

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Robert Paris S31287

f16VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

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[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' or 'undeciphered' 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. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

State of Kentucky, County of Shelby

On this first day of December 1833 personally appeared before George Bergen a Justice of the Peace for Shelby County and one of the Judges of the Shelby County Court now sitting, Robert Paris, a resident of said County of Shelby in the State of Kentucky aged 83 years who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to claim the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7, 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated, that is to say: being a resident of Montgomery County in the State of Virginia, he entered the service of the United States as a private volunteer soldier in the month of September in the year 1774 as well as he remembers, and was allotted to the company of Captain Campbell; that he rendezvoused with his company at the house of Captain Campbell¹ in the County of Montgomery, Virginia; that the tour was a 3 months tour; that he and said company came under the command of Colonel Lewis² who designed an expedition against the Indians settlements on Kanawha River, they having committed some deprivations upon the frontier settlements and having engaged in open hostilities; that he was marched with the rest of said men from their said place of rendezvous upon said projected expedition and upon their march on the waters of the New River, he, this declarant, received a severe injury in his right leg by a fall and could in consequence thereof proceed with the troops no further but was compelled to remain behind and await the return of the party; that they had afterwards as he was informed a skirmish with the Indians on the Kanawha River in which Lewis, the commander, was killed; that the detachment at last returned and with its assistance he was enabled to return; that he continued afterwards with his company till the expiration of his tour but was unable to perform any active military duty during its continuance after he received the aforesaid injury.

He further states and declares that in the month of March 1775 as well as he now remembers having gotten well of the injury received in his aforesaid tour he again entered the service of the United States as a private volunteer soldier upon a tour of three months in the company of Captain Thompson; that he still resided in said County of Montgomery; that he

¹ This MAY be Capt. Isaac Campbell of Montgomery County militia

² Colonel Charles Lewis (1733-1774) was a subordinate officer under the command of his older brother, General Andrew Lewis who commanded part of the force sent against the Shawnee and other Indians in what is known as "Lord Dunmore's War" or "Dunmore's War" in 1774. Lewis was killed at the Battle of Point Pleasant on October 10, 1774. Lewis County Virginia is named in honor of Charles Lewis.

rendezvoused with his company at a place called the Town house on Holston [River]; that he was marched with his said company to New River and was stationed at a small fort or station near a place called Long Island for the purpose of guarding and defending the frontier from the Indians who were exceedingly troublesome; that whilst he was at said point he was engaged upon various scouting parties directed against the Indians and was indeed actively employed in that kind of warfare against them during the main and principle part of his term of service and when his tour had expired having fully and faithfully served out saying, he was discharged and returned to his home.

He further states and declares that on the 24th day of July in the year 1775 he entered upon an expedition to Kentucky under Daniel Boone; that there were only ten effective man in company and they left the said County of Montgomery on the said day and marched through the County and finally landed at Boonesborough on the Kentucky River at which place there was at that time a small fort; that he continued at said place guarding it except when absent on scouting and spying parties which was frequently the case for about the period of four months and then returned to his home in the said County of Montgomery, Virginia; he states that his services upon this trip or expedition were those of a volunteer.

He further states and declares that early in the spring of the year 1776, he thinks in March or April of that year, the Indians again became very troublesome upon the frontier comprising the section of country where he lived, his residence still being in Montgomery County Virginia and that he volunteered against them and accordingly entered the service and was engaged almost constantly during the residue of the spring of said year, and the following summer and fall in scouting parties against them which were usually headed by Captain Campbell and also as a spy; that he is certain that he did not serve less than five months during said season against them as a spy and upon small scouts; that his services were almost constant, the situation of the frontier and disposition of the Indians requiring unremitting attention.

He further states that in the year 1777 the situation of the settlements in his quarter of the country was no better than it was in the year preceding; that the Indians were still hostile and frequently committed depredations upon them, sometime stealing their horses and every once in a while butchering some of the inhabitants; that in consequence thereof, the services of the able-bodied men were in almost constant requisition from the latter part of the winter or first of the spring till the latter part of the fall of that year comprising a period of nearly or quite nine months and that he, this declarant, being a young man was engaged with but little intermission during the whole of said period in spying and scouting parties against them; he is sure that he is within the bounds of truth when he says that he was engaged not less than six months in active and actual service against them as a spy & upon scouting parties during the spring, summer and fall of stated year of 1777; he states that Captain Campbell was an active Indian fighter and commanded the scouting parties upon several occasions in which this declarant was engaged; he states further that a brother of his (this declarant's) was also a Captain and that his said brother was also very active in his sections to protect the settlements and that he was often times the leader of parties of which the declarant was one; he states that during the winter season the Indians commonly gave them little or no interruptions; that it was only in the open seasons of the year in the general that they were to be dreaded and guarded against.

He further states that in the year 1778 he was engaged as in the preceding years in endeavoring to protect the country from the depredations of the Indians; that he was also much engaged during that year, to wit, 1778, in active service against the Indians as a spy and scout; that his services were performed as before in the spring, summer and fall of the year; that he is

confident that he could not have performed less than four months active service as such during said year; that his said services as a spy and scout or ranger against the Indians during the said year 1778 were performed under Captain Campbell & Captain Paris.

