

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Force Joseph  
Transcription and annotation by Frederick Arnold Weyler

VA

S37939  
22Aug2013

[p2] Kentucky certificate 26768  
Of Shelby County  
Private 8 months and 15 days under  
Captain Walker, Colonel Flournoy of Virginia  
Issued 23May1834 @ \$28.33/month

[p3]

State of Kentucky

Shelby County

On this 17<sup>th</sup> day of April 1834 personally appeared before me George Bergen, justice of peace in and for Shelby County and one of the judges of the County court of said county Joseph Force aged 92 years who being duly sworn doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefits of an act of congress passed the 7<sup>th</sup> of June 1832. He states that he was residing in Prince Edward County State of Va. when he entered the service of the United States and served as herein stated. That in the month of February 1779 a draft was ordered in said county when he was drafted for a tour of six months and was marched under the following named officers (viz) Capt. Henry Walker, Major Overstreet and Coln. Flurnoy. He states they rendezvoused at Prince Edward Court House and under the command of the aforesaid officers was marched into North Carolina and crossed Dan River at Allen ford, thence to Salisbury where he states they were stationed for some time and until his said time of draft was out when he was discharged in the month of Sept 1779. He further states that upon leaving Salisbury that he was entrusted with two letters directed to Genl. Washington which letters he states that he delivered to Coln. Kelso as directed. This declarant further states that in the month of February 1781 another draft was ordered in said county of Prince Edward for a tour of six months when he the said declarant was again drafted for the above stated period and marched from said county of Prince Edward under the command of Capt. Cunningham, Major Overstreet, Coln. S Halcom and Gen. Robert Lawson. He states they proceeded in to North Carolina and in the month of March they reached Guilford Court House where the battle was fought.

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He states that he was detailed as a guard to the baggage wagons consequently was not in said battle. After the battle was fought he states that the baggage wagons was ordered to retreat out of the reach of the enemy. He states they then retreated to Prince Edward Court house where they remained about three weeks. He states that they then left said court house and marched again into North Carolina and was stationed at Salisbury till his said tour was out when he was discharged from camp and returned home having fully and faithfully discharged his duty as a soldier for a period of six months. He further states that on reaching home that he found nearly all the militia was called out of the count. The borders of the rivers was left unprotected when Coln. Mathes of said county of Prince Edward ordered a minute guard on the James and Appomattox rivers where he the said declarant was appointed as a guard on said rivers in which capacity he stated he continued actually engaged from the first of August till after surrender of Cornwallis in guarding said rivers making a tour of two months and a half. He states that he has no documentary

evidence of his service and knows of no living witness by whom he can prove said service. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state and that from old age and bodily infirmity he can not appear in open court to make his declaration. Sworn and subscribed the date and year aforesaid.

Before me

Joseph Force x his mark  
George Bergen J.P.S.C.

[p5 answers to interrogatories]

-I was born in Powhatan County Va. in 1742.

-I have not at this time. In the year 1780 the Indians broke in my father's house at Martin's Station and destroyed his family record.

-In Prince Edward County Va. where I lived till 1803. I then moved to Ky. Shelby Cty where I now live.

-I was drafted twice for six months each tour. I was appointed as a minute guard by Coln. Nash and continued guarding the rivers for 2 ½ months.

-On my first tour I do not think there was any regular officers. Of the militia there was Coln. Williams' regiments, Major Rose and Cunningham. On my second tour of the regular officers there were Generals Green and Hughes [?] of the militia was Genl Lawson and Major Halcom. These I remember of the militia. During my minute service I was under the command of Jacob Woodson Capt. They was of Coln. Hash's.

-I did receive discharge for my first tour of six months given me by Capt Walker which discharge was lost when moving to Ky. For my second tour I do not recollect of receiving any written discharge nor did I receive any discharge in writing for my minute tour.

[p6]

I will state the names of John Metcalf, clergyman and Daniel Johnson residing in my present neighborhood who can testify to my character for veracity and their belief of my service as a soldier of the revolution.

[routine county certification and supporting statements

John Metcalf, clergy

Daniel Johnson, neighbor

George Bergen, JP

James S Whitaker, clerk]

[p9]

Summary of service:

[Ed. Note:

1779 extended six month tour from Feb to Sep is shown as six months. ? 9 - 2 = ?

The pension office further ignored the time to deliver letters to General Washington.

1781 six month tour

1781 two month and a half is shown as two months and 15 days.

The pension was granted for 8 months and 15/31.

My math says half of November was 15/30.

I see seven months from Feb to Sep, perhaps eight months if both were complete months.

I guess two weeks delivering letters to Washington.

I wonder why he was not certified for 16 or 17 months' service.

Commissioner JL Edwards often insisted that militia tours were only three months and rejected claims for longer tours. In general he was correct. Numerous declarations under oath, however, prove that there were exceptions to the rule. I suspect that Edwards quietly reduced this soldier's pension instead of rejecting his claim.]

Notes for Joseph Force S37939

By C. Leon Harris. 15 Feb 2014.

Major Overstreet = John Overstreet

Coln. Flurnoy = Thomas Flurnoy

Capt. Cunningham: probably Nathaniel Cunningham

Coln. S Halcom = John Holcombe

Battle of Guilford Courthouse, 15 March 1781

Coln. Mathes: probably Col. Mathews

Hughes [?] = Gen. Isaac Huger

Coln. Hash = Col. John Nash