

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of John Purvians S32459

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Illinois

Sangamon County SS

For the purpose of obtaining the benefit of an Act of Congress approved March 18th 1818 entitled "an Act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War," I John Purviance of the County and State aforesaid do hereby declare that I enlisted in the Continental line [sic] of the Army of the Revolution, That he from the lapse of time cannot state precisely the time when he enlisted, that he has lost his discharge. He can only refer to facts to ascertain the dates. He was at the taking of the Forts of Orangburg on the River Cooper in South Carolina [sic: Orangeburg SC on the North Fork of Edisto River] & at the battle Eutaw Springs [8 Sep 1781]. That after said enlistment he served for and during the space of ten months. During which period I was a Private in the Company commanded by Captain William Alexander ["Black Bill" Alexander] in the Regiment Commanded by Colonel Wade Hampton [1st Regiment of South Carolina Dragoons], which served in South Carolina, under the Command of General Sumpter [sic: Thomas Sumter]. That I was discharged at Orangburg by General Sumpter, which discharge he has lost. That I am now aged and feeble, unable to work for my support and having a family to maintain. and I do hereby declare that I relinquish all the right which I have to any Pension under any act of Congress other wise than that under which I now claim. [signed 17 Sep 1831] John Purvians

State of North Carolina }

Cabarrus County } Be it remembered that on the 4th day of August 1831 Personally appeared before us the subscribing Justices, Robert Purviance & Seth Rogers who deposed & saith, that John Purviance a private in the Revolutionary Service of the United States did serve ten months tour under Gen'l. Sumpter & Wade Hampton and was honorably discharged.

[signed] Seth Rogers

[signed] Robert Purviance

State of Illinois Sangamon County.

Personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the peace in & for the said County & State John Purvings also of said Count who being first duly sworn according to Law, deposes & says that he was Inlisted in the Service of the United States of America in the time of the revolutionary war with Great Briton & that He was Inlisted under Capt. William Alexander of Roan [sic: Rowan] County & State of North Carolina who was under the command of Maj. James Rutherford [John Rutherford] who fell at the Eutaw Battle, who was under Col. Wade Hampton., who was under Gen. Thomas Sumpter [sic: Thomas Sumter] under the command of General Green [sic: Nathanael Greene] who was commander of the Southern Division of [the American Army in] South Carolina the said John Purvings say he Inlisted for a ten months tower under the above named officers. he also saith that he entered the service with horse saddle & Bridle which he saith he lost (Viz) When Gen. Green was retreating from Ninety Six in the State of South Carolina [Siege of Ninety-Six SC, 22 May - 19 Jun 1781] — When the said Purvings states that he was detached in the rear to guard the same & was continued there for two day & nights in which time the said John Purvings was sent of with a quarter Master Serjant & four more privates to a Mill to get Meal & while at the Mill the were fired on by a company of Tories who wounded the quarter Master & the said Purvings with some other Made their escape at which time the said John Purvings deposed & saith that he lost his horse saddle & Bridle which he saith was appraised to the sum of Eighty dollars when he entered the service For which he saith he never has received value for any part thereof. The said Purvings is now a Citizen of the County of Sangamon & state of Illinois Signed by the said Purvings this Eleventh day of February one Thousand Eight hundred & Thirty two.

Sworn to & subscribed before me this Eleventh of February 1832

[signed] John Purvians

State of Illinois Sangamon County

To the Honorable General Assembly of the United States in Congress Assembled.

Whereas John Purvings being an aged Citizen of our County who we believe have been a soldier in gaining our liberty in the contest between Great Briton & the United States of America in time of the revolution & as he complains he has not drawn any thing for his services for the time he spent; & he complains that he lost his horse saddle & Bridle for which he says he has never received any pay.

Now we the Citizens of Sangamon do pray for Mr. John Purvings that Congress would grant some relief to him as he is now infirm & his family also, consisting of his companion who is now & has been lingering under the complaint of the dropsy for some years past — we your petitioners do ever pray for the relief of the said John Purvings. Dated the Eleventh of February 1832.

