

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John White S32593

fn24VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

9/10/11

[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 Illinois Shelby County: SS

On this second day of March A.D. 1835 personally appeared before the County Commissioners Court of Shelby County and State aforesaid the same being a Court of record, John White a resident of said County and State aforesaid, aged seventy-eight years on the 26th day of last February, 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 may by the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

That he said John White was born in the State of Pennsylvania in the year 1757 – that after his said birth, he and his father's family moved into Buckingham County in the State of Virginia some time previous to the year 1778 – that on or about the first day of June in said year 1778 he enlisted or volunteered as a militia man in the revolutionary war in a company commanded by Captain John Patterson and Lieutenant James Burnett under Major James Coskey; the name of the Colonel he cannot recollect – that he volunteered in Buckingham County aforesaid for six months, and immediately marched to Williamsburg in Virginia, the then head quarters of that part of the Army to which this Deponent was attached – where he remained in the service during said six months, a part of the time, being drilled and disciplined in the said service at Williamsburg, and the rest of the time in actual service, watching the enemy on the James River and on the seashore, and also watching the movements of the Tories, and on scouting parties detached from the Regiment against the Tories – the name of the Colonel who commanded the Regiment he cannot now recollect – that at the expiration of said six months, he was discharged, and took a written discharge from his Captain John Patterson, which discharge he kept in his possession until about ten years since, when it was lost and cannot be found – that from the time he obtained his discharge aforesaid until the spring of 1780, he remained a part of the time at home out of the service, and was frequently during that time engaged in scouting parties and in small skirmishes on the James River and on the seashore, sometimes in Virginia and sometimes in North Carolina sometimes in South Carolina at various places – but thinks that during the last mentioned time he was not in the regular service and was not regularly enlisted or drafted, was only out on short tours a short time at once – does not recollect the officers under whom he served during this time – and does not claim pay for his last mentioned services from the time of his said discharge to the spring of 1780 – that in said spring of 1780 while thus engaged in scouting near Charleston South Carolina, at Goose Creek, he again enlisted or volunteered as a light horseman on the 20th of April in the year 1780 aforesaid and served mostly on horseback, during said four months – that he does not recollect the name of his (then) Captain, but the Regiment or body of men in which he volunteered, was commanded by one John Locke, having one James Pervines [could be a mistaken reference to James Purviance] as

Major – that after going into the service aforesaid and after the capture of Charleston by the British, he then marched with a small body of troops under said Locke up the Santee River through Georgetown in South Carolina and soon after was at the battle of Santee on the 6th of May in the year 1780 aforesaid – from thence he went out the country to Columbia in South Carolina aforesaid – from thence he marched up the Catawba River to Waxhaw Creek, and on the 29th of May had an engagement with the Tories and British – and about the same time had a skirmish at Bates ford [Gates Ford?¹] – From that place he was marched to a place called Hanging rock South Carolina where and near which place in the country he remained some time in various kinds of service, and on the 9th of August 1780, was at the battle of Hanging Rock – either at this place or a few days after he saw General Marion – from Hanging rock he marched to join the Army from the North under General Gates and DeKalb and joined the main Army a few days before the battle of Camden within a few miles of Rugeley's Mills, and finally was in the battle at Camden South Carolina on the 16th of August where the Americans were defeated and the Army mostly disbursed – about this time or immediately after said battle his time of service of four months having expired he returned home to his father's family; then in Rawon [Rowan] County North Carolina his father's family having lately removed there – that aforesaid four months service he thinks he got no regular written discharge, but that he served the whole of his time of four months out – that after this for some time he remained mostly at home, being out only occasionally on short excursions or tours – and only one of these excursions he was near Kings Mountain in South Carolina and was within 14 miles of it at the time of the battle, but at that time was not in the regular service and does not claim pay for the same – that in the spring of 1781 (he thinks) on the first day of March he again volunteered at or near Rowan County, in the service for the term of eight months, under the command of said Colonel John Locke and Major Pervines, but who was his Captain he cannot recollect, and soon after was in the battle of Guilford Courthouse North Carolina where the British were defeated – from thence he with the troops under said Colonel Locke marched to Hillsboro North Carolina where they remained about one month under drill and discipline – soon after this and after this second battle at Camden, on or about the last of April or the first of May he with the Regiment joined the southern Army under General Greene, and with the Army followed up the enemy through a part of North Carolina into Virginia on their retreat to Yorktown and arrived at that place or near it sometime near the last of August or first of September and was at the siege, the battle and surrender of Yorktown by Cornwallis on the 19th of October 1781 – that he saw many of the regular officers of the Army to which General Washington – Greene, Wayne & others – that soon after the 19th of October peace having been made in his term of service having expired, he was discharged and returned home in Rowan County North Carolina – that he then took a written discharge of his services for the last eight months, which said discharge was lost about ten years since and cannot now be found – that in all his services he served as a private and a volunteer that he claims pay for eighteen months services – to wit from the first of June 1778, six months in Captain Patterson's company; from the 20th of April 1780 for four months under Colonel John Locke and Major Pervines –; and from the first of March 1781 for eight months under said Colonel Locke – that since his discharge he has lived in North Carolina, Tennessee and for the last 10 years in Illinois aforesaid – that he knows of no living witnesses, by whom he can prove his services as most of his comrades in arms are long since dead or in parts unknown to him and therefore has no other mode of substantiating his services, except by his own oath and the

