

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Mead (Meads) S31860

f50NJ

Transcribed by Will Graves

1/28/10 rev'd 11/14/14

[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 10]

State of Kentucky Edmonson County:

On this 2nd day of May 1828 personally appeared in open Court being a Court of record for the County aforesaid William Meeds [sic] aged 87 years past resident in said County, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration, that shortly after the Revolutionary War began, he does not precisely recollect what year, he enlisted to serve in the Army of the United States at Morris town in the State of New Jersey, for three years, that he served under said enlistment of three years in the 28th Regiment of Jersey Blues commanded by Colonel Dayton [Elias Dayton], in the Company commanded by Captain Dickerson, on the Continental establishment, he faithfully served out his said Captain term of three years, & was honorably discharged by Colonel Dayton at Elizabethtown, New Jersey -- which discharge has since been burned up with my house after the expiration of the three years aforesaid, he enlisted for 4 years or during the war & served in the same Regiment & company, Major Barbour commanded the Regiment during a part of the latter tour, during this last term of this affiant was taken prisoner by a part of the 71st Regiment of the British at Paramus in the State of New Jersey, was taken by them to the City of New York & then sailed around to Charleston South Carolina, & detained there in captivity by the British till he escaped from them (which he did in a very short time after they landed at Charleston; when he escaped from them there he fled to the Army of General Greene on the high hills of Santee, & remained with him & within the Battle of the Eutaw [Eutaw Springs, September 8, 1781], where he got his shoulder broken, his right leg broke, & was bayoneted through both his thighs -- he then remained with General Sumpter [Thomas Sumter] until he recovered which was not long before Wallace [Cornwallis] was taken [Yorktown, October 19, 1781], he obtained no discharge for this term of service because General Greene alleged he did not belong to his troops by enlistment & he could not properly give him a discharge but he faithfully served out his latter engagement & obtained from General Greene what was called a pass or recommendation. He was in the Battles of Long Island [August 27, 1776], Germantown [October 4, 1777], Trenton [December 26, 1776], Stony Point [July 16, 1779], Fort Mifflin [September 26, 1777], Fort Mifflin [September 26, 1777], White Plains [October 28, 1776], New town [Battle of Newtown, August 29, 1779] with the Indians on the Susquehanna, & the Eutaw Springs [September 8, 1778] -- he knows of no witnesses now living by whom he can prove his services. And I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift, sale or in any manner whatever disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to

bring myself within the provision of an act of Congress entitled "an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the revolutionary war" passed on the 18th day of March 1818, and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property, or securities, contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income or any property except my clothes. I have not been worth in any sense of the word \$100 since the 18th day of March 1818, I have made no contracts of any importance, received or paid out any money or property of any sort whatever sense the said 18th day of March 1818. I did not know of any law by which I could obtain any compensation from government for my services in the Revolution, till within about one year past order more, in which time I have been sickly six months -- & have been traveling into distant parts to find witnesses to prove my services, but ascertained my witnesses were dead when I went after them -- my wife is dead, I have no family living with me, I live by the private charity of a married son who is in reduced circumstances.

S/ William Meeds[sic], X his mark

[pp 26-28: Another pension application filed by the veteran; this one dated December 6, 1830; it contains no more detailed description of his services than is contained in the other applications he made and which are herein transcribed.]

[p 3]

State of Indiana Vanderburgh County: SS

On this 25th day of September 1833 Personally appeared before the Judges of the Vandenberg circuit Court William Meads a resident of Union Township in the County of Vandenberg and State of Indiana aged Ninety-three 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 provisions made by the act of Congress passed June the 7th 1832. That he was born in the State of New Jersey in the year 1740 that he entered the Regular service of the United States at Morris town in the State of New Jersey for three years after the expiration of which time he received a discharge and entered again the ensuing year under Captains Dickerson and Jansell [?] the Regiment commanded by Colonel Dayton [perhaps Elias Dayton] and remained in the Jerseys some time the Regiment afterwards went to Albany from thence to Johnstown on the Mohawk River in pursuit of the Mohawk Indians we were then removed to Fort Stanwick [Fort Stanwix] upon the Mohawk River and remained there one summer from thence we were removed across Lake Georgia to Fort Ticonderoga to guard a large mill at that place took up our winter quarters then in the spring we returned to Albany from thence we went to New Jersey to a place called Elizabeth Town there had a battle with the Hessians commanded by General Wiphauran [sic, General Wilhelm von Knyphausen] from thence to Morristown and joined General Washington there and took up our winter quarters next spring we marched to Brandy Wine [Brandywine] and there fought the battle called the Battle of Brandywine [September 11, 1777], we then moved to a place called Eastoner's [?]¹ on the Delaware River from thence over the Blue Ridge to a place called Wyoming there our Regiment was attached to the part of the Army commanded by General Sullivan thence marched to the forks of the Susquehanna and there built a Block house from thence to Newton's and there had a battle with the Indians -- commanded by Colonel Butler we were then marched to near Niagara and our provisions and ammunition falling short we were

