

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of John Latham S8811

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 4 April 2014.

State of Virginia } Sct.

Harrison County }

On this 26th day of July 1832 personally appeared before me John Cather a justice of the peace in & for s'd county of Harrison, in Virginia, John Latham, aged about sixty eight years, who being first duly sworn, according to law, does on his oath make the following statement, in order to obtain the benefit of the act of congress passed June 7th 1832. That he enlisted in the army of the United States as well as he now recollects in March 1782, with Capt. Thomas Montjoy [sic: Thomas Mountjoy] in the county of Stafford in the state aforesaid, and being so enlisted was attached to the 45th regiment [sic: 6th], Col. Haws [sic: Samuel Hawes] commandant, and was in service under Capt. Fitzpatrick or a Capt. Johnson in guarding a magazine at the Point of Fork [at present Columbia VA], about 40 miles above Richmond. That being so engaged, the necessity for keeping a large body of troops in the field being removed by the previous capture of the British army under Cornwallis at Yorktown [19 Oct 1781], he was, with others, permitted to return home, where they were required to hold themselves in readiness to rejoin the army of the United States at a moments warning, and that although not discharged, yet that he was never again called into service. He also states that when he enlisted as above said, it was for the term of three years unless sooner discharged, and that his pay, transferred by him to Richard Sims, was received by Sims, and his bounty land, sold to William Oden, he believes was granted to s'd. Oden. The s'd. John Latham also declares, that previous to his enlistment as aforesid, he was called into the militia service of Virginia and served a three months tour under Capt. William Ballard, in which time he was engaged in aiding at the siege of yorktown in Virginia, and after the surrender of Cornwallis, guarded the prisoners, to the barracks near to Winchester, and for all which militia service he has never received one cent of pay. He further says that he has no documentary evidence to support his claim to a pension for is enlistment in the service of the United States, and that he knows of no one now living who can testify to that fact, except Vincent Bussel of Stafford county in Virginia, and William Knight of Booth's creek in the aforesaid county of Harrison likewise in Virginia. The affidavits of s'd. Vincent Bussel has been taken at the instance of s'd. John Latham and although here presented, yet wanting the seal of the office of Stafford county court, will not be presented at the War Office until that deficiency can be supplied [see note below]. The affidavit of s'd. William Knight, he hopes to present & forward herewith. In support of his militia services, he would refer to Peter Knight [pension application S5660], who is now alive in s'd. county of Harrison, & was with him at Yorktown, and would name Michael Greathouse, Moses Hustead [Moses Husstead S9600], John Cather esq'r. Robert Starke as living in his neighborhood who can bear witness to the character for veracity of him the s'd. John Latham, and their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution. He the s'd. John Latham states that his name is variously written & called by those who do not know how it is spelled, by some called Latham, by others Lathom, and by others Lathrum, and desires this fact may be noticed in the investigation of the rolls at the Department of War. 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. His present residence is on the headwaters of Booth's creek in s'd. county of Harrison in Virginia.
Sworn & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.



State of Virginia } to wit

Harrison County }

This day personally appeared William Knight now of said County of Harrison and made oath before me

John Cather one of the Commonwealth Justices of the peace for this County of Harrison and State of Virginia that he the said William Knight was well acquainted with John Latham in County of Stafford in said State of Virginia in the time of the Revolution War and that the said John Latham did enlist for three years under a recruiting officer by the Name of Thomas Mountjoy in the County of Stafford and that the above said John Latham now resides on the Head Waters of Booth Creek in Harrison County and is the same man who is applying for a pension and I do certify that the said William Knight is a man of truth and full faith and credit are to be paid to his testimony
Given under my hand and seal this 31st day of August 1832 John Cather JP

