

[Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters](#)

Pension Application of Reuben Cave S8140

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 31 Mar 2015.

[From [Library of Virginia Legislative Petitions Digital Collection](#)/ Shenandoah County]

Reuben Cave aged seventy six years personally appeared in open Court who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the provision made by the acts of Congress of the 18<sup>th</sup> of March 1818 & the 1<sup>st</sup> of May 1820 that he the said Reuben Cave enlisted for the term of three years some time in the fall of the year 1776 the time not exactly recollected in the state of virginia in the company commanded by Capt George Stubblefield [see endnote] in the regiment commanded by Colo. [Charles] Dabney (called the second reg't) in the line of the State of Virginia on continental establishment [sic], that he continued to serve in the said corps for the full term of the said three years for which he enlisted when he was discharged in the State of Delaware shortly after the battle at Brandywine [sic: 11 Sep 1777]. That he afterward took the place of Emanuel Driver[?] for the term of one year in the company commanded by the said Capt. George Stubblefield, and the same regiment in which he first enlisted and continued to serve in the said regiment for the term of one year and upwards untill he was regularly discharge in Richmond Virginia that he was in the battle of Brandywine, Germantown [4 Oct 1777] and Monmouth [28 Jun 1778], and that he has no other evidence now in his possession except the evidence of Peter Stivers [pension application S41200] and in pursuance of the act of the 1<sup>st</sup> of May 1820, I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift sale or in any manner disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions of an act of Congress entitled "an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War" passed on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 1818 and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property or securities contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the Schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed, that he has no occupation other than that of a laborer but in consequence of age and infirmity am unable to pursue it. I have a wife named Frances aged about 66 years of age who is unable to contribute much in supporting a family I have one daughter living with me about nineteen years of age.

A list of Property of Reuben Cave

Ten hogs two weeding hoes one mattock two axes one shovel plough one set of horse geer one shot gun one flax wheel one check reel one cotton wheel two pair of cards one bed and furniture and twelve pounds of Feathers three bedsteads one chest one frying pan one oven and eight pound and three quarters of spun cotton and eight pound of woolen yarn sixteen earthen plates fourteen cups one coffee pot one dipper one strainer 2 sugar boxed 4 mugs 3 bowls seven teacups 3 jugs one tea pot one cream Jug one Can-canister 2 Jugs 2 buckets 3 dishes ten knives and seven forks one looking glass 3 bottles nine tea cups and saucers two pitchers 2 large jugs 2 mugs one cream jug 2 glass tumblers one table 2 milk crocks one grid iron on smoothing iron four tubs and one washing tub and one iron kettle five chairs one bell and sickle on pair of pot hooks one iron wedge twelve fonts[?] one tin [undeciphered word] one grindstone

This personally appeared Reuben Cave before me Peter Hay an acting magistrate for the County of Shenandoah and made oath that the above contained a true list of all his property now in his possession Given under my hand and seal this twenty second day of August 1820 Peter Hay

Rec'd 19 Sep 1820

Inadmissible. Not on Continental establishment.

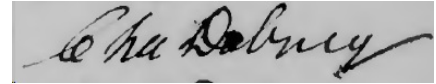
Orange County to wit

Personally appeared before me a Justice of the peace for the County aforesaid Peter Stivers and maid oath that some time about the Commencement of the Revolutionary war that Reben Cave at the Taven of Rowland Thomas in Orange County Inlisted a regular soldier in the Second Virginia Redgment on Contineltal Establishment. Inlisted by Capt George Stubberfield a Recruiting offiser Given under my hand this 18<sup>th</sup> September 1818

Thomas Coleman

Hanover Nov'r 2<sup>d</sup> 1821

From a conversation with Reubin Cave I believe he served as a private in the scond Virginia State Regiment in the company commanded by Capt. [John] McElhaney Cha Dabney/ Lt Col, 2<sup>d</sup> Virgina State Regmt.



