

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements](#)

Pension application of Hezekiah West S34519

fn86SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

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[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. Folks are free to make non-commercial use this transcript in any manner they may see fit, but please extend the courtesy of acknowledging the transcriber—besides, if it turns out the transcript contains mistakes, the resulting embarrassment will fall on the transcriber. 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. I welcome and encourage folks to call those errors to my attention.]

State of Illinois, County of Johnson

On this third day of December 1832 Personally appeared in open Court before James Bone, John Peterson and David Sharer, Judges of the County Commissioners Court in said County & State aforesaid & now sitting in the Town of Vienna—Hezekiah West, a resident of the County and State aforesaid, aged 69 years, who, being duly sworn according to law, Doth on his oath make this declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress, passed June 7th, 1832; that he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated, viz: I, Hezekiah West, a native of the State of Maryland, and what was called Frederick County, Born in the year 1763 & was removed with my parents to the State of South Carolina when I was about 7 or 8 years of age. My father, John West, settled on Sandy River in what was then called Camdon [sic, Camden] District (but Latterly Chester) where I was sent to school under the tuition of Joseph Coylett, afterwards to Daniel Stringer & in the year 1777, as I believe, or thereabout, I was taken from school, my teacher Daniel Stringer having Listed [sic, enlisted] into the service of the United States into a company of Grenadiers (as I understood) and my father, John West, also Listed into the service of the U.S. into a Company of Mounted Rangers under the command of Captain. Richard Winn & Colonel Thompson's Regiment, as I understood and do yet believe, in which service my father, John West, was killed in time of Battle while fighting under command of Richard Winn at St. Tilbes [sic, Satilla River?], as I was credibly informed & do firmly believe, & for which service of the said John West, I, as the only heir of my father's Family that is now living, have for some time past been trying to obtain something from Congress as a matter of right but not being able to make such proof of his service and losses as Congress required, have hitherto failed, altho I am fully persuaded as well assured that my widowed mother in her lifetime never received any of my father's wages of 14 months service, or any pay for his horse and saddle & gun (for these Rangers mounted, armed and equipped themselves as I well remember), all of which was lost, & neither my widowed mother or any of my father's heirs has ever yet received one cent for. I being his only son have good recollection of my father's Listing and hearing of his death, for I was

then about 14 years of age, as my mother informed me, and from which time I have kept my own age, & at 16 years of age, or immediately thereafter I entered into the service of the United States in Colonel Winn's Regiment & Captain Frost's Company. My first tower [sic, tour] of service was in year 1779, as I believe, or 1780, not sure which, but I think it might have been 1779, as I am aware that was to Date in which I became 16 years of age, & as I was well grown of my age, there was but little chance for me to escape, for the Militia Law compelled all from 16 to 60 to serve as soldiers unless they were cleared by a Court Martial. Nor did I feel much objection to serve my Country, for as my father had lost his life in the Defense of our rights and Liberties, I was zealous to avenge my Country's wrongs, & as there was a call for Mounted Rangers, I turned out, I think volunteer, and mounted, armed and equipped myself and was marched under command of a Lieutenant in Captain. Frost's Company & Winn's Regiment by the name of Elisha Gore. We crossed Broad River at (I think) Lileses [sic, Liles' or Lyle's] Ford some small distance as I believe below the mouth of Sandy River & Ranged about on Enoree & on Tigar [sic, Tyger] & Bush Rivers in what was then called Dutch Fork between Broad River and Saluda River, the Design of the Expedition (as it was said) was to suppress the Tories that was said to infest them parts & was doing mischief, and perhaps had killed some of the Whigs in them parts after General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] had marched his army from the siege against the British at Ninety Six, and marched his army across the Broad River at or near the fish dam ford & across Sandy River near to where I was then living with my widowed mother, and they pressed a saddle from me for one of General Greene's wounded men to ride on as they were returning from the said siege at 96, which saddle never was returned to me nor have I ever received any pay for. Some short time after General Greene had retreated from 96 and the British had also evacuated that post, and had left some of their friends, the Tories, in the lurch, was the time I was called on to perform the above tour of Ranging, but I know not how long I was out on that tour, tho I think not more than one month, perhaps not quite so much, but I know that some short time after my return home from the above tour I was called on by my Captain. Frost to perform a tour of duty as a militia foot man & was ordered to Rendezvous at Winnsborough, which order I promptly obeyed, and was marched under command John McCool from Winnsborough across the Congaree River down to Orangeburg on Edisto River where we were stationed for 2 months, viz, February and March, I think in the year 1780, but am not sure whether 1780 or 1781, in which time I was called on to guard some public wagons that was going to General Greene's army that was stationed (as I understood) between us at Orangeburg & the British at or near to Charleston in South Carolina I went with these public wagons in company with sundry other soldiers as a guard for the saw mills on Edisto River, where we were discharged from this duty of guarding these wagons and returned back to camp at Orangeburg & I think that about the first of April that year I was relieved by another division of men in Winn's Regiment & returned home & think and believe that about the last of May or first of June that same year I was again ordered to Rendezvous at Winnsborough & was again marched from Winnsborough under command of Captain. Robert Frost & again crossed the Congaree River & was marched to a place called the fore holes [sic, Four Holes Bridge] where we joined the militia there under command of a Colonel Bratton, who was, I think, commander in chief of the men at the Four Holes - about 300 men as well as I can remember, General Greene still being stationed between us and the British, as I

