

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

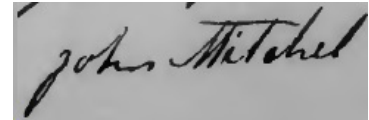
Pension Application of John Mitchel S5761

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 17 Mar 2015.

[The first items are from [digitalcollections of the Library of Virginia](#).]

To the speaker and the members of both houses of the house of Representatives Virginia
Your Memorialist begs leave to Represent that in the year 1780 & 1781 he served eight months
viz from November to August as a Soldier under the command of Capt. James Pendleton and Lewis
Baker in Col. Harrison's [Charles Harrison's] Reg't of Virginia artillery and Obtained Regular discharge
from my Captains which discharge your Memorialist after the war was over took no Care of the same
your Memorialist being young and Ignorant and in Consequence never Obtained any pay for his services
your memorialist being then young and enjoying health and strength was able to labour for his living and
never made any attempts to get the pay for said service but now your Memorialist becoming under the
infirmities of Old age affluence he is induced to apply to your Body not for Charity for he can still labour
but to Obtain the bare reward which the government had engaged and was liable to pay to him for his
services
your memorialist submits the whole to your honorable Body hoping that you will allow me the pay as a
soldier and the interest of the same which would a great Relief to your Memorialist and your petitioner
will ever pray &c.



Lewis County towit

The within named John Mitchel came before me the subscriber a justice of the peace for said
County and made Oath that the within Memorial is true to the best of his knowledge and belief given
under my hand this 15th day November 1817 Wm. Hacker J.P.L.C.

[The following in different handwriting]

Dec'r. 9th 1817

ref'd to Claims

Rejected

Dec'r. 23/ Reported

Sen[?] McWhorter

Capt McWhorter apply to Col McCarty for Information John Mitchel

Bill drawn/ Registered

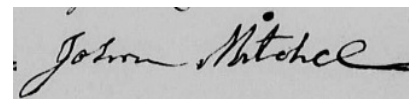
State of Virginia } S.S.

County of Lewis }

On this 7th day of August 1832 personally appeared in open Court before James M. Camp, Abram
Abbott, George Bush, John Mcwhorter & Benjamin Riddle Justices of the peace for said County and
members of the Court of Lewis County aforesaid now sitting the Rev John Mitchell, a resident of the said
County of Lewis and State of Virginia aged Seventy years next May, 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. That in August 1780 (early in the month according to his present
recollection), in the County of Hampshire at Romey [sic: Romney] Virginia, he was drafted as a
militiaman, to go to the mouth of the great Kanawha to build a fort as he was informed. the company was
to be raised from Frederick, Berkely [sic: Berkeley] & Hampshire Counties Virginia. he thinks Frederick
was to furnish the Captain, Berkely the Lieutenant and Hampshire the Ensign, those drafted in
Hampshire rendezvoused at Henry Morrissays mill on the South fork of the South Branch of the Potomac

