

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Irvine S4422

f38VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

1/27/14

[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 'indcipherable' 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.]

[p 6]

State of Kentucky Adair County & Circuit: SS

On this 4th day of September 1832 personally appeared in Open Court before the Circuit Court of Adair being a Court of Record now sitting, James Irvine a resident of the County of Adair aged 76 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.

He states that he was born on the 4th day of September in the year 1755 in the County of Halifax and State of Virginia that his father had a register of his age which on his death passed into the hands of his brother John Irvine of Halifax County Virginia who died about two years since and whether the register is in existence or not he does not know this was only a private register kept on a blank leaf of a book (Burke on the New Testament). He states that he continued to live on Dan River in the County and State aforesaid until the month of May in the year 1776 he entered the Service of the United States as a Volunteer Minute man as he thinks in the militia troops of that State under the command of Captain Rogers, Major Williams his Colonel Haynes Morgan his Rogers Company & Captain James Turner's from the same County & in the same services held at their respective rendezvous at Boyd's ferry on Dan River from thence they marched through Charlotte, Lunenburg & Amelia &c Counties of Virginia joined the troops from those Counties at various points on the line of march to Petersburg there they received orders to march to Williamsburg Virginia and from thence to Gwynns Island [Gwynn Island] in Virginia there their Regiment was formed & General Nelson [Thomas Nelson] of Virginia was their Brigadier and commanded them on that occasion. Governor Dunmore [John Murray, Lord Dunmore, last Royal Governor of the colony of Virginia] was stationed on the Island & carrying on a war of plundering the vicinity and kidnapping slaves. He states that the American Army threw up a breast work on the bank of the River South of the Island & having a few pieces of artillery they opened them on Dunmore's encampment, there was a considerable time's spent in making the breastworks & other necessary arrangements say one month or more after the works were completed Dunmore was soon dislodged [July 10, 1776] in one day or but little more he was greatly difficutted [sic] to get away owing to tide being against him & he had to tow out his shipping by boats and some of them he could not get away & burnt at least three of them. This was as well as he recollects in July 1776 in harvest time.

After Dunmore's departure the American troops took possession of the Island and lay there a short time until they received orders to march to the mouth of the Potomac [River] to oppose the landing of Dunmore who had sailed round, Colonel Morgan's Regiment marched

across the Country and took it station at a place on the Potomac called the Cherry Point. He states that he with his Regiment remained there a short time. Dunmore being unable to effect a landing moved off. After Dunmore went away he states that they were ordered home to put themselves in readiness for a campaign against the Western Indians ^{the Cherokees} he states that he reached home in September 1776 and provided himself with shoes and clothing and after a stay of not exceeding one week they then rendezvoused at New London in Bedford County Virginia the same Company & field officers say that General Nelson did not go & they were commanded by Colonel Christie [William Christian], from there they marched to long islands on Holston, Colonel Morgan did not join Colonel Christie with his Regiment until they reached the Long Island and there Christie left orders that Colonel Morgan should remain & build a Fort. He states that he assisted in erecting the Long Island Fort until Colonel Christie's return they were then discharged verbally by Colonel Christie & Morgan's Regiment marched home in a body he says that he got no written discharge and after much toil & suffering from cold and hunger he reached home about the last of November 1776 this tour being of seven months his Ensign was named Thomas Threet, he then continued at home until the winter of 1776 – 1777 and in the spring of the last named year he again volunteered in the state service and was employed to assist in collecting military stores under the direction & command of Quarter Master or Commissary McCraw the store was in Peytonsburg Pittsylvania [County] Virginia & the stores were collected in the Counties of Halifax & Pittsylvania, in this service he spent four months and one half with his own wagon and team which he furnished & was discharged in writing by the said McCraw but he has lost it by some casualty some years ago he was discharged in the last of August or first of September 1777 as well as he can recollect the dates. He states that he continued at home until May of __ year the year of the great May frost, he then again entered the United States service as a volunteer in the Militia of Virginia State commanded by the same Captain Rogers Lieutenant Irby Ensign William Watkins they joined the Regiment at Salisbury North Carolina his Major's name was Durham his Colonel's Mason Lieutenant Colonel Loo Jones, the Regiment thus constituted & officered marched to Somer's plantation in South Carolina and there joined the main Army commanded by General Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln] his Brigadier he thinks was Davie but of this he is not certain there they attacked a British Fort on Stono or Stonee River he thinks it was in July [sic, June 20, 1779] he recollects it was very hot the engagement lasted for about one hour and 20 minutes his Regiment with others of the North Carolina militia & some regulars he thinks commanded by Colonel or General Davie were drawn up in an old field where about 300 Scotch Highlanders made a sortie from a redoubt and fired on them & wounded his Lieutenant Irby who fell in his arms his thigh was broken of which wound he afterwards died. He states he was in the front of the left column of Infantry who gave the pursuit & attacked the Fort they drove the Highlanders killing many of them and reached the Fort and he had mounted the wall when orders for a retreat was given as he thinks by a Colonel Williamson [perhaps Andrew Williamson] of South Carolina (who was afterwards dismissed the service) he then jumped down & made good his retreat. The Americans lost a good many troops in the engagement there he remained with his Regiment until their time of three months had expired & he was discharged by Major Durham which discharge he has since lost, he means by three months the time he actually remained in South Carolina with the main Army but the time spent in service between his departure from home & his return was near 7 months. He left home about the first of May & got home in November. Upon his return home he remained in Halifax & made many little tours in assisting to collect stores, in Halifax & Pittsylvania and in many little excursions & expeditions after Tories but having lost his discharge he cannot speak with

