

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Estes John
Transcription by Fred Weyler

VA

S3338
31Mar2013

[p3] State of Tennessee 1st Judicial District
County of Grainger April Term 1834

On this 14th day of April 1834 personally appeared in open court before the judge of the circuit court of Grainger County. And State of Tennessee now Setting [sic] John Estes, a resident citizen of the County of Grainger, and state aforesaid, aged 82 years and six months, 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 7th 1832.

That the declarant John Estes was born in Louisa County, State of Virginia, on the 14th day of October 1751. While he was a boy he removed with his father to Halifax County, Virginia. On the 9th of February 1776 the declarant enlisted for two years as a private of Infantry in the 7th Regiment of the State troops of Virginia. He enlisted under 2nd Lieutenant Joseph Hopson at Powell's School house, in Halifax County three or four miles from Halifax Court House. Declarant received 20 shillings of the James River Bank as bounty money. John Douglas was enlisted on the same day and at the same place. Our rendezvous

[p6] was at old Wright Bond's a mile and a half from Staunton River upwards of 20 miles from Halifax Court House. A full company had been enlisted and ordered to rendezvous at this place. Here our Captain Nathaniel Cocke took command of us. Edward Wade was out first Lieutenant but died before the company joined the northern army. Joseph Hopson our 2nd Lieutenant, Taply White Ensign, John White orderly Sergeant, Blackburn Ligan (name so pronounced) 2nd Sergeant, Nathaniel Terry 3rd Sergeant, Thomas Smith 4th Sergeant, the declarant himself John Estes was here appointed 1st corporal, Thomas Watkins 2nd corporal, Benjamin Abbott 3rd Corporal, Wm Hopson 4th Corporal Andrew McGinnis drummer, William Watkins fifer. From Old Wright Bond's we were marched to Williamsburgh [sic] first crossing Staunton River, then the head waters of the Meherrin and Nottaway rivers and James River at Old James town. At Williamsburgh we remained until April. Then Colonel Christian took command of us together with other companies. Lt Colonel McClanahan was our Lt Colonel, Major W^m Neilson out major. In the month of April, day not recollected, we were marched under these officers (together with other companies of the Captains of which declarant recollects Captains Posey, Crocket, and Beattie or Batoss) to Gwinn's Island, where the Royal Governor Dunmore's fleet lay. We passed through little York on our way. We encamped on the mainland approach to the island. At Little York Col. Christian was ordered upon other duty. At Gwinn's Island Colonel Dangerfield took command of us. Captain Lefoy a Frenchman, was our artillery officer. At Gwinn's Island, opposite to it on the main land we encamped. We threw up breastworks at the Windmill Point and placed our cannon on them, and cannonaded the Dunmore, the other and the Foy, and other smaller vessels of Governor Dunmore's fleet. We drove the vessels off with considerable damage. Capt Lefoy, our Artillery Officer lost his life by the match piece being thrown back upon him and carrying off a part of his skull. The day after our cannonading, in May 1776 we were marched into the Island under Colonel McClanahan, and there encamped all night. A part of us only were marched onto the Island. The next day we were marched back to Little York. Colonel Dangerfield then left us, and we were now commanded by Colonel McClanahan. At Little York we remained until July, day not recollected, when declarant was

taken sick with a fever, and was allowed by his Captain Nathaniel Cocke to go into the country to widow Hogg's where he

[p8] remained six or seven weeks, when having recovered, he returned to his company at Little York, and obtained a furlough from his Captain Cocke until January 1777, when he was to join his company at Williamsburgh. Accordingly, after visiting his friends and relations in Halifax, a few days after Christmas, the declarant, together with Thomas Smith, Smith Kent and Thomas Estes – who also had furloughs and Abram Estes, who was enlisted by declarant, repaired to Williamsburgh. Here we found that our company and others of our regiment had a few days before marched to Baltimore. We went on to Baltimore and there overtook our regiment under Col McLlanahan [sic] and Major Wilson, and joined our company under Capt Cocke. At Baltimore all the men that had not had the small pox or been inoculated, of which declarant was one were left in the hospital under Dr. McKensie [sic]. On the 29th February 1777 declarant was appointed by Dr. McKensie steward of one of the branched of the hospital. Then declarant remained until those of our men, that were inoculated, got well, and declarant, being the highest non-commissioned officer, was placed in charge of about forty men, and took them by water to the head of Elk River. Thence we marched to Wilmington, where we got on board a vessel and was taken to