Petitioners Names

James Alexander

Abra'm Barler[?]

Joshua C Alexander

David Smith

Albertson Smith

Jno Purviance jr[?]

Asa Comly[?]

Petitioners Names

Henry Davis

T Cox[?]

W. K. Anderson Col. Ay[?]

C. R. Pierce, Capt

Julius F Plunket

Zeno D Plunket

State of Illinois }

County of Sangamon }

On this fourth day of June 1833 personally appeared before the County Commissioners Court for the County of Sangamon John Purviance of the County of Sangamon in the State of Illinois 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 ---

I was born in Lancaster County Pennsylvania in 1763. When about 12 years old I removed to Mackleburg [sic: Mecklenburg] County North Carolina - afterwards Cabarrus County, where I lived until 1820 when I removed to Sangamon County Illinois where I have since resided I know of no existing record of my age.

In the summer of the year 1779 at Mackleburg County N.C. I volunteered as a private in a horse Company of militia commanded by Capt James White & Lieut Peter Burns - and served three months. We we marched, I think under Col. Davis across the Kongaree [sic: Congaree], Wateree & Santee Rivers to [sic: in] South Carolina There were several regiments of regular troops, and militia. The names of the regular officers, I do not remember. The militia were commanded I believe by Gen'l. Wreatherford [sic: Griffith Rutherford]. We were engaged in a severe battle with the British near Stono River [Battle of Stono Ferry, 20 June 1779], in which there were many killed & wounded. Our army retreated from the battleground - and the British soon after retired. I received a discharge from Capt. White which has been lost.

In August 1780 I volunteered as a private at Mackleburg County in a horse Company of Militia commanded by Capt. William Penny and Lieut Francis Locke. We marched [illegible word] to Lynch's Creek where we joined Genl [Horatio] Gates, when we marched to Rugely's Mills [sic: Rugeley's Mill], where we encamped 4 or 5 days — from this place we marched about two miles in the direction of Camden, where we were attacked by the Enemy and defeated [Battle of Camden SC, 16 Aug 1780]. I served three months at this time as a private & received a discharge from Capt Penny which I have lost. I do not recollect the names of any other officers, except those named besides Pulaski, who commanded a troop of dragoons [at Stono Ferry; mortally wounded 9 Oct 1779] and De Kalb [mortally wounded at the Battle of Camden].

In July 1781 I volunteered in the State Troops in a company of horse commanded by Capt. Alexander. We rendezvoused at Kongaree River near Friday's Ferry. We were then attached to a regiment commanded by Col Wade Hampton. I served at this time ten months as a private. Our head quarters were at Fridays Ferry during this term of service. I received my discharge at Orangeburg from Capt Alexander. There were several regiments encamped at the same place with us. Commanded by Col Polk from Mackleburg Col Henry Hampton from S. Carolina. Major

[sic: Lt. Col.] Richard Hampton & Col [William] Hill. All the troops were under the command of Genl Sumpter [sic: Thomas Sumter].

In 1782 in August or September I volunteered at Mackleburg Co. in a company of horse, commanded by Capt Burns. We were attached to a regiment commanded by Col [William Richardson] Davie. I served two months, when I received a discharge from Capt Burns which I have lost. I think during this time of service we were not marched out of Mackleburg - we were employed generally as rangers. Genl Davison had the command of all the militia [see note below]. I do not recollect the names of any other officers than those

I have no documentary evidence of my service, nor do I know of any person (except Henry Briance [pension application S32133] whose deposition accompanies this declaration) who can testify to my service.

Mr John H Plunkett and David S Purviance have been long acquainted with me and will testify to my character for veracity & their belief of my having been a soldier of the Revolution, & served as above detailed.

I 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.

Sworn & subscribed to the day & year aforesaid.

[signed] John Purvians

NOTES:

The "Genl Davison" mention in the tour of 1782 is unknown. He could not have been Gen. William Lee Davidson, who was killed in action on 1 Feb 1781.

On 13 Feb 1832 John Todd, MD, deposed that he attended the family of John Purvians and had "tapped his wife six time for the dropsy."