understood, but I cannot recollect the name of the chief commander while at Orangeburg, but I remember to have seen General Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter] there, but I think he did not stay long. From the Four Holes I was ordered to march with a detached party under Captain. McCord and in company of my own Captain. Frost across the country from the Four Holes to Santee River and were stationed at Colonel Lawrence's Ferry where we remained during the balance of the tour, but I know not how long that was, but I believe that it must have been one month, or I think some more, taking what time I was at the Four Holes & Santee together & soon after I had returned home from this last named tour & had recovered from a hard spell of sickness (occasioned I suppose by the fatigue of marching on foot in the heat of summer & in a bad watered part of the country) I Listed, as it was called Listing, or at least I joined a company of horse troops or volunteer Rangers under the command of Captain. John McCool in Colonel David Hopkin's Regiment, Colonel Winn having been promoted to General, as I understood. This Captain. John McCool is the same that I served my two months under at -- Orangeburg, and with the Rangers I remained until the end of the Revolutionary War, but how long that was I am not prepared to say, for I have no Documents to show Day or Date, as I had the misfortune to have my house burned soon after I was married and after the close of the Revolutionary War. This might have been done by some villain of a Tory, and was suspected to have been first robbed, then set on fire by a man by the name of Holdman, as he very shortly fled from these parts. But I think it reasonable to suppose that taking the whole of my services together, I served more than six months, considering that the militia in South Carolina & in Winn's Regiment was classed into 3 Divisions, & reckoning from the year 1779, at which time I entered the service of the United States, as I believe, until peace was made & the Tories subdued so that we could stay at home in peace, must I think have been two years or more, & perhaps three years, so that if I had not Listed nor joined the horse troops, or volunteer Rangers, I must have served at least one third part of that time, that is, from 1779 until peace was made and the Tories subdued in them parts where I performed my services, but as I joined them (Rangers) and served with them until the end of the Revolutionary War, it doth appear, I think, that I must have and did serve more than one third part of that time, tho I cannot (in positive terms) say how long I was in actual and effective service, as sometimes I might have been indulged by my officers to stay at home on account of my poor & widowed mother, when I dare go home for fear of outlieing [sic] & murderous Tories that infested them parts (for these were perilous times). Some of these Tories that was commanded or headed by a Wm. Nicholes had killed my Major Moses Bond - in his own house, as was the general report and as I firmly believed and do yet believe. This was just before I entered into the service of the United States & my Lieutenant John Mayfield was also killed after I joined the Rangers under John Mayfield & after Mayfield was killed Joseph McCool took his place, & many miles have I rode both by day & by night in order to suppress or to drive out the Tories from them parts between the Catawba and Broad Rivers & towards Saluda [River] & on Sandy River, nor did we ever ease (long at a time) until we expelled the Tories from them parts, or caused them to submit to government of the United States And as to my service as a militia foot man, when drafted as above state, I have no hesitation in saying that I knew the terms of time was at least three months & I think some more - 2 months at Orangeburg & 1 month or more at the Four Holes & Santee together, and this I have once before sworn to when I laid my claim to Congress

for my father's services and losses, and also my own of the three months and the saddle that was pressed from me by General Greene's army when on their retreat from 96 as above mentioned, but I said nothing about my Ranging tours at that time, because I could not recollect how long I served in them, nor do I yet know how long I was in actual and effective service any farther than what I have already stated as is the term of time from the year 1779 until peace was made and the Tories subdued. Another reason of my not making some mention of my ranging tours at the time was because I considered them as voluntary & did not know whether Congress would consider themselves bound to allow pay for volunteer service as when men were drafted and compelled to serve, & as I have no proof within my reach or power to procure (that I now know of) by which I can make proof of my services in the Revolutionary War, I submit the above Declaration to the investigation and judgment of such as may have the right to inspect & judge of what I have on my solemn oath stated, and leave the matter with them to say whether from the year 1779 unto the end of the war I must not have served a term of eight months or more, even under the militia law, & as I joined the company of rangers under Captain. John McCool in Colonel David Hopkins' Regiment, in which service we mounted, armed and equipped ourselves, I think it very reasonable to suppose that I served more, but say three months as a militia foot man, of which I am vary confident I did serve, & say one month or near that long in the Dutch Fork & if it was only four months under McCool, would make five months more as a Mounted Ranger, but as I cannot remember how long I was a Mounted Ranger in all, I would be willing to say three months Ranging & three more as a foot man. For this much I can say, and that in good conscience, and from my own recollection & knowledge, that from the time that I was turned sixteen years of age, which, agreeable with the account that I was turned sixteen years of age, which, agreeable with the account given me by my parents, was 1779, unto the end of the Revolutionary War I was obedient to every call of my country & command of her officers under which I was placed. I never took protection of the British altho many others in South Carolina did so, and some of my neighbors & acquaintances. I never (to my knowledge at this time) disobeyed the orders of my officers that had a right to command me. I gloried in the Cause of our Rights & Liberties and in the name of a true Whig. I did not like the British & I thought far less of the Tories.

