

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of Thomas Wright S38479

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Kentucky }

Washington County }

On this 22nd day of October 1832 personally appeared in open court, before the County Court of Washington now setting, Thomas Wright, a resident of the County & State afforsaid, aged 82 years 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

In the fall of 1774, he states, he volunteered under Capt. [Samuel] Wilson & Conls Charles & Thomas Lewis - at that time he lived in Augusta County Virginia [sic: Augusta County VA]. He states that soon after he volunteered under said officers, he was engaged in a dreadful battle with the Indians at the mouth of the Canaway [sic: Battle of Point Pleasant at the mouth of Kanawha River, 10 Oct 1774], in which his Capt Wilson & Conl Charles Lewis were killed. The next spring he states that he was made Ensign under Capt McKey [possibly John McCoy], by whom he was sent, with a small company, into the back part of Virginia, to guard the frontiers & that he remained there for a considerable time. He states that some short time after, he was called in from the back part of Virginia he went as ensign under Capt [William] Kincaid & Conl Mathis [sic: Col. Sampson Mathews] & under them he marched down near portsmouth to prevent the British from coming into the Cuntry he remained there about three months he was in the service of the untied states four or five years, he has no documentary evidence & knows of no person who can testify to his service — he Hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension rool of the agency of any state
[signed] Thomas Wright

State of Kentucky }

24th Feb 1834

Washington County }

This day Thomas Wright who made the forgoing declaration, personally appeared in open court, before the county court of Washing'n. now setting & made the following declaration, as amendatory to the forgoing - The said Thomas Wright being first duly sworn states, that he served in the revolutionary war as a soldier, for the time of two years & that he served as ensign three years - he states that from his extreme old age he cannot recollect thee particular dates of his service but he is certain that he served five years as above stated - [signed] Thomas Wright

State of Kentucky Marion County Towit.

Be it remembered that on this 10th day of May 1834 Thomas Wright, of said county, which county has been recently formed out of the county of Washington, came before me a justice of the peace in and for said county and being by me duly sworn according to law, made the following statement by way of amendment to his pension declaration heretofore forwarded to the war department in order to obtain a pension under the Act of Congress of the 7th of June 1832. Towit, said Wright stated that, owing to his present advanced age, and the consequent loss of memory he could not state and swear positively to the periods of his service in the different tours, which he served in the American Revolution, but according to his best recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned in the statement below, and in the grades therein to be stated. His first tour he served in a company commaded by Captain Sam'l. Wilson, and in a ragment commanded by Colonel Lewis, at the time he entered on this service he resided in the county of Augusta in the state of Virginia, and when he started to served this tour, it was in the fall of the year 1774, and was marched with the other troops to the back parts of Virginia to defend the frontier settlements from the attacks of the Indians, and ultimately the forces was marched down to the mouth of the Kanhaway & where he was engaged with the other forces in a most bloody & dreadful engagement with the Indians, from the time is was clearly light in the morning till near night. This was called the battle of the point, from the engagement having been fought at the point between the Ohio & Kanhaway rivers. In this engagement both

his Captain and Colonel Charels Lewis were killed. In this tour he served three months & two weeks, and was discharged from the service. The second tour he served was in the spring of the year 1775 when he was commissioned an Ensign in the militia, in a company commanded by Captain John McKey, by whom he was sent as ensign with a detachment of men under his command to a place called the Warm Springs to guard that place from the invasions of the Indians; in this service, on this tour he was engaged two months, from the time of his marching for that place till he returned home when he was ordered to disband & discharge his men. He states that in the latter part of the year 1775 (the month he cannot remember) and from that time till the late in the year 1777 he performed, by order of his superior officers various tours of duty as ensign & commander of the force with him, in excursions against the Indians in the back settlements of the State of Virginia in expelling them from the country & defending the settlements from their invasions & depredations of the Indians. In these excursions & tours he was engaged sometimes a half month sometimes less; the number of which tours he cannot now remember, they were frequent on thru the period mentioned, and as occasion required, the precise length of time he cannot remember, but feels confident in all of these tours & excursions he served as much as ten months in actual service - nor can he give any more definite or particular account of that service as to the number & length of the tours than he has done, owing the lapse of time & loss of memory. These excursions were all served by him as an ensign commanding the force he had with him and more hazzardous & fatigueing excursions to those engaged & were indispensable to the safety of the defenceless settlers at that time. In the commencement of the winter of 1777 he states that he volunteered and served as Ensign in a company commanded by Captain Kinkaid, and in the redgment commanded by Colonel Mathis, and marched under these officers to a place near Portsmouth to prevent the British from coming into the county, he states from the time he started on this tour till he was discharged & returned home was three months and ten days and was a most severe and hard tour of service, the weather being extremely cold, and they were compelled to be constantly on the march from one place to another in order to watch the enemy & prevent their march into the interior of the country. He states by way of explanation to his former declaration as to the length of time he was in actual service, that he had been impressed with the belief that from the time he first entered the service till the time he ultimately quit it was the length of time he was relating in this he is informed now he was in error anything different from this has been a misunderstanding of his statements & therefore corrects the term of actual service as he has stated in this amendment - which according to the best recollection he has on the subject is the true term he served. He has examined for his Commission as ensign amongst his papers, but could not find it, he is satisfied now it is lost or mislaid so that he cannot find it; he has no documentary evidence of his said service, and is not apprised of any living witness by whom he can now prove his said services or any part thereof. He would state again that he did receive and accept a commission as Ensign in the service which he has stated & he served as such, & presumes the records in the office of the Governor & Council of Virginia will show that fact. And for the above services he claims a pension. He lived in Augusta county Virginia when he served each of the tours of service about related & there entered the service on each campaign. He has no record in any book of his own of his age, but has seen a record of his age in the Bible of his grandfather, and from that it appears he was born in the month of March 1750 - he continued to reside in Augusta county till the year 1781 in the fall of that year, in that year he removed to Kentucky and then settled in a fort on Hardins Creek in what was then Jefferson county he now lives in Marion county & has for not quite fifty years. He was not acquainted with any of the Regular officers when in service tho he saw some, as well as regular soldiers when he was near portsmouth - he remembers to have seen a french officer there, who he presumes was Genl Lafayette, tho he was unacquainted with the continental or regular officers & his memory has greatly failed him in relation to names. He received discharges from the service in the different tours of duty he served except those when he had only a company with him then he was authorized to discharge the men & himself when the occasion of their service ceased, his discharges he does not remember whether they were given by the Captain or by the other superior officers, but he was discharged in the ordinary way, and has lost or destroyed any discharges he ever had. Sworn to & subscribed before me this day & date above written.

[signed] Thomas Wright

NOTE: For other details on the service of Thomas Wright as Ensign, see the following pension applications: John Bradshaw S6738, Andrew McCausland S5751, James Steuart S6159, John Steuart S19474.