

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of John Caldwell S9146

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

Commonwealth of Virginia } SS
Ohio County }

On this 10 day of August in the year of our Lord 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of the County Court of Ohio County in said Commonwealth, now sitting, (being a Court of record) John Caldwell a resident of the said County of Ohio & Commonwealth of Virginia aged seventy nine 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 entered the service of his Country and as herein stated. That in the year seventeen hundred & seventy six he served as a volunteer under Captains Herrod [sic: William Herod] & Wall eight months in & near the Grave Creek in the now County of Ohio. While in this service he went with others by Command of Capt. Herrod & with him to a place a little below the mouth of the little Kenahawa river [sic: Little Kanawha River] to bury some men who had been killed by the Indians & to save & to bring up men who had been badly wounded & [two illegible words] lying in the woods

That in the year 1777 he served as a volunteer under Capt or Lieutenant Samuel Masson [sic: Samuel Mason] four months at Shepherds Fort at the Forks of Wheeling Creek in the now County of Ohio & about six miles from the present Town of Wheeling

In 1778 he served as a volunteer guard in Rails Fort six months - Rails Fort was on the waters of Buffaloe [sic: Buffalo] Creek in the now County of Washington in the State of Pennsylvania

In 1779 he served in like manner as a volunteer guard in the same Rails Fort six months In seventeen hundred & seventy nine he served under Col. Broadhead [sic: Daniel Brodhead] as a volunteer in Captain Samuel Massons Company up the Allegheny against the Munsee Indians. Was in this service four months - Having commenced it in May 1779 & returned to Pittsburgh in the last of August following [sic: 11 Aug - 14 Sep] & being there discharged. In this Campagine we had a battle or scrimmage. In the commencement of the Battle a Captain Hardin was shot in the thigh

He served as a guard (a volunteer guard) in Wheeling Fort in the years 1777 - 1778 - 1779 six months at least - tho he thinks more, under Captain Masson He was on the Frontiers of Western Virginia, during the whole of the time between the years 1776 & the peace of 1783; and served as a volunteer in different expeditions against the Indians & watching & keeping guard in different frontier Forts or Block-houses & in scouting parties, exclusive of the services above mentioned at least more than one year. He was one of what were called minuet men [sic: Minute Men], who held themselves in constant readiness to march on any alarm - and affiant did so often & at more times than he can now repeat.

For the services above named he never received any pay or compensation whatsoever He was born in seventeen hundred & fifty three (1753) in Ireland and Emigrated with his father James Caldwell when ten years old to Baltimore in the then Colony of Maryland and moved to the said County of Ohio in seventeen hundred & seventy three. His age is recorded in an old family Bible brought from Ireland & now in his possession. During the services aforesaid he was living in the now Counties of Ohio & Tyler in Virginia & the now County of Washington in the State of Pennsylvania, and ever since the Revolutionary War has lived & does now live in now Ohio County. He was called into the service & served as is before stated

During the time he served he recollects the following names of the following officers who were engaged in the Indians wars on the western Frontiers of Virginia; viz: Capts Herrod & Wall, Capt. Masson, Capt Jno. Biggs Col. Broadhead. also a Col. Campbell & a Major Vernon or Varnum

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of the Agency of any State He never had any discharge or discharges other than verbal ones

He also states that he is known to the following persons in his neighbourhood who can

testify as to his character for veracity, and their belief that he rendered the services aforesaid narrated in his sd. declaration: Viz. Col. Archibald Woods, Samuel Sprigg Esqr., Capt. Alexander Mitchell, Judge Alexander Caldwell, William Hoskins & General Moses W. Chapline & others
[signed] John Caldwell

[The following report is by District Attorney Washington G. Singleton who investigated many pensioners from present West Virginia. For details see pension application S6111 of David W. Sleeth.]

John Caldwell. Served two years.

