

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of John Weldon S32053

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

Territory of Arkansas } At the July Term of the County Court of said County
County of Independence } AD 1833

On this first day of July in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty three personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of the County Court of Independence County, and Territory of Arkansas now sitting John Weldon a resident of said County and Territory aged Seventy four 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 the Seventh A.D. 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated towit. That he was born on the seventeenth day of August A.D. 1759 in Halifax County State of Virginia, and that he has a record of his age in his bible at home. That in the summer of 1774 he joined a volunteer Company of Cavalry under Captain Robert Ellison at St. Marks parish Craven's County [sic: Craven County, abolished in 1769] and state of South Carolina and attached to the Regiment of which John Winn was Lieutenant Colonel and a Wm. Richardson Colonel, regularly embodied, raised by the authority and received into the service of said state of South Carolina. That at the time he entered the service he lived in said County. That as soon as he joined said Company, he immediately entered into service, marched to Congaree River and joined the balance of the Regiment under said Col Richardson, and marched from thence with said Regiment to Reyburn's Creek [sic: Rabon Creek in present Laurens County SC] and after taking a body of Tories under one Colonel Fletcher [probably Thomas Fletchall] a British Officer marched to near Congaree river again when they were for the time dismissed with orders with orders to hold themselves in readiness for further services when required having then been out on duty upwards of six months, having been out in pursuit of a Body of Tories then called and well known by the name of Scofilietes [sic: Scovelites]. That he reached home as he thinks about the middle of January A.D. 1775 and remained there until as near as he can recollect the first day of March ensuing when he with said Company were again called out under the same officers and marched to Charleston and there did one months tour of duty in Garrison, then marched back to said Cravens County to a place called Winnsborough [sic: Winnsboro] and were dismissed for the term with the same orders to hold themselves in readiness, he remained at home until the spring following being however still continued in service and mustered monthly, towit, in April 1776 he with said Company under the same officers were again ordered to Charleston to which he marched and was there put under the command of Col Matthew Singleton and was engaged in Garrison duty there (during which the Battle at Fort Moultrie on Sullivan's Island took [Battle at Fort Sullivan, later named Fort Moultrie, 28 - 29 Jun 1776], and during which this Deponent was under arms in Charleston) nine weeks when he was again marched back again to Craven's County and the men directed to sepearate but to hold themselves in readiness for service when necessary. While he was in Charleston and on the day the battle of Sullivan's Island was fought information was received that the Cherokee Indians had made an attack on the frontiers of South Carolina and murdered a number of families, in consequence of which information he immediately on his return home joined another horse company under Captain Joseph Kertland and marched to Gilders Creek [Gilders Creek in Newberry County or perhaps more likely, Gilder Creek in Greenville County] on the frontiers of said state and ranged along said frontiers under the General Command of Captain Thomas Woodward in the District Commanded by General [Andrew] Williamson, but who at that time was gone into the Cherokee Nation on an expedition, and then after having ranged as aforesaid one month were marched home again and the company dismissed, he does not now recollect distinctly how long he was engaged in marching to and from said frontiers. While at home still considered as in service and mustered monthly, until as he thinks in July 1777 he was again ordered out in the fork between Broad River and Salude [sic: Saluda River, at present Columbia], upon what was called the Dutch fork, to impress wagon horses and provisions for an expedition then preparing to go against St.

