

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of John Cock S3171

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Tennessee } SS.

County of Warren }

On this the 14th day of April A.D. 1834, personally appeared in the county aforesaid before me Samuel Denby one of the Justices of the Court of Pleas and quarter sessions for the County of Warren aforesaid the same being a Court of record John Cock a resident on the Barren fork of Collins's River in the County of Warren in the State of Tennessee aged seventy eight 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. He makes his declaration before me the said Justice because he is not owing to bodily infirmity able to appear in Court.

That he entered the service of the united States under the following named officers and served as herein stated,

That in the month of May (he does not recollect the day) in the year of 1777 he enlisted in the service of the United States during the then existing war, he was enlisted by a recruiting officer called Major Thomas Quirk in Montgomery now Grason [sic: Grayson] County State of Virginia by whom he was carried to the lead mines in Montgomery County in the State of Virginia [at Fort Chiswell in present Wythe County], he was there attached to a company commanded by Captain Miles whose given name he does not now remember of which Company Robert Nuckels was Lieutenant, this Company as well as one other commanded by Captain James Newell were stationed at the lead mines for the purpose of guarding the same. he does not know whether Newell's Company were regulars or not, he supposes that the company to which he applicant was attached constituted a part of what was then called Virginia State Troops at this place he remained for eighteen months during which time he was together with his company marched up New River to Chesnutt Creek [sic: Chestnut Creek in present Carroll County] after a company of Tories, they come upon them at the round meadow fired upon them and took one prisoner the ballance escaped. then returned to the lead mines, and in a short time afterwards was marched together with company of Malitia under the Command of Captain Henry Francis over to the Adkin [sic: Yadkin] River in North Carolina to take or suppress a gang of Tories under the Command of a Tory called Captain Ben Burke. They found them in the neighbourhood of the Shallow ford of the Adkin, attacked them, and had a skirmish [14 Oct 1780], in which Burke was killed and also the brave Captain Francis, the latter was shot through the head, applicant and his company then returned to the lead mines and by the concert of Col John Montgomery who occasionally visited that place hired one Edward Hardin to take his place as a substitute which he did for the sum of \$160.00. Applicant was then at the lead mines in Montgomery County in the State of Virginia discharged in writing from the service by Col John Montgomery. In this Tour he served one year and six months. he thinks it was in the month of November 1780 that he was discharged, and he thinks that Col John Montgomery was the only field officer, that exercised any authority at the mines during the time he staid there there was not a full Regiment and Montgomery was only occasionally there.

In the month of March 1781 he was drafted into the service for three months in Montgomery County in the state of Virginia and attached to a company commanded by Captain John Cocks or Cox. this company was interested[?] for the use and protection of the commissioners appointed by the State of Virginia to treat with the Cherokee indians, and were not called into actual service untill the latter part of May 1781 at which time they were ordered to rendezvous at Jacob Calrons[?] Mill on the road to the Bigg Island of Holston river [sic: Long Island of Holston River at present Kingsport TN] near that place he does not recollect what County it was in but it was on Reed Creek [Reed Island Creek] a Branch of New River in the latter part of May 1781 he joined his company and marched immediately to the Bigg Island of Holston where they in a few days arrived, there was already there a great many malitia & in a few day many others arrived making in all about sixteen hundred he thinks the Commissioners were there at the time he