¹ *Eastoners*

compelled to return to Elizabeth town and take up our winter quarters next spring we moved up the North River to a place then called Erapus [?]² remained in that part of the country guarding it during that and quartered again that winter and Elizabeth town next spring was removed to Bonds Brook [Bound Brook] that spring had a battle at a place called Woodbridge with the British from thence we were marched to Eastoners and remained there a short time as a guard from thence we removed to Monmouth and joined that part of the Army commanded by General Green [Nathanael Greene] and had a hard battle [June 28, 1778] our detachment was there taken from the Army and returned to New Jersey and wintered at Newark next spring we were taken to Statters [?]³ Island [Staten Island?, August 22, 1777] and joined a detachment commanded by General Maxwell and had a battle with the British and drove them back to the Fort under cover of their shipping returned to Elizabeth town again and remained that winter he with a part of his Regiment was detached and taken up above New York as a detached guard and him and eleven others were at a wedding in the neighborhood one night and taken prisoners by a small detachment of the British and Tories we were taken to New York and put on board of a prison ship the old *Asia* man of war he with others was taken on board said ship to Charleston South Carolina himself and one Peter Sullivan escaped from the British and found General Greene's [Nathanael Greene's] Army at a place called the high hills of Santee. I remained with General Greene until the battle of the Eutaw Springs [September 8, 1781] there I was wounded in the leg by having it broke one arm broke also shot in the shoulder and both sides. General Greene having been immediately called from thence to York and myself with others of the wounded were left there under General Sumpter [Thomas Sumter].

I was unable to travel for 5 or 6 months afterwards before I got able to travel and joined the Army the troops were all disbanded and discharged and being entirely destitute of anything I set in to work with a Colonel Davidson to procure means to reach home and remained with him a year. Before General Greene left me while I was wounded he gave me a permit to enable me when I recovered to travel home which was all that I ever received like a discharge for the last term of service.

What papers I had were all destroyed by fire while I was in the Army during the last year having my house and everything I possessed burnt up.

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 any agency in any State.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid in open Court

S/ W. T. T. Jones, Clerk

S/ William Meads, X his mark

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State of Indiana Vanderburgh County

On this the Seventeenth day of February A.D. 1834 personally appeared before me John W. Lilleston Esquire a Justice of the Peace duly commissioned and sworn as such in and for the County and State aforesaid, at my office in the Town of Evansville, William Meads a resident of Union Township in the County and State aforesaid who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following Declaration Supplemental to the one made by him before

