

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

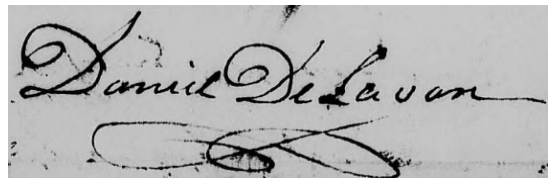
Pension Application of Jonathan Purdy S5956 NY
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

For the purpose of obtaining the benefit of "an Act for the relief of certain surviving officers and soldiers of the [Continental] army of the Revolution approved on the 15th May 1828 I Jonathan Purdy, of the County of Ohio Virginia do hereby declare that in the year 1776 I enlisted as a soldier under Captain Jonathan Paulding in west chester [sic: Westchester] County in the state of New York and was at the Battle of White plains [28 Oct 1776]. In the year 1777 I was still under the command of Capt Paulding. In the year 1778. I was under the Command of Capt Richard Sacket [sic: Richard Sackett, NY Militia]. In the year 1779 80 I was under the Command of Capt Barns and Lieut Mesier. In 1781 I was under the Command of Capt Chapman when I acted as Sergeant and at the termination of the Revolutionary War I was a Sergeant under Command of Capt Sacket My Colonel was Thomas Thomas and I believe General [George] Clinton, was my General. My discharge is lost nor can I now remember whether I ever received a certificate &c &c for the reward of Eighty Dollars. nor a I able to state whether my services were in the continental line of the army of the Revolution. As evidence of my services I herewith enclose the affidavits of Danl DeLavan [Daniel De Lavan, pension application S43483] who commanded me for some time and of David Lockwood [W5030] who enlisted with me. I further declare that I was not on the 15th day of March 1826 on the Pension List of the united states
Jonathan hisXmark Purdy

State of New york West Chester County

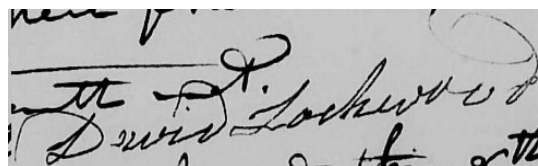
I hereby Certify that in the old Revolusion War been the united states & grate Britin in the year one thousand seven hundred and seventy Eigh I was a first Lieutenant in a Regiment Commanded by Colomel Marriss graham [sic: Col. Morris Graham, NY Militia] in george Clinton's Division and Jonathan Purdy was a Residant as I am inform'd and believes lives in the County of Ohio near Whealing [sic: Wheeling] was then enlisted Solger for one year and Served during that year and part of the year one thousand and seven hundred and Seventy Nine all the time of one year I Perfectly Remember that the said Jona[page torn] served out dureing one year as a fathful Solger after that he was not under my com[page torn] but all ways understood that he seved in selected cores [corps?] in a military line dureing the war intill the war ended.

Sworn this 9th Day of August 1826 before me
Alex L. McDonald



Before me a justice of the peace in & for Ohio County State of Virginia personally appeared David Lockwood formerly an associate Judge of Belmont County and made oath that he was enlisted a soldier in the year 1778; and that Jonathan Purdy now of Ohio County Virginia was in the service the same year and served in the same Regiment with him. Capt Sacket of the State of New York commanded him and that they were then both residents of West chester County New York. Col Graham was our Colonel; and further saith not.

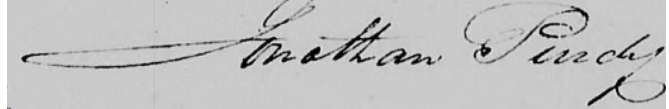
Given under my hand this 8th November 1828.
Jno Parriott



Flats of Grave Creek Ohio C. Virginia [now Marshall County WV]

Hon. Isaac Lefler [Member of Congress]

Sir, I received a letter from Mr. Fitshug covering one from the Hon. Richard Rush dated 12th Dec. stating that I had omitted mentioning, the Regiment to which I belonged during my Revolutionary services. my services were all rendered in the State of New York. And in the New York quota, and my Col. Le Boyse. If the regments were then numberd, I am at present unable to state to what one I belonged numerically Yours Respectfully

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Jonathan Purdy". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

State of Virginia

Ohio county Ss

On this 4th day of September 1832 personally appeared in open court before the County Court of Ohio now sitting Jonathan Purdy resident of Grave Creek Ohio county Virginia aged seventy three years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following decleration in order to obtain the benefit of an act of Congress passed June the 7th 1832.