[Capitalization partly corrected]

To the Honourable Senate and House of Delegates of virginia

Your petitioner Rubin Cave A native Born Citizen of the County of Culpepper [sic: Culpeper] and State of virginia But now of the County of Shennandoah & State aforsaid aged Eighty Eight years and upward (and my wife Sixty Eight years old) who sayeth that he the said Rubin cave enlisted for the Term of four years some Time in the year of 1776 the date not Recollected in the State of virginia in the County of Culpepper and state aforsaid in the Company Commanded by Captain George Stubblefield in the Redgement Commanded by Colo. Charles Dabney [pension application R13624] cald the 2nd Redgement That he continued to serve in the said Corps for the full Time I was Amediately marched to York Town in Va and shortly after we was taken on to Philadelphia thence from Philadelphia to the White Plains [NY] We was then marched from State to State from place to place through the northran and Estran stats till at length we met the enimy between Est River & north [sic: East River and North River] at Phips Mill whear we attakted the hessons and Defeated them [sic: Hessians at Philips's Mill, Battle of Trenton, 26 Dec 1776] then from thence to West Point forte the we marched to Jermantown whear we had a battle with the British we then joined Washingtons army on the Schuelkill [sic: Schuylkill River] then we had an ingagement with the British at vally forge [sic: see endnote]. also I defend my contry at the Battle of Brandywine To the last we shortly after was order on to North Carolina we then returned to Richmond Va when my time expired and I gote my discharge which I have lost many year a go at the Batle of Mud forte [Siege of Fort Mifflin on Mud Island, 10 Oct - 15 Nov 1777?] I was wounded there a cannon ball struck the forte near whar I stood and a large spall of the stone wall stuck my cheek bone just below my eye and mashed it verry much on the accation of which I was relieved from duty for some time and since I frequently have been afflicted with fits and do believe that to be the cause You will discover from my petition to the Secratary at ware my claims on my native is state substancate tho they could do nothing for me as Colonel Dabneys [Charles Dabney's] Regiment was not placed on the Continentle Establishment [see endnote] therefore beg leave that your honourable boddys will take into serious consideration and old Revolutionary Soldier of 76 and pass a law giving him some thing in advance as I am poore as you will see from my Scheduling and not able to mantain myself only by the helpe of my neighbours and ask of you a pention during my life and that of my wife with these considerations your petitioner will continue to pray Rubin hisXmark Cave

Test/ Jos [undeciphered]

Reuben Cave a Revolutionary soldier stated that he enlisted in 1776 in a Company Commanded by Capt. Geo. Stubblefield in 2<sup>d</sup> Virginia State Regiment, Commanded by Col. Charles Dabney in which he served 4 years

I will thank you to have an examination made for evidence of the above statement and if found to furnish me with a certificate thereof. Respectfully, Your obt. servant/ Wm. R. Almond  
Mr. Heath

Reuben Cave soldier of Infantry received a Certificate for the balance of his full pay dated 17 June 1783. £57.9.

Dec'r 7<sup>th</sup> 1826 ref'd to Claims

Wm. R. Almond

For a pension & for his present relief

1826

Dec'r 12 Rejected

16 Reported

Dec'r 29<sup>th</sup> recom'd. to Claims

1826 Dec'r 30 Reasonable so far as relates to himself so much as relates to his wife rejected

1827 Jan'y 1. Reported – Jan'y 4<sup>th</sup> Bill

[The following discharge is among the [bounty-warrant papers in the Library of Virginia](#). Note that the date of discharge does not agree with the declaration by the above Reuben Cave. It is possible that this is a different Reuben Cave, or that he reenlisted after being discharged on the date below.]

Reuben Cave a Soldier of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Virg'a. State Regt having serv'd Three years, the Term for which he was Enlisted is hereby Discharge the service. Given Under my Hand this 18<sup>th</sup> day Feb'y. 1780

W. Brent Colo. [William Brent]

The following are from the federal pension file.]