² *Erapus*

³ *Statters Island*

the Judges of the Vanderburgh Circuit Court on the 25th day of September A.D. 1833 in order to obtain the provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832 which Declaration he is informed by J L Edwards Esquire Commissioner of Pensions is in some parts Deficient, in order that that part of his Declaration (above referred to) relating to the times of service and the length of time he served may be definitely understood by the department whose duty it is to investigate the claims of the several applicants under the above act = he would save that in consequence of old age, and mental & bodily infirmities incident to it, he cannot definitely say in what year he entered the service but would state that to the best of his recollection it was the year before the Declaration of Independence to wit the year 1775 at the place and under the Officers stated in his Declaration of the 25th of September 1833 to which this is a Supplement that he served as a private under that Enlistment three years (the full term for which he enlisted) had a discharge for that term of service which was signed by Colonel Dayton & Major Barber -- which discharge he kept until sometime during the last war when that together with his other papers were destroyed by fire -- that about a week after he was discharged from the before mentioned term of service of three years which terminated as near as he can recollect in the year 1778 -- he again enlisted for the term of four years or during the war under the same Officers that he enlisted under in the first term of service at a place called Elizabeth Town in the State of New Jersey -- the first engagement he was in after his 2nd term of Enlistment was with the Hessians under Niphausen [sic, General Wilhelm von Knyphausen] at the farms commonly called the battle of Elizabethtown, marched from thence to Morristown &c as stated in the Declaration to which this is a supplement. He would state that as near as he can recollect it was in the spring of 1778 that he enlisted the 2nd time that he continued in service until the battle of Eutaw Springs which he thinks was fought in the fall of 1781 -- which makes this last term of service something over three years & except about three months that he was a prisoner. That he was wounded there as he states in the Declaration above referred to -- that the British had taken shelter in a large Brick house near which he was wounded, about the time Colonel Washington made a charge upon the British with some Dragoons that kept back for that purpose in this charge Colonel Washington was wounded and taken prisoner[. F]rom the time he first entered the service until the battle of Eutaw Springs was some months over six years. All of which time he was in the service of the United States as a private except about three months that he was a prisoner taken at the wedding as stated in his first Declaration and about a week intervening between his first Discharge and his second enlistment for which he claims a pension. It is with extreme regret that he learns from the Department that he who has served his Country faithfully in both the first and second [word obliterated] should be returned to the Department as a Deserter but so it is but it has pleased and all wise Providence to provide him with ample means to repel the foul charge, one of the aged veterans of the Revolution John G. Griffis⁴ yet lives, by whom he can prove what the department requires you for a pension can't be granted -- he would here state to the Department the reasons why he has made this Supplemental Declaration before a Justice of the peace instead of the Circuit Court[. T]he circuit Court meets semiannually on the 4th Mondays in March & September that at his advanced age (near 94 years) according to the common course of things he has but a few days to live and that John G. Griffis is also very aged and in all probability may not live until the next term of the Circuit Court and also that he is destitute and wishes to have before the Court meets to go to Kentucky to live with his children.

Subscribed & sworn to this 17th day of February A.D. 1834

S/ J. W. Lilleston, JP

S/ William Meads, X his mark

⁴ [John G. Griffis R4322](#)

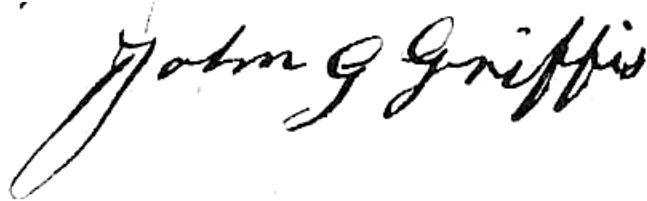
[p 24]

State of Indiana Vanderburgh County

John G. Griffis aged Eighty-two years next August being duly sworn according to law upon his oath says -- that he is acquainted with William Meads the above applicant for a pension who was a soldier in the Revolutionary War that he was taken prisoner at the wedding in said meets Declaration mentioned that he was there on the next morning after the wedding at Paramus in the State of New Jersey this Deponent cannot Distinctly recollect in consequence of his loss of memory by reason of old age the precise year but thinks it was in the year of 1780 that he then went to the South -- that he saw Meads and one Peter Sullivan return to and joined General Greene's Army at the High hills of Santee in the State of South Carolina where he the said Meads said that he had deserted from the British where he had been detained as a prisoner this Deponent thinks that it was in the year 1781 when Meads joined General Greene at the South & that he well recollects that Meads had handcuffs on when he came to General Greene's camp. This Deponent further says that he himself was a soldier under General Greene and that he saw said Meads carried off the field at the Eutaw Springs after the Battle in 1781 (the saints in the fall) wounded in the arm & shoulder & one leg & both thighs and this deponent further this says not. Subscribed & sworn to this 17th day of February 1834

S/ J. W. Lilleston, JP

S/ John G. Griffis

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John G. Griffis". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.

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War Department Pension Office May 18, 1835

Sir,

Your letter of the 7th instant has been received. I have directed the pensions of Ziba Arnold and William Mead to be stopped. I am satisfied from a full examination of their cases that they are fraudulent, but the evidence is not perhaps strong enough to convict them of willful and corrupt perjury.

I will be obliged to you if you will inform me as to the counties in Kentucky into which they had fled, if you can obtain such intelligence.

[unsigned letter]

James Lockhart, Eqr., Evansville, Indiana

[Facts in file: in March 1836, the veteran had moved to Sangamon County Illinois where he was living with a son-in-law, Littleton Westbrook, his daughter is not named.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 2 years in the New Jersey Continental line.]