

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Richard Woodyard S31493

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Kentucky } SS

County of Union }

On this 21st day of January in the year of our Lord 1833 personally appeared in open court before Daniel McKeny Lewis Greenwell & George Johnson Justices of the Union County Court now sitting Richard Woodyard a resident of the County of Union and Commonwealth of Kentucky aged Seventy nine 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 entered the service of the united states under the following named officers and served as herein stated that he entered the service of the united states in the county of Stafford and state of virginia where this affiant then resided in the year [blank] who was then drafted as a militia man, and place under the commanded of Captain Neal, and was marched under his command to FredericksBurg in the state of virginia and from thence to Chesterfield Courthouse. This affiant states that when he reached Fredericks Burg, he was prevailed upon to enlist and become a regular soldier he states he done so, and the officers that belonged to the army to which he belonged as well as he now recollects was General Stephens [sic: Edward Stevens] and [Robert] Lawson, and Col [Charles] Lynch. This affiant states that when he entered the service as a militia man he was drafted for eighteen months but he only served about nine months as a militia man, before he inlisted for three years [see endnote], and he was in actual service as a regular soldier about eighteen months, he states that he was several times during his service detached and sent out as scouting parties against Dunmore [sic: see endnote] &, that he was marched on as a reenforcement to General Washington while he was beseiging Lord Cornwallis [28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781], but before the arrival of this affiant little york was surrendered by Cornwallase to General Washington This affiant never was in any General engagement, he states that he was born on the 5th day of January 1755 in Charles County & State of Maryland, he states that he has a memorandum of his age taken from his farthers family register, he states that since the revolutionary war he has resided part of the time in virginia, & part in St Marys County & State of Maryland and part of the time in the state of Kentucky and now resides in Union County & state of Kentucky. if he ever received a discharge he has long since lost it. this affiant will state that Mr John Pierson William Woodard James Woodard John Hayes & Joseph Hayes who resides in his neighbourhood who can testify as to his character for veracity and their belief of his service as a revolutionary soldier he cannot recollect the year he entered the service or the year he was discharged as he is a man of no learning. he knows of no person by whom he can prove his services. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state sworn to & subscribed the day & year afforesaid

Richard hisXmark Woodyard

NOTES: Woodyard's account is confused. Soldiers were not drafted into militia service for 18 months. Rather, one of every 15 militiamen was drafted for that period into Continental service. Stevens, Lawson, and Lynch were all militia officers. It seems likely that Woodyard has confused his service in the Continental army with earlier service in the militia, perhaps including the campaign against Lord Dunmore, who fled Virginia early in 1776.