that he entered the service of the united states under the following named officers and served as herein stated. That in the spring of 1776 he entered the service of the united states as a volunteer under the command of Capt. Jonathan Horton Pawlding at North Castle in the house of one Gilbert thorn district joining White plain district county of west chester state of New York our collon'ls name was Thomas Tomas Imediately after my entering the service we proceeded to New york to make fortifications as the Brittish was expected daily General Washington was there all the time and had the command but General [Charles] Lee appeared to have the most to say in superintending the publick works our 1st Lieutenant was Jeremiah Hunter 2^d Lieut. was Merrit his christian name I forgit and Ensign was Henery Spears 1st Sergant was Gilbert Horton after the arival of the Brittish fleet in the bay [3 Jul 1776] whare they lay som 3 or 4 days the sent in a flag of truce and demanded Hancock and Addams [sic: John Hancock and John Adams] and it was reported in the camp that General Washington told them they would not comply with any such demands as the states had declaired their independance and was determined on maintaining it they then landed a party of men on long Island whare some of our men ware under the command of Lord Sterling [sic: William Alexander, Lord Stirling] they their had an ingagement [Battle of Long Island, 27 Aug] and the brittish got rather the better of us – I do not recollect of hearing any thing more of my Lord Sterling as a commander the night after the engagement General Washington succeeded in saving the men and it was believed if the had remained to the next day they would all been killed or taken prisoner Such was the report & oppinion through the camp the next day we marched to Harlam [sic: Harlem Heights] where we threw up some breast works or fortifications and remained there but a short time as the British had then taken [illegible word] of New York and General How [sic: William Howe] being on the advance we removed to a place Called Tucky Hoo [sic: Tuckahoe] where we again fortified our selves but was oblided to remove, as General Howe still cept advancing in our advance this time we passed by fort Washington and fort Independance [sic: Fort Independence] both the places we left some men to defend them while the main body of the army to which I belonged incamped near the White plains made some fortifications but soon moved to the White plains where we ware determined to make a stand and so we fortified our selves well and remained there some two or three week before the brittish made their appearance and we prepared our line for the attack, our right wing being on chattertons hill [sic: Chatterton Hill] our left wing extending to wards Horton hill the heavy artillery was placed in the center the engagement comenced by the picket gaurds [sic: piquet guards] on the left wing just at day light but soon ceased. about sunrise the brittish cavelry mad their appearance in Widow Hatfields orchard right in front of General Washington and his artilery but the did not stand but a few shots till they disappeared it was then noon before they made another attack which was made on our right wing commencing at long shots. General McDowdell [sic: Alexander McDougall] had the command of the right wing on chatterton hill and posted thus advantageously. the