[p9} Philadelphia. Here we found Captain Thomas Threet (name as pronounced) with his company of the 14th regiment of Virginia troops and under him we were marched to the Head Quarters of the main army under General Washington at Middle Brook in New Jersey, where we arrived in the Spring of the year 1777. Then declarant, shortly after joining his company, which was now commanded by Captain Moseby, Capt. Cocke having resigned, was appointed orderly sergeant. Shortly after our arrival a part of the main army, to which declarant's company belonged, were marched into a cove near King's Ferry on the North River. Our company belonged to the 7th regiment of Virginia state troops in Genl Woodford's Brigade, in General Stephens' Division. General Charles Scott commanded the other Brigade in the same division. Declarant recollects General Washington, General Wayne, General St Clair, Lord Sterling, General Weidon [sic] of Virginia. In Genl Woodford's Brigade we were marched to the North River. We retraced our steps on the landing of the British forces at the head of Elk River, and were marched through New Jersey passing through Morristown, crossing the Delaware River at Correll's ferry on to the Gross Roads 20 miles north of Philadelphia. Thence down the river we were marched and

[p10] encamped within a mile of Philadelphia. The next day we were marched through Philadelphia and encamped between the city and the Schuylkill Bridge. Thence we were marched towards the head of Elk and encamped between Philadelphia and the Yellow Springs, eight or ten miles from the Springs. A short time before the Battle of Brandywine, we were marched to White Clay Creek, and then waited for the British forces, who had landed at the head of Elk and were coming on towards Philadelphia. On the 11th of September declarant was in the Battle of Brandywine, in which the American Army was defeated. We retreated a few miles and had our wounded provided for. Thence we were marched to the falls of the Schuylkill. We were then marched back across the Schuylkill towards the British forces, and in a few days we again engaged them, but were separated by a rain, and we were marched to the Yellow Springs, arriving there in the night. We were after this marched to French Creek and thence we were marched towards Philadelphia encamping about 20 miles from it. On the 3rd of October that night we were marched towards German Town and attacked the British forces, there encamped, early in the morning

[p11] about day light. We surprised the British. The right wing brought in the attack. Genl Woodford's Brigade was bound to retreat before they had fired. We retreated back to Chestnut Hill, whence we remained until the British came up, when we retreated, passing a mill. We were pursued by the British until our Artillery checked them at an elbow of the road. After this we were encamped at White Marsh, and the British made a show of attacking us and Genl Morgan's men on the left wing were engaged, but the British withdrew. About Christmas we went to Winter Quarters at the Valley Forge where declarant remained with his company now Capt Moseby's until March 1778, when he received a written discharge from General Woodford signed by him. And at the same time he received one for his brother Thomas Estes, who had served with him. This discharge was given by declarant to John Douglas (a fellow soldier who enlisted at the same time with Declarant) 25 or 30 years ago, when declarant was in Halifax County. Declarant removed to Washington County, North Carolina, now Tennessee in the year 1781. There he remained 3 years, when he moved to the waters of Holston, Grainger County. [p12] then North Carolina, now Tennessee, where he has lived since and where he now lives. About 25 or 30 years ago he returned to Halifax County on business and he then gave his discharge to John Douglas, who gave it to Col John Coleman, member of Assembly from Halifax, and declarant received 60 dollars, which had been drawn from the treasury of Virginia for Declt by Col Coleman at Richmond. And Declarant supposes that his discharge is now at the State of Virginia, in which the papers showing the payment of her State troops during the Revolution are deposited. About twelve months since, declarant employed a person to take [?] up an an [sic] application to the War Department in his behalf. But from the circumstances of his never having received any information from the War Department in regard to his claim, he supposes that it has been rejected by the Department, either on account of defects in the preparation of his papers or on account of his name not being present on the rolls. Declarant has now employed the attorney who has drawn the present declaration and having been fully and particularly examined by him, is now enabled to present his case to the War Department, much more in detail than before, together with such testimony as he has been able to obtain [13] in regard to his services. Declarant does not now know that any of his fellow soldiers are living. He was informed a few years ago that 2nd Lieutenant Joseph Hopson of his company was still living in Virginia and that his brother Thomas Estes was living in Alabama or _____. But he does not know that they are so at present. In his former declaration or in his former application to the War Department he does not recollect whether he was examined by the person preparing them particularly as to his officers and the line to which he belonged. And perhaps it might have been stated that the Declt belonged to the continental line and enlisted into the Service of the United States, and thus the War Department being referred to the 7th Regiment of the Continental troops, did not find his name on the rolls of that Regiment of the Continental troops. Declarant enlisted into the 7th Regiment of State troops of Virginia, under officers receiving their commissions from said state. And after the driving off Lord Dunmore, the 7th Regiment was annexed to the Continental Army under Genl Washington, and their term of service being two years, they were on the same footing as any troops raised directly by the Continental Congress, in regard to their discipline and character as soldiers. Declarant enlisted as heretofore shown on the 9th day of February 1776 for two years [p14] and having served out his two years was honorably discharged by Genl Woodford in the month of March 1778 at the Valley Forge, the Winter Quarters of the Army for the previous winter. In his former declaration, declarant stated that he was a Sergeant or orderly without stating the he was at first appointed 1st corporal at the place of rendezvous at Wright Bond's in

