

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Robert Christian S9177

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

Virginia Kanawha County towit

On this 10th day of September 1832 personally appeared in open court before the Justices of the County Court for Kanawha County now sitting Robert Christian resident of Kanawha County and State of Virginia aged sixty eight 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 7th 1832.

That he was born in the County of Augusta State of Virginia about seven miles from the Town of Staunton where he continued to reside up to the time of his entering the army. when 17 years of age and in the month of March 1781 he was placed on the muster roll of his county and in the month of April following he was drafted to serve in the Virginia militia and entered the service under the immediate command and in the Company of Capt. Francis Long in the regiment of Col Hurgard [sic: Thomas Hugart]. In this regiment Robert McCreery was at the time the Major. this affiant and his Company received orders to rendezvous at a place 12 miles East of Staunton and the site of the present Town of Waynesborough [sic: Waynesboro], where at Rockfish Gap his regiment was stationed for the purpose of resisting an anticipated incursion of Col Tarlton [sic: Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton] to Staunton in pursuit of the Legislature which had been first driven from Richmond [22 Apr] and then from Charlottesville [4 June]. From this position he was marched to a place called Deep run Church [in NW part of present Richmond; 12-14 June], in his march to which, his regiment was attached to General William Campbells Brigade of Virginia militia, to which Brigade his regiment continued attached while stationed at Deep run Church. While he was stationed at this place, Lord Cornwallace [sic: Cornwallis] was in the occupation of Richmond.

On the evacuation of Richmond by Lord Cornwallace [14-15 June], Gen. Campbell marched and took possession of the city from whence he proceeded in pursuit of Cornwallace in the route to Williamsburg. At a short distance below Richmond this affiants Brigade met with and was placed under the command of Gen. LaFayette. On his route to Williamsburg at New Kent and other places, several sharp skirmishes occurred in which this affiant participated. While stationed at "Mud river" a short distance from Williamsburg which was then in the occupation of the British, Gen. Campbells brigade had a severe skirmish with a party of British at a place called Hot water mills [Hot Water Plantation 6 mi NW of Williamsburg, 26 June]. The force to which this affiant was attached continued to hang upon the rear of the British until their embarcation at Jamestown, at which place and during the embarcation of the British troops, a severe engagement took place between the forces which lasted for the space of two hours or more [Battle of Green Springs Plantation, 6 July]. A short time previous to this Col Hurgard who commanded this affiants regiment resigned his command and was succeeded by Majr McCreery who was succeeded by Col John Willis. From James Town Col Willis was ordered to the South side of James River on which side he was directed to proceed down toward York town. At York Saml Lucas succeeded as Col. At Yorktown this affiant was again attached to LaFayettes command and to the forces assembled to besiege that place.

This affiant continued before yorck town during the siege & up to the surrender of the British [19 Oct] and was actively engaged with others in the arduous duties of that affair. A short time after the surrender of York Town this affiant received his discharge having served a period of seven months. His discharge was in writing & signed by Gen Campbell but it has been mislaid or otherwise has passed out of the hands of this affiant so that he now is unable to produce it. After a lapse of 40 years and more which has swept off most of his early acquaintances as well as his comrads in the war of the revolution, this affiant finds himself unable to produce any witnesses who can testify in detail to the facts which he has stated above, except an older sister whose knowledge is confined to his entering the service and to the period of his return. Her affidavit to these facts is hereto subjoined.

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
[signed] Robert Christian

Virginia Kanawha County towit:

Personally appeared before me the subscriber a justice of the peace for the county aforesaid Sarah Wilson of Kanawha County & state of Va who being first duly sworn deposed & saith that she is the full sister of Robert Christian who makes the annexed declaration but seventeen years older - that she distinctly recollects her brother Robert leaving home and serving a tour in the army of the revolution, but does not remember with certainty the time or duration of his service.

The affiant is very aged & infirm & has now an indistinct recollection of events that a few years since were fresh & familiar to her -

Given under my hand & seal this 10th Sept 1832.

Thomas Matthews

[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.]

Robert Christian. Pensioner. receives 23 33/100 annuum.

I the undersigned Robert Christian having been called on by W G Singleton Agent of the Pension office for the details of my services as a soldier in the war of the Revolution, give the following to wit - I shall be 71 yrs. the 28th February next - am a native of Augusty county & lived there during the war of the Revolution - In the Spring of 1781 I was drafted for a three months tour, marched from Augusty county in a company in which Francis Long was a Captain - Joseph Long Lieut. & Jno. Bell Ensign. there was a Regt marched at same time in which Col. Hugart Lieut. Col. McCleary & Major Armstead [sic: Thomas Armistead] were the officers - we marched to Richmond, thence to the Burnt Chimneys, near Williamsburg, and thence to Jamestown. at the latter place we crossed the James River & marched through Goochlan [Goochland?] recrossed the River above York town. Went on and joined the main army at the last mentioned place. - I was attached to Genl. Campbells brigade of Rifle men. Joined him near Charlottesville I continued at Yorktown until Cornwallis surrendered - after my own tour of 3 months expired, which was somewhere near Goochlan I took my brother Johns place, who had been drafted for 3 month also. after serving out his term at the solicitation of Genl. Lafayette I remained in the army with others for an additional month. - I was in service in all seven months & proved it by my sister Sarah Wilson - Ezra Walker wrote my Declaration - to whom I gave the same statement in substance I now give.

In witness of all which I hereto subscribe my name. Jany 8 1835.

Robert Christian

A Copy. W. G Singleton Jany 11, 1835