near where Moorifield [sic: Moorefield] the seat of Justice of Hardy County Virginia is located. the Ensign from Hampshire was Michael Everman, who marched affiant with others from thence to Staunton in Augusta County Virginia, where we were joined by those from Frederick and Berkely and placed under the Capt from Frederick whose name is not recollected; the Lieutenants name was Sanders his first name not recollected. when we reached Staunton it was still in August, we was ordered to remain at Staunton to guard the Tories and deserters. We continued there until the latter part of October 1780 at which time we were discharged. those from Hampshire County were marched homeward by Ensign Everman [several illegible words] Staunton affiant was dismissed at the mouth of Seneca Creek a branch of the north fork of the South branch of Potomac then in the County of Rockingham now in the County of Pendleton Virginia, where he affiant about the 1st day of November 1780 at the last mentioned place hired as a substitute for one William Gragg in the State Troops in the continental service and with three others was marched from thence under Lieutenant Robert Minness [Robert Minnis] to Staunton in Augusta County Virginia at which place we were placed under Capt. James Culverson who marched us with about twenty others to Richmond Virginia at which place we were received by James Pendleton captain of Company of Artillery and marched by him from thence with the field pieces to Chesterfield Court house Virginia where we joined the residue of Capt. Pendleton's company. affiant thinks a man who was called Captain Lewis Booker acted as Lieutenant under Capt. Pendleton, and that a man by the name of Lightfoot [probably Philip Lightfoot] acted as Second Lieutenant or Ensign. while at Chesterfield Court House Capt. Pendletons Company belonged to Col. [Charles] Harrison's Regiment Virginia Artillery Virginia. Affiant thinks Col. Harrison's Regiment was called the 2^d. Regiment, is confident it was 1st. or 2^d. but thinks 2^d [First Regiment of Continental Artillery]. Soon after we reached Chesterfield Court House Virginia with the regular Troops under Col. Davie [possibly William Davies] we marched to a place called Westham about four miles above Richmond Virginia the evening we arrived at Westham the British blew up the Magazine at that place [5 - 7 Jan 1781] affiant saw it blow up. on the next morning we were marched to Warwick ware house Virginia continued there over night and on the next morning were marched to near Hoods Mills [possibly at Hood's Landing on James River a few miles below Richmond] affiant thinks Hoods mills were then in the County of Chesterfield Virginia. it was supposed that the British intended to burn Hoods mills the regulars laid in wait for the British and fired up them, drove them back as affiant understood and killed several of them. [See note below.] he saw one of the regulars have a red coat on the morning after the skirmish with several bullet holes in it. soon after the skirmish the regular Troops were marched back to Chesterfield Court House Virginia. in a few days thereafter affiant with about 20 of Capt. Pendletons Artillery Company were ordered to march to Chesterfield Court House Virginia to join the regulars a Serjeant by the name of Sandford marched us to Chesterfield Court House the commissioned officers of the Artillery and the balance of the Company remained at Hoods mills. we joined the regular Troops at Chesterfield Virginia the last mentioned time about the 5th Jany 1781 and remained at that place with them until some time in February following under Capt. Lynn in Col. Davie's Regiment the officers names under Capt. Lynn are not recollected. in February 1781 a company of regulars were ordered to march and join Capt. Pendleton's artillery company then affiant thinks at Southampton Court House or Cabin point [on James River in Surry County] affiant was in the company thus ordered to join Capt. Pendleton, Lewis Booker continued an officer under Capt. Pendleton affiant recollects that when he again was under the command of Capt. Pendleton a man by the name of Ball acted as orderly Serjeant. from Southampton Court House we marched to the Town of Suffolk in Nansemond County [now Suffolk City] found the Town destroid by fire. we continued marching up and down the James River as circumstances required from Surry County Virginia to Portsmouth in the same State until about the first of April 1781 the British having reinforced it was deemed expediant to retreat. We marched by way of a Bridge on the Maheren [sic: Meherrin] river to near Richmond Virginia from thence we marched to Petersburg virginia and on the 28th of April 1781 had a skirmish with the British [possibly Battle of Blandford Hill, 25 Apr]. the American Troops were forced to yield the possession of the Town to the British[?] and retreat. they crossed the Bridge over the Appomattox River tearing up the Bridge after them on the same night

