Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Richard Wade S3443 VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 22 Nov 2014.

State of Kentucky }
Cumberland County } Sct

On this 12th day of July 1833 personally appeared before me one of the Justices of the County Court of Cumberland County Richard Wade, Senior a resident of the said County of Cumberland in the state of Kentucky aged eighty one years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of congress passed June 7th 1832.

That he was born in Goochland County in the state of Virginia on the 26th day of October 1752. in the month of march 1777 he was called on to serve a tour of duty to Williamsburg under the command of William Johnson. I returned and in July of the same year I went up into Bedford & there enlisted in a company raised by Capt. Charles Watkins [sic: Charles Gwatkin] for the period of six months to guard the frontier from there I marched with the Company to Kentucky & to the best of my memory arrived at Boonsborough [sic: Boonesborough] on the 12th day of October 1777. from this place I with twenty eight or nine others were ordered to go to the Blue lick [Blue Licks on Licking River in present Nicholas County] with Danil Boon [sic: Daniel Boone] to make salt for the garison, where we remained until the 8th day of February 1778 when we were taken Prisoners by the [Shawnee] Indians commanded by old Blackfish [or Black Fish], we were then taken to the Indian town on the Miami. Some of the Prisoners were taken to Detroit soon afterwards but John Brown [pension application S30282] & myself remained until after they were done planting corn. we were then taken to Detroit and given or sold to the British. where we remained until the next summer, when seven of us escaped and started home, a few miles above where the little River st Joseph & st Marys meet [at present Fort Wayne IN] we were taken by the miami Indians and carried Back to Detroit, we were then put in Irons on board a ship and sent down to montreal where we were kept in prison until the month of July 1781. Six of us to wit John Brown, John Morton & myself from Virginia & James Flack [S5407], George Finly & William Marshall of Pennsylvania were taken out of Prison to work on a mill race, from here we escaped and after nine days travelling through the wilderness we came to the head waters of Connecticut River to a station commanded by Capt Lovell. he sent a guard with us the next day 18 miles to Gen'l [Jacob] Bayley who gave us a pass to the Governor John Hancock at Boston, on our arrival there the Governor gave us a pass with orders to draw provisions homewards. we proceeded as far as Carlisle in Pennsylvania, where Brown & Morton went on to Virginia, the Pennsylvanians to their homes & I to fort Pitt [at present Pittsburgh] to get a passage down the River, & arrived at the falls of Ohio [at present Louisville KY] about three weeks before christmans in 1781 and there gave my pass to Gen'l George Rogers Clark, and returned to Boonsborough. in my absence Capt Watkins had returned to Virginia and I understood was in the Battle of Guilford [Guilford Courthouse NC, 15 Mar 1781] I never Received a discharge nor any pay as a soldier. I served afterwards on scouting parties at various times under Capt Thompson and Capt Chas Kavanaugh [probably Charles Cavanaugh of Montgomery County VA]. the time of the Battle of the Blue licks [19 Aug 1782] I had been left to guard the fort. I went & assisted in Burrying the dead among whom were Cols [John] Todd & [Stephen] Trigg & another Col. whose name I have forgot. I never held any Commission — have no record of my Birth except in my bible in my hand writing which I took from my grand fathers bible & my age was Recorded by the parson at Dover Church (Mr. Douglass) who also christened me & married me & christened 2 of my children. I have never applied for or received any pension from the Untied States or any of the states I have no documentary evidence of my service and know of no person living by whom I can prove my services except George Richardson [S14293] living in this County & Ansel Goodman [S13175] living in the County of Russell, same state [sic: Virginia] I 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 any agency of any State. I do not know whether I was ever discharged

as a prisoner or not, after my return was called on to march against the Indians & being as I thought unable to perform the duties I did not go and was called up to be tried for it before a court martial held at Harrodsburg where gen'l Clark was present. he asked if I was not the same man who had Just returned from Canaday, and when answered that I was he said they had no right to call on me to serve until I was exchanged. I have lived in Madison County Kentucky until about the [blank] day of Dec'r. 1801 and from that time in Wayne County Ky. until lately and now live alternately with my grand son in Wayne County & my son-in-law in Cumberland County.

Ruchard Wade Sur

Sworn and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.