

[Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension application of John Woodcock S41381

f8VA

Transcribed and annotated by Will Graves

10/11/11: rev'd 7/28/23

[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. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' or 'undeciphered' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. 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 skills fail 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 material errors or omissions to my attention. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

Virginia, Chesterfield County to wit:

On this 13th day of November A.D. 1820 personally appeared before the County Court of Chesterfield, now sitting, which is a court of record (the act of the Virginia assembly establishing the County courts, expressly declaring that they shall be courts of record) John Woodcock aged sixty four years, a native and resident of the aforesaid County, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath declare the following declaration, in order to obtain the provision made by the acts of Congress of the 18th of March 1818 and 1st May 1820, that he the said John Woodcock enlisted in the County of Chesterfield aforesaid in September 1775 for one-year under Captain John Markham, and was attached to the 1st Virginia Regiment, commanded by Col. Patrick Henry¹ that at the expiration of his time he reenlisted under Captain Goodrick Crump of the same Regiment, that on the autumn of that year 1776 he marched to the Jerseys to join the main Army commanded by his Excellency General Washington, that he continued in the same company and the same Regiment until the battle of Germantown [October 4, 1777], when Capt. Crump by the decision of a court martial was compelled to leave the service, at then Captain Claiborne Lawson² took command of the company to which he was attached, that he remained in that company & same Regiment until the first of the year 1780 when he was furloughed at Fredericksburg, Virginia, as the Virginia line was on its march to Charleston, South Carolina, that at the expiration of his furlough he joined the military rendezvoused at the courthouse of the said County of Chesterfield, then commanded by Col. William Davies,³ and was regularly discharged in the month of September of that year by the said Col. commanding: – That his residence was in the neighborhood of said rendezvous, that he did service in the militia on various occasions, and that during his whole service he was never tried by a court martial. That during the terms of his military service on the Continental establishment, he was engaged in the battles fought at Brandywine [September 11, 1777] and Germantown, that he was in the reserve commanded by Genl. Muhlenberg [Peter Muhlenberg]⁴ at the storming of Stony Point [Stony Point, July 16, 1779], and that he was also in the battle of Monmouth [June 28, 1778]; That he has heretofore made two declarations⁵ in order to obtain the provisions of the first

¹ [Patrick Henry R4898](#)

² [Claiborne Whitehead Lawson BLWt1460-300](#)

³ [William Davies BLWt597-500](#)

⁴ [Peter Muhlenberg BLWt1495-850](#)

⁵ These are not among the documents in this file.

mentioned act of Congress, the first of which declarations was made before the Superior Court of law for Chesterfield County on the 2nd day of June in the year 1819, and the other was made before the County Court of Chesterfield on the 14th day of February in the year 1820 but no pension has been allowed under either of the said declarations, because they were considered by the officers of the war Department, to be either informal or not sufficiently explicit, that he the said John Woodcock has no other evidence now in his power of his said services except the subjoined affidavits of Daniel Wooldridge and James Scott⁶ –

And in pursuance of the act of the first of May 1820, I the said John Woodcock 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 of any kind whatsoever.

I was formerly by occupation a teacher, but from my advanced age and infirmity I am now totally unable to pursue any kind of occupation, or perform any kind of labor whereby to earn a support. I have no family, and am entirely dependent on the charity of my friends and acquaintances for subsistence.

S/ John Woodcock*

Sworn to and declared on the 13th day of November A.D. 1820 before the County court of Chesterfield

S/ Daniel Biopson [? could be Daniel Boissau], Presiding Justice of the peace

This is to certify that I knew John Woodcock while he was a revolutionary soldier, he and myself served in the same Regiment which was the first Virginia Regiment, and the years that I served with him was in the year 1778, 1779 and in the year 1780 we parted in the spring of said year, and I further state the said Woodcock was a good soldier. Given under my hand this 13th day of September 1820

S/ Daniel Wooldridge*

Chesterfield County to wit

This day Capt. Daniel Wooldridge came before me and made oath that the above certificate is true to the best of his knowledge. Given under my hand this 13th September 1820.

S/ R. Haskins, JP

I James Scott of the County of Chesterfield and State of Virginia do certify that I knew John Woodcock from a boy, that he enlisted under Capt. John Markham in the year 1775, that he marched with the Virginia Regiments in the autumn of 1776 to join the main Army, that in the year 1777 I saw him in the Army, that he served with the Army in the first Virginia Regiment on Continental establishment the whole of that campaign, having served in the same brigade with him and that he did not return to Virginia until the year 1780, and that in the year 1781 he served as a militia soldier and as far as I knew or ever heard, he in the whole of his service was accounted a good soldier, and that he is now feeble and poor and needs the assistance to make his remnant of life comfortable. Given under my hand this 5th day of November 1820

S/ James Scott*

⁶ MAY be the same man as [James Scott VAS4373](#)

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$8 per month commencing June 2nd, 1819 for his service as a private for 4 years in the Virginia Continental line.]

[Note: * The handwriting throughout this document is identical: thus, I do not think any of the signatures are the actual signatures of the affiants', but rather are their names signed by the scribe.]

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Addendum to John Woodcock S41381

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. 28 July 2023.

[From [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia.](#)]

I do hereby certify that John Woodcock inlisted as a Soldier in first Virg'a Continental Reg't the 8th day of September 1775 & continued in the same til the 8th day of September 1780.

Cha. Pelham [Charles Pelham W3034] Maj'r

Virg'a line.

Richmond April 17th 1783.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cha. Pelham". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.