

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of David Work S7961 PA  
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

State of Virginia } Ss.  
County of Brooke }

On this 9<sup>th</sup> day of August in the year one thousand eight hundred and thirty three personally appeared before the subscriber, a Justice of the Court of Brooke County aforesaid (being a court of record) David Work, a resident of said County and State aged ninety years, who on account of bodily infirmity, I certify is unable to attend the court, 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 7<sup>th</sup> 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named Officers, and served as herein stated.

On the first day of July in the year 1776 declarant volunteered as a Militia man in Chambersburg in the county of Franklin and State of Pennsylvania, in the company commanded by Captain Conrod Snyder, John Crawford and James Young Lieutenants and Edward Crawford Ensign; our Majors name was [Andrew] Galbreath; from Chambersburg we marched through Carlisle to Philadelphia, thence through Trenton, Princetown [Princeton], and Brunswick to Amboy in the State of New Jersey, and at the latter place joined part of the American Army; the Hessians were then on the opposite side of the river, on Staten Island. (the flux at this time raged to some extent in the American Army) After remaining at Amboy one month (Declarant having then served two months as a Volunteer militia man, he on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of September 1776 enlisted in the Flying camp, under the above named Officers, who also joined that corps. General [James] Ewing, commanded, and General [Hugh] Mercer was also there. Our troops were then marched to Hakensack [sic: Hackensack], and thence to Fort Lee, on the North River, where was Genl. [Charles] Lee and part of the American Army. Declarant remained at Fort Lee, as well as he can recollect, about two months, where he saw Cols. Soap, Ball, Stevenson and Watt, and several other Officers – and was then ordered with part of the army to cross the North river to Fort Washington, on York Island [Manhattan Island]; the enemy was then at Kings bridge, or Harleam [sic: Harlem], at the upper end of York Island; Col. [Robert] McGaw had the command at Fort Washington; this declarant understood that at the time Genl. Washington wrote to Col. McGaw to vacate the fort, if he thought the issue of the conflict doubtful, but the Col. answered that he would fight it out. Declarant remained at Fort Washington eight or ten days, when the British attacked the American troops, and Declarant with many others were taken prisoners; this was in the middle of November 1776 [16 Nov 1776]. The American prisoners were confined in a Sugar house, in New York, where they suffered the most extreme hardships, from unwholesome food, filth, vermine and disease and at times, almost starvation; for at one time they were three days destitute of provisions. this Declarant, to the best of his recollection, was a prisoner Seven Weeks and three days, when he was liberated on his parole, with the other prisoners.

Col. Atley, a Virginia, a gentleman of the most humane feelings, often visited the prisoners, and through his instrumentality, declarant thinks, an exchange of prisoners took place; as it was understood, Col. Atley frequently entreated Genl. How [sic: William Howe] to keep the Officers and liberate the privates, otherwise they would all die from the wretchedness of their condition. After being liberated, Declarant returned to Philadelphia, and on the 16<sup>th</sup> of January 1777 (as well as he can at present recollect) was discharged by Col. Watt, having served on this enlistment four months and sixteen days. The discharge so received together with his pay, declarant lost in a fit of derangement occasioned by his sufferings when a prissoner confined in the Sugar house. And he was not at liberty to serve against the enemy, until an exchange of prisoners took place.

In the year 1779 [sic: 1781], month not remembered, Declarant was drafted in Franklin County in the State of Pennsylvania to serve in a campaign against the Indians, under the command of Col. Young, his former Lieutenant in the Flying Camp. this service was performed in the neighbourhood of

Frankstown and the Standing Rock, on the Juniatta river in Pennsylvania [sic: Standing Stone, now Huntingdon on Juniata River]. Gen'l. [John] Sullivan commanded the Troops then in that part of the country; the Indians attacked us and 17 out of 32 of the company from Bedford were killed [3 Jun 1781]. Declarant served two months on this last mentioned tour of duty, and was discharged by Colonel Young, but which discharge is lost.

Declarant therefore claims a pension for having served Eight months and a half, as a private, in the war of the revolution, namely, two months as a Volunteer Militia man; four months and sixteen days in service and a prisoner in the Flying Camp, and two months as a drafted Militia man.

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.

The Interrogatories ordered by the War Department were put to Declarant, and answered as follows:

1<sup>st</sup> Where and in what year were you born?

Answer. I was born in the county of Derry and Kingdom of Ireland in the year one Thousand seven hundred and forty three

2<sup>nd</sup> Have you any record of your age; and if so where is it?

Answer. I have no record of my age, and know it only from what my parents informed me before I left Ireland and believe the fact.

3<sup>rd</sup> Where were you living when called into service; where have you lived since the revolutionary war, and where do you now live?

Answer. When called into service I lived in the county of Franklin then a part of Cumberland County and State of Pennsylvania. Since the war of the revolution I have lived where I now live in the County of Brooke and State of Virginia

4<sup>th</sup> How were you called into service; were you drafted, did you volunteer, or were you a substitute? And if a substitute, for whom?

Answer. I was a Volunteer – and enlisted soldier in the flying camp, and served a tour as a drafted Militia man, as stated in my declaration above.

5<sup>th</sup> State the names of some of the regular officers &c?

Answer. This question is answered in my declaration, as well as my present memory serves me.

6<sup>th</sup> Did you ever receive a discharge &c.

Answer. This is fully answered in my said declaration.

7<sup>th</sup> State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighbourhood, and who can testify to your character for veracity, and their belief of your services as a Soldier of the revolution.

Answer I am well acquainted with many persons in this neighborhood and will particularly mention the Rev'd John Hales and Thomas Bambrick

And the said Declarant further states, that having lost his discharged as above stated, he has no documentary evidence; and that he knows of no person, whose testimony he can procure, who can testify to his service.

Sworn to, and subscribed, the day and year aforesaid, Before me  
David Pugh

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[On 29 Oct 1833 David Work was issued a certificate for a pension of \$28 per year for eight and one-half months service.]

[The following note is by US District Attorney Washington G. Singleton as part of his investigation of hundreds of pension applications from present West Virginia. For details see my appendix to the pension application of David W. Sleeth S6111. Singleton was in Brooke County in July 1835.]

David Work – died September 2 1834.

Simeon Woodroe [Simeon Woodrow, pension application W3910] – is dead. W G Singleton

NOTES:

The appalling conditions of the Sugar House Prison, where Work and some 2800 others were confined after the defeat at Fort Washington, are described by Thomas Stone in Dandridge, D. *American Prisoners of the Revolution*. Charlottesville VA: Michie, 1911.