

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Joseph Cathcart S3136

f16SC

Transcribed and annotated by Will Graves

5/24/11: rev'd 4/17/23

[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 'indcipherable' 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 Tennessee Monroe County} On this 20 day of September 1832 personally appeared in open Court, before the Justices of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions now sitting Joseph Cathcart a resident of the said County and State aged 85 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 was born in Ireland, and came to the U. S. and settled in York County Pennsylvania in 1773, in 1778 he moved to Fairfield South Carolina where he shortly after joined the militia in Capt. John Turner Company Col. Jno Winn's [John Winn's] Regiment, under Genl. Sumpter [Thomas Sumter]. The first service he did was that he was marched in said Turner's company to one Caldwell's where Tories and British were collected, and had an engagement with them and took them, (which was about 20 miles below York Court House) he went on with the prisoners as far as Hill's Iron works when he returned home with the company, still however in service, and daily on the watch, for the country was full of British or Tories, there being but three Whigs in the neighborhood in whom I^{he} could confide. A few days after he reached home a company of Tories under the command of Capt. Rogers took him to Camden about 40 miles, charging him^{with} being a rebel spy. When he was taken to Camden there was one Capt. Smith (a Tory, but a neighbor of applicant) who took his part and had his trial brought on one day when the witnesses were absent, which saved his life. While he was confined in Camden Genl. Sumpter (having learned of his confinement by one James Boyd) said he would give two men in exchange for him. For the charge^{of spying} could have been sustained, as Genl. Sumpter had himself appointed applicant as a spy his position being favorable for the purpose, and whigs being scarce in that quarter. He acted as a spy till the end of the war, nearly two years and lost all his property, being considerable, with the exception of two cows which were in the woods. He was engaged in various [indcipherable word]¹ and skirmishes of which he cannot now give a minute account, as it is long since they occurred, and his memory has failed in a great degree. He was when on the watch and immediately between the adverse parties, again taken prisoner by the Tories but a liberty party rescued him a few days afterwards. In the summer, not long before the surrender of Cornwallis [Yorktown, October 19, 1781], he went out for the last time, in the same company he had been in uniformly before (Capt. Turner's) and was at a battle

1



[attempt to spell the plural of fracas: to wit: fracasess?]

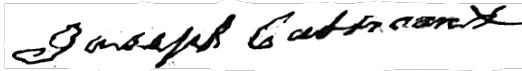
at the taking of a Fort on the Congaree [River].² He can sometimes remember the name of the Fort, but cannot now. The British and Tories stacked their arms and surrendered. They marched the prisoners off, he forgets where. Applicant cannot at this time tell how often he went out or how long at each time, but he considered himself in active and dangerous service, and in deed in constant service for One year; And if the time he acted as spy under Genl. Sumpter's command be taken into account, which was highly dangerous and difficult, he was in service more than two years. –

He has no documentary evidence and there is no person by whom he can prove any service by him rendered so far as he knows.

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. There is no clergyman living in his neighborhood he therefore procured a justice of the peace in his stead. Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Wm S. Callaway, Clerk

S/ Joseph Cathcart



(William Upton, JP, and William Montgomery gave the standard supporting affidavit.)

State of Tennessee Monroe County: Personally appeared before the Subscriber a Justice of the peace for the said County of Monroe Joseph Cathcart, who being duly sworn deposes and saith, that he is the identical individual who made the declaration hereunto attached before the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions on the 20th day of September 1832, to which he now makes the following

Amended Declaration:

³He was born in Ireland, in as he believes, the month of May A.D. 1748. He has no record of his age. When he was called into Service he resided in Fairfield District South Carolina, and volunteered each time. He never received, no applied for, any discharge. He states that the following persons are, at present his neighbors, and can testify as to his integrity, and their belief in his services as a soldier of the revolution viz. – Michael Nave, Alexander Mullins, Aaron Dean, & Hiram Defrize –

The period Applicant served in the war was the three last years of the Revolution. He was more than two years in service, and was in the last battle fought in the South – at the taking of the Fort on the Congaree River. – He resided in South Carolina ever since the Revolution,

² Fort Granby, May 14-15, 1781, https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_fort_granby_2.html

³ Here the veteran begins to answer the 7 interrogatories promulgated by the War Department to be put to each applicant for a pension. Those 7 interrogatories were as follows:

1st Where and in what year were you born?

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

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

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

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.

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

7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

until A.D. 1814 when he moved into Knox County Tennessee, where he lived till nine years ago, when he moved into said Monroe County where he now resides.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 16th May 1833

S/ William James, JP

S/ Joseph Cathcart

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$40 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, full one year service as a private in the South Carolina militia.]