He further states and declares that in the month of May 1779 as well as he now remembers he again entered the service of the United States as a private volunteer soldier under Captain Campbell upon a tour of three months; that the company met at the house of Captain Campbell and he was marched by him to the vicinity of New River where the Indians had been committing some depredations; that he continued in the service against the Indians endeavoring to be repel and punish their depredations during the whole of his said tour and when the same was fully ended, he returned home to Montgomery County Virginia where he still resided.

He further states that early in the spring of the year 1780 he moved from Montgomery County Virginia to Green [Greene] County in the state of North Carolina which now composes a part of the State of Tennessee; that in the month of September in that year, to wit: 1780, he again entered the service of the United States as a drafted militia man and private soldier in the company of Captain Young upon a tour of three months; that his said company rendezvoused at the muster point and came under the command of Col. William Campbell who had also under his command other militia companies; that they were marched from their said place of rendezvous up the country and in a few days were joined by other men under the command of Colonel Sevier [John Sevier] and Colonel Shelby [Isaac Shelby] and Colonel Cleveland [Benjamin Cleveland]; that they then marched in pursuit of the British and Tories under the command of Colonel or General Ferguson [Major Patrick Ferguson] and finally came up with him at Kings Mountain where a severe engagement [October 7, 1780] took place in which Ferguson himself and many of his men were killed and a good many prisoners taken; that he continued in the service after this action till the expiration of his said tour of duty and was then discharged and returned to his home in the said County of Greene in North Carolina.

He further states and declares that in the year 1781 in or about a month of June, he again entered the service as a private volunteer soldier in a troop of cavalry commanded by Captain Richardson upon a tour of three months; that his company rendezvoused at a place called Knox on Holston [River] and there came under the command of Col Martin; that they were marched from their place of rendezvous against the Indians at what was then called the lower Chickamauga towns; that they destroyed their huts & corn and had upon the route a smart skirmish with him in which there were three of the Americans killed & five wounded; that after destroying their corn etc., they were marched back again and the Indians followed on at a distance and a few days after the return of the party day (the Indians) commenced a series of depredations upon the settlements and by means thereof kept this deponent constantly engaged in active service during the whole period of his said tour and when the same was fully and completely ended he was discharged and returned home.

He further states and declares that during the years 1782 and 1783 he was frequently engaged in parties against the Indians under the command of Captains Richardson and Sawyer; that he also acted a part of each of by those years as an Indian spy, he believes not less than two months in each year and he thinks that he did not serve on the parties above named less than two months in each of said years, making a service of not less than two months as a spy and two months upon scouting parties in the year 1782 and in a similar service in the year 1783, amounting in all for both said years to eight months.

He states that from the great lapse of time and his advanced age and consequent loss of memory he cannot swear to the precise time at which he entered upon the various services nor

the exact duration of each tour but from his present best recollection he served as stated above; that he did not according to his best recollection served during the revolutionary war less than three months as a drafted militia man, six months as a volunteer soldier, 10 months as an Indians spy and seventeen months upon scouting parties against the Indians and three months as a volunteer soldier in a troop of Cavalry and all this exclusive of any service performed by him earlier than 1775. He states that it has been his fortune from his first arrival at manhood till the year 1793 to be a resident in the frontier settlements and amongst those who were exposed to the incursions of the Indians; that his own safety and that of his family and his neighbors required of him the most active exertions during a great part of the time; that he was amongst those who were most ready to meet the savages of the frontiers and he is conscious that there are but few if any who have devoted more time to such service that he has or whose privations have been greater.

He states that he has no documentary evidence and that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his said services.

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.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/Robert Paris, X his mark

Interrogatories propounded to the above named applicant by the said Justice.

1st: Where and in what year were you born?

Answer: I was born in Botetourt County in the State of Virginia on the third day of October 1750 according to my information.

2nd Have you any record of you age and if so, where is it?

Answer: I have a record of my age at home in my Bible.

3rd Where were you living when called into service? Where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Answer: I lived in Montgomery County Virginia from the commencement of the revolution up to the year 1780 in which County I resided when called into service upon all the tours which I performed up to that time. I then moved into Greene County North Carolina where I remained till 1793 and where I resided when called into the service from the early part of the year 1780 till the conclusion of the war and in 1793 I moved from that County and State to Madison County Kentucky now Garrett County and about 10 years afterwards I moved where I now live in Shelby County Kentucky and have continued to live on this same place ever since.

4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer, or were you a substitute and if so for whom did you substitute?

Answer: Upon one on my tours I was drafted, all the rest of my services were performed as a volunteer as well as I now remember.

5th State the names of some of the Regular Officers who were with the troops where you served, such Continental and Militia Regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Answer: I do not recollect to have ever served with any regular officers. My services were usually directed against the Indians as a spy and upon scouting parties. I recollect upon the tour against the British and Tories under the command of Ferguson that Colonel Shelby, Colonel Cleveland, Colonel Sevier and Colonel Campbell who had command of my company were along and that upon that tour the battle of King's Mountain was fought in which Ferguson and many of

his troops were killed. I recollect in my services against the Indians to had seen and served with Colonel Martin. Upon the most of my services against the Indians, there was in a general way but few of us together and hardly ever had an officer of higher grade than a Captain.

6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service; and if so by whom was it given; and what has become of it?

Answer: I recollect to have received several discharges in writing signed by my officers which I have long since lost.

7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood, and who can testify to your character for veracity and good behavior and your services as a Soldier of the Revolution.

Answer: I will name George Bergen and Demarcus Brown.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/Robert Paris, X his mark

[George Bergen and Demarcus Brown gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 2 years in the Virginia service.]