State of Virginia }
Harrison County }

this day personally appeared Peter Knight before me John Cather one of the Commonwealth Justices of the peace in said County and made oath that the the for said Peter Knight was well acquainted with John Latham in Stafford County in the State of Virginia in the time of the Revolution War and that he the said John Latham was a soldier in Capt William Ballards Company of militia and served under him at the Seage of York and after the surrender of Lord Cornwallas the said John Latham helped to gard the prisnors to the Barricks near to Winchester and made his time of servis out and was Discharged and returned to his home in Stafford County and he understood by the Neighborhood report that the said John Latham had enlisted in the Regular servis and he believes it to be true for he was present when the said John Latham was notified to joyn the Regiment and that he understood at that time that the said John Latham was enlisted for three years and he beleived that the said John Latham stade in servis as long as his servis was wanted and that full faith and credit ort to be given to the testamoney of the said Peter Knight
Given under my hand and seal this 31st day of August 1832 John Cather JP

[The following report is by District Attorney Washington G. Singleton, who investigated many pensioners from Harrison, Lewis, and other counties of present West Virginia. For details see my appendix to the pension application S6111 of David W. Sleeth. The report is in Singleton's handwriting, apparently based on notes by Nathan Goff, a pension agent from Clarksburg. See Goff's letter that follows.]

John Latham draws \$80— [see endnote]

on the 15th July 1834 Mr Latham made the following statement of his age and services as a soldier in the war of the revolution to wit. is a native of Stafford County Virginia and in his 69th year of age – in the fall of 1781, he marched from Stafford County as a substitute for John Latham who had been drafted in a three months tour under the command of Capt William Ballard (his Lieut. name was Mason[?].) The company went directly to Yorktown Virginia arived there some three or four weeks before Cornwallis surrendered to the american army. – his company [one or two illegible words] including the officers went from there with the Prissoners to Winchester Barracks – on getting there was discharged went home, having been in service some seven or eight weeks – perhaps as long as eight weeks.

on the second day of March 1782 he Enlisted in Stafford County for 3 years in Capt. Thomas Montgomery [sic] who was a recruiting officer, [several illegible words] of Capt. Montgomeries men were sent under Segeant John Waller to Pointy Fork about 40 miles above Richmond at that place there was a Magazine and the men in his company was at the station under the command of [illegible]. the Captains names were Johnson & Fitzpatrick. dont recollect under whom he served. – he was Enlisted in March 1783 [sic] as above stated – Some time in the succeeding summer to wit 1783 – he marched to Pointy Fork and remained there until a little after Christmas – cant say how long knows it was cold weather [four illegible words] – he is confident [three illegible words] as late as the Middle of [illegible word] when he left [three illegible words] when he left it was the summer – and was not again called on

he proved by William Knight his [about four illegible words] – Cant say certainly but thinks he Enlisted in Continental establishment

Jacob Copelan [sic: Jacob Coplin] called on him and after taking the statement above detailed said that he was entitled to a pension – he thinks Alexander Wither [sic: Alexander Withers] wrote his Declaration for Copelan – he gave Copelan \$60—

In testimony that the forgoing statement contains the truth I hereto subscribe my name. July 15, 1834 —

Witness

John Latham

Nathan Goff

A Copy

W. G. Singleton/ Nov. 19, 1834

Department of War Pension Office Apl 10th 1835

Sir [Nathan Goff] In reply to your letter of the 4th upon the subject of Jno Lathams claim I have to observe that from Mr Singletons report it appears that Mr Latham intered the service in the Militia in 1781 as a substitute for a 3 months tour but was discharged before the expiration of that period having served “perhaps” 8 weeks

That he again entered the service for three years as a regular soldier in the year 1782, and left the service on furlough in Nov. 1783 having served about 20 months. It seems that no evidence was furnished in this case in support of this service, his enlistment alone being proved but the time and manner of his leaving the service rested upon his own statement

His name should appear upon the muster or pay rolls of Va. if he served as he has stated.

I will thank you to return his declaration in order that I may be the better enabled to judge of the case. Mr Singleton endorsed his report Fraud, but advised a further examination.

