

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Joel Leftwich S8830

VA

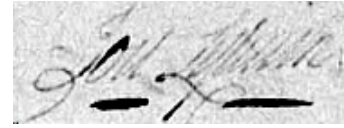
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 25 Aug 2020.

State of Virginia & County of Campbell

On this 8<sup>th</sup> day of October 1832 Personally appeared before the Court of the County of Campbell & State aforesaid Joel Leftwich A resident of the County & State aforesaid Aged Seventy one years the 22<sup>nd</sup> of last November who being first duly Sworn according to Law doth on his Oath make the following Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the Act of Congress passed June the 7<sup>th</sup> 1832. That when a boy about Sixteen years old he enlisted in the County of Bedford & State aforesaid some time in the Winter 1776 - 77 with Captain Alexander Cummins [VAS1730] in the Army of the United States who had enlisted part of a Company for three years beginning the first day of August 1776 and had marched them to Head Quarters & returned to Bedford on Recruiting Service the succeeding Autumn & that he Contracted with said Capt. that his term of service would Expire in the first day of Aug<sup>t</sup>. 1779 with those he had previously Enlisted – He set out with the Capt. & five other Recruits for the Continental Army about the tenth of March & on the way was inoculated for the small Pox in Baltimore & joined the Revolutionary Army near Middlebrook in new Jersey early in May 1777 & was attached to the first Regiment in the Virginia line under Continental establishment Commanded according to the best of his recollection at different times by Colonels Parker, Green & Hendrick [Richard Parker BLWt525-500, John Green BLWt866-500, and James Hendricks VAS1490] & annexed to Gen<sup>l</sup>. Muhlenburg's [sic: Peter Muhlenberg BLWt1495-850] Brigade. That he was in the baggage guard at the time of the Battle at Brandywine [11 Sep 1777] but was in the Battle at German Town [Germantown, 4 Oct 1777] where the Reg<sup>t</sup>. to which he was attached sustained Considerable losses. Shortly after which the 1<sup>st</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup>., to which he was attached was detached from the Brigade & stationed at Fort Mifflin (commonly called mud Island Fort at that time) About five weeks exposed to an almost daily Cannonade & Bombardment & the fire occasionally returned from the Fort but not with much effect on either side the distance being too far [Siege of Fort Mifflin, 10 Oct - 15 Nov 1777]. at length the Reg<sup>t</sup> was relieved by another Reg<sup>t</sup>. in Consequence of being kept so long on continual hard duty & stationed in the neighbourhood within a few miles with the general impression that they were alternately to relieve each other but in a few days after the Relief the Enemy either weighed the Chevaux de frise or slipped by with their large men of War Ships in such force that the Fort was Evacuated & taken possession of by the Enemy – immediately after which the first Reg<sup>t</sup>. joined the Brigade & the Army shortly after went into winter Quarters at Valley Forge in Huts of their own building. he further states that he was in no other Battle while attached to the Regular Army & that his term of service having expired he was Honorably discharged on the first day of Aug<sup>t</sup> 1779 at Rammapo [sic: Ramapo] in new Jersey & that his discharge was signed thus JPG Muhlenburg B. G. but has been lost or mislaid & that he has not seen it for many years. He also states that he volunteered his service as a Substitute for Joseph Dickinson some time in May or June 1790 & joined a Company of Militia In New London Bedford County [now in Campbell County] commanded by Capt. Thomas Leftwich in the service of the United States & was appointed Orderly Serjeant of the same & marched to Hillsborough in North Carolina the gen<sup>l</sup> rendezvous of the Virginia Militia in that Campaign where the Troops were Organized into Regiments which formed a brigade Commanded by Gen<sup>l</sup>. Stevens [Edward Stevens VAS1922] & Capt Leftwich's Company was attached to a Reg<sup>t</sup> the number of which he does not recollect but was Commanded by Col<sup>el</sup> Stubblefield [George Stubblefield VAS1818] or Spencer [Joseph Spencer S37436] forming a part of the Brigade the Militia commenced their march for the Southern Army about the last of July or first of Aug<sup>t</sup> & joined the Regular Army at Rudgeleys Mills [sic: Rugeley's Mill] in South Carolina about two days before Gates's Defeat near Camden [defeat of Gen. Horatio Gates, Battle of Camden, 16 Aug 1780] where he had the mortification to witness the most shameful & disastrous Battle that occurred during the Revolutionary War the whole of the Ordinance Military Stores & Baggage being taken by the Enemy. the American Army apparently being struck with a

