

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

Pension Application of John Casey S3123

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Tennessee }

County of Davidson. }

On this 20th day of April 1833 personally appeared before the worshipful the court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for Davidson County, consisting of the worshipful William Williams, Gilbert G. Washington, and Enoch P. Connell Esquires, John Casey a resident of the said County of Davidson and State of Tennessee aged 70 years on the 26th day of September next 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 provisions made by the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. That he enlisted in the State of Virginia to serve in the war of the revolution in the year 1781, the month he can not now recollect, and served in the battalion of Militia or State troops of Virginia, composed of the troops of Prince William, Fairfax, Louden [sic: Loudoun], and Faquahier [sic: Fauquier] counties in said State; under the following named officers – He enlisted under Captain Valentine Peyton in the County of Prince William aforesaid and after the company was formed the said company commanded by said Peyton joined with two other companies of the Malitia of Prince William County at Fredericksburg in said state, to wit the company commanded by Captain William Brent, and the company commanded by Captain Robert Warren, and after the junction of said companies they were marched by their respective captains to Williamsburg to join the other companies from the other counties, and there joined them, and were all under the command of Major Dennis Ramsey from Fairfax County, and Major Cox from Louden County, and Colonel Churchwell [sic: Armistead Churchill] from Faquahier County – that he entered the service for a six months tour, and during its continuance was marched from Williamsburgh in a retreat, (under the imputation that the Town of Williamsburgh would be attacked by the British who had landed at Burrell’s Ferry [across James River, Hog Island to Carter’s Grove],) towards Richmond, and after marching all day we stopped at an old field and drew provisions, but before the provisions could be cooked the troops were ordered into line again – and then Major Armstrong or Armstead (the applicant can not now remember which) a continental officer came up and ordered all the troops that had bayonets, to march out, and afterwards desired all those who had no bayonets to volunteer on the service he was then about to engage in, upon which the applicant volunteered his services and entered the troops who were then under the command of the said Col. Armstrong or Armstead and Major Ramsey and they were marched back to Williamsburgh on the same route they had retreated over in the moning and upon their arrival at Williamsburgh an engagement took place [20 Apr 1781] between the troops under Col. Armstrong or Armstead and Major Ramsey, and the British Army which continued about an hour and a half or two hours when a retreat was ordered, they retreated to Ruffin’s Ferry [on Pamunkey River near Sweet Hall], and upon their arrival at the Ferry Col. Armstrong or Armstead on the next night called out another detachment of troops, which was the last time he saw the Col. And from said Ferry said Troops were marched on to Richmond in said state of Virginia where they arrived without any engagement and after the troops had arrived at Richmond, the British two or three days afterwards took the Town of Manchester on the opposite side of the River, and burned the Tobacco ware houses, and then retreated. The applicant continued at Richmond in the service tho’ his term of service had expired before his arrival there) until the arrival of Gen’l. La Fayette [Lafayette, 29 Apr] with a force of about fifteen hundred regular troops and upon the night of LaFayett’s arrival said applicant was called out and placed as guard of Gen’l. La Fayette’s Marquee [tent] – and on the succeeding morning he remembers to have seen La Fayette who was at that time as well as he remembers in appearance about 23 or 24 years of age and quite a fine looking man. On that day the troops were ordered to march to Fredericksburgh to be discharged –

