

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Pledger S8676

f17VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

10/27/12

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading fails to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Virginia Southampton County: Sct.

On this 17th day of September 1832 personally appeared in Open Court before the Justices of the Court of Southampton now sitting John Pledger a Resident of the County of Northampton in the State of North Carolina aged seventy-five 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 June 7, 1832.

That he enlisted as a volunteer in the militia under the command of Captain Edwin Gray from the County of Southampton in the State of Virginia in the year 1776 and marched under the command of said Gray to Williamsburg, and was discharged in thirty or forty days. That he afterwards volunteered under the command of Captain Henry Taylor from the County of Southampton that he marched to Norfolk and was under the command of said Taylor as his Captain when Norfolk was burned by the English, who commenced burning the town, and after they had commenced the Americans fired it. That he served under the command of Captain Shadrach Lewis from the said County and also under the command of Colonel Benjamin Blunt of the said County of Southampton. That he was frequently called out during the War, in the Militia and volunteered twice as above stated but he is unable to state the particular periods when he entered the Service. He is confident that he served more than two years as a militia man during the War. That he was stationed once at the great bridge once at Norfolk once at Williamsburg, once at Fort Petersburg and once on the Banks of James River while he was under the command of Captain Henry Taylor. That he was also stationed at Williamsburg while under the command of Captain Edwin Gray. That he was afterwards placed under the command of Captain Cummings of the Regular Army under whose command he was stationed in the County of Nansemond, at McKey's Mills [Mackey's Mills?] and that Major Decloman [Christian Charles de Klauman] was Commandant at that place. That he then resided in the County of Southampton afterward and always entered the service from that County. That he marched through the Counties of Southampton, Isle of Wight, Nansemond, Princess Ann, Surry ~~Charles City~~, and Charles City – That he never had any written discharge, and was in no other engagement but the one at the burning of Norfolk. That he knows of no one now living but Mr. Elias Love¹ & John H Pond² who know of his being in the Service – he was the first who marched from the County at the commencement of hostilities under the command of Captain Edwin Gray and arrived at Williamsburg just after Lord Dunmore quitted that place. The annexed certificate will sustain the declarations of the petitioner.

¹ [Elias Love S18092](#)

² FPA S18165

Sworn to and subscribed in open Court

S/ John Pledger, X his mark

This day personally appeared before the court of Southampton in open court John Hankins Pond of the County of aforesaid and being duly sworn according to law deposeth that he was in service with John Pledger the within named applicant at Williamsburg & other places & believes the declaration of said Pledger contains the truth so far as stated given under his hand &c this 17th of September 1832

S/ John H. Pond



Virginia Southampton County to wit

This day personally appeared before us __two of the Justices of the Peace for the County aforesaid, Elias Love of the said County and being duly sworn deposeth and saith – That he was in several tours of duty with the said John Pledger during the Revolutionary War, and that he has heard the within Declaration read and believes it to contain a true statement of the said John Pledger's Services so far as stated by the said Pledger.

Given under our hands and seals this __ day of __ 1832

[signatures are too faint to discern]

[Simon Murfee, a clergyman, and John H Pond gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

The amended declaration of John Pledger to the Question (negatived) did the declarant make the declaration in the County where he resides, in explanation says that he now resides in Northampton County North Carolina and came over to Virginia to make his declaration because he thought it must be done in the state he served from & for the purpose of obtaining the certificate of Mr. Pond with whom he served in the revolution – it is impossible for him to state on oath with more precision the particular periods of the war at which he served he could repeat many minute and trifling occurrences which he is advised would have no weight in this matter – having kept no account and of course speaking from memory it is impossible for him to state the exact length of his service at different tours in the revolution but is sure that he served more than two years and always as a private soldier either as a drafted militia man or as a volunteer. He hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state sworn to and subscribed this 12th of June 1833 before me a Justice of the Peace for the County of Southampton

S/ John Pledger, X his mark

S/ Benj. Griffin

Objections to interrogatories No. 1, 2 & part of 3.

The declarant was born 22nd of February 1757

—
has a record of his age at home (in Northampton County State of North Carolina)

—
was living in South Hampton County state of Virginia when he entered as a volunteer under Captain Gray has lived part of the time since the revolution in Virginia, a part in Kentucky and is now living in North Carolina, Northampton County –

S/ John Pledger, X his mark

Statement of John Pledger's services during the Revolution a private Militia man

Names of officers under whom he served	Place where service was performed & with what Corps	By what authority called into service	In field or Garrison & whether for the time in any civil pursuit	duration of each Term of engagement
Captain Edwin Gray	Williamsburg, Virginia the Corps not recollected	volunteered as a minute man	In the field in and near Williamsburg no civil pursuit	to the best of his recollection 3 or 4 weeks
Captain Henry Taylor	Norfolk the great Bridge, thence to Kemps landing & thence to Norfolk, Virginia	Same as above	Part in the field & part in the Barracks at Norfolk	Called out for six months & thinks he remained in service that time six months
Captain Shadrach Lewis & to the best of his recollection under Major Duval	Babs old field [Babbs old field] near Smithville Virginia general Muhlenberg	Called out as the first division of Southampton County Virginia militia for 6 weeks	In the field two tours	6 weeks 6 weeks } 12W
Same Officers	Meads Mills	Same as above	Same	Six weeks
Captain Clemons & Col. Wells	Babbs old field near Smithville Virginia	Same as above	Same	Same
Captain Rogers	Cabin Point & Stonos Mills	Same as above	Same	Same
Officers not recollected except Colonel Gaskin	Surry C. House	Same	Same	Same
Major Boykin Captain not recollected	Near Norfolk	Same	Not recollected	Not recollected

S/ John Pledger, X his mark

State of North Carolina Northampton County:

This day John Pledger personally appeared before me John White a Magistrate in & for the County of Northampton aforesaid and made oath according to law to the truth of the above statement of his services (as far as he can recollect them in the revolution & he the said John further swears & saith that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory, he cannot swear as to all the services nor length of time he was performing them, further than above stated, except, that he was frequently called out during the space of five years & believes he was in the said service near half this time, nor can he recollect the names of all the officers under whom & where he did serve

Given under my hand this 15th day of November 1833
S/ John White, JP

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 2 years in the Virginia service.]