Boone, Ephraim Shuffield, John Shepherd, John Crouch, John Gates and 100 others who can testify as to my character for veracity and their belief of my military services and most of whom can testify as to my fair standing as a member of the church for many years.

I received a discharge when I left the service signed by Colonel William Washington and it was lost about 7 years ago when my papers were robbed from me as before stated. I know of no person whose evidence I can procure who can testify to my service and I have no documentary evidence.

Subscribed and sworn to the 14th of October 1833 the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Conrad Lear, X his mark

[Asher Shelton, a clergyman, R. B. New and J. S. Solomon gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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This day Ephraim Porter¹ personally appeared before me Daniel Carson an acting Justice of the peace in & for the County of Todd Kentucky and first being duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following statement in proof of the claim of Conrad Lear, who has made application for a pension under the act of Congress passed June 7th 1831 [sic].

Said Porter states that lately he has become acquainted with said Lear, which said Lear is about 96 years of age, said Porter states that he said Porter was in the American Army at Germantown & Brandywine battles that he was then only about 14 years old and he states he remembers to have seen the trumpeter belonging to William Washington's troop of Cavalry there engaged in those battles and that the great length of time which has since elapsed he is not able to say that the said Conrad Lear is the same positively but he believes him to be the same trumpeter who was with said Washington at Brandywine & Germantown. Said Porter then belonged to Colonel Thomas Dorsey's Regiment of militia and General Smallwood's brigade. January 4th, 1833 S/ Ephraim Porter, X his mark

[p 17: Power of attorney dated May 9, 1851 and executed in Todd County Kentucky by George Lear and Mary Crouch of Todd County Kentucky by which they empower their attorney to pursue the pension claim due their father Conrad Lear for his service in the revolution

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$100 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a trumpeter for one year and as a private for one-year in the Virginia Continental line.]

¹ FPA S15562 [a Maryland militiaman who does not claim to have served in VA, NC, SC or GA, but who was at Germantown & Brandywine according to his pension application].