army had a hollow to pass with a little hill on each side before they could gain the rising ground which was pretty steep where McDowdell was posted the enemy pushed the Hessians [sic: Hessians] up three times in order to gain this height but was still beaten back by our men with a great loss at last the red coats made a desperate effort and poured in as fast as they could and our men being tired they forced their way General McDowdell thought it best to retreat which he did with but little loss as it was mostly down hill Shortly after this the firing ceased and night coming on the whole of the line retreated into the woods the place being called Mount Misery where we encamped for the night – Immediately after the battle of the white plains I was sent with many others as coopers to repair the injury our stores had sustained from a hurried movement to North Castle under the command of Colonel Wardsworth as he had at that time the care of the stores and in this employ terminated my first years service for which I volunteered. I then enlisted for four months in the night rangers under my former capt. Jonathan H. Paulding there was no other commissioned officer in the company as we had but thirty men belonging to it during this term of service we took twenty three of the refugees and killed one but their pilot James Hustade made his escape this was the day that capt. Borns and thirty two men took a Refugee Capt. and the same number of men without firing a single shot our business was chiefly confined to watching the Refugees at night to keep them from plundering the neighbourhood during which we made many prisoners and took some prizes [prizes?] – the country to which we confined our services during the said four months was in Phillips manner on Bronks river [sic: Philipse Manor on Bronx River] Westchester County state of New York at the expiration of this term I enlisted with Capt. Sackett early in the Spring of 1778 for the term of one year 1st Lieutenant Fredrick Stevans [Frederick Stevens?] 2^d Lieutenant Right Carpenter [sic: Wright Carpenter] Comander Coln'l. Morris Graham our augadant [sic: Adjutant] David Hunt Sergeant Major Isaac Webbs quarter master Sergeant Cornelius Okeley [Cornelius Oakley?] Sergeants Jacob Swinington and Leazure during this term of service General Sullivan [sic: John Sullivan] gave orders to Lieutenant Danneal Dellivan to select from the Redgement twenty five of the most lively and bigelent men he could find to watch the Tories and disaffected and bring them before the civil authorities by them to be tried and punished I was chosen as one of the s'd number and in that service I continued during the remainder of year in the winter of that year we did not do much our pay master was by the name of Fish he said he was robbed in consequence I recollect we lost our pay – my next servitude I think comnced in the month of february 1779 at the white plains I enlisted with capt. Borns for the term of six months as a pilot our commander was Colon'l. Aron Burr [sic: Aaron Burr] I have but very imperfect recollection of the rest of the officers as my stay was short and my Employment frequently calling me on scouting parties – in June or July following I enlisted with capt. Lawrance for two months to pattrole and keep gaurd night and day at a place call'd Crump pond – in the spring of 1780 to the best of my recollection I enlisted again with capt. Rich'd. Sackett at North castle state New York for a term of nine months our 1st Lieutenant was William Mozur 2^d Lieut. Nathaneal Tucker [Nathaniel Tucker] during this term Capt. Sackett was taken prisoner [26 Dec 1781] with about thirty of his men in Harrisons purchase by the Reffugees commanded by a Colon'l. Homes our three Sergants was Jones – Slater and myselfe – in the Spring of 1781 I again enlisted for the term of six months William Mozur & Nathaneal Tucker was again my Lieutenants Capt. Sackett was here occasionally we were sometimes under the direction of Major [David] Hobby but commanded by Colon'l. Thomas before the expiration of this term of six months there was a ceassation of arms I was pilot to the french troops and our new levies [draftees] as they came on during the last three terms of duty when I was not employed as pilot I discharged the duty of a Sergeant for which I got Sergants pay and the principle part of my employment when I was not piloting was in drilling the new recrutes I was in the lines during the principle part of six years excepting short intervals which was principley in the winter season I was born in the state of Conneticut about ½ mile from Kings Street on birom river [sic: Byram River] in August 1759 I have no record of my age but what my parants told me – When I volunteered my first years service I lived in the State of New York West chester County. After the Revolutionary war perhaps four or five years I removed to Virginia Ohio County in 1790 where I have remained ever since, and I am now seventy three years of age agreeable to my calculations the

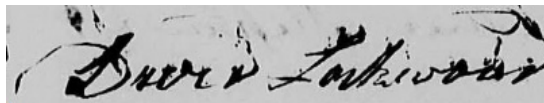
above statements are correct so far as my recollection serves me if there is any inaccuracies it may be in the dates or misplacing my officers As to the services I never can forget Lieutenant Danneal Dellivan now known by General Dellivan can testify as to my service in 1778 also David Lockwood to the same term I do not recollect of getting a written discharge & if I ever did I know nothing of it I can recollect of [several illegible words] us our time was up or we were discharged. we would get our pay some time which we some times did & some times did not but we still got when there was any I do hereby relinquish every claim whatsoever to any pension or any annuity except the present and declares that my name is not on the pension roll of any Agency in any state sworn to and subscribed this fourth day of September 1832 Jonathan hisXmark Purdy

Ohio County to Wit

David Lockwood personally appeared before me John Parriott one of the Justices of the peace for said county in the state of Virginia and after being duly sworn according to Law stated that he became acquainted with Jonathan Purdy in the year of 1778 that the said Purdy was then a soldier in the revolution enlisted for one year under Capt. Richard Sacket, Lieutenants Frederic Stephens, Right Carpenter the regiment was commanded by Col. Morris Graham our Term of service commenced on the first of april 1778 we joined the army at the White Plains in West Chester County New York in the fall following. I was called in to other service and left the Regiment in which said Purdy was in and did not see him till the winter following. I was not after that time in the same service with the said Purdy but always understood and believe that the said Purdy was a considerable time in the army after our separation and during the ballance of the revolution.

I have been acquainted with the said Purdy ever since the revolution and now reside near him, and take great pleasure in stating that I have no hesitation in saying that he has always supported an honest upright and gentlemanly character.

Sworn to before me this 4th day of September 1832.



Ohio County to wit

Personally appeared before me John Parrott the undersigned a Justice of the peace for said county in the state of Virginia Jonathan Purdy 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 ten months as a private soldier for one year and five months I served as a second Sergeant and for such service I claim a pension

Given under my hand and seal this 27th day of June 1833 Jonathan hisXmark Purdy

[On 5 Aug 1833 Jonathan Purdy was issued a certificate for a pension of \$80 per year for at least two years service.]

[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 to the pension application of David W. Sleeth S6111.]