I saw this old Gentleman on the 30th of June - found him stone blind and very much enfeebled in Body and mind - almost worn out with age and infirmity. I learned from him that he is a native of Ireland - came to the united states with his father & family when a child - and lived upon the ohio waters during the war of the Revolution and has lived there ever since -

That in 1776 he volunteered under Capt Herod for two months & served under him for that length of time at Grave creek at its junction with the Ohio River. was engaged in building a fort at that place, there was about one hundred men at that station. Capt Herod was sent from Monongalia with about fifty men. he Caldwell joined Herod with others at Grave Creek. - he furnished his own arms and clothing but drew amunition and rations never receiving pay. Capt Herod was relieved by Capt. Wall. he Caldwell after serving under Herod for the two months above mentioned served two other months at same place, and in same occupation under Capt Wall. - that the men at Grave creek about 100 in number were variously employed. Sometimes engaged in building the Fort. at others Scouting and raingeing about and around the Fort and beating off the Indians - his (Caldwells) father & his family lived in the fort - as other families did - he Caldwell was in actual service as above stated for four successive months.

In the Spring of 1777 his father & his family includeing himself, moved from Grave creek to the forks of wheeling creek. there was a station of Troops at that place about fifty in number under Capt. Samuel Mason. He Caldwell volunteered & joined Capt Mason and was with him in actual service until late in the fall he thinks not less than six months - during this summer himself with twenty three others were sent out to rainge around and through the adjacent country. whilst out their party was attacked by the Indians and twenty of their number killed by the Indians. for includeing himself made their escape, their retreat to the fort however was cut off. - they made good their way to demonts [possibly clements] Fort. there joined Col. Shepherds command about 150 men, and marched to the relief of Wheeling Fort. on ariveing there found that the Indians had retreated.

in the years 1778 & 1779 he aided his father (who then lived near where Washington Penvsylvania now stands) in the early parts of the summer, in raising the crop when his service could be spared to wit sometime in July of each year, he went down to wheeling volunteered his services and the officers there commanding, and aided in the defence of that station. in those two years he could not have been in actual service less than six months - a Capt Bigs and a Major Varner and other officers whose names he has forgotten commanded - he drew rations and amunition but received no pay. he things Bigs & Varner were regular officers, but of this he is not confident.

he was with Genl. Brodhead in an expedition up the Alleghania river again the Munsha towns - the towns were destroyed & some Indians killed. was in this expedition near two months. was a volunteer.

in the year 1780 he aided the building Rail Fort near Washington Pa. in this year he was out on several expeditions (as volunteer) up, down, and cross the Ohio river defending the country and beating off the Indians - was in actual service not less than 3 mo. in this year. he so continued in service in the manner last above detailed at least three months in every year until and after the war of the Revolution closed. the expeditions thus performed were under different officers (many of whose names he has forgotten) and of a short or longer duration according to circumstances sometimes a months at a time, sometimes less - whenever there was an alarm he always turned out as volunteer and aided in beating off the Indians - in this last mentioned service the officers were generally selected from among the settlers. - is confident that he was in

actual service during the war of the Revolution not less than two years - he thinks more -
Note - from all I could learn in reference to this old Gentleman's services, he certainly was a very
efficient man in the Indian War, then carrying on in this region of country - he sustains a good
character among his neighbours. - was once a man of Property & consequence but is now
reduced to great poverty from misfortunes and his benevolent Hart. Such I understand to be the
fact. - he is exceeding infirm in mind and body - his memory seems frail, and he is totally blind.
his is the most respectable family in the country. Judge Caldwell (Federal Judge) is his brother -

Mr. Jacobs (a Gentleman of high character) informs me that he himself drew his
declaration, and that every material averment contained therein is sustained by the most
respectable evidence.

Respectfully Reported

W. G Singleton July 4, 1835

[Written on the cover of the report in a different handwriting from Singleton's: "The service
herein desc'd appears not to have been military men, but simply the result of domestic
arrangement for self defence against the Indians]