

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of John Greathouse S8630

PA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

Virginia towit

At a Court held for the County of Harrison the 19 day of May 1818 & 42<sup>nd</sup> year of the Commonwealth Present Samuel P Moore, Edward B Jackson, John Sommerville & Benjamin Robinson Gentlemen Justices Before the Court aforesaid personally appeared John Greathouse aged 60 years a resident of this County who being duely sworn according to Law upon his oath makes the folowing declaration in order to procure the provission of the late act of Congress entitled “an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and Naval forces of the united states in the revolutionary war.” That he the said John Greathouse enlisted in Bedford County State of Pennsylvania in the year 1777 in Captain Kilgores [David Kilgore’s] company of the 8 Pennsylvania regiment of Regulars commanded by Colo — & afterwards Commanded by Colo Broadhead [sic: Daniel Brodhead] that he continued to secure [sic: serve] in the same Corps for the Term of three years when he was discharged at Pittsburg in march 1780 and received the accompanying discharge, that he was in the battles of Brandywine [11 Sep 1777] Germantown [4 Oct 1777] & Paoli [21 Sep 1777] & that he is in reduced circumstances and stands in need of the assistance of his country for his support and that he has no other evidence in his power of his said services.

This is to Certify that The Bearer John Greatehouse Souldier in The 8 Pensilvany Ridgment in Captain Joseph Tinleys Company Haveing Inlisted For The Term of Three years Haveing Serveid His Time Trugh And Faithful As Becometh a Good Souldier is Here By Discharg A Cordinly Giveing Under My Hand at Fort Pitt This 14 Day of march 1780

To all Whome it may Concern

[signature faded]

State of Virginia }

Harrison county } Sct.

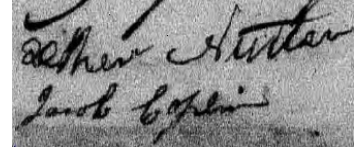
On this 16<sup>th</sup> day of June [1832], personally appeared open court, before the county court of the aforesaid county of Harrison, in the state aforesaid, now sitting John Greathouse, a resident on the waters of Elk creek in the aforesaid county, who being duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following statements, in order to obtain the benefit of the act of congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832, That he was placed on the pension roll, under the act of congress of March 18<sup>th</sup> 1818, and was not continued thereon because of the property owned and held by him, that he was in the war of the revolution an enlisted soldier in the continental troops, for the term of three years, served and was discharged regularly, & that his discharge was forwarded to the war department in order to [illegible word] having his name placed on the pension roll under the last mentioned act of congress, that he was in the 8<sup>th</sup> Reg’t. Pennsylvania, that when he was a pensioner he resided where he now does on the waters of Elk as aforesaid. And he does hereby renounce & relinquish every claim to a pension or annuity whatever except the present and declares that he is not a pensioner, and that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any of the United States.

Sworn to & subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

John hisXmark Greathouse

We Jacob Coplin and Christopher Nutter [pension application W5434] residing in the county of Harrison in Virginia, do certify, that we are well acquainted with John Greathouse, who has subscribed and sworn to the statements first above made, – that we believe him to have been in service as stated by him, that he is so considered in the neighborhood in which he resides, that he was on the pension roll as stated by him, and that his declaration is entitled to full faith & credit. Sworn & subscribed the day & year

aforesaid



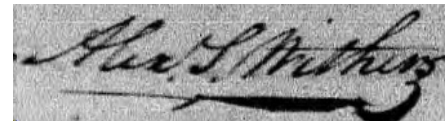
Clarksburg, Harrison County, Va/ August 20<sup>th</sup> 1832

Sir [His Excellency Lewis Cass, Sec. of War], I enclose the statement of John Greathouse, a soldier of the revolution, with the certificates annexed to it. Under the law of 18<sup>th</sup> March 1818, he was placed on the pension roll, and subsequently removed therefrom because of the amount of property held by him. the pension certificate then granted him was forwarded by me early last winter to the hon'ble P. Doddridge, by whom I believe it was handed to the department, over which you preside, and I presume, is yet there. A communication from Mr Edwards [James L. Edwards Pension Commissioner] to Mr. Doddridge, forwarded to me by the latter gentleman, shews it to have been then in your office. I presume there can be now no difficulty in having him placed on the pension roll of the U. S. under the recent act of congress, on this subject of granting relief to certain officers & soldiers in the war of the revolution. Should there be any, you will please apprize me of it by letter addressed to me at Warrenton, Fauquier county, Vir'ga where I expect to be and remain, after this week until the middle of next month; after the expiration of which period I shall be again here. The certificate of pension, if one be granted him, may be forwarded in like manner.

