

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of John Waggoner S7824

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia } SS.

Lewis County }

On this 7th day of August A.D. 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of Lewis County Court now sitting John Waggoner aged 80 years a resident of Lewis County in the State of Virginia 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 7th of June 1832. That he entered into the army of the United States under the following named officers and served as he states herein. He was born 14 miles from Philadelphia at a place called Whitmarsh in the year 1752 his parents removed to Virginia in what is now Hardy County, was drafted to go a tour in the Virginia militia under Captain John Harness, Major Carroll Van Meter [probably Garrett Vanmeter], Col. Riddle or Ruddle, marched to Big Beaver in the now State of Ohio, passed through a part of Pennsylvania, went to McIntosh's Fort [at the mouth of Beaver River at present Beaver PA], from thence to Tuscarawas [River in OH] and built a Fort there which was called Fort Laurens. He was permitted to return home at the end of tour 6 months & 15 days. He was discharged by the orderly Sergeant named Joseph Mall at a place called McIntosh's Fort. There were in this expedition about 2200 men. This was in the place now in Preston County Va. called Dunkard's Bottom on Cheat River [near present Kingwood WV]. He was then called into the service by a draft or some such requisition and marched to Prickett's Fort on the Monongalia or Mongahala river [on Monongahela River, now Fort Prickett State Park 4 mi NE of Fairmont] - there he was kept for six months as an Indian Spie, his Captain's name was Owen Davey, his Col. was Col. Charles Martin - returned home having been discharged by his Captain Owen Davy. He was then in the Spring of 1781 drafted to go a tour of duty as a Militia man. He marched to Richmond, then retreated up the country before the British then returned went to Williamsburg, thence to York Town in Va. where he was in the battle [Siege of Yorktown, 28 Sept - 19 Oct] and at the capture of Lord Cornwallis. his officers were Capt. John or Thomas Neal, Col. Lewis, Gen'l. Stephens or Stevens (He thinks Edward Stevens) He went from York Town to a place 4 miles from Winchester in Va. with the prisoners taken at Yorktown, he guarded them three months and received his discharge from Capt. Neal, having been in the service this tour not less than nine months, returned home - Then removed to the place where he now lives, this was in the Fall of 1782 as he now recollects he then enlisted as an Indian Spie under Edward Freeman and served three months the term for which he enlisted, received his discharge - Then was ordered out under orders of Col. William Lowther to guard frontier, was stationed at West's Fort for a while, then went out as a Spie was gone eleven days. The Indians killed his comrade John Bonnett. He continued as a Spie on ranging and scouting parties until about the middle of May 1792. The celebrated Tecumseh with a party of Indians came to his house on a branch of Hackers Creek where he yet lives. Tecumseh sent the other Indians to the house and fired at John Waggoner himself this affiant; the ball passed through his sleeve without injuring him. Tecumseh dropped his gun and ran after him Waggoner but could not catch him, they killed his small son in the yard and scalped him took his wife and six other children prisoners started and about a mile from the house one of the children was found with its brains beaten out and scalped a short distance further on was found Mrs. Waggoner and two others children were found dreadfully mangled and scalped and dead. One of his captive sons (Peter) was recognized in 1812 among the savages by an acquaintance of John Waggoners and brought in and still stays home is now married although he had a wife a wife and several children amongst the Indians, one of his daughters soon escaped by way of Detroit, the other continued in captivity till the treaty with the Indians when she was given up by them. His discharges were all destroyed in the general destruction of his property by the Indians. He has therefore no documentary evidence of his services during the Revolutionary nor of his subsequent services. It may be that he can prove his services under Captain Freeman by Alexander West [pension application W6450] and David W. Sleeth [S6111]. 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.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

John hisXmark Waggoner

The said John Waggoner being interrogated by the Court in the manner prescribed by the War Department answered the several interrogatories propounded by that Department as follows.

1st. I was born in the year 1752 at a place called White Marsh about 14 miles from Philadelphia in the State of Pennsylvania according to accounts of my parents.

2^d. I have no record of my age.

3 I lived when first called into service in that part Virginia called Hardy County, I think it was then Hampshire County.

4th. I was drafted each campaign until the one under Captain Freeman. I then enlisted as a Spie. I served in all not less than twenty five months during the war.