Jonathan Purdy – Served two years. New York Troops

I the undersigned Jonathan Purdy aged 76 or 77 years next August in pursuance of the requisitions of the Secretary of War, give the following narrative of my Services as a soldier in the war of the Revolutionary war to Wit. I am a native of Connecticut – lived during the war of the Revolution at White Plains Westchester county New York. I moved from that place to this county forty four years ago. – In the year 1776 (as well as I can now recollect I volunteered in company called “the night rangers” commanded by Capt Jonathan Horton Paulding – this company was billeted out almost every night,

watching roads ketching Tories and intercepting Cattle Horses and provisions going down to the British army then at the city of New York. – the service was done in the night time, in the day time the soldiers were permitted to go where they pleased within prescribed limits. – on separating in the morning we were notified by the officers where to meet on the next succeeding evening – our operations in this way were in the vicinity of North Castle & the manner. – I was in actual service this term 3 or 4 months. I can't now recollect which but I am positive that it was not less than three months. we furnished our own arms and provisions – after the war was over I got a certificate entitling me to compensation for my services but whether that certificate included the service above detailed I can't now recollect. in this term of service which was done in the winter season, we had an engagement with a band of Tories near the White Plains 25 in number, we killed and took prisoners the whole band except one the Pilot for which a \$100 reward was then offered.

In the next succeeding summer (I think 1777) I enlisted at North Castle for twelve months. was marched under Capt. Richard Sackett to the City of New York and was attached (I think) to Gen'l. Scott's [John Morin Scott's] Division but of this I am not positive – my company with others were put to work making fascine batteries, and remained thus employed for perhaps about two months, when we were removed up the River to a place called "Tuckahoe" and from there to Fort Independence. we were engaged sometime at the latter place at work on the fort. from the Fort last mentioned we were marched to White Plains – the British army had been pursuing us from place to place. came up to us at White Plains and made an attack upon us or rather upon the left wing of the American army which was driven from Chatterton Hill by the British troops with great loss to themselves. I belonged to the right wing and therefore was not in the engagement. the American army retreated from White Plains to Mount Misery. the British did not pursue us but went over into Jersey. the American army and Gen'l Washington pursued the British army through Jersey. myself with others were detailed "to go to North Castle" to copper the Hogsheads & Barrels. our stores were at that place and I was a cooper by trade. I remained at North Castle cooping for about a month. after finishing the cooping I remained at same place as one of the Guard until my enlistment of one year expired. I belonged to Col Morris Grahams Reg. – Gen'l Washington commanded at White Plains when the attack aforesaid was made by the British. General McDowall commanded the left wing. I furnished my own arms, but drew pay & rations. I proved this tour of duty by the affidavit of Col. Daniel Dilevan of Newgate. he was my Lieutenant during the foregoing tour. his affidavit was transmitted with my Declaration.

It was in the next succeeding season (as well as I can now recollect) I enlisted again under the same Capt Richard Sackett for nine months. I was enlisted at North Castle the company remained in the neighborhood of that place ranging and scouting about and keeping guard under the direction of Col. Thomas Thomas. we were in actual service for the whole nine months. drew ration and received pay in the manner before stated.

In the season next succeeding the one last above mentioned I enlisted again under the same Capt. Richard Sackett for nine months – our company was in this tour occupying the same station and doing the service as detailed in the last preceding tour under the Direction of the same Col. Thomas Thomas. was in service this tour nine months.

In the next succeeding season I enlisted again at same place for nine months. was stationed at same places. and done same kind of service last above mentioned – on this occasion I was under the command of Lt Moshan, Capt. Richard Sackett commanded the company – but he was with us only occasionally. we were still under direction of Col Thomas.

about the end of the war, I done 3 months services under Capt Hunt at same place above mentioned. I know nothing of Col. Hand or Capt. Ogle and can't say why their names are given in my Declaration If indeed they are given. [See endnote.] I can't now tell the years in which I was in service. – the whole amount of my services amounted to four years & two months to the best of my recollection. Walter Gray wrote my Declaration to whom I gave the same narrative in substance now given. of this however I will not be positive because my memory has been and is still failing. I paid nothing to Gray. In Witness of all which I hereto subscribe my name. June 30, 1835. Jonathan his Xmark Purdy

Witness/ Nathan Goff/ William Wilson A true copy W. G. Singleton

Note. So far as I was able to ascertain this man sustains a fair character. It seems to me from his own statement that he served two long at the same place and under the same Captain "Sacket" his services were continuous according to his statement. this is somewhat unusual W. G Singleton

NOTE: Col. Hand and Capt. Ogle are not mentioned in Purdy's declaration, but they are in the declaration of Robert Pyeatt (S8987), suggesting that Singleton had the two confused.