

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of John Westfall S41319

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

Virginia towit At a Court held for the County of Harrison on the 15 day of June 1818 & 42^d year of the Commonwealth

Present John Davisson Benjamin Robinson Elias Sittwell[?] James Fleming & David Morris Gentlemen Justices — before the Court aforesaid personally appeared John Westfall and being duly sworn according to Law upon his oath doth make the following declaration in order to obtain the provision of the 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” That he the said John Enlisted in the year 1780 in Hampshire [County now in WV] in the regular service of the united states under the Command of Captain Wallace attached to the 7 Regiment of the Virginia troops in the army of the united states [see note below] that he remained in the service of the united states until the Termination of the war of the revolution that from his reduced circumstances he stands in need of the assistance of his country for support and that he has now no other evidence of his said services —

John Westfall within named made oath before me this 6th day of July 1819, that he was enlisted in Hampshire County by Lieut. Conway Oldham in the year 1780 as well as he can recollect. he was thence marched to Winchester where he remained a short time, when Burgoyne’s Soldiers arrived as prisoners [see note below]— from Winchester he marched to Hillsborough in North Carolina where General Green commanded [sic: Nathanael Greene after 2 Dec 1780], & where the deponant first saw his Captain whose name was Wallace under the command of Major Riddley who was afterwards killed in Battle [see note below]. The deponent was sick when the Battle of Guilford was fought [Guilford Courthouse NC, 15 Mar 1781] & was not in the action but was on the Dan River at the time. he was afterwards discharged at Salsbury [sic: Salisbury] in North Carolina having been in the whole without intermission more than eighteen months in service. The deponent believes it was to the 7th Virginia he was attached he makes this narrative in addition to his former declaration in the hope that it will tend to establish his claim to the benefit of the Law-

Virginia Towit

At a Court held for the County of Harrison on the 22nd day of June 1820 and 44th year of the Commonwealth (being a Court of record established by an act of the General assembly of this Commonwealth) Personally appeared in open Court John Westfall aged sixty years resident in the County of Harrison Virginia, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath declare that he served in the revolutionary war as follows that he enlisted in the year 1780 in Capt Wallaces Company Virginia Line and his original declaration was made 15 June 1818 and pension certificate is number 12550 And he also took the following oath Towit. “I John Westfall do Solemnly swear that I was a resident citizen of the United States on the eighteenth day of March one thousand eight hundred and eighteen, 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 provisions 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 one thousand eight hundred and eighteen, 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. Towit I own one horse worth \$35 one cow and Calf value ten dollars two sows and pigs worth six dollars.

John Westfall

and the said John also declares as follows “I am by occupation a Labourer. I have two in family myself and wife, who is 54 years of age, I am unable to support myself by labour.

John Westfall

NOTE:

Westfall's Capt. Wallace was probably Andrew Wallace of the 8th Virginia Regiment who was killed at the Battle of Guilford Courthouse. Wallace was replaced by his former Lieutenant, Conway Oldham, who was killed at the Battle of Eutaw Springs SC on 8 Sep 1781.

"Burgoyne's Soldiers" refers to Hessians who were surrendered at the Battle of Saratoga on 17 Oct 1777 and brought to barracks in Albemarle County VA in Jan 1779. They were taken north early in 1781 to keep them from being recaptured by Cornwallis as he advanced from North Carolina into Virginia.

"Major Riddley" probably refers to Maj. Thomas Ridley, who actually retired on 12 Feb 1781 and died in 1845.