

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Polen S32453

Transcribed by Will Graves

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rev'd 10/29/12

[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. 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 fails 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 errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Indiana, County of Delaware

On this 14th day of November A.D. 1832, personally appeared in open court before Daniel McCulloch and John Tomlinson, Associate Judge of the Delaware Circuit Court and by virtue of their office Judges of this Probate Court of Delaware County now sitting, William Polen, a resident of Delaware County, aged seventy 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.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as follows in the month of September in in the fall of the year 1779 one month before he as 16 years old when he lived in Berclay [sic, Berkeley] County near Shepherds Town [Shepherdstown] in the State of Virginia a Militia company was formed under the command of Captain Josiah Swearingen, Major Scott, Colonel John Mercer [?] of Shepherds town to go over the mountains against the Indians. Col. Mercer & Major Scott promised that each one of them should have one hundred acres of land. This applicant became anxious to go and at length obtained his father's and mother's consent to go, he accoring [accordingly] joined the company in the month of September A.D. 1779. The company marched from Martinsburgh to Fort McIntosh by the way of Beesontown, Brownsville, and Pittsburgh and there assisted in making the Fort McIntosh where he remained between 2 or 3 months under the command of Col. Campbell & Gen. McIntosh, from thence he marched in the company of Captain Swearingen and 3 other companies, Captains Lisle, Evans and Worthington to the Muskingum River and took an Indian town which was not defended there being only a few old men some women and children & 5 white children. They built a fort on the spot and called it Ft. Lawrence [sic, Fort Laurens] and left two companies in it viz. Evans & Worthington's companies, and Swearingen's & Lisle's marched back to Ft. McIntosh where he the next day after his arrival received a written discharge for a three month tour of duty which discharge he kept for about 30 years and then lost it. He arrived home four months from the time he set out. He has never yet heard of any opportunity to obtain one hundred acres of land that he was promised. He remained at home two years & in September in the year 1780 volunteered in the Militia Company of Captain Michael Bedinger & went with him to Battle town Virginia where they remained until word came that they were not wanted and they marched back – the whole time this trip not exceeding one month. Again in September in the year 1781 he joined the Militia company of Captain Jacob Linder and Levi same name who were cousins the company set out from Shepherds Town in Berkeley County & marched through Fredericksburg & Williamsburg to Yorktown when they arrived at the siege was just commenced he remained there are six weeks and assisted in the siege under the command of Colonel Meriwether he assisted in stacking the arms when Cornwallis surrendered & marched with the prisoners from York to Fredericks town in Maryland and the marched with the prisoners the Army stopped three days at Falmouth & one day in Williamsburg the Journey was performed by slow marches when the Army arrived at Fredericks town & lodged the prisoners in the barracks he received a written discharge for three months tour of duty he kept for many

years, it is lost with his other discharge by his pocket book being stolen out of his house in the absence of his family all the companies in which he served were militia & he knows of no person now living by whom he can prove his service.

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 the agency of any State.

Sworn to & subscribed the day and year aforesaid

S William Polen, X his mark

S/ Wm Van Matre, Clk.

Interrogatories prescribe by the war department

1st When and in what year were you born?

A: In the State of New Jersey where my father lived until I was big enough to hoe corn I was born on the 14th of October, the year not exactly recollected but I believe it to have been in the year 1762.

2nd Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

A: I have no record of my age, my age was set down and the blank leaf of a hymn book which I have in my possession for many years but it has been torn out and lost by accident.

3rd Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

A: In Berkeley County Virginia I have lived 15 years in Virginia 19 Allegheny County Pennsylvania 17 State of Ohio seven [?]¹ in Indiana 2 years in Delaware County

4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom?

A: Voluntarily in a Militia Company

5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

A: 1st Tour none recollected but General McIntosh & Colonel Campbell; Tour to Yorktown Colonel Meriwether others not recollected.

6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

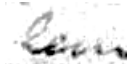
A: I did receive a written discharge from Captain Swearingen for a three months tour & from Levi Linder which were stolen from me in my pocket book (each for three months tours).

[omitted: 7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.]

[William Payton, "a licensed exhorter of the Methodist Episcopal Church," and Garret Gibson gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

State of Indiana Delaware County

Personally appeared before me, the undersigned, a justice of the peace within and for said County, William Polen, who being duly sworn, depose & saith, that he served a full three months tour of duty beginning in the month of September A.D. 1779 as mentioned in the written Declaration exclusive of the time of going to and fro and one month going to and fro also that he served a full three months tour of duty exclusive of the time of going & returning beginning in September A.D. 1781 as in his declaration mentioned making a full six months service and in the trip to battle town he states he was at battle town a month and that he served in no other capacity than as a private, and for said

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service as a private soldier he claims a pension.

S/ William Polan, X his mark

Sworn to & subscribed before me this 20th day of June 1833.

S/ John Marshall, JP [Seal]

[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 Virginia militia.]