¹ Charles Baxley points out that Lord Rawdon and Horatio Gates were across the Little Lynches River from one another on August 10, 1780, when Gates was on his march to attack Cornwallis at Camden.

traditionary evidence of others – that the Reverend Bushrod Wm Henry, Faison Martin and Daniel White are well acquainted with him and can testify as to their belief of his having been a revolutionary soldier, he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency of any state.

S/ John White, X his mark

The following questions were propounded by the Court

1st Where and in what year were you born? – Answer 1st question 1st I was born in Pennsylvania in the year 1757 –

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

Ans. 2nd I have no record except from memory –

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

Ans 3rd I was living, when called into service, in Buckingham County Virginia and have since lived in North Carolina, Tennessee and now live in Illinois –

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

Ans. 4th I volunteered or enlisted for a few months at a time

5th he states the names of some of the regular officers who served with the troops as follows, Captain Patterson, Major Cuskey – Major Pervines, Colonel Locke, General Gates, General DeKalb, General Huger, Colonel White, General [indecipherable], Marion, Greene &c -- he cannot recollect any particular Regiment except the one which he served – I volunteered at first for 3 months was employed in drilling, scouting &c – volunteered again for 4 months and was engaged some of the time in battle in South Carolina some of the time in marching and scouting – volunteered again for 8 months and was employed in marching, drilling and fighting until the surrender of Yorktown

Question 6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service?

Ans 6. I obtained a written discharge from Captain Patterson for my first 6 months services – I had none from my 4 months services – but got one for my last 8 months services from my Captain whose name I cannot now recollect both of which are lost and cannot be found

7th I am acquainted and personally know the following persons in my neighborhood who can testify as to my character for veracity and as to their belief of my services as a soldier of the Revolution to wit the Reverend Bushrod W Henry, Isaac Martin & Daniel White

S/ John White, X his mark

[Bushrod W Henry, a clergyman, Isaac Martin and Daniel White gave the standard supporting affidavit. "...and the said Daniel White saith that he is a son of John White and that he is thirty-seven years of age, and that his said Father has from his earliest recollection, been reputed to have been a soldier of the revolution, both in the state of North Carolina, in Tennessee and in Illinois where his father now resides, that he has frequently heard his father relate battles that he had been in and many circumstances of the revolution – that he has seen the written discharges spoken of by said White in his said declaration, which are supposed to be lost or mislaid, and cannot be found."

Bushrod W Henry,
Isaac Martin,
Daniel White]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$20 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 6 months service as a private in the Virginia militia.]