Halifax County Virginia, and appointed orderly sergeant of the company in the Spring of 1777 shortly after he reached Middle Brook, the then headquarters of the Army. Declarant served fourteen months as 1st corporal and ten months as orderly sergeant.

Declarant trusts that if it should be his misfortune not to be found on the rolls of Capt Nathaniel Cocke's company in the 7th Regiment of State Troops of Virginia, the details of his services herein given and the testimony herewith provided in support of his services will be considered sufficient to substantiate his claim.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity, except the present and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any state.

Sworn to and subscribed

s/ John Estes

This 14th day of April 1834

In open court.

Wm E Cocke Clk

By his deputy D. Barton

[p15] Routine Grainger County certification

Charles McAnally, clergy

John Easterly, neighbor

Samuel Riggs, neighbor

E. Powers, judge

Wm E. Cocke, Clerk

[p26] In response to a war department rejection of John Estes' declaration of rank as cpl and sgt, his attorney Pierce B. Anderson requested J.L.Edwards of the War Department to furnish him with known whereabouts of

Lt Joseph Hopson,

Ensign Tarpley White

Orderly Sergeant John White

Sergeants Blackburn Ligan, n. Terry, Thos Smith

Corporals Thomas Watkins, Benjamin Abbott, Wm Hopson

Drummer A. McGinnis,

Fifer Wm Watkins

Privates Wm Watkins, Griffin Spencer, Elmer Lacey, John Milam, Wm McDaniel, G. Conddon,

Abram Spencer, Benjamin Abbott, Thomas Watkins, Joseph Clardy, Thomas Estes, Wm Mann,

A. Joiner, B. Famber:

Addendum to John Estes S3338

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. 16 Jan 2014.

State of Tennessee }

County of Hawkins }

On this 17th day of April 1834 personally appeared before me, James Williams a Justice of the peace in and for the County of Hawkins and State aforesaid, Wright Bond [pension application S3028], a resident Citizen of Hawkins County, and State aforesaid, and made oath that in the year 1776 he was a boy living with his father Wright Bond in Halifax County, Virginia, that in the month of February 1776 he was at his Father's house, when Captain Nathaniel Cocke's [R13415] company met at his father's house, as the place of Rendezvous; The Deponent well recollects the assembling of the company under Capt Cocke, at his Father's, and together with other soldiers in the same company, he knew and well recollects John Estes, who, had enlisted under Lt Joseph Hopson, and marched under Capt Cocke from his father's. The Deponent was still living in Halifax County, when said John Estes returned from his tour of enlistment, which was in the Spring of 1778; And said John Estes did return in the Spring of 1778. Deponent is well acquainted with John Estes of Grainger County, who has applied to the War Department under Act June 7, 1832 and he knows him to be the same man, who enlisted under Lt Joseph Hopson and marched from his father's house in Febry 1776 in Captain Nathaniel Cocke's company and returned from the Army in the Spring of 1778. Deponent himself served in the militia several tours after he became large enough to do military service in the Revolution, for which he is now receiving a pension from the United States.

Wright hisXmark Bond

NOTE: A Treasury-Department document states that the widow of John Estes received the final pension payment up to the date of his death, 31 Jan 1840.