The erasure, occurring at the foot of his statement, was made because that Col. Martin, presiding justice of the court then sitting, erroneously affixed his name to it as evidence of his having administered to Greathouse the oath required to be taken, it was immediately discovered to be an error, and instantly corrected. When the papers were completed, they were entrusted to me by Mr. Greathouse, to have delivered at the department of War, under the impression that I should be in Washington early after. Circumstances have delayed my visit to the lower country till now, & I know not that I shall, while there, have leisure to be in the City. I consequently have thought it advisable to forward them by mail.

Respectfully/ yo. obt. srt.

[Alexander S. Withers; see endnote]



[The following report is by Washington G. Singleton, US District Attorney, who investigated hundreds of pension applicants from present West Virginia. For details see my appendix to the pension application of David W. Sleeth S6111. Singleton wrote "Entitled" on the report.]

John Great House. draws \$80

on July the 7th this Pensioner made the following Declaration – dont know his age, is an old man. he Enlisted in Bedford County (cant say in what year) but thinks it was the year before the Battle of Brandy Wine and Rendezvoued at Hannah town Pen. [sic: Hannastown PA] where several companies had gathered. his enlistment was for three years. marched from there to a Stockade Fort called Fort Catanin [probably Fort Kittanning]. remained there until cold weather when the whole army was ordered to the Jerseys. they took up the line of March and went on by Bedford little York and Lancaster. on getting within fifteen miles of Philadelphia he deserted in company with one Jno. Randum [John Random?] and returned home. – he marched in September and deserted about Christmas. – he gave himself up some time in the Spring following to one Capt. James Moore (with 15 other deserters) the captain took charge of us and marched us to Jersey Mount Pleasant & delivered us up to Col. Broadhead. he was then attached to the main army and to his former Regt. the 8<sup>th</sup> Pen. Reg't. he was then taken sick and was transported in a Baggage Waggon to a place called Black river. remained sick 3 months. Joined

the army again & marched to Philadelphia then up a fork of the Susquehannah river [sic: Susquehanna River] to guard the settlement whilst the people cut their Harvest. Joined the army again at Fort littleton[?] & marched on to Pittsburg from there went down the ohio river and aided in building Fort McIntosh [at present Beaver PA, begun September 1778]. then to Tuscarahas and aided in building Fort Lawrence [sic: Fort Laurens on Tuscarawas River near present Bolivar OH, begun 10 Nov 1778] and was then marched back to Philadelphia, then received his discharge having fully served out the time of his enlistment & two days for one for the time absent when he deserted.

while in service he was at the Battle of Brandy Wine Gen'l. [Anthony] Wayne commanded his Division – the Battle of german town. – his discharge is in Washington City. taken there by Genl. John E. Jackson. Jackson got him a pension under the old law – he was stricken off because he had property. A true copy

W. G Singleton/ Nov. 17, 1834

Clarksburg August 1<sup>st</sup> 1835

Sir [James L. Edwards] I have received your of 24<sup>th</sup> Ult on the subject of John Greathouse's pension. I examined Mr Greathouse and repoured to Mr Singleton, which is the same report made by Singleton to you, – Mr Greathouse is extreamly ignorant & simple, has not knowledge & sence to make a story and tell it, – When I took his statement, I took much paines in examining him, and cross examiniing him, – I was fully convinced he had done the servises he represented to have done, – I did not take down his whole story, only so much as I thought nessary – he give me in his simple stile a ful statement of his desertion, and also stated, he had give the same statement to his agent, who got him placed on the pension roll, – I suppose his agent left that part our, feraring it would prejudice his claime, – The old man lives some distance from Town & is to feeble to come in, – I have not time to go out, for an explanation for him.

I have not one doubt on the subject, – he certainly is entiteled to a pension & I hope he will be replaced  
your ob't se't/ Nathan Goff

NOTES:

Alexander Scott Withers was author of *Chronicles of Border Warfare*, a history of Indian warfare in what is now West Virginia, first published in 1831.

Greathouse's 1832 application was successful even though it was standard policy to reject the claim of any soldier who had deserted.