

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of John Back S32103

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 20 Feb 2017.

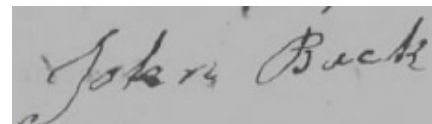
State of Kentucky Wayne county} sct

On this 26th day of May 1835 personally appeared John Back, before the county court of Wayne, a resident of said County & State aged 75 years next June By my fathers record now refered to, Who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following Declaration In order to obtain the Benefit of the provision made by the act of congress, passed June 7th 1832. That he enlisted in the Army of the United States in the year some time in march 1778 [sic: see endnote] for twelve months as a private after getting to Caskaskie [sic: Kaskaskia], and under Capt. Thomas Quirk. my Col. was John montgomery & Genl. George Rogers Clark. I enlisted in Washington County State of Virginia And marched to the long island of Holston [at present Kingsport TN]. We then took water and went down to french Broad [River], then to Chickimogie [sic: Chickamauga] town on the Tennessee which we burnt and drove the Indians Then we marched to the mouth of Tennessee Thence down the Ohio River to the mouth, Thence up the mississippi River to Cassaski [sic: Kaskaskia], at which Garison we remained some time Guarding the fort and doing duty, We then marched to the opost and stayed there about three months. We then marched Back to Cascaski & Remained there two months longer. We then marched up the [blank] River to a Town called Coho [sic: Cohoes = Cahokia IL on the Mississippi River], where we remained untill the British and Indians came against us, & where we had considerable skirmishing with them. But the British and indians after some days went off [6 Jul 1778] About this time some time I think on the last of June 1779 Having served out my enlistment for 12 months after arrived at Cascaski, I was discharged in writing with a credit of 15 months. At Coho in writing, by my officers. It took us 3 months to get to Cascaski from Washington County in Virginia. I now went as a volunteer private with the army 400 miles up the Missipi River and one hundred by land to an Indian town. We Burnt the Town & Houses, and destroyed their corn. The Indians & British fled at our approach and we then returned to Cascaski, which expedition took us two months. & I was again discharged by my officers in writing & for a credit of two months more. I was now very unwell & almost naked. And resolved to come home as soon as I was able. I started down the Missipi to the mouth of the Ohio, thence to the mouth of Tennessee, thence to where is now Nashville. Thence to the Craborchard [Crab Orchard] in Kentucky Thence Home to my Father's in washington county Virginia. Being absent, two years and three months. But have lost my discharges long since I was born in culpepper [sic: Culpeper] County in the state of Virginia in the year 1760 where I lived 12 years, my father then moved Clinch in washington County virginia where I lived untill I was about 34 years old & then moved on Sandy [Big Sandy River] Kentucky where I lived 10 years in Floyd county. I then removed to Wayne County Kentucky where I lived 24 years, I then moved to Indianna Monroe county, where I lived 6 years & then Removed to Wayne County Kentucky where I now live and have lived about three months.

He the said John Back hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and he declares his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any state. Having first enlisted as aforesaid for 12 months & served and got a discharge for 15 months & 2 months more as a volunteer private, making seventeen months I very respectfully claim a compensation for 12 months & 5 months more agreeably to my statement of service, as a private provided the Department thinks I am entitled to the 5 months more as aforesaid.

The said John Back is informed by The Honorable Martin Beaty, [illegible word] name is on the Rolls in the War Department, But will produce the best proof now in his power.

Sworn and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Back". The ink is dark and the handwriting is somewhat slanted to the right.

The Deponent Jacob Back aged 70 years old past a Brother of the said John Back. A man of good Character states upon his Oath in open court that He well Remembers of his Brother John Back enlisting for twelve months as a private under Captain Thomas Quirk in Washington County Virginia in the year 1778 to serve on an Expedition under Genl. Rogers Clark to Caskaskia He well recollects of his starting under his officers on the expedition and is satisfied that he served agreeably to his Declaration from Report, & from Samuel Oxcher [sic: Samuel Auxer W8516] who returned & informed me of my Brothers service, who served with him. But is now dead. I well Recollect of my Brothers Return from the Epedition About two years and three months afterward to my Fathers; from the Fatiguing Expedition, & who was very much exhausted and worn down, with a Deerskin shirt Breaches and clothing very much tattered and torn There was no other opinion among all the family and acquaintances But that he had faithfully seved out his enlistment & agreeably to his Declaration as now made out. The said Oxcher when he came home informed us that John Back was on his way home, But was lame and unwell and he left him on the Road. I never saw the discharge of my Brother John. He informed us in Wading, thro the Rivers creeks and without any way to keep his discharges it was destroyed. & Further this Deponent says not.

[signed] Jacob Back

The Deposition of Patrick Coyle [S30952] Also taken in open court aged about 69 years past a citizen of Wayne county whose testimony on Oath ought to be credited & Believed He states now upon his Oath that in 1778 He was a citizen of Washington county in the State of Virginia at Cowins fort & that he did not see the said John Back enlist for 12 months to go on an expedition under Genl. Rogers Clark at Cascaski. But that he heard among the soldiers & and others that he did enlist under Capt Thomas Quirk at the time, and a few days after he saw Capt. Thomas Quirk & he informed me that John Back had enlisted under him for 12 months to go on said Expedition. And when they marched to the Long islands of Holstin I saw the said John Back marching with the Ballance of the Soldiers to the Long islands. He the said John Back was gone Better than two years as I believe on said expedition. Andrew Cowin, John Breeding, & Richard Breez when they returned from said Expedition got home first, having left said John Back behind who was lame, they informed us that John Back had served the 12 months of enlistment with them and they expected him shortly to come home, I have no Doubt myself that John Back enlisted & served agreeably to his Declaration, & It was universally believed among the family and all his acquaintances The said Andrew Cowin John Breeding & Richard Breeze enlisted about the time that John Back did, And they marched off together. He knows nothing of seeing any discharge, But believes the said John Back & Others were regularly discharged And further this Deponent says not
Signed by }

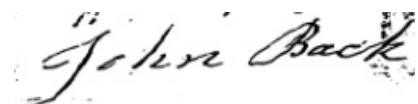


[The following are from [rejected claims in the Library of Virginia.](#)]

State of Kentucky }
County of Wayne } [29 Sep 1835]

I John Back aged 75 years do upon oath testify that I entered the service of the united states on the [blank] day of March 1778 as a regular soldier and served fifteen months under Gen'l George Rogers Clark in the north west. I enlisted and served a part of the time in the company commanded by Captain Thomas Quirk and the balance of the time under Captain Evans [probably Jesse Ebans] Col John Montgomery commanded the regiment the number of which is not recollected by me. I enlisted in the state of Virginia

I further declare that I never have received a Warrant for the Bounty Land promised to me on the part of the state of Virginia nor have I ever assigned or transfered my Claim in any manner whatever –
Therefore [power of attorney follows]



[Witnessed by Jacob Back and Patrick Coyle]

The evidence is not sufficient to establish the soldiers claim – Rejected DC [Gov. David Campbell]

NOTE: On 25 Jan 1838 John Back applied to have his pension transferred to Monroe County IN, where he had moved “because his children had removed previously to Indiana and the prospect of doing better.”