

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Archelaus Mitchell S38226

f23VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

6/17/13

[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.]

Virginia, Amherst County

This day Archelaus Mitchell personally appeared before me Archibald Stuart, one of the Judges of the General Court of Virginia, the same being a Court of Record, and made oath that he enlisted under Captain Thomas Johnson as a Soldier in the regular service in the late revolutionary War, about the year 1776, & that he served in the said War in the 3rd Regiment of Infantry, belonging to the Virginia line, commanded by Colonel Mercer, who was afterwards General Mercer, & fell at the Battle of Princeton [January 3, 1777], until the latter part of the year 1777, when he reenlisted under Captain Robert Poach [?], At the Camp at Quite Marsh in the State of Pennsylvania, as first Sergeant, & continued to serve in that capacity in the aforesaid 3rd Regiment, at that time commanded by Colonel Thomas Marshall, and on other Detachments until the year 1780, when he was honorably discharged. That he is now a resident Citizen of the United States, & that by reason of his reduced circumstances in life, he stands in need of assistance from his Country for support. That he is upwards of 64 years of age, & that he was at the Battles of White Plains [October 28, 1776], Brandywine [September 11, 1777], Germantown [October 4, 1777], Monmouth [June 28, 1778], & the siege of Charlestown, in South Carolina, [Charleston was surrendered to the British on May 12, 1780] when he was taken Prisoner, but effected his escape & joined a detachment of regular Troops under the command of Colonel William Davis, from whom he obtained his discharge.

S/ Arch. Stuart

[Attested October 8, 1818]

[p 16]

Virginia, Nelson County

This day John Spitham,¹ of lawful age, Personally appeared before me, Archibald Stuart, a Judge of the General Court of Virginia, the same being a Court of Record, & made oath that he is acquainted with Archelaus Mitchell of the County of Amherst & knows him to have been a Soldier in the regular Service of the United States during the War of the revolution. The said Mitchell belonged to the northern Army & was on furlough, when he was ordered to join the Troops at Fredericksburg, from whence he was marched by the orders of General Scott to Petersburg, the rendezvous of the drafted eighteen months men, where, as a Sergeant, he was engaged in exercising & training the new Troops, & seemed to be well acquainted with his duty, & active & vigilant in the service. This Affiant always understood, & verily believes, that he had enlisted into the three years service, & that he served that period or more, – The said Mitchell

¹ [John Spitham \(Spitham\) W6151](#)

was, after remaining about six months, marched with a Detachment to join the southern Army, & this Affiant has understood, & believes, he was taken prisoner at Charlestown. Given under my hand this__ day of October 1818

S/ Archibald Stuart

[p 21]

Amherst County to wit

This day appeared before me a Justice of the peace in & for the County aforesaid Archelaus Mitchell who being duly sworn on the holy evangelists of Almighty God deposeth and saith that he made application sometime sense in the mode prescribed by an act of Congress for the purpose of procuring a pension as a soldier of the United States in the revolutionary war: that he understood his claim was allowed and that a pension certificate issued from the war office: That he understood the pension certificate was lodged in the hands of Thomas Jefferson Stuart of Lexington Virginia and subsequently in the hands of John Irvine of the same place and that it was afterwards returned to the said Stuart for the purpose of being delivered to him, this deponent, that he has never had the certificate in his possession. That he does not know where it is and that he has been informed by these persons in whose possession it was that it was lost or mislaid and that he has understood that affidavits to that effect made by the said Stewart & Irvine have been transmitted to the war Department sometime sense. Given under my hand & seal this 23rd day of November 1820.

