

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of John Cain S9307

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia } To wit
Harrison County }

On the 2nd day of November 1833 personally appeared before me Edward Stewart a Justice of the peace in and for the County and state aforesaid, John Cain now a resident of the county and state aforesaid in his 91st, year of Age, who first being duly sworn according to Law, doth declare that he is unable from bodily infirmity to appear in open Court to make this his declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress past June 7th 1832, that he was bourn in the County of Rovingham [sic: Rockingham, formed from Augusta County VA in 1778] now in the state of Virginia on the 27th day of December A.D. 1742, has no record of his age but so informed by his parents That in the year 1775 he removed to the then west district of Agusta in the State aforesaid, afterwards To Monangahala [sic: Monongalia] now Harrison County where he ever since resided. that in the year 1776 he vollensteerd at Nutters fort [in present Clarksburg WV] now in the County of Harrison under Capt. William Lowther and served a Tower of six months as a privet soldier for the defence and protection of the northwestern fronteers, And that in the year 1777 he Vollensteerd again and served a Tower of six months under said Capt. William Lowther at Nutters fort, And in the year 1778 he again Vollensteerd under said Capt. William Lowther And served a Tower of six months at Nutters fort, and that again in 1779 he vollensteerd under the said William Lowther and served a Tower of six months at Nutters fort, And that again in the year 1780, he Vollensteerd and served a tower of six months under the said Capt William Lowther at Nutters fort, and in the year 1781 he Vollensteerd and served a six months Tower under Capt. Joseph Gregery [sic: Joseph Gregory] and was stationed at Nutters fort, And in the year 1783 he again Vollensteerd under the same Capt. Joseph Gragery and served a Tower of six months and was stationed at Nutters fort, And that in all of his Towers he served as a privet soldier and these serveses was rendered on the frontier of Virginia between whare Clarkesburg now stands and ohio river against the Indians and was exposed to grate danger as all those that was Ingaged in Indian warfare can avouch as he among others was frequently Command to repare to pints some 30 or 40 miles from the fort and squouting and spying Continually, And he farther states that Capt. William Lowther and Capt Joseph Gregery in under whome he served, was Duly Commissiond officers [see endnote] and in the serves of the state of Virginia, as molisha [sic: militia] Captains and served as such, and whilst so in serves during the Towers above mentioned he was not imployed in any sivel persuit, he farther states that he never reseved any written discharge and he farther states that Capt William Lowther and Capt Joseph Gragery are both dead in under whome he served, And that he has no documentery Evedence to Establish his serveses as aforesaid, nor knows of now one now living Except Christopher Nutter [pension application W5434], and Sotha Hickman [S5516] of this County which he will try to secure the Evedence of he hereby relinquers his every claim whatever to a pention anunity [annuity] except the present and declares his name is not on the pention role of any agency or state,
John hisXmark Cain
[Christopher Nutter and Sotha Hickman certified Cain's services.]

[The following report is by District Attorney Washington G. Singleton, who investigated many pensioners of present West Virginia in 1834-35. Singleton had convinced the Commissioner of Pensions to change policy and reject virtually all claims for pensions for Indian service on the Virginia frontier. For details, see the pension application of David W. Sleeth (S6111). On the cover of Cain's report, Singleton wrote "Fraud - Indian."]

John Cain draws \$80—

I saw this old Gentleman July the 19th. found [illegible word] in mind and body - about ninety years old - I could only learn from him in General terms that he settled in Harrison County in 1772 where he now lives - that he was forted (as they call it) all through the war

guarding & scouting and working - working whilst others guarded - and guarding whilst others were working - that he had a family and got the settlement wright [sic: settlement right] the place on which he now lives - some 8 miles distant from the Fort at which he took sucker [succor?]

Christopher Nutter has known this old man all his life - he is about 90 yrs. old - that he done the same kind of service and at the same places which Evan Thomas [pension application S16002] done and was at — a Copy W G Singleton Nov. 18, 1834

NOTES: William Lowther served as a Captain in the Augusta County Militia as early as 1774, but the earliest evidence I could find that he was commissioned at that rank was a recommendation dated 17 Sep 1777. He was a commissioned Captain by 18 Aug 1778, and by 1781 he had been commissioned a Major. Capt. Joseph Gregory is mentioned in the pension application of William Powers (S18164), but I could find no record of his commission.