

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Underwood S9492

f30DEL

Transcribed by Will Graves

6/28/14

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading skills fail to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of North Carolina Orange County: SS

On this 29th day of May 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions for the County aforesaid, now sitting, John Underwood a resident of the County & State aforesaid aged Seventy Eight years on the 13th day of December 1832, 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 7th June 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named Officers, & served as herein stated.

In July 1776, he thinks it was, he enlisted as a private in the Continental service for five months in the County of Kent in the State of Delaware: At Dover Town in the said County of Kent, the Company to which the declarant was attached was organized. Colonel Robert Hutcherson was Field Officer – the Company Officers were Captain Joseph Caldwell, Peter Loper 1st Lieutenant, Coe Jordon 2nd Lieutenant, Ensign William Dill. – From Dover Town, declarant was marched to Philadelphia with a delay of a few days at Christian at which place Adjutant General James Lucas joined the Battalion, consisting of eight Companies, to which declarant belonged – and exercised the Battalion. Declarant's Company alone went to Philadelphia. At Philadelphia, declarant remained some two weeks. From Philadelphia, declarant with his Company was conveyed by water up East River, to Trenton – thence was marched to Fort Lee. From Fort Lee, he was marched to Amboy, where he rejoined L. Genl. Lucas. The declarant was in the Battle on Staten Island [August 22, 1777], opposite Amboy – which was commenced early in the morning, in the month of September – Generals Lucas & Spoon commanded the Americans in that engagement. Before the time expired, for which declarant enlisted – he with a Company of 50 or 60 others, under the command of Ensign William Dill, was marched up East River to Milford, or Mill Guard, for the purpose of interrupting the Tories who were understood to be furnishing the Enemy with provisions. Thence he returned to Amboy – & thence to Philadelphia, where after a service of six months, one month over the time for which he had enlisted, he was discharged. Colonel Hutcherson, he thinks, gave his discharge, which is lost. –

In the summer following, which he thinks was in 1777, the declarant volunteered as a private in the Militia of the State of Delaware in the County of Kent for the term of six weeks. His Company was formed at Dover Town under the command of Captain Robert Morgan, & was engaged during this tour in marching up and down the Delaware Bay for the purpose of protecting the Country around against the eruptions of Tories, who were in the habit of

plundering the inhabitants & transporting this boils in barges or small craft to the Enemy. At the end of this term, he was discharged. This discharge is lost.

Immediately afterwards in the same summer the declarant became a substitute for his Brother

Abraham Underwood, who was drafted as a private in the Militia of Delaware, in the said County of Kent for six weeks – and served this tour in the same kind of service above stated & in the same neighborhood, Captain Jeremiah Morris was his Captain in this tour. –

Immediately after this service, the declarant became a substitute for his brother Joshua Underwood, who was likewise drafted as a private in the Militia of Delaware in the same County of Kent, for a six weeks tour. The declarant served this tour in the same kind of service up & down the Delaware They under the command of Captain Clark – & at the in that this time, was discharged. This discharge is likewise lost. – The aforesaid Brothers of declarant were men of families & declarant was single – at the time he became their substitute as aforesaid – The declarant was born in the County of Kent in the State of Delaware on 13th September 1754 and resided there until about two years after the close of the Revolutionary War – and then he removed to Orange County, near the Shallow Ford, on Haw River, in the State of North Carolina – where he has ever since resided. He has no record of his age – but his Brother Joshua, now of Guilford County, North Carolina, half one, as he is informed, the declarant being illiterate & unable to read writing. The declarant has no documentary evidence of his services – nor does he know of any witness by whom he can prove the same; his said Brother Joshua, who wants knew of declarant's services, being now from advanced age too weak in mind & memory to be a competent witness. – 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. He declares that [he] cannot procure a clergyman of his acquaintance to attend court, a distance of 25 miles from his residence, to testify to his services & character; but he is known to John Boon & David Boon & Boston Isely Esquires of the County of Orange & State of North Carolina. The declarant states that as to the date of his services herein stated, he may be under a mistake – but as to the length or amount of those services & the order as named he has no doubt; and by reference to the history of the War & the time of the Battle on Staten Island, the period of his services can be ascertained. – Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid

S/ John Underwood, X his mark

[David Boon, John Boon & Boston Isley gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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Dover Office of the Secretary of State 11 April 1834

In the case of John Underwood

It is believed that there never was a Captain in the Delaware Regiment during the Revolutionary War of the name of Joseph Caldwell. There was a Captain in that Regiment of the name of Jonathan Caldwell and there is in this office a muster roll of his Company taken the 12 April 1776, but the name of John Underwood is not in it: this is the only muster roll or payroll of the said company now in this office.

S/ James Rogers
Secretary of State

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$34 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private in the Delaware militia for 10 months and 6 days.]