

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of John Woodson S6434

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 13 Aug 2014.

Virginia Hanover County SS

On this 23^d day of October 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the court of the county aforesaid now sitting, John Woodson a resident of said county and state of Virginia, aged sixty nine 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 7, 1832

That he was drafted into the service of the United States in the Militia of the County of Goochland and state of Virginia in the Winter of 1779-80. was a Sergeant in the company of Wm. Miller [William A. Miller] and served one month at the Albemarle Barracks guarding the British prisoners of war [captured by Gen. Horatio Gates at Saratoga NY, 17 Oct 1777]. that there was a Regiment of regulars there under Colo [Francis] Taylor and but one company of Militia from Goochland. That in the spring of the year 1780 he was again drafted, belonged to Capt. [Edmund] Curd's company and was a sergeant. was marched from Goochland in May to Hillsborough [NC] and then he was made an Ensign of the same Company. That after remaining a month at Hillsborough under General [Edward] Stevens he was marched to the south with the intention of relieving Charleston and at Rugeley's Mills joined Gates on the 15th of August That there they heard of the fall of Charleston [see endnote] and of the union of Lords Cornwallis and [Francis] Rawdon and that they were at [sic: marching toward] Camden with the intention of surprising the Army. That about dark [10 PM] the army was put in motion with empty guns and had marched to within a mile [sic: 8 miles] of Camden when he heard the hail of the piquets answered by the enemy's piquete. That the line was formed and on their arms till day [16 Aug 1780]. That the line was formed in a thin pine wood and he was in the front in the center of the virginia line and bore the colors of the Regiment that they were ordered not to fire till they saw the whites of the enemys eyes. The enemy fired at the distance of 150 yards and the man on his right was killed by the first fire. The Army immediately fired and fell into disorder, and that Colo. [Joseph] Spencer first broke the line. that when he found the army was broke, he unloosed the colors put them into his bosom seized the musquet of his dead neighbour, and retired. Soon found another musquette and carried them of the field. met Major Hardiman [sic: Henry Hardman] and Captain Gatewood [possibly William Gatewood of the Essex County VA Militia]. collected some of the fugitives each day and the two musquettes he carried off were the only arms in the party. that they marched through the woods a northerly direction and reached Hillsborough in September. that at Cambden he saw Gen'l Gates & Stevens and Colos. Spencer [James] Lucas and Faulkner[sic: Ralph Falkner] of the Militia and the Regular troops under Gates. that they were ordered from Hillsborough to New Garden to wait till the army was reorganised. the troops from Goochland were brought back to that place and that he was discharged from that place. That he served a fortnight in this tour as Sargeant and six months as Ensign. that Lucas was Colonel and [Nathaniel G.] Morris Major and [Rawleigh] Downman Lie't Col. that the winter following he became a member of the Volunteer Cavalry from Goochland and the adjoining counties under Capt Pleasants and was Cornet, was marched through Richmond to Williamsburg, served in that neighbourhood in protecting the country from [Gen. Benedict] Arnold then [Jan 1781] in the River. Returned to Richmond and was then discharged after two months service. that he saw no regulars, no militia except his own company and was in no battle. That in the same year, when Cornwallis invaded the State [May], he was again called into service with the whole Militia of the county and was an Ensign in the company of Capt [Edward] Duke. that he joined the army under Lafayette and served constantly in the army till the capitulation [surrender of Cornwallis, 19 Oct 1781] making at least six months, marched from Richmond under Lafayette in pursuit of the enemy through Hanover Spotsylvania and Louisa counties, and when the enemy returned towards Richmond he again marched into the lower counties and followed the enemy at the distance of 10 or 12 miles. that he continued in the pursuit of the enemy to Williamsburg and finally

to York. that he was in no considerable battle but in several skirmishes. That Colo Richardson [Holt Richeson] commanded the regiment. that he remembers Colo. Stublefield [sic: George Stubblefield] Colo [Charles] Dabney, Gen'ls Stevens [Anthony] Wayne Lafayette and was overtaken by Washington near Williamsburg, and commanded the company to dress when he came up, and afterwards was acquainted with him at York by means of his father [possibly John Woodson, Sr], before a member of the assembly [House of Burgesses] with Washington, and remembers no Regular troops in particular. that at York he was employed raising entrenchments and was in the entrenchments when the white flag first hoisted that he witnessed the capitulation and was immediately ordered to Trebell's landing [on James River 6 mi W of Yorktown] to put on board some canon. and that he was marched to Williamsburg and there discharged. That he was born in Goochland and emmigrated into Hanover in 1785 that he received commissions but never preserved them, and has no documentary evidence. that David Royster [pension application S11327], Archy Pleasants [Archibald Pleasants S5939], James Pleasants Esq'r. Ezekiel Perkins [S5905] can testify to part of his service, and that to his volunteer service he can procure no testimony and that he would refer to James Pleasants Esq'r Philip Woodson Col. Charles Goodall and Mr Mathew Wilber for his character.

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

Question 1st Where and in what year were you born?

In 1763 29th Feb'y [sic] in Goochland Cty Va.

2^d Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

I have none

3^d. Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the revolutionary war and where do you now live?

I was living in Goochland when called into service and have lived since 1785 in Hanover.

4. How were you called into service; were you drafted, did you volunteer or were you a substitute? and if a substitute for whom?

I was drafted except the one time in the Cavalry when I volunteered.

5. State the names of some of the regular officers, who were with the troops where you served, such continental and militia Regiments as you can recollect, and the general circumstances of your service.

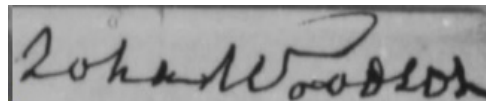
Answered satisfactorily

6. Did you ever receive a commission, and if so by whom was it signed and what has become of it? I had commissions signed by Colo Richardson Colo Dabney and Colo. Morris

7. State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighbourhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief of your services as a soldier of the Revolution.

Mathew Wilber and Colo Goodall.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.



NOTES:

By the time of the Battle of Camden on 16 Aug 1780 it was general knowledge that Charleston SC had capitulated on the previous 12 May.

Woodson was apparently not properly commissioned as Ensign. He was pensioned for service as a Private and Sergeant.