panick were completely routed & put to flight after which the Militia retreated in a scattered irregular manner in Sqads & detachments to Hillsborough the assigned Rendezvous where they generally joined their respective Companies & Regiments. A considerable number continued their retreat untill they got home. The Militia being partially reorganized were destitute of all kind of Camp Equipage except their Arms & accoutrements & frequently without provision & such was the general distress & privation that the Troops deserted in an unprecedented manner. he states that every man belonging to Capt. Leftwich's Company except the commissioned officers one Sergeant one Private [Thomas Harvey S5474] & himself deserted the commissioned officers consequently became supernumeraries & were discharged & the other Serjeants, Privates & himself were attached to a Capt. Daniels Company of the same Reg't. shortly after which the Troops marched to New Garden [near present Greensboro NC] where they were stationed several weeks In the mean time Colo. James Callaway commanding the Militia in Bedford County took effectual measures to collect the deserters from that County & sent them on to camp with a commission for Joel Leftwich Orderly Serjeant in Capt. Thomas Leftwich's late company of Militia in the United States service then a deputi'd [deputized?] Captain to take command of them but the Commanding Gen'l. did not think proper to receive them to serve the remainder of the Tour as common Militia & they were sent home in order to be reorganized & to serve Eight months agreeable to the requisition of the Law at that time relative to Militia Deserters he states that he continued regularly at his post untill about the last of October or first of November when his term of service having expired he was Honorably discharged in North Carolina. the name of the place he does not recollect neither does he at present know whether his Discharge was signed by the Gen'l. or Colo. having been lost many years — He further states that some time in February 1781 he Contracted with John Hook[?] a Merchant of Bedford County to serve a Tour of duty for him as a substitute in a Company of Militia in the service for the United States under the command of Capt. Bowen Price then stationed at New London Bedford County & was appointed Orderly Serjeant of said company which was shortly after attached to a Reg't. of Militia commanded by Colo. Charles Lynch of Bedford which marched immediately for North Carolina after a few days march Lieutenant John Forqueran[?] who was attached to Capt. Price's Company was taken sick & unfit for duty & either resigned his commission or was Discharged. A vacancy having occurred in the company he states that Nicholas Welch Ensign in said company was promoted to a Lieutenant & that he himself was promoted to an Ensign [see endnote] & acted as such in the Battle at Guilford Courthouse in North Carolina [15 Mar 1781] – the line of Battle being formed a demand was made on Colo. Lynch for a Detachment of fifty of his best Riflemen to flank the Enemy the Colo. called for volunteers he immediately stepped forward with the number required which detachment was commanded by Major John Callaway of Colo. Lynch's Reg't. & after giving the Enemy's left Flank four or five destructive fires the Major ordered a Retreat & when within about one Hundred yards of the Reg't. in crossing a steep hollow he got his left ankle badly Sprained & under normal circumstances would not have been able to have borne an ounce of weight on it. but such was the necessity that he stumbled up to the Reg't. by which time the fire had just commenced from Colo. Lynch's Reg't. & believing that his ankle was dislocated & that he should be a cripple for life if he did not have it put in place immediately while the wound was fresh he applied to Lieutenant Benjamin Rice of Capt. Moon's [Jacob Moon W4691] Company to pull his ankle in place & after several hard pulls the Lieut. assumed he could do no more but not being satisfied & still thinking that his ankle was out of joint he applied to Abram Sharp a strong resolute Soldier of his acquaintance to pull it again but without effect & after consulting several of the Officers relative to his Crippled situation they unanimously advised him to retire the best way he could & he did so & was soon overtaken by two or three of the North Carolina Mounted Riflemen & gave one of them five Hundred Dollars Continental Money to let him ride behind him to Frosts[?] Iron works [more likely Troublesome Iron Works] ten or Twelve miles distant to which place the Baggage had been previously sent & at which place the Troops arrive late that Evening – within a day or two after the Battle not being able to walk a step & being considered a Cripple for Months he hastily procured a Horse to ride home & Colo. Lynch discharged Thomas Hamilton a Soldier in Capt. Price's Company to attend & aid him in getting home – he also says that being promoted when in actual service he did not receive a commission but that his

appointment as Ensign was announced to the Troops & that he Ranked, did Duty, & was Discharged as such: & he believes his Discharge was signed by Colo Lynch but he has not seen it for many years — he hereby relinquishes Every claim whatever to a Pension or annuity except the present & he declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of any agency in any State Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid



Question by the Court: Where were you born and in what year?

Answer: I was born on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. of November 1760

Question by the Court. Have you any record of your age, and if so where is it?

Answer. I have no record of my age, but am informed by my elderly brothers & sisters that there was a record of my age.