State of Virginia County of Page

On this [blank] day of November 1832 Personally appeared in open Court before, Dan Strickler, Jacob Strote, Dan. Blosser & John H. Roads Justices of the County Court of Page now sitting Reuben Cave a resident in said county of Page and State of Virginia aged Ninety four years, who being first duly sworn according to Law, doth on his Ooath make the following Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1932. That he entered the service of the United States under the following officers and served as herein stated

That he was a resident of the County of Spotsylvania and was bound to William Hutchison about 15 miles from Fredericksburg, and that I remained with him 2 years after my freedom, that I remained in the County as Overseer in the employment of Andrew Manun, Frank Coleman, and others up to the year 1776, and in that year there was a recruiting party at Capt. Roland Thomas's [Rowland Thomas] in Orange County about 12 miles from where I lived, I started there and enlisted under Captain George Stubbelfield in the State Regulars for the term of three years, and he sent me with some other soldiers under Serg't. Bob Plumer [Robert Plumer] to Williamsburg to be trained under a French Captain named William Clummer, who commanded the Artillery we then marched to York town where we remained about two months, we then marched to Valley Forge under the command of Col Charles Dabney from Henrico County of the State of Virginia 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment. I was now Commanded by Captain John Mucklehany from Loudon [sic: Loudoun County], Lieut Ja's. Helms [James Helms] & Ensign Edmondson, and Major [John] Lee, the whole commanded by Gen'l. Mullenburg [sic: Peter Muhlenberg], we then marched to New Windsor we were pursued from this place by the British and had like to loose our Baggage, we then retreated to the top of New Windsor mountain [NJ], we encamped here for 2 months from thence to Ramapo, where we took up winter quarters In the spring of 1777 I believe, we moved down East River near a place called the Red house, where we remained in that vicinity 6 months, from thence down the forks of East and North River, to the white plains, and while there we rec'd news that the Hessions were taken at Phillips Mills, at which time we were again ordered to Ramapo, we quartered there that Winter on half allowance, and retreated and advanced in that neighbourhood for 12 months – I was at the storming of Mud point Fort, under Capt Mucklehany, we took possession of the fort at the point of the Bayonet, at which place Dabney acted as our Colonel [see endnote]; some time after this our Regiment was ordered on to Virginia to Reinforce Gen'l. Wayne [Anthony Wayne, arrived

in Virginia June 1781], against Lord Corn Wallis [sic: Cornwallis], we then marched to Gifford Courthouse [sic: Guilford Courthouse] in North Carolina, and my term of enlistment having expired I rec'd. a discharge from Capt. Mucklehany countersigned by Col Charles Dabney, and my discharge I lost about two years after I quit the service, I have no Record of my Age but I counted from the date of my apprenticeship to the time of my Enlistment, and the different places where I lived in Spotsylvania after I was free to that time, which made me thirty seven or thirty eight years old, from that time I counted up to the Declaration of the War with England [1812], at which time I was too old for service, I was too old at the time of the Chesapeake affair [22 Jun 1807] before the late War, but thought we ought to fought the British then; my oldest son if now living would be upwards of 51 years old, all these prominent circumstances with the Age of my Wife, my marriage &c, confirms me in my mind that I am 94 years old. My Recollection is not so strong, as to enable me to name circumstances during the Revolutionary War as it was even some year back, when I made application to obtain a Pension under former laws, in which I was defeated for the want of sufficient proof; I am now old, and poor, and cannot read, or write, and I am suffering for many of the necessaries of life, some time after the Revolutionary War, I removed to Shenandoah County (now Page) 52 years ago; this county 2 years since [1831] was taken from Shenandoah County; My name will be found at the War Office in Washington if a Muster Roll was returned by either of the officers, which I have named; I cannot live long at any rate, and my Country may yet cheer my drooping spirits before I die.

I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a Pension or annuity except the present, and Declare that my name is not in the Pension roll of the Agency of any State

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid      Reuben hisXmarkCave

NOTE:

In 1776 George Stubblefield was a Captain in the 5<sup>th</sup> Virginia Continental Regiment. On 1 April 1777 he became Major in the 14<sup>th</sup> Virginia Continental Regiment. He was never in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment of the Virginia State Line.

There was no engagement at Valley Forge.

There was no such engagement at Mud Fort as described by Cave.

The court certification of Cave's 1832 application states that a bill had been passed in the House of Delegates for a pension for him, but it had failed in the Senate, which decided to grant pensions only to soldiers who had been wounded or disabled.

On 6 Feb 1838 Cave applied for a new pension certificate to replace one that was lost.