

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Leven Savage S3849

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Tennessee } SS

County of Jackson }

On this 13th day of May 1833 personally appeared in open Court before John McCarver, Tandy K. Witcher, John Graham and Nathaniel Coons Justices of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for said county now sitting at the court house in Gainesboro (being a court of record) Leven Savage a resident of said county of Jackson and State of Tennessee aged eight three 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 7, 1832.

The he entered the service of the United States in Surry County State of North Carolina where he then resided some time in July 1776 the day not recollected as a volunteer to go an expedition against the Overhill Cherokee Indians and their Chief Dragin Canoe [Dragging Canoe], and joind his company under Captain Poindexter at Old Richmond in said county [now in Yadkin County]. The Lieutenant and Ensign is not recollected. He remained with his company under said Captains at old Richmond three or four weeks. He did not volunteer for any definite period. Applicant under said Captain marched to Long islands in Holstein river [sic: Long Island on Holston River, at present Kingsport TN] where he joined the army under General Christie [William Christian] and was attached to Colonel Williams regiment and Captain Mosby took command the company to which he belonged. Applicant then marched under said officers across Holstein river to Blue Springs then marched to French Broad river. Just before the army arrived at French Broad a white man bearing a white flag from the Indians met them and it was rumored among the soldiers that the Indians offered peace if the army proceded no further but if they went any farther the Indians would kill them to a man. And that the General said he would give them a brush at any rate. Orders were then issued by the General for six hundred horsemen and six hundred foot to turn out each horseman to take a foot man behind him which was executed. Applicant was one who volunteered his services obtained a horse and took a man behind him. Applicant with the rest of the party consisting of twelve hundred men mounted as aforesaid were ordered to cross the river and keep the Indians in check until the ballance of the troops should come up. Applicant with the part aforesaid crossed the river in the night at a place shown them by the interpreter, but does not recollect what Officer commanded the party. They lay in ambush that night in profound silence, and at the dawn of day they went to the Indian fires, but the Indians had fled having made a picture on a tree which the interpreter said meant, they run home and their hair flew back. The main army came up immediately afterwards and applicant and the rest of the party gave up their horses to their owners. He then with the army arced to the Cherokee nation and burnt Draging Canoe's town, Chilhowee and Chota. The Indians then came and sued for peace and gave up the Old Widdow Bean who they taken prisoner. The Chiefs or head men who came to the army were Little Carpenter [Attakullakulla], Pigeon & Conestoga [Oconostota] He don't think Draging Canoe came with them. No prisoners were taken. Applicant then with the army returned home where he was verbally discharged by Captain Mosby sometime in December 1776 the day not recollected He served out his full term of six months. Applicant again entered the service of the United States in said county of Surry North Carolina in March 1778 the day not recollected as a volunteer for three months under Captain [illegible] & Lieutenant [possibly Welch] the Ensign is not recollected to guard tory prisoners at Salisbury where he remained until June 1778 when he was verbally discharged by Captain Spear he served his full term of three months during the last mentioned term he was not attached to any regiment. Applicant again entered the service of the United States in said county of Surry North Carolina where he then resided about the first July 1780 as a volunteer for no definite period to reinforce General [Horatio] Gates But on account of old age and loss of memory he cannot state positively who was his Captain Lieutenant or Ensign Capt Hughlet was with the troops Col Armstrong [probably Martin Armstrong] commanded the troops. He does not recollect their number but thinks they did not amount to a regiment marched to Salisbury

when the news of Gates's defeat [Battle of Camden SC, 16 Aug 1780] reached them in August 1780 when he was verbally discharged but don't recollect what officer discharged him. Applicant served during this last term at least one month But dont recollect the day of the month he was discharged. Applicant is old and very infirm and his memory has greatly failed him. and he cannot recollect all the particulars of his service nor does he recollect the names of the counties thro' which he marched He received no written discharge at any time. Nor continental or regular officers or regiments served with the troops to which he belonged during the term above stated. He does not recollect the names or numbers of the regiment to which he belonged.

Applicant was born in Accomack County State of Virginia in 1750 as well as he can recollect from what his parents told him but cannot tell the day of the month. He has no record of his age. He is illiterate can neither read nor write. Since the Revolutionary war applicant has lived in Overton county state of Tennessee Cumberland county State of Kentucky and he now resides in Jackson county State of Tennessee. The names of the persons to whom applicant is known in his present neighborhood and who can testify as to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution are John Hudspeth, Thomas P. Scott, James Stone, John Tade, David Biggerstaff, Jesse Brown & John F. Vass. There is no clergyman in his neighbourhood nor does he know of a clergyman who can testify to the reputation of his neighbourhood of his being a soldier of the revolution. He has no documentary evidence and that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his 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

Leven hisXmark Savage