5th. I can remember General [Lachlan] McIntosh, his first name I never knew. I knew Col. [John] Gibson too, this was in my first campaign. We left Col. Gibson at Fort Laurens which we built on the bank of Tuscarawa [Tuscarawas] river. In my second campaign I knew my own Col. & Col. David Morgan. He killed two Indians in this year and skinned and tanned their hides. The Indians were trying to capture two of Col. Morgan's children viz. Stephen about 16 years old and his daughter Sarah about 14 years old - Col. Morgan upwards of 60 years old. This was done in April 1779, as well as I can now recollect in the immediate neighborhood of Pricketts Fort about 12 or 14 miles above Morgantown. In my third campaign I knew, or rather I saw Gen'l. LaFayette, Gen'l. [Peter] Muhlenberg, Gen'l. Stevens, Gen'l. A. Wayne, Gen'l. [Benjamin] Lincoln and Gen'l. George Washington, General Lincoln marched the British Troops out to stack their arms. I saw and then heard the names of many other Field officers, whose names I have forgotten.

6th. I rec'd. four discharges all of them as I have already mentioned and were lost in the way I have stated when the Indians destroyed my family and property in 1792.

7. I know in my neighborhood John Mitchell [sic: John Mitchel, pension application S5761] a Methodist preacher an old man, Henry McWhorter [S7210] and Alexander West old man, William Powers [S18164] too an old man. They can all testify as to my veracity and their belief of my services as a soldier of the Revolution.

John hisXmark Waggoner

We John Mitchell a Clergyman residing in the County of Lewis and Mark Smith [S18594] residing in said County of Lewis and Alexander West residing in the said County of Lewis hereby certify that we are well acquainted with John Waggoner who has subscribed and sworn to the above declaration, that we believe him to be 80 years of age and that he is reputed and believed in the neighborhood where he resides to have been a soldier of the Revolution and we concur in that opinion. The said Alexander West moreover certify that they resided in this County at the time of the killing of the applicant's family as stated by him, we know it to be true we too are acquainted with his services as an Indian Spie but cannot say how long he served.

(signed) John Mitchell Clergyman

" Mark hisXmark Smith

" Alexander hisXmark West

[See endnote for an explanation of the following.]

John Waggoner aged 80. Serv'd. two years

Waggoner says he is 82 yrs old that he removed from the South Branch of Potomac & settled in Lewis County after the close of the revolutionary war. that he was in McIntosh campaign for 3½ mo. - was then a rainger for 3 months at the Mouth of West Fork. Col Martin commanded. - was at the capture of Cornwallis in this served 3 mo. marched from the South branch under Capt Neall. - in addition to others was seven or eight days in pursuit of tories. this is all the service he done during the Revolutionary War. after it closed he removed to Lewis County as before stated. after his removal had frequent scouts against the Indian & had five of his family murdered by them.

Johnson F. Neulan came to his (Waggoners) house, and told him that he was entitled to a Pension and wrote his declaration, which he swore to in open court. gave Neulan the same History of his Military services. that he has now given and swore to only such services as here

detailed. agreed to give Neulan the first draw and twenty dollars out of the third. he himself has only received \$100—

this statement of Waggoner was given in the Presence of the undersigned

Nathan Goff

A true copy from the original in my possessin

W. G Singleton

Waggoner is represented to an Honest man. that is his general character. - he is an Ignorant man.

Respectfully reported W. G Singleton Special agent.

July 1834.

Clarksburg May 12th 1835

J L Edwards }

Com'r of Pensions }

Sir I enclose you 2 more Declarations made in open Court before the Judge of the U Sates Court for the Western D. of Va - David Technall [sic: David Tichanal; see pension application S7727] of this [Harrison] County & John Waggoner's of Lewis County they were heretofore boath drawing pensions, and were stricken from the pension list because they were drawing to much, — you will discover that they are interlined, it was done by Mr Singleton & myself in Court before they were sworn to &c — [interlining not shown in the copy transcribed below] They each are no doubt entitled to what here they claim In haste yours Nathan Goff

State of Virginia } SS } on this the 8th day of April 1835 personally appeared in open
Harrisson County } } Court before Alexander Caldwell Judge of the United States Court
for the Western district of Virginia now setting in Clarksburg Harrisson County Virginia John
Waggoner of Lewis County and State aforesaid aged Eighty three 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 the 7th June 1832.

