

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Christopher Hand S6951

VA

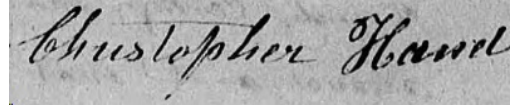
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 8 Sep 2014.

State of Virginia }
Monroe County } SS

On this 31st day of December 1832 personally appeared before me Jacob Johnson a Justice of the peace in and for the County of Monroe & state aforesaid Christopher Hand a resident of the said County & State aged upwards of 74 years, who being first duly sworn according to Law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefits of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832 that he entered the service of the Untied States under the following named officers and served as herein stated, that he was drafted in the month of January or February (as well as he now recollects) in the year 1781 to serve a tour of duty of six months in the army of the revolution as a Sergeant from the County of Augusta & state of Virginia (where he then resided) under Captain Stevenson [sic: John Stephenson] Lieutenant Smith of Staunton Va. & Col George Moffett; that the troops then drafted from the said County of Augusta rendezvoused at the Widow Teas's on Middle river in said County [sic: at present Waynesboro on South River] & marched from there through the counties of Albemarle, Fluvanna Goochland Henrico to Richmond & thence through the counties of Charles City James City to Williamsburg & thence crossing the James River to Norfolk, thence through the lower part of Virginia & North Carolina to Guilford Court House North Carolina where he & the Virginia Militia joined the regular army under the command of General [Nathanael] Greene, some short time before the battle of Guilford, which took place some time in the middle of the month of March 1781 [Guilford Courthouse, 15 Mar 1781]. He recollects that at that battle, in which he was, the Virginia militia were drawn up in line of battle in rear of the front rank and when the Brittish advanced it [the front rank, made up of North Carolina militiamen] fled, but the Virginians stood their ground & fought until their commander the brave General [Edward] Stevens ordered them to retreat. General Stevens was wounded in this engagement and afterwards died of his wounds [sic: see endnote]. He was well acquainted with General Stevens before he went to the army & knew him whilst in it before the battle. He recollects that after this battle the American army retreated to a place called Speedwell Iron Works not far from Guilford; and after making some short stay there, marched towards the state of Virginia and then marched back again to North & South Carolina. He does not recollect of being in any other important engagement, but at Guilford, but was in many skirmishes with the enemy. He has forgotten the names or numbers of the continental regiments or companies with whom he served, but as well as he now recollects their commander (whose name he does not recollect) at the battle of Guilford, was killed. He knew General Greene the Commander of the Southern army at that time; He was well acquainted as before stated, with General Stevens, who was a brave man. He has seen Col [Otho Holland] Williams & Col [Henry] Lee who belonged to the regular troops.

He served for the term of six months as first or Orderly Serjeant, and for two successive months afterwards, making the term of eight months in the said capacity. He was discharged as well as he now recollects) in the latter part of August or first of September 1781. His discharge was signed by Col. Moffett, which was burned when his house was burned in the County of Augusta Va. He had a record of his age in a bible of his Fathers but that was also burned when the house was. He has entirely forgotten in what year he was born, from that record. He was told when his parents emigrated to america, with him, that he was then about fifteen years of age, and that was some few years before the commencement of the revolutionary war; that he was born in Ireland. He returned from the army to Millers Ironworks in the said County of Augusta, where he hired to work & remained some years, & then removed to the County of Monroe, then [until 1799] called Greenbrier, where he has ever since resided, as does now reside. He has no documentary evidence, & knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service. He cannot state the reason why he was not discharged for two months after his term of

service expired, but this he recollects that Col Moffett called at the Generals quarters three several times before he obtained permission to discharge the troops under his command whose term of service had expired. He is known in his present neighborhood to Jacob Johnson Esq. Jacob Ellis William Ellis William Johnson James Tincher and others who can testify to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution. 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.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christopher Hand". The ink is dark and the paper appears aged.

[Drafts in the Virginia were generally limited by law to three months, but tours in the Guilford Courthouse campaign were often extended. The following amended declaration was submitted to answer objections by the Pension Office to the claim of a six-month tour.]

State of Virginia } SS.
Monroe County }

On this 12th day of August 1833 personally appeared before me Jacob Johnson a Justice of the peace in and for the County of Monroe aforesaid Christopher Hand a resident of the said County of Monroe and State aforesaid aged upwards of 74 years (being so aged and infirm as to be unable to attend the County Court of Monroe for the purpose of making this application) and 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 he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated: that he was drafted in the month of January or February (as well as he now recollects) in the year 1781 in the County of Augusta (where he then lived) under Captain Stevenson and Lieutenant Smith (who then lived in the town of Staunton) and Col George Moffett to serve a tour of duty of six months; that after being drafted as aforesaid he was appointed orderly or first Sergeant of said Company; that the said Company rendezvoused at the Widow Teas' on middle river in the said County of Augusta and marched from that place through the counties of Albemarle, Fluvanna Goochland Henrico to Richmond, and from there through the county of Charles City & James City to Williamsburg, thence they crossed the James river to Norfolk in Virginia; thence they with the militia then at Norfolk marched through the lower part of Virginia, and through North Carolina to Guilford Court House North Carolina where they joined the regular army under the command of General Greene some short time before the battle at that place which battle took place some time about the middle of March 1781 and in which he was. He remembers that when the enemy advanced the front rank fled, and left the Virginians (where he was fighting) exposed to the enemy's fire. They fought hard until they were ordered to retreat by General Stevens their brave Commander. They halted within about four or five miles of the battle ground and it was then known that General Stevens had been killed in the engagement. The American army retreated to a place called Speedwell Iron works not far from Guilford Court House, and after some short time marched towards Virginia, and afterwards returned through North Carolina to South Carolina where he continued to serve as Orderly Sergeant until he was discharged which took place about the last of August or first of September 1781 His discharge was signed by Col Maffett; having served faithfully the six months for which he was drafted and two months thereafter making in all the full term of Eight months. The reason of his not being discharged for two months after his tour expired he supposes to be because Col Maffett had no orders to discharge the men under his command sooner. He well recollects that Col. Maffett waited upon Gen. Greene three times before he had leave to discharge them. He was in no other general engagement during his term of service but as before stated, but was in several skirmishes with the enemy. He personally knew General Stevens his brave commander at Guilford & who was killed there, both before he entered the service and whilst in it until that time. He recollects that he saw Cols Lee & Williams who belonged to the regular troops, but he does not recollect the names or numbers of the Continental regiments or companies with whom he served. He thinks, their

commanded was also killed at the battle of Guilford. He was born he believes in the year 1758 in Ireland and came to America some few years before the commencement of the revolutionary war; he was then about fifteen years old. He had a record of his age in a bible, which together with his discharge were burnt when his house was burned in the County of Augusta: that after he returned from the army he hired to work at Millers Iron works in Augusta Va. where he lived some years and then he came to the county of Monroe where he has ever since resided and does now reside. He is known in his present neighborhood to Jacob Ellis William Ellis Jacob Johnson William Johnson James Tincher & others who can testify as to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution. He has no documentary evidence & knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service. He hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension or annuity whatever except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.

Christopher hisXmark Hand

NOTE: Gen. Edward Stevens was wounded in the thigh by a musket ball but continued to serve until the end of the war. He died on 17 Aug 1820.