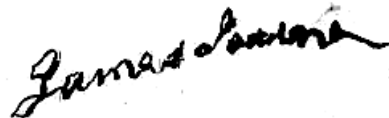
certainty of the length of time he spent this summer he was however generally employed this was in the spring & summer of 1780 in the fall of that year Colonel Boyd [probably George Boyd] appointed him a Sergeant and gave him the command of 12 men and placed a Magazine of ammunition & stores & clothing &c at Boyd's ferry on Dan River under his care, Boyd was Colonel Commandant of the County militia. He states that he took charge of it about the first of November & guarded it there until about the middle of February when Cornwallis having driven & pursued General Green [Nathanael Greene] across Dan River he took the stores out of the magazine & place them in 5 wagons and run them off to Halifax Court house and there had an interview with General Green who urged him to run the stores out of danger, he states that after some time he received orders from General Green by a messenger to deliver the stores &c to some receiving officer at Prince Edward Courthouse which he accordingly did and returned home and found that the British had reached the ferry (on Dan River) kept by himself & his Brothers & had destroyed their farm, burnt their fences, destroyed their crop, killed their stock and at that point had turned back into North Carolina. He states that he made ready to join General Green in the pursuit when the quartermaster or Commissary McCraw came and dispatched him to collect wagons & and conveying provisions to Green's Troops he employed for wagons & teams & loaded them with meal and bacon and overtook General Green's Army at the Reedy fork of Haw River in North Carolina they there delivered their loading, they were then dispatched back for more provisions & had collected part of their loading when they received orders not to carry it forward as the battle of Guilford [March 15, 1781] had been fought and the Virginia militia had been discharged, here this tour ended being about four months he never received a written discharge for this tour as he was out at a distance from the Army and officers. He states that during the summer of 1781 he served a tour of three months in the Virginia militia with his wagon and team under the direction of George Isbel who was wagon master they hauled & collected provisions about Prince Edward Court house and then crossed James River & hauled from Goochland & Albemarle Counties and delivered their noting at Irvine's old Store below the mouth of Rockfish River, on this tour he served three months and was discharged at Peytonsborg by McCraw which is likewise lost he states that about the first of September in that year he volunteered and joined the Virginia militia the Halifax troops were under the same Captain Rogers, John Brandon Lieutenant, they marched down the Country and near Old James town Virginia & joined Stephens' [Edward Stevens'] Brigade of Virginia militia there Captain Rogers returned & Captain Bates then took the command. He states that before he left home he was appointed wagon master by Colonel Cole of Halifax. He states that between Jamestown and Williamsburg they had a skirmish with the British and took from them the sheep and cattle they had plundered and their rear guard and pursued the British down to York in Virginia they were then attached to General Lawson's [Robert Lawson's] brigade, General Richardson [probably Holt Richeson] Commanded the Regiment & the Brigade in Lawson's absence. He states that he had charge of a brigade of about 8 wagons as wagon master and was constantly employed hauling from James River to York River balls, bomb shells, plank &c for the purpose of erecting & supplying the batteries, during the siege, he was present when the British surrendered and with his wagons hauled up 8 loads of the arms they grounded on that memorable occasion to the quarter master general at York. He then as wagon master volunteered and assisted with his brigade of wagons in conveying the prisoners, hauling their baggage to Fredericksburg Virginia there they were divided and he with his brigade of wagons accompanied the Hessians & their guards to Noland's ferry on the Potomac [River] in the State of Maryland, there they delivered them, to the Maryland troops crossing them over the River being the line between the states.

