

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Woody ¹ S31497

Transcribed by Will Graves

f25NC

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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' 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.]

[p 8]

State of Kentucky, Wayne County

On this the 4th day of June 1834, personally appeared before me Benjamin Hancock an acting Justice of the peace in and for the County of Wayne State of Kentucky, James Woody, resident citizen of the County aforesaid, aged Seventy years according to his best calculation having no record of his age and after being duly sworn for that purpose on his oath makes the following Declaration in order to obtain the Benefit of the act of Congress of the 7 June 1832.

He states he entered the service of the United States in the Revolutionary war in Surry County North Carolina under Captain Joseph Cloud to serve as a Ranger in the Light horse; served as a private, he entered said service in the spring season of the year a drafted soldier in the year 1780 the precise time of Spring not now Recollected; he marched on to Rocky River and crossed the same and to Salisbury and Stationed below said place was in a little skirmish with the Tories and Captain Lock [John Locke of the Rowan County, NC militia?] was wounded he served according to his best Recollection at least one month this ranging Tour he was verbally discharged,

and he was immediately thereafter called on as a drafted soldier to serve a Tour of three months under Captain Humphreys [David Humphreys] his first name not Recollected, and under Col. Martin Armstrong and went and joined headquarters near Salisbury: went on and crossed Pedee [River] and went on Joined General Gates's [Horatio Gates'] Army and marched on with him to the Cheraw hills and went on by the hanging Bridge and stationed at Rugeley's Mill, he applicant was put under Colonel John Armstrong the evening previous to the Battle of Camden [August 15-16, 1780] and was sent on to bring on the attack, applicant was thereafter finally verbally discharged by his Captain and returned home having served three months.

Applicant then went to Wilkes County North Carolina and was again drafted to be a Ranger under Captain Samuel Johnson [Samuel Johnston] and Colonel Cleveland [Benjamin Cleveland] he entered said service some time in the early part of the year 1782 he then spied through the frontiers and across the Blue Ridge for at least three months and was verbally discharged by Colonel Cleveland in the spring of the year the precise time not recollected.

Applicant was born in Bedford County Virginia and partly raised in North Carolina close to the Virginia line applicant some years after the War moved to Greenville County South Carolina and lived there near fourteen years and moved back to Wilkes County North Carolina and lived a great many years and then moved to where he now lives where he has lived Eleven years applicant has no written or documentary proof of his service and knows of no person by whom he can prove his service he has no doubt but that he can prove his character for veracity

¹ BLWt26147-160-55

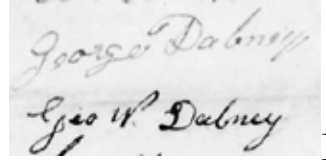
and Reputation as having been a soldier of the Revolution by his neighbors generally some of whom he will name to wit John Wade, Ezekiel Perdue and in fact by all his acquaintance generally applicant states that there is no clergyman convenient to him in or near his immediate neighborhood. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares his name is not on the Pension Roll of the agency of any State.

Kept sworn and subscribed the day and year aforesaid before me.

S/ Benjamin Hancock, JP

S/ James Woody, X his mark

[George Dabney & George W. Dabney gave the standard supporting affidavit.

A photograph of two handwritten signatures in cursive ink. The top signature reads "George Dabney" and the bottom signature reads "Geo W Dabney". The signatures are enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

[p 4]

State of Kentucky, County of Clinton: SS

On this 21st day of October A.D. 1853, before me James C. Southerland an acting Justice of the Peace, in and for said County, personally appeared James Woody a resident of Clinton County and State of Kentucky aged 98 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 7, 1832, allowing Pensions to Revolutionary Soldiers = That he is now a pensioner of the United States at the rate of \$23.33, and that he is the identical person named in the original certificate now in his possession and to me exhibited, granting him said pension: that at the time he made his former declaration his opinion was that in order to obtain the benefit of said Act of Congress it was only necessary to state that he was in the service & did not know that the amount of pay depended upon the time employed by him as a soldier and he now desires to have his Pension increased to the full amount to which his services in said war entitle him. He states from memory (being entirely illiterate) that in the month of May 1870 he was drafted and in June of the same year he joined Captain Joe Cloud's Company of light horse Rangers, in Surry County, North Carolina: that he was engaged on several slight skirmishes against the Tories and in particular he recollects one engagement below Salisbury one night, in which Captain Lock [sic, John Locke of the Rowan County NC militia?] was shot through the thigh – this occurred in the month of June or July 1780: that after some time declarant was transferred to Captain Bostick's² Company; but the Captain being soon promoted he was placed under command of Captain Humphreys: that in the month of August, 1780 declarant, with his company joined Col. Martin Armstrong's Regiment under General Gates: that on the morning of the 14th of August, at a place called Rugeley he was ordered to march to Camden, under Major William Armstrong and was there engaged in the battle against the British & Tories on the 15th of August 1781 [sic, the main engagement at Camden occurred on August 16, 1780]. He states that after the battle of Camden he was permitted to return home and remained for a short space, and still stood as a minute man and still subject to duty as such as if he had been in the Army: that in the year 1781 he with his brother William, who served with him the whole time, joined Captain Samuel Johnson [Samuel Johnston], who was Captain of a company of Rangers, and followed the company of outlying Tories into the Mountains of the Blue Ridge and that he was not discharged until after the Surrender of Cornwallis, in October, 1781, when Colonel Ben Cleveland ordered Captain

² There were three militia captains in the Surry County NC militia during the Revolution, namely: Absalom Bostick, John Bostick and William Bostick. Of those, only Captain Absalom Bostick is thought to have participated in the Battle of Camden to which this veteran refers.

Johnson to give declarant and his brother William Woody written discharges, but declarant answered that since he had belonged to Captain Johnson's Company he had done very little fighting and he wanted Captain Humphreys to give it to him. He states however that he with was verbally and honorably discharged by Colonel Cleveland in the month of October, 1781, in Wilkes County North Carolina and from thence returned to his home in Surry County. He further states that from the time of his first entering the service under Captain Cloud until his dismissal, was about sixteen months, a part of which time, he was not in actual service but as a minute man; liable to be & actually was, frequently called upon to fight the Tories who were seeking all opportunities to killed the Whigs & steal their property. He gives his best recollection of the facts herein set forth, but will not be positive as to his exact age or the other dates referred to especially as he is a very old man, cannot read and knows of none of his early acquaintances, now alive, with whom to converse, and his memory may be refreshed, or by whom to prove the services referred to.

S/ James Woody, X his mark

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 21st of October 1853 and I certify that the declarant, James Woody, is personally well known to me a man of good character & I believe him to be the age stated.

S/ J. C. Southerland, JP

Witness: S/ A. S. Parmly

[p 12: On March 24, 1855, James Woody, aged about 95, made application for bounty land while living in Clinton County, Ky. He signed this document with his mark.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$23.33 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 7 months in the North Carolina militia.]