I hereby relinquish every claim to a pension or annuity except the present, and declare that my name is not on the pension roll of any state or territory (to my knowledge).

S/ Hezekiah West

[James Jones, a clergyman, and William McFatridge, J. J. Chapman and Joshua Gore gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

State of Illinois, County of Johnson

This day personally appeared before me, an acting Justice of the Peace in and for said county, Hezekiah West, who being duly sworn deposeth & saith that by reason of old age & consequent lapse of memory and cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service, but according to the best of his recollection in service the periods mentioned below & in the following grades. For the year 1780 one month I served as a mounted private volunteer militia man - For 1781 two months at one tour and at another

tour of service in the same year, one month. For 1782 three months as a private mounted volunteer and for such service I claim a pension.

Sworn to and subscribed this 4 day of June 1833

S/ Hezekiah West

S/ Trey Reynolds, Sr. JP

State of Illinois, County of Johnson

Be it remembered that at a County Court holden in the town of Vienna in the County and State aforesaid, before the Hon. James Bane, John Peterson & Daniel Sharer Judges of said court on the [illegible]th day of June 1833, in open Court appeared Hezekiah West, and after being duly sworn and saith in answer to the Interrogatories put by the Court as following, viz:

Q 1st: Where and what year were you born?

A 1st: I was born in Frederick County, State of Maryland, A. D. 1763

Q 2nd: Have you any record of your age and what is it?

A 2nd: I have none. My knowledge of my age was derived from the account my parents gave me verbally.

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

A 3: State of Carolina in Camden district when called into service. Since, I lived in the same place until 1804, then moved to Tennessee in Jackson County, and lived there five years, and then moved to Kentucky and lived there 2 yrs, since which I have lived in Johnson County State of Illinois - my place of residence at this time

Q 4: How were you called into service?

A 4: I volunteered

Q 5: State names of regular officers of troops where you served

A 5: I saw General Sumter at Orangeburg, Col. Bratton commanded the troops at the Four Holes and I was commanded during my service by Captains McCool, McCord & Frost in Col Winn's Regiment. I served in all four tours; the first, one month a mounted volunteer; the next two tours a militia foot man; the fourth and last I served as a mounted volunteer for three months.

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

A 6: I have no recollection of ever receiving a discharge, if I did it has escaped my memory

Q 7: State the names of persons you know in your present neighborhood, and who can testify to your character for veracity and their belief of your services as a soldier of the Revolution

A 7: Thomas Gore, Joshua Gore & Thomas Standard have been personally acquainted with me for 30 years, and James Jones, a clergyman, resident of the same County in which I reside, has known me for the last 14 yrs and can testify to my character for veracity.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year past above written

S/ Hezekiah West

And he said Court do hereby declare their opinion that the above named applicant was a revolutionary soldier and served as he states.

I, John McIntire, Clerk of the County Court of said County of Johnson do hereby certify that the foregoing contains the original proceedings of the said Court in the matter of amending the application of Hezekiah West for a pension.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal of office this 4th day of May 1833.

S/ John McIntire, Clk.

[James Jones, a clergyman, again gave a standard supporting affidavit.]

[fn p. 945¹]

State of Illinois Crawford County

This day personally appeared William Garrard Senior² before me the undersigned an acting justice of the peace in and for the County and state aforesaid and after being duly sworn according to law deposes and saith that in the year 1782 this Deponent saith that Hezekiah West did serve part of a tour of duty with said Deponent in the Revolution war under Captain McCord in the State of South Carolina on the Santee River at a certain ferry called Lawrence's or Gillon's ferry and at that time the military drafts was considered to be 3 months tours and further this Deponent saith that Hezekiah West who is now drawing the pension who resides in Johnston County and State of Illinois is the identical same that he served with in the Revolution and further this Deponent saith that he saw said Hezekiah West save a man from drowning and also he said West caught a young alligator and brought the same in to camp and further this Deponent saith not.

S/ William Garrard, Senior

I hereby certify the above was signed and sworn to before me this 21st day of January 1837

S/ D. Boatright, JP

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$24.17 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831 for 7 months service; 6 months in the infantry and one month in the cavalry.]

¹ The page numbers assigned by Footnote.com are nonsensical.

² [William Garrard S32263](#)