Augustine, which duty was performed while the Troops were collecting, and in August as he thinks, he marched under the same Captain towit Robert Ellison, Col John Winn & General Williamson and marched to St. Mary on the frontiers of Georgia (this was called the Florida Expedition) and seventeen miles beyond to Trout Creek where there was a fort which had been evacuated by the British and burned said fort, then marched back to Cravens County again and dismissed as they had previously been having been out at least three months but does not recollect the precise period, he remained at home until as he believes in March 1778 he was again called out and mustered in service under the same officers & marched to near Augusta where the Regiment was divided one part of which marched to Augusta under Col Winn the other part with this deponent to orangeBurgh [sic: Orangeburg SC] under the command of Captain Robert Ellison then also acting as Major, where he was stationed and where he had his arm so much injured as to render him for the time unfit for duty and a furlough given him to return home until it should get well which he did and immediately on his return home he sent his Brother Samuel Weldon to Orange Burgh as his substitute to perform duty in his place while he should be absent. that his brother went on joined the troops at Orange Burgh and from thence to Charleston, retreating from General Provost [sic: Augustine Prevost] and continued to do duty as his substitute until after the Battle of Stono [Stono Ferry SC, 20 Jun 1779], between General [Benjamin] Lincoln and General Provost [sic: detachment left to guard retreat of Prevost's troops], said substitute at that time being under the command of General Lincoln, the troops with which said substitute was acting were then marched back to Craven County and directed to separate with the same orders as before — he does not recollect distinctly the time when the troops returned but thinks it was in July though he may be mistaken as to the time. During this period a promotion took place (while they were at home), and this Deponent was elected First Lieutenant and Commissioned by John Rutledge Governor of the State of South Carolina, and entered upon the duties of his office mustering and exercising the men monthly. that he was commissioned as he thinks in 1779. that the Company remained at home as he thinks until about the first of April the Troops in which he served were again called he acting in his capacity of First Lieutenant, and marched under Lieutenant Col Joseph Brown for the purpose of getting in Charleston and got within about seventy miles of Charleston when he was met by Governor Rutledge, and his Guard who ordered the Troops back stating there was no doubt but that the city was then in possession of the British [since 12 May 1780], he having made his escape, and he with the Troops returned to Craven's County and were dismissed with the same orders as before to hold themselves in readiness the Troops having been out upwards of a month. while at home he was taken a prisoner by the Tories and carried to Camden and as far as the Jail door, but then dismissed on parole and permitted to return home; which he did; shortly after which he was informed by a Tory Sergeant that in consequence of a proclamation issued by Lord Cornwallis [sic: Gen. Henry Clinton on 3 Jun] he must deliver himself up or join the Enemy, which he believed, and which rather than do he broke his parole collected a few of the men of his company took the command of them (Col Winn & Major Ellison being then prisoners, and his Captain having joined the British) and marched to and joined General Sumpter [sic: Thomas Sumter] near the Cawtawba [sic: Catawba] fields not far from the frontiers of South Carolina and was attached to the Regiment commanded by Col Edward Lacey of which a Mr McGriff was Lieutenant Colonel, and a Mr John McClure his Captain, and in a few days after he thinks not exceeding four or five days they marched about twenty five miles above Camden and fought a Battle at the Hanging Rock [6 Aug 1780] (he still acting as first Lieutenant) where Captain McClure was killed, then marched back to Charlotte Town - Mecklenberg [sic: Mecklenburg] County North Carolina & was then put under the command of Captain Hugh Knox and marched in various directions until the battle of fish dam ford on Broad River [Skirmish at Fishdam Ford, 9 Nov 1780] where he with the Troops were surprised in the night by the Enemy under on Col Wymm [sic: Maj. James Wemyss], where General Sumpter was wounded. from thence he with the Troops went Westward until he was engaged in a skirmish with Col. Tarlton [sic: Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton] at Blackstocks ford upon as he believes on Tiger River [sic: Battle of Blackstock's Plantation on Tyger River, 20 Nov] and continued in service until after peace when he with the Troops were discharged at General Green's [sic: Nathanael Greene's] Camp upon the Santee river, tho he (this Deponent) continued in service one month after at

Orangeburgh before he returned home.

That when he first joined the troops he lived near what is now Winnsboro [Winnsboro] Fairfield District as he believes, then known by the name of St Marks parish Craven County South Carolina

That from A.D. 1774 until the latter part of 1775 he was a private in the ranks, he was then appointed first Sergeant until 1779 a period of about four years when he was commissioned first lieutenant and continued first Lieutenant until the end of the war — he never had any written Discharge as either private or Sergeant - nor was any given to any of the men — That his Commission with all his other papers relating to his services in the Revolutionary war and all other papers were burned up in his house (and house also) in Christian County Kentucky on the 16th day of March AD 1804 And that he knows no person now living who can testify to his services. After the peace he lived in said Craven County South Carolina until 1788, then moved to Wilkes County Georgia and resided there until 1796 when he moved to Christian County Kentucky and resided there until 1814 when he moved to Johnson County Illinois and resided there until 1818 when he moved to Arkansas Territory where he now resides. During the parole period of his service he acted with troops regularly embodied and raised by competent authority, that during the time he was engaged in no other pursuit and considered himself as a Soldier during the whole war — for his character for veracity and good behaviour he would refer to the following named individuals towit Reuben Millsaps Charles H. Pelham Joseph H. Egnu Alfred Arnold and Townsend Dickenson

That he was acquainted with Gener'l Sumpter, Genl Marion, Governor Rutledge, Genl Andrew Pickens and many others in addition to those heretofore mentioned with whom he served Said John Weldon requests that if the foregoing Declaration is not sufficient to procure his pension as a commissioned officer that he be granted the pension of a sergeant or a private I the foregoing named John Weldon do hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or Annuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the pension Roll of the Agency of any state or Territory

[signed] John Weldon