S/ Thomas Crews

Amherst County to wit on this 18th December 1820 personally appeared in Open Court Archelaus Michell [sic] a resident of the County of Amherst & State of Virginia aged sixty-seven years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the provisions made by the acts of Congress of the 18th March 1818 and the 1st of May 1820 that he the said Mitchell enlisted in the year 1776 in the County of Louisa State of Virginia in the company commanded by Captain Thomas Johnson and Regiment commanded by Colonel Mercer afterwards General Mercer for the term of two years in the line of the State of Virginia on Continental establishment that he continued to serve in the said Corps until a short time before the expiration of his said term of two years when he reenlisted in the company then commanded by Captain Ro. Powell [Robert Powell] and Regiment then commanded by Colonel Weeden [George Weedon] & afterwards by Colonel Marshall as well as this declarant recollects for the further time of three years that he was discharged from said last mentioned service at Chesterfield courthouse in the State of Virginia by Colonel William Davies or Davis. That he was in the battles of Germantown, Brandywine and Monmouth also at the siege of Charlestown where he was taken prisoner by the enemy from whom he escaped and rejoined our Army before his discharge above mentioned. That he came [sic, can] furnish now no evidence of said services except that heretofore sent to war Department which was by that department thought sufficient to warrant the issuing a pension warrant in favor of the declarant but which never came to his hands owing to some accident in the transmission

And in pursuance of the act of the first of May 1820, I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift, sale or in any manner whatever disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provision of an act of Congress entitled "an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United

States in the revolutionary war” passed on the 18th day of March 1818, and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property, or securities, contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed:

And the said Mitchell further declares that he is a carpenter and house joiner by trade that he is unable thereby to maintain himself. That he has no children or family with him except a wife by a second marriage who is aged fifty [written over and unclear, could be sixty]² years whose aid if at all contributes but little to his ability to support himself.

S/ Archelaus Mitchel [sic], X his mark

Schedule of Archelaus Mitchell the foregoing declarant

one cow	\$15
Two Beds	30
1 Pot oven & skillet	4
Plates & dishes	2
Knives & forks	2
various carpenters tools	<u>12</u>
	\$65

S/Archelaus Mitchel, X his mark

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$8 per month commencing October 8, 1818, for service as a Sergeant in the Virginia Continental line.]

[From [bounty land records in the Library of Virginia](#)] 6-page file indexed under Archelaus Mitchel

It does not appear by the books in this office that Archelaus Mitchell has drawn his bounty in land.

S/ A. Blagrove

Land Office
Feby 13, 1809

Amherst County to wit

Personally appeared before me David S Garland one of the Commonwealth's Justices of the peace for the County aforesaid John Spittfathim [sic] and made oath that in the year 1778 and 1779 he was well acquainted with Archelaus Mitchell, who was then a non-commissioned Officer in the Virginia line on Continental establishment that he marched with the said Mitchell to the South under Colonel Heath [William Heth], this affiant left the service at Charlestown, and the said Mitchell then in service, and this affiant was afterwards informed and believes that the said Mitchell was taken prisoner at Charlestown, Given under my hand this 20th day of January 1809

S/ David S Garland



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Amherst County to wit

Personally appeared before me David S Garland one of the Commonwealth's Justices of the peace for the County aforesaid Archalus [sic] Mitchell and made oath that in the year 1776 he entered into the service in the Virginia line on Continental establishment and continued in the same five years the two first years as a private, and the three last years as a non-commissioned officer, that he was taken prisoner at Charlestown, from which place he deserted³ and joined the troops again at Chesterfield Court House, that he was regularly discharged from service, which discharge he sent to the Auditor's Office for the purpose of obtaining his pay or money which was done, and the Discharge has not been returned to him, and that he has not received his Bounty in land, which is still

Given under my hand this 20th day of July 1809

S/ David S Garland

³ The choice of this word is interesting. It is possible that this veteran 'volunteered' to serve in the British army after being captured at Charleston in May 1780. The Continental soldiers captured at Charleston were placed on prison ships (unseaworthy, rotting hulls of ships) in Charleston harbor under very inhumane conditions, under feed, overcrowded and exposed to repeated epidemics of smallpox. One way off of the prison ships was to accept a recruiting officer's offer to join the British Army. There are several instances of former Continental soldiers taking advantage of this offer in order to save their lives with the view to escaping (i.e., in the eyes of the British "deserting") as soon as the opportunity presented itself.