Having performed this service they marched homeward and when they reached least town not far from Orange Courthouse Major Wood Jones who commanded the guards who delivered the Hessians to the Maryland troops & who he had the command of his brigade of wagons there mounted his horse & bade them all farewell and this was all the discharge he got, he reached home about the first of December having served on this tour as Wagon Master three months closing his military career after a service of two years four months and one half calculating only those tours in which he served the length of three months and making no estimate of numerous small tours of from two days to one month scouting after Tories &c indeed from the beginning of his service in the year 1776 until 1781 as stated he did little else than engage himself in the service of his country or had his farm destroyed, and never drew anything or received any compensation for his services or the use of his wagon and team. He states that the several discharges mentioned by him herein & the receipt for the public property delivered at Prince Edward Courthouse he had carefully preserved in an old pocket book which he carried through the revolution which he deposited in a chest but upon making an examination about 5 years ago he had the misfortune to find that the book & papers had been wholly destroyed by rats so that there remained no one that could be read & therefore has no documentary evidence to prove his services nor does he know of any living witness by whom he can prove them owing to the great age of himself and those with whom he served they have withdrawn from active life and if any be living by whom he could make the proof – he does not know it or believe he could procure it. He states that he resided in Halifax County Virginia until about the year 1796 or 1797 when he moved to Jessamine County Kentucky where he resided two years he then moved & settled on Russell's Creek in then Green now Adair County where he has ever since resided.

He states that in all the foregoing service he served as a volunteer on his own account in the Virginia Militia troops in the revolutionary Army of the United States that he never deserted or left the service without being fully discharged in writing or verbally and he never was called on but he voluntarily and cheerfully turned out at the call of his Country.

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.

S/ James Irvine



[Chasteen H. Trabue, a clergyman and Nathan Gaither gave the standard supporting affidavit.]
Adair County Kentucky

[p 23]

Personally appeared before me the undersigned a justice of the Peace in and for the County of Adair James Irvine who being duly sworn deposed and saith that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service, but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following grades: For two years and six months as a private in the militia service and for such service I claim a pension.

S/ Joseph a Morrison, JP

By way of Amendment and to fulfill the requisition of the War Department the declarant states that he is known in his neighborhood to Chasteen H. Trabue and Nathan Gaither who have subscribed and sworn to the certificate attached to the original declaration and to a great many

others that would give their certificates and testify their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution as Trabue & Gaither have done if it were necessary or required by the Department.

S/ James Irvine

[Attested in Adair County Kentucky June 19, 1833]

This day personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the Peace for the aforesaid County James Irvine and made oath in due form of law that the first tour he served in the service of the United States was under Captain Rogers in his company, Major Williams and Colonel Haynes Morgan. The service performed on this tour was at Gwyns Island [Gwinn Island] and on the Powtowmack River [Potomac River?], and in the Cherokee nation or near there at the Long islands of Holston and it was performed with an embodied Corps called into service by competent authority. That he was in the field and that this tour was seven months he was not employed in any civil pursuit.

That his second Tour was commenced in the spring of 1777 at which time he volunteered in the State Service and was employed to assist in collecting military [stores] under the command and direction of Commissary McCraw, this tour was four months all of which time he was engaged with his wagon and team for the use of which he never received one cent. The service in the foregoing tour was performed in Halifax & Pittsylvania counties Virginia, that he was employed in no civil pursuit during the aforesaid last mentioned Tours. That his third Tour was performed as well as he recollects in the year 1778 or 9 he volunteered under Captain Rogers his Major's name was during, his Colonel Mason Lieutenant Colonel Loo. Jones when joined to the Army which was commanded by General Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln] was in a battle on Stono River [June 20, 1779] in South Carolina and the service of this Tour last mentioned was performed in the field in South Carolina and that he was employed in no civil pursuit during his service of the aforesaid last mentioned Tour which was 3 months. That from the time he left home until his return was seven months – That he took charge of a magazine of ammunition &c by order of Colonel Boyd in Halifax County Virginia, that his service in this way was four months and that he was engaged in no civil pursuit during the aforesaid last mentioned Tour – was the fourth Tour –

That his next Tour was in the summer 1781 which was a tour of 3 months as a volunteer in the Virginia militia with his wagon & team under the direction of George Isbel wagon master this service was in the Counties of Prince Edward, Goochland & Albemarle, that he was engaged in no civil pursuit during the aforesaid last mentioned Tour.

That his next tour was under Captain Rogers, joined Stephens [probably Edward Stevens'] Brigade of militia and was commanded a short time after by Captain Bates, Captain Rogers having returned. That he was a wagon master appointed by Colonel Cole the service was performed between James town & Williamsburg and at York at the taking of Cornwallis [October 19, 1781]. That it was in the field not in Garrison and he was engaged in no civil pursuit during the aforesaid last mentioned Tour or any other Tours. He states there he performed more service but his recollection is indistinct about it. That he served with an embodied Corps called into service by Confident Authority each and every time.

Sworn to and subscribed in the presence of me this 19th September 1833
S/ Daniel Suddarth, JP

S/ James Irvine

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$46.66 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private in the Virginia service for one and 2 months.]