that he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated Viz that he was raised in the State of Virginia on the south branch of Potomac that he moved to the place where he now resides after the revolutionary war about the middle of said War (cant recollect the year) he was drafted for a tour of three months as a ranger marched from the South Branch Va under Captain Owen Davy to the mouth of the West fork Va camped there. three months had no fighting this tour. did not see our Col but understood his name was Martin don't recollect any of the other officers names was there discharged haveing served three months, & was in actual service all the time

after the above tour was drafted a tour of six months marched from the south Branch Va. to the mouth of Big beaver and there Joined General McIntosh; Regiment then marched to Tuscarara River Remained there some time was occupied in building a fort Fort Lawrence John Harness was our Captain. Reddle was our Colonel VanMetre our Major Served three & a half months in the above Campaign was in actual service all the time had no engagements this tour received a discharge and returned home to the south branch. soon after the above tour was Called out in Pursuit of the tories under Captain Parsons. Williams was our Major. was out & in actual service this tour Eight days. soon after the above tour, was drafted again for a tour of three months marched from the South Branch to Little York Virginia was in the battle of Corn Wallace defeat. CornWallace and his army was taken & the Prissoners brot up to the Barracks four miles from Winchester Was three months in actual service this tour Thomas Neal was our Captain Lewis our Col Stevens General this was all the service he done in the revolutionary war making in all nine months and twenty three days which time he was in actual service. after the close of the revolutionary war I moved to the place where I reside there had four of my Family murder by the Indians

has no record of his age. I lived on the South branch near Morefield [sic: Moorefield] when called into service. has lived in Lewis County where he now resides for the space of about fifty three years. was born in Pennsylvania he had a discharge for all his tours but his house was Plundered by the Indians who took all his papers off with them

John hisXmark Waggoner

We John Mitchell a Clergyman, and William Powers, residing in the neighbourhood of the above named John Waggoner and in Lewis County Va do hereby certify, that we are well acquainted with John Waggoner who has subscribed and sworn to the annexed declaration, that we believe him to be 83 years old, that is reputed and believed in the neighbourhood where he resides to have been a soldier of the Revaluation, and that we Concur in that opinion

[signed] John Mitchel

Wm Powers

Clarksburg June 23, 1835

Sir Your letter to Nathan Goff Esqr. of the 20th of May last on the subject of the application of David Tichanal & John Waggoner to be to be again placed upon the Pension Roll has been submitted to me. In reference to which I have to say, that during the spring term of the Federal court, these men brought their declarations to me. they were specially and particularly interrogated as to the service detailed by them respectively. after their Declarations were corrected and altered by myself, they were upon my motion [illegible word] to be certified. it will be seen that the corrections and interliniations are in my hand writing - these facts, together my previous examination of their cases for the purpose of ascertaining whether or not their was fraud - the neighbourhood opinion of their services & their general good character all combined satisfied me beyond all question and that they were fully entitled to Pensions — I am fully persuaded that they originally were imposed upon by their agents; that they never contemplated or designed to commit or perpetrate a fraud upon the goverment.

I will add that when Tichanal & Waggoner were informed that they were claiming more money than they were entitled to, they very readily gave confession of judgments for all the money drawn including interest — I presume that my reports on these cases state that the parties are honest. that they have over drawn &c.

from my recollection of Tichanals declaration I think that although he does not say how long he was in service when guarding the baggage of Genl Gates, yet he does say that he was in service on that occasion not less than a deffinate period named. If I be correct, is not this suffecently deffinate, provided the whole time stated entitles him to a pension.

of Waggoners Declaration I have no deffinate recollection. from my notes I [illegible word] that he claims for 3 tours, neither of which is a six months tour - but I repeat that Waggoner is an honest man, that he may be mistaken in the details. I however feel well satisfied that his Declaration contains the truth —

Mr. Goff says that you are not satisfied that Leonard Critzer [S9251] is entitled. I am somewhat surprised at it, because his statement was more satisfactory than any man I examined—

Very Respectfully your obt Svt W. G Singleton

J. L Edwards Esqr. Com'r. of Pensions Washington City.

Since the above was written I have received your letter enclosing Mr. Critzers certificate &c
June 25th 1835 Nathan Goff

NOTE: W. G. Singleton, a district attorney assisted by pension agent Nathan Goff, investigated a large number of fraudulent pension claims from Lewis and Harrison counties. For details, see pension application S6111 of David W. Sleeth. Sleeth, who certified part of Waggoner's service, appears to have certified several false claims. Johnson F. Neulan wrote several declarations that exaggerated applicants' service, then had the illiterate applicants made their marks. Although Singleton appears to have considered Waggoner guiltless, a letter in the file of Samuel Harbert (S15447) by his heirs' attorney includes the following: "Among those against whom the Government obtained Verdicts for the sum paid them, were, John Waggoner, Jacob Hyre [W7856], Joseph Kestor [S2690] and Aaron Holbert [S18028], and if I am correctly informed by the heirs of the soldiers, they were all subsequently restored to the Pension roll."