reached Chesterfield Court House. affiant was in this engagement and recollects that considerable firing took place on both sides before the American Troops retreated. on the following day after out retreat to Chesterfield Court House Virginia we marched by way of the Stone cole pits [Midlothian Coal Pits] to Richmond Virginia and continued in Richmond until some time in may following [29 Apr] when Genl. Lafayette arrived with about eleven[?] hundred continental Troops from the north at Richmond Virginia Genl. Lafayette took command of all the Troops and we were marched to Bottoms bridge on the Chickahominy River in the County of New Kent affiant thinks at this last mentioned place we continued about one week while there the Rev Mr. Bellmain preached to the whole Army. from thence we were marched back to Richmond Virginia and from thence we were marched to the Raccoon ford in Orange County Virginia [Raccoon Ford on Rapidan River] at this last mentioned place we were joined by Genl Anthony Wayne and the Troops under him [10 June]. from thence we marched to some place (not recollected) in Louisa County Virginia where the Army encamped for two or three days while at this place a British Spy was hung. from thence we marched back to Bottoms Bridge near which place we caught a large British horse branded G. R. [Georgius Rex, i.e. King George] from thence by way of New Kent Court House Virginia we marched to the burnt Ordinary's near Williamsburg Virginia we continued at this place some time and while there celebrated the 4th of July 1781 not long thereafter affiant was injured in the shoulder by reason whereof he was considered unfit for service and discharged his discharge was signed by Lewis Booker and countersigned by Benjamin Eustice Major pro tem of the New England Artillery his discharge as well as his discharge for the first mentioned services have been lost. from the last mentioned service he arrived in Rockingham County Virginia about the 1st of August 1781 having been in this last mentioned service about nine months. soon after his arrival in Rockingham County Virginia (the precise day not recollected) he took the place of William Howel as a substitute and marched in a company of Militia from Hampshire County Virginia under Capt. Thomas Neal to the Town of York Virginia and was there during the "Siege of York" [28 Sep - 19 Oct] when Lord Cornwallis surrendered. from thence affiant marched with the prisoners to the Barracks near Winchester Virginia at which place about the last of November or 1st of December 1781 affiant was discharged was in the last mentioned service about 3 months, making the service of affiant during the Revolutionary war about 15 months towit from the 1st of August 1780 to the last of November or 1st of December 1781. affiant was born on the 1st day of May 1763 in Lancashire County England at a place called Dawston [Dawson?] as he was informed by his father. in August 1774 he emigrated to America and landed at York Town Virginia, went from York Town to Norfolk Virginia and from Norfolk he went Fredericksburg and after moving from place to place he got into Hampshire County Virginia in the year 1775 and continued there until he was drafted. for the twenty years immediately after he quit the service he lived on the north fork of the South Branch of the Potomac then in the County of Rockingham now in the County of Pendleton Virginia he then moved to his present residence where he has continued to reside since. He has no documentary evidence to support his services but supposes Jacob Teter of Randolph Virginia and John Waggoner [pension application S7824] of Lewis County can testify to his services He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any state. Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

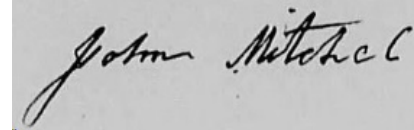


Virginia }
 Lewis County } Towit

Personally appeared before me, the undersigned a Justice of the Peace in and for said County the Rev John Mitchell who being duly sworn, deposeth 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 one year and three months I served as a private, and for which service I claim a

pension.

Sworn and subscribed before me this 7th day of June 1833.



[The following report is by US District Attorney Washington G. Singleton who investigated hundreds of pension applications from present West Virginia. For details see my appendix in the pension application of David W. Sleeth S6111. On Mitchel's report Singleton wrote "Entitled."]

John Mitchel Lewis county. Ser'd. 15 mo.

the following is the narative given by John Mitchel of his age and Services as a Soldier in the war of the Revolution. to Wit was Seventy one years old last February is a native of England came to the united states in 1774.

in the year 1780 was drafted in Hampshire county Virginia & marched in the Month of august under Ensign Everman. was destined for the mouth of the Big Kinawha to Build a Fort then on getting to Staunton Virginia was detained there among others to guard tories and prisseners confined in Staunton Jail. Remained there until the last of October or first of November following. on his return home in the same year went as a substitute for Wm. Gregg from Rockinham under Capt James Culverson to Richmond was discharged in the succeeding July having been in service this tour about nine months. — after returning from this expedition he went as a substitute for William Howell to Yorktown and was at the capture of Cornwallis Went on from Yorktown to Winchester with the Prisseners as a guard. was in this service four months. — this is a man of character and Intelligence I am satisfied that he is fully entitled to all he claims. A True copy. W. G Singleton Nov. 9, 1834

NOTES:

The skirmish at Hood's Mills may refer to the ambush of Gen. Benedict Arnold's raiding party by troops under Gen. George Rogers Clark on 10 Jan 1781.

The internet site below has a photo and the following transcription of Mitchel's tombstone:
REV. JOHN MITCHELL, Born in England 1763. Bound to a Sailor. Went to W. India & America 1774. Thence to E. India, Thence to America, 1775. Came to Virginia 1776. Substituted in U.S. Army 1779. Drafted 1779. Settled on This Farm 1803. Preached the Gospel 40 Years. Died 29th April, 1840. Age 76Y.,11M.,25D.

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~rosadove/DeeDovey'sPage/mitchcem.htm>