I am

Clarksburg May[?] 12 – 1835

J L Edwards Com'r of Pensions

Sir I am confident from the purport of your letter to me dated 10th April 1835 in relation to John Lathram's R-services that Mr Singleton has made a mistake in reporting his Lathram's case, – you state that Mr Singletons report sets forth that Mr Latham enlisted in March 1782 and did not go home on furrow untill the fall 1783 having been in service at this time 20 months, – this is entirely incorrect. I have now before the statement given by Mr Lathram to Mr Singleton & myself – from which I will give you an extract verbatim et Litteratum, After he gives a statemen of about 8 weeks servise in the Militia, he states as follows – first of March 1782, Thinks 2nd day – he enlisted in Stafford County for 3 years, he was enlisted by Capt Thos Montjoy, who was recruiting officer, he was sent with some 5 or 6 other of Capt Montjoys recruits, under Sergent John Waller, to a place called Pointy Fork, about 40 Miles above Richmond Va, where there was a Magazine & Arms, – there were two Companies there Colo Haws had command of the Station, the Capts of the Companies, names were Johnson & Fitzpatrick, dont recollect under which of these Captains he served, he was enlisted as before stated in March 1782, he marched to Pointy Fork some time during the succeeding sommer and remained there, some little before Christmast Cant say how Long, knew it was cold weather before he came home, he is confident it must have been as late as the meddel of November when he left the army on [illegible word] as aforestated it was on furrow, he was never called in to servise again [several illegible words] when we examined Mr Lathram in relation to his servises while he was enlisted, – from the statement in your letter Mr Singleton must have made a mistake in copying his repourt from the back, – you will see that Mr Singleton only [illegible word] to his servises between 8 & 9 months under the enlistment, – and you state that Mr Singleton represents him to have served 20 – months – and also 8 weeks in Militia servise —

I return you Mr Lathrams original Declaration and all the papers connected with it, –

Yours Respectfully Nathan Goff

Depart't of War Pension Office Dec 24, 1836

Sir I have caused the rolls and other records in this office to be carefull examined in order to find some trace or evidence of the revolutionary service of Jno Latham but without success. He alleges that he enlisted in March 1782 for three years, but that he was furloughed in the fall, and was not again called upon – that he [illegible word] rec'd bounty land &c. His name is not upon the list of the Commission at Richmond of the persons who have rec'd bounty land of the state. On the whole, there is no evidence to justify his being restored to the pension roll

I have the honor

Hr. Jos Johnson H. Re [House of Representatives]

Clarksburg Va June 25 1839

J L Edwards Com'r of Pensions

John Lathram, who was a pensioner in this County, under the Law of 1832 and whose pay was stoped at the time W G Singleton & myself made the examination in this region, – I think his case was repourted Fraud &c, by Singleton, – but after receiving his Lathrams origional Declaration from your office, we found that it corresponded with the statement given us of his service, – That he had served some 6 8 or 9 months and then had enlisted and served a short time, making about 10½ months service in all, (I write now only from memory) when he was sent home on parole at or near about the close of the war, and thereafter was never called into service, — I think I returned you his Declaration, if not it was here at the time our Clerks office was burnt [19 Aug 1836] — there is no dout but Lathrum done the services he profeses to have done – if the old Declaration is in the office will you examin in to the matter and let me hear from you on the subject, – if he was origionally allowed to much, the mistake was made by the department, – I think he should now be reinstated for the amt he is properly entitled to,–

Am very Respectfully, your obt ser't

Nathan Goff War

Dept. Pension Office, July 3^d 1839

Sir [Nathan Goff], In reply to your letter of the 25th ult. I have to inform you that I have looked carefully into the case of John Latham, and I am extremely doubtful whether he could have served long enough to entitle him to a pension. His name cannot be restored to the roll.

NOTES:

No affidavit of “Vincent Bussel” was found, but the pension declaration of Vincent Bussle or Bustle (W5963) agrees substantially with that of Latham.

\$80 per year was the pension for a Private with two or more years of service. Latham did not claim to have served that long, but the Pension Office evidently thought he had when they calculated the amount of his pension. Singleton compounded the error by erroneously writing that Latham left the service in Nov 1783 rather than Nov 1782. Singleton's accusation of fraud is based on nothing more than his own error.

On the 1840 federal census of Harrison County John Latham is listed as a pensioner.