but the applicant never received any discharge in writing, as he did not call for any, not expecting at that time he would ever need his country's aid or the discharge he did not then expect he would want to from services so cheerfully rendered to his distressed country. The applicant then returned home to Prince William County, where he remained only a short time when he was draughted again, and ordered to rendezvous at Dumfries where said applicant met the troops and whilst they lay at Dumfries orders came requiring their presence with the main army – after said orders were received the troops at Dumfries were assigned to cut, clear up, and make good the road from the Wolf River Shoals to Dumfries, being the road over which Gen'l. Washington was expected to march on his way from the north [mid-Sep 1781] – and among the troops assigned to this duty was the applicant and there continued until the road was leveled & prepared and he was then discharged and permitted to return home subject to be called out again at a moments warning, and Cornwallis' Army being taken at York shortly after [19 Oct 1781], the applicant was never again called out) The applicant served twelve months as a private soldier. He has no proof of his services except by his own statement – as he has no documentary evidence of the fact & knows of no person by whom he can prove his services. He does not know any minister of the gospel living in his neighborhood and must resort to proof of his services by the opinion of his neighb[ors] He expects to show by Reuben Chick & Talifero Garner that he is a man of truth & the belief of the neighbours of his services – this applicant has no other record of his age than one left in his father's Prayer book which is now in his possession and makes him 70 years old on the 26th of September next. After being discharged the first time from the service he received a certificate from the proper authority for the amount of his services for the first tour he served, and of so little value was it estimated by the applicant at that time that he sold it to a man by the name of George Pearsall for a pair of silver knee buckles – after being discharged the last time the applicant return home to Prince William County and live there until 1795 when he removed to Loudon and lived there two years and from thence to Faquahier County and lived there until 1827 and then removed to Davidson County in the State of Tennessee where ne now lives and has lived since said removal. 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 to the best of his knowledge and belief [signed] John Casey

[The above declaration was returned to Casey for clarification about the length of service. Casey responded by filing an almost identical declaration on 23 Jan 1834 and with the following letter to the Pension Commissioner:]

J. L. Edwards Esq. Dear Sir it appears in your letter that you object to nothing except the length of my servises, the First tower is plain and indisputable, the second I cannot tell The exact time I was in actual servis it being upward of half a Century since that time but we ware assignd to work the road from The woolf run shoales to Dumfries which is 5 or 7 miles I cannot Tell which at this time. as it was suppos'd that General Washington Would march his troops that rout to the seige of york, you state That I could not have served 12 months I never did state that I was 12 months in actual servis but after the road was done agreeable to Orders, we ware at liberty to go to our homes and hold ourselves in readiness When ever we ware cald on, therefore I conclude that I was in the servis of My country 12 months. I have also done my best to give you a simular statement in both my aplications which you have had before your, I expect the road was finish'd by or before the time you state That General Washington pass't on to york town but he and his Troops did not pass the road we work'd at all – therefore I suppose that I was not in actual servis more than 9 months, this Dear Sir I freely leave to your honour to decide on as you may think proper The first tower I served was a hard one we sufferd almost every Hardship hunger cold nakedness not a shoe to our feet which Was worn to the quick and bleeding. in the utmost dainger on all sides duty hard have to go on pickett guard twice in one night Full of filth and vermin – all these circumstances I mention To let you know that my claim is a Just one and that I have Served as I have stated on oath. Besides 2 disintrested witnesses One of which has known me for upwards of 30 years and the other Upwards of 20

– both of them having heard me tell often about being In the servis and what took place while their – having Complied to the best of my knoledge with the benevolent act of Congress in both my applications to you its needless to say Any thing more on the subject. therefore I send you all the Papers with yoar printed letter To do with and deside on as your honour may see Cause to determine – as I know my claim is Just and also Believe that you will do the utmost Justic in your power in Every application thats laid before you, theirfore I conclude

After subscribing myself yr. ob'd. H. S't &c./ John Casey

NB I take the liberty to request your Honour to send a return as soon as you can With convenience – favourable or unfavourable – and if you think I Am not entitled to 12 months I leave that to your own Judgmnt With pleasure – but I was so engaged that year as to earn nothing for myself but my friends had to find me clothing &c but in the year of 83 I rec'd a cirtificate for my first tower the amount of which I cannot tell. but I thought so little of it that I gave it for a pair of silver knee buckles worth 2 dollars and that is all I got for my servises. I Expect you know of how little value cirtificates was at that Time yrs with grt resp't