reached the island at all events some of them were. he knows that Col Evan Shelby was there he was a relation of applicants. Col Joseph Martin William Preston and he thinks others were there when or in a few days after he reached the island. he remained under the command of Captain Cox for he thinks a little better than Two months when Cox for some cause or other with the most of his company were sent home. Applicant immediately took the place of William Holder who belonged to Captain John Dollesons company as a substitute. he remained in this company untill his Term of service expired during which time the commissioners consumated the treaty with the indians he was then at the Big Island upon the Holston River as he now thinks in the latter part of August in the year of 1781 discharged in writing by Col Evan Shelby who appeared to be the superior officer over the malitia then he does not think that the companies were formed into Regiments. he served in this Touer Three Months he then returned to his Residence in Montgomery County (now Grason as he is informed) Va, Shortly after this, Some time in the month of September in the year of 1781 He being a single man and without a family went to Osburn's or Osbournes Station [near the present town of Wood in Scott County] on Clinch River and there volunteered into the service for six months he does not recollect what county it was in. he joined a company stationed there to give protection to the frontiers and to keep the indians in subjection commanded by Robert Trimble, of which one Osbourn whose given name is not recollected was Leutenant, there was also one other company stationed there at the same time commanded by Captain Samuel Newell, here he remained for seven months, during which time in the month of December John English who lived in the neighbourhood and had come to the station for protection wished to go to his plantation a mile off and got permission of applicants captain to go with him, as well as one Oxcher and Englishes wife. Applicant accordingly went to Englishes house with him, and staid all night. their guns were laid away. in the morning about sun up the doggs barked exceeding fierce. Applicant stepped out into the yard to see what they were beying, and got some distance from the door, and discovered four Cherokee fellows all armed. he ran to the door, but the inmates of the house had by this time discovered the indians and closed it. they were afraid to open the door to let him in for fear the Indians would also enter. being thus situated and without his gunn applicant had no hope of safety but by flight. he accordingly ran through a field the only way he could go the outlet towards the woods being the direction at which the indians had gone and where they then seen[?]. after he had gone some distance perhaps two hundred yards he as he run turned his head to see if he was pursued, when to his misfortune he beheld two indians close to him each running with their guns presented at him. an effort to escape being hopeless this applicant stopped and signed to them that he would surrender. Each of the merciless savages instantly drew from their belts their Tomahawks and staped up to him One of them immediately struck him upon his bare head for he had left his hat in the house with the pole[?] of his Tomahawk and sunk it into applicants skull, and gave him a second lick with the edge of the Ax, which sunk in to his head and tuched the Brain. applicant fell lifeless and indians no doubt believed him to be so. they immediately scalped him and pulled his hunting shirt off of him and cut one half of his Wiastcoat off and took them with them. in a short time applicant come to his senses his neck was entirely limber he had no use of his left arm or sholder or has he ever regained the use of his sholder or arm. The arm has wasted away. the places where the Tomahock entered his head healed up, but the holes never filled up they remain yet, and one of them is perhaps two inches long and one wide and about one deep. shortly after this occurance, the information was carried to the station and a company immediately come to the place and carried him to the station where he remained for one month longer than his six months at which place and about the last of March or perhaps the first of April in the year of 1782 he was by his Captain Robert Trimble discharged in writing in this Tour he served six months. he was detained the other month in consequence of his wounds. he then returned to his residence in Montgomery near as he understands Grason County in the State of Virginia. This ended his military service. Applicant states that owing to his old age and bodily infirmity he is not with any conveniance to appear in Court. he is exceedingly feeble, and from his old age and consequent loss of memory he is unable to give as detailed account of his services as he would desire. he would have made an earlyer application but for the difficulty in getting his declaration prepared. he is in indigent circumstances.

He has no documentary evidence of his services and he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify as to his services,

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state

1 He was Born in Bedford County in the State of Virginia on the 12th day of February 1756

2 He has no Record of his age he had but it is burnt up in his Brothers house

3 He was living in Montgomery County in the State of Virginia when called into the service. since the Revolutionary war he moved to and has lived in the County of Cumberland in the State of Kentucky. from there he moved to Overton County Tennessee from there to this Warren County State of Tennessee where he has resided for the last twenty three years and now resides there

4th He the first Touer he served volunteered into the service and served eighteen months. The second Touer he volunteered into the service and for one month served as a substitute for William Holder and served in this Touer Three months The third and last Touer he served he volunteered into the service and served six months

5th When he served at the lead mines he frequently saw Col John Montgomery and sometimes General William Campell [sic: William Campbell] he does not think that he served with any Continental Regiment, nor can he state any thing more of Malitia Regiments or the general circumstances of his services than he has in the body of his declaration.

6th He received written discharges from the service the first one was given to him by Col John Montgomery. the second by Col Evan Shelby, and the Third by Captain Robert Trimble, shortly after the revolution he lost his pocket book in which his discharges were, and he never found them again

He is known to John Williams, John Graham William Young and Clergyman Alexander Blakely and Joshua Richardson all of whom live in his present neighbourhood and who can and will as he believes testify as to his character for veracity and of their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or anuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state

Sworn to and subscribed before me the day and year aforesaid

John hisXmark Cock