

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Stephens S31392

f38VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

4/20/12

[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. 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 fails 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 errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Kentucky Franklin County: to wit

On this 20 day of August 1832 personally appeared in open Court, before the County Court of Franklin & State of Kentucky, now sitting John Stephens Senior a resident of the County of Franklin & State of Kentucky aged 69 years since the 30 day of January last past, 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 entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated,


In the year 1777 he was drafted in the County of Orange & State of Virginia in Captain Benjamin Johnson's Company of drafted militia, and went to Fauquier Court house as a guard, and took possession of the prisoners at that place, and shortly afterwards went to the Barracks at Charlottesville in the County of Albemarle where he stayed two months the period for which he was drafted. He further states that he served two other tours of two months each as a drafted militia man at the same place but cannot now recollect with certainty the name of the officers under whom he served these two tours – After this and prior to the year 1781 he served another tour of two months low down in the Pamunkey River which he thinks was in the spring of the year – the name of his officers not recollected. After this in the summer season the year not recollected he served another tour of two months and one in the winter season of two months low down in Virginia near to Williamsburg – One of the two last tours he does not recollect which, he served under Captain Hankins. He then served a tour of two months between Richmond & Williamsburg under Colonel Matthews, and he thinks he was in Captain Waugh's Company, he well recollects a false alarm in the Army in Dandridge's old field – one of the two last mentioned tours he served as a substitute for man named Collins, who lived as deponent understood near the Bull-run Church in Fauquier County Virginia.

In the summer of 1781, he again entered the service as a substitute and joined Lafayette at Richmond Virginia a day or two before the burning of Manchester, and on the evening after Manchester was burnt [April 30, 1781] he was detached from the main Army & was marched to the Mobbin hills [Malvern Hills] below Richmond under Captain George Waugh & Lieutenant Jamison, and did not join the main Army again until he was discharged which was just below Williamsburg a day or two after the arrival of General Washington at Williamsburg. This was called the Marquis' Retreating tour, and Major Long of Culpeper commanded the Battalion to which this deponent belonged at the time he was discharged – after this a reinforcement was called for from Orange County and he was again drafted and met the main Army at or near Can't Courthouse just after the surrender of Lord corn Wallace [October 19, 1781], and from thence he was detailed and marched as a guard to Winchester Virginia where he remained until he was discharged which was in the winter season –

This deponent states that he may not have named the different tours which he served exactly in the order in which they occurred but supposes that it is not important, provided the department shall be satisfied that the services were faithfully performed, which he most solemnly avers to be the fact, he having served in all nine tours of two months each, during all of which time he lived about three miles from what is called the Orange Springs, in Orange County Virginia and removed to Kentucky in the fall of 1782. And in October of that year he joined Captain Robert Johnson's Company of which Cave Johnson was Lieutenant and then joined General George Rodgers Clark's [George Rogers Clark] expedition against the Shawnee Indians. He thinks he left Bryant's Station in Kentucky about the 23rd day of October and returned home in the early part of December having served about 6 weeks on this last expedition –

This deponent states that he has no documentary evidence by which he can prove his services, he never had a discharge in writing & does not think it was customary for a drafted militia to be furnished with one. The number of those who served with him are now few, and they are widely dispersed over the Country, he expects however to be able to get the statements of some who can either prove from their own knowledge or by reputation that he has rendered all the services here set forth – 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/ John Stephens



[the Reverend William Hickman, 85, a Baptist Minister, gave a standard supporting affidavit.]

[f p. 16]

State of Kentucky Woodford County Sct.

I Herman Bowman a Justice of the Peace in and for said County do certify that John Stephens of Franklin County this day appeared before me and produce before me James Tinder¹ a credible witness who being by me duly sworn and charged to speak the truth and the whole truth touching the services of the said John Stephens as a soldier in the War of the Revolution. He the said Witness deposeth and saith, that he, as also the said Stephens here present before me said justice both resided in Orange County in the State of Virginia during the revolutionary War, and that they i.e. the said Witness and said Stephens both served a militia tour of two months under Captain George Waugh in the summer of the year 1781, and he saith that the said Captain Waugh's company in which the said Witness and said Stephens served joined the General, the Marquis de Lafayette at Richmond within a few days before the enemy burned Manchester and the said witness saith he knows that at the expiration of said two months the tour the said Stephens was discharged at Williamsburg when said Captain Waugh & his Company was discharged.

And the said witness saith he is now in the 70th year of his age.
Subscribed to by the said Witness this 6th day of August 1832

S/ James Tinder, X his mark

[Facts in file: Veteran died March 30, 1842; there is reference to the veteran having 9 children

¹ [James Tinder S14707](#)

but their names are not given nor is there any information regarding his wife in this file. in 1832 In Campbell County Kentucky Benjamin Stephens made affidavit in which he states he was then 78 years old and that he resided during the revolution in Orange County Virginia and that the veteran lived with him at that time. His affidavit was attested by Leonard Stephens, a Justice of the Peace. Their relationship if any, to the veteran is not stated. Benjamin Stephens states that the veteran was born in the year 1763 and was about 14 or 15 years old when Burgoyne's Army was taken prisoner and marched to the barracks at Albemarle, and the veteran was called upon to serve in the militia to guard those prisoners.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$60 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 18 months in the Virginia militia.]