Question by the Court. Where were you living when called into service, where have you lived since the revolutionary war and where do you live now?

Answer. I was living when called into service in the County of Bedford, I have lived since the revolutionary war in the County of Bedford until about five years ago when I moved to the County of Campbell, and now live in the said County of Campbell.

Question by the Court: How were you called into service, were you drafted, did you volunteer, or were you a substitute

I volunteered as a regular soldier in the revolutionary war at one time and served as a substitute two other times

Question by the Court. State the names of some of the regular officers who were they the troops when you served; was such Continental and Militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service?

Answer. Generals Washington, Green [sic: Nathanael Greene] and Muhlenburg, Continental and Militia and for further particulars reference may be had to my declaration

Question by the Court. Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, if so by whom was it given and what has become of it?

Answer I did receive several; by Genl Muhlenburg in one instance and the others I do not recollect by whom they were given, and my discharges have been lost and I have not seen them for many years.

Question by the Court. State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighbourhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity, and their belief of our Service as a revolutionary Soldier?

Answer. Major Isaac Otey, Judge Wm Daniel and Christopher Anthony.

Question by the Court. Had you ever a Commision and if so by whom was it signed and what has become of it

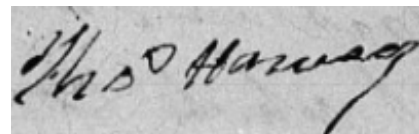
Answer. I had no Commision during the revolutionary war but was appointed an ensign when in actual service and acted as such and my appointment announced to the Troops by the Commanding Officer and acted as such until I was honorably discharged.

I Stephen Jones [W7916] of The County of Bedford and State of Virginia being called on by Gen'l. Joel Leftwich of Campbell County and State aforesaid to say what I know reletive to his services during the The Revolutionary War, I can state That I was a soldier in Capt. Moons company of Militia from Bedford and That I have perfect recollection of seeing said Joel Leftwich on the day of the battle at Guilford Courthouse N. Carolina. That there was a detachment called for by the Commanding Gen'l. (to be furnished from Colo. Lynches Regt.) of fifty of the best riflemen, and they were immediately raised voluntarily, and amongst the rest Gen'l. Leftwich then acting in the capassity of a subaltern Officer was

one of that party who volunteered to bring on the engagement (myself being also one of that party) under the Command of Maj'r. John Calloway, we fired several rounds on the enemy's left flank the affect of which was so fatal that it caused the enemy to fall back, at which time I well recollect to hear Gen'l Leftwich with an animated voice, and his hat waving say now boys come on we will give it to them  
[14 Sep 1832] Stephen hisXmark Jones

I hereby certify that Gen'l. Joel Leftwich of this County was attached to a company of Militia in the services of the united states commanded by Captain Thomas Leftwich of the County of Bedford of which company I was a soldier and that we marched from said County some time in the month of May of the year 1780 to Hillsborough in the State of North Carolina where the Militia was organised into Regiments which formed a Brigade Commanded by Gen'l. Stevens, and the Regiment to which Capt. Leftwichs Company was attached to was commanded by Cols. Stubblefield and Spencer at which place the Brigade was stationed 5 or 6 weeks, and from thence marched to South Carolina and joined the Southern Army at Rudgeleys Mills about 2 days before Gen'l. Gates defeat near Camden, when he participated in the misfortune of the day, after which the Militia returned in a scathing and irregular manner to Hillsborough the original place of Rendevous when they generally joined their respective companies, and such was the distress and frustration of the troops being wholly destitute of camp aquipage and frequently without provision that every man belonging to Capt. Leftwich's company except the commissiond officers, 2 Serjants of whom Gen'l Leftwich was one and my self was attached to Captain Daniel's Company of said Regmt where we continued awhile untill we were discharged in the month of November at Gilford Court House in North Carolina. Given under my hand this 8<sup>th</sup> day of October 1832

Thos Harvey



[From [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia.](#)]

I do hereby certify that Joel Leftwich serv'd Three years as a soldier in the first Virginia Continental Regiment beginning the first day of August 1776 & ending the first day of [illegible] 1779. Given under my hand this 22<sup>d</sup> day of September 1783.

Chas. Pelham Maj'r [Charles Pelham W3034]  
in the Virg'a line



NOTES:

Leftwich was originally pensioned for two years service as a Private, but this was later changed to nine months as a Sergeant and 15 months as a Private. His rank as Ensign was not recognized, because the commission was informal, not being signed by the Governor.

A typed summary states that Joel Leftwich died 20 April 1848.