

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of William Coff (Cuff) S39347

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 30 July 2015.

State of Virginia Botetourt County To Wit

On this 11th day of December 1826 personally appeared in open Court being a Court of record for the County aforesaid William Coff a free man of Colour lately of Franklin County now a resident of the County of Botetourt aged about sixty years who being first duly sworn according to Law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the provision made by the act of Congress of the 18th of March 1818 and the first of May 1820 that he the said William Coff enlisted for the term of eighteen months on the day of [blank] in the year 1780 in the State of Virginia in the Company commanded by Capt [Sigismund] Stribling in the regiment then commanded by Col. Davis [sic: William Davies] afterwards by Cols. Howes [sic: Samuel Hawes] and [Richard] Campbell in the line of Virginia on the Continental establishment that he continued to serve in the said Corps until the year 1782 when his time of service expired when he was discharged in the State of North Carolina having been present during his service at the Battle of Guildford [sic: Guilford Courthouse NC, 15 Mar 1781] Eotaw [sic: Eutaw Springs SC, 8 Sep 1781] and at several skirmishes – that he freely relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension except the present that his name is not on the role of any State as far as he knows or believes, except as before mentioned and that the following are the reasons for his not making earlier application for a pension namely that he is poor old and illiterate and did not know that he was entitled to one until long after the passing of the law aforesaid and has since been prevented from presenting his claim in due form by the difficulty of procuring the necessary proff.

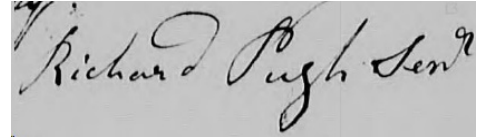
And in pursuance of the act of the 1st of May 1820 he took in open Court the following oath to wit I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift sale or in any manner disposed of my property or any part 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 – that since the 18th of March 1818 I have made no sale of property whatever. That he is by occupation a Farmer and lives on rented land that he is lame from having one of his legs fractured and that his Family consists of his wife between forty & fifty years of age and two sons the eldest 14 and the youngest eleven years old He also gave in an oath the following Schedule of property independently of necessary clotting [sic] and Bedding To wit one blind horse worth ten dollars —

William hisXmark Coff

Virginia Franklin County towit,

Be it known that before me William B Williams a justice of the peace in the county aforesaid, personally appeared Richard Pugh [pension application S38319] of lawful age, a Farmer and a pensioner of the United States and made oath, that he knew William Cuff (who is now present and as he understands is about to make application to the General Government for a pension) that he was a soldier in the revolutionary war in the first Virginia Regiment commanded first by Colo. Hawes and afterwards by Colo. Campbell, Continental line and in Capt. Striblings company. That he became acquainted with the said Cuff at Chesterfield Court House in this state where the eighteen months troops were ordered to rendezvous. then a soldier in the company regiment & line aforesaid in the summer of 1780. That the said Cuff marched with the army to Petersburg & Smithfield, and from thence to North & South Carrolina. That they served in the same regiment and towards the latter part of the term were members of the same company & continued to serve together untill they were discharged at Salisbury in the state of North Carrolina on the 16th day of January 1782 being a period of more than Eighteen months. This affiant is

positive that the said William Cuff is the Identical William Cuff who served with him in the Continental army, & was discharged with him at Salisbury. That among many other circumstances and occurrences, independent of those already mentioned, he well recollects at the time [Nov 1781] when Colo. Malmedy [Marquis Francis de Malmedy] a French man & a continental officer was killed in a duel at the High Hills of Santee by Ensign Snead of North Carrolina. That the said Cuff and three others under the command of this affiant, who then acted as an orderly Sergeant, buried the body of the said Colo. Malmedy.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard Pugh Senr". The ink is dark and the paper appears aged.

Sworn & Subscribed this 6th day of August 1828 before me [signed] Wm B Williams (JP)

Virginia. Henry County to wit

Be it known that before me Geo. Hairston a justice of the peace in the County aforesaid, personally appeared Daniel Burchel [S39261] of lawful age, a farmer & a pensioner of the U. States, and made oath, that he well knew Wm Coff, (who is now present & as he understands is about to make application to the Gen'l. Gov't for a pension) that he was a soldier in the revolutionary war in the first Virginia Ridgment commanded first by Colo Haws then Colo Cambell, Continental line & in Capt Striblins company – that he first got acquainted with said Wm Coff at Chesterfield Court House Virg'a where the eighteen months troops were ordered to rendesvous They marched from there to Petersburg, Smithfield & thence to N. Carolina & S. Carolina where they served together until they were discharged at Salsberry (N.C.) in the winter of 1781-2 being a period of more than eighteen months. All which this deponant well recollects as the said Wm Coff frequently assisted him in slaughtering Beef for the Army

Daniel hisXmark Burchel

Sworn & subscribed this 5th day of August 1828 before m Geo. Hairston (J.P.)