

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Joel Preston W10229 Lucy Preston VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 3 Dec 2014.

Virginia Sct.

At a Court held for Bedford County at the Courthouse the 22nd day of November one thousand seven hundred and eighty four.

Joel Preston proved before the Court, that he obtained a discharge from Colo. William Davis [sic: William Davies] for twelve months Service in the Continental Army, which discharge was accidentally lost.

To the Honorable Senate, and house of Representatives, now in Session.

I Lucy Preston, widow of Joel Preston Deceased, wish to represent to your Honorable body, that I was married to the above said Joel Preston on the Twenty fifth day of November, One thousand seven hundred and ninety six; and continued to live with him in peace and love, until the Fifth day of October One thousand eight hundred, and twenty eight, when he died; being in the Seventieth year of his age. During our wedlock, we had nine children; three Sons, and Six Daughters. Five of which still survive; and Four are dead. Your Honorable body have in years past, (for a part of the widows) did make special provisions for them to be supported during their natural life. But this special act, or provision, made by your Honorable body, did not embrace your petitioner's condition, or case, who is now about seventy five years old; and although I am in a feeble state, or situation, I have to labour for my support, through much affliction and pain, as is common to women of my age.

Your humble petitioner does therefore pray your Honorable body to take her situation into consideration, and grant unto her, the Services of her husband; that they may help to support her, in her old age, who is feeble and not able to support herself, living on rented land, in limited circumstances.

our humble petitioner does also pray your Honorable body to allow the heirs of Joel Preston (her husband) The wages and land that justly belongs to the said Joel Preston De'd. Who rendered much service in the Revolutionary war. A part of my husband's services was in the Continental army, and it cannot be found at Richmond, (Virginia) that the certificate issued for his wages of Ten or eleven pounds, and some shillings has ever been paid unto s'd Joel Preston D'd, or unto any of his heirs or assigns. And the certificate for his wages cannot be found, and your petitioner believes that it was left among other papers in Virginia, and has since been destroyed.

Your Petitioner herewith sends you all the necessary documents to prove the services of her husband in the Revolutionary war; and of her marriage to the said Joel Preston, D'd.

You humble petitioner now submits her case unto your honorable body, to be disposed of in your wisdom. Febuary the 23rd 1844. Lucy Preston

State of Tennessee Smith County

On this 8th day of September 1848 personally appeared before me Isaac Jones one of the acting Justices of the Peace in and for said County Lucy Preston a resident of the county of Smith and State of Tennessee aged seventy nine years and going in her eightieth year who being first duly sworn according to law doth on her oath make the following Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Provision made by the act of Congress passed on the 29th day of July 1848 That she is the widow of Joel Preston who was a Soldier in the War of the Revolution and served in the continental line of the State of Virginia for the span of two years and upwards or continental State troops this affiant cannot say which as she obtained this information after their marriage She further Declares that her husband served about two years in the volunteer Troops of Virginia in towers of three and six months making in all about four years That a considerable portion of this time he served under an appointment of Second Sergeant. She recolects an important circumstance that her husband always refered to with pleasure Their orderly a

first Sergean was by the name of Jouitt [probably Jouett] and on one morning when the rations of beef was brought to the Company it was unsound so her husband took it back being a quarter of beef threw it down before the quarter master or commissary and demanded better meat which was refused but her husband seeing a plenty that was sound took a good piece and asked to have it weighed to him but on this last being refused he took it to his company expecting that he would be arrested but found that it gave such satisfaction to his company that they always sent him for provisions afterwards She cannot particularize the names of his officers one was Colonel Calaway [possibly William Callaway of the Bedford County Militia] She has also heard him state various names but cannot particularize them or which he served under as this information was learned after their marriage and she was living too far off to know him until after the marriage. That her said husband lived in Virginia but performed most of the service north in Maryland and Pennsylvania under General Washington and continued in and under his command until the Capture of Cornwallis at Yorktown [19 Oct 1781]. He was at the Battles of Brandywine [11 Sep 1777] and Germantown [4 Oct 1777]. He also served under General [Daniel] Morgan part of his time. This affiant will show by other proof more particularly about the service which she believes is [several interlined words illegible] She believes that some evidence by Documentary proof from the records of Virginia exist which she herewith files or will hereafter files

She further Declares that she was married to the said Joel Preston on the twenty fifth day of November one thousand seven hundred and ninety six in Bedford County State of Virginia by Nathaniel Sorsberry or Shrewsberry a Baptist Preacher by Seeing from the clerk a copy of which has been duly entered and Sent to Washington City and filed in the Pension office by Doctor Peyton Member of Congress four years ago

That her husband the aforesaid Joel Preston died on the 5th day of October 1828 and that she has remained a widow ever since that Period as well more fully appear by Reference to the proof hereto annexed

Sworn to and subscribed before me on the day and year first above mentioned

[signed] Lucy Preston

This is to Certify, That it appears from a List in this Office of such Officers and Soldiers of the Virginia Continental Line, during the Revolutionary War, as settled their Accounts, and received Certificates for the balance of their Full Pay, according to an Act of Assembly, passed the November Session, 1781, that a Certificate issued on the 21st day of December 1784, in the name of Joel Preston as a Soldier of Infantry for £20.11.2, which Certificate appears to have been delivered to Anselin Lynch and was given for services prior to the 1st January, 1782.

Given under my hand at the Auditor's Office, Richmond, this 21st day of June 1841.

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Jas E Heath Auditor.

State of Tennessee Smith County

On this day personally appeared before me Isaac Jones one of the acting Justices of the peace in and for the county aforesaid Caleb Preston a resident of Smith County aged fifty two years in September next who being duly Sworn according to law makes oath That after the death of his father Joel Preston the husband of his mother Lucy Preston who has made application for a Pension under act of Congress 29th July 1848 he found among his fathers valuable papers an account against him for as well as he can recolect Sixteen pounds of Tobacco the clerks fee of Bedford county Virginia which account he has no doubt was taken up and paid and was the clerks fee for proving the loss of four discharges from the tours served in the Continental line of the State of Virginia as well as State line which tours were performed during the war of the Revolution and said amount or receipt was as well as recolected dated in 1784 and was sent in a letter to John B Forester while a member of Congress – Say about the year 1833 or 35 for the purpose of ascertaing whether the Land or land warrant due for his Survivers was ever obtained or not. affiant further states that he is informed and believes that after the Revolution tobacco was sometimes received by publick officers as money and this account specified that the discharges were for services performed by his father the said Joel Preston in the war of the Revolution. affiant further states

that his recollection is more certain about the above facts on account that he was trying to find out whether lands was appropriated as above stated or not and whether his father was entitled to any &c but affiant knows not what said Forester done with it nor does he know where it is. Affiant has transacted his mothers business ever since his fathers death and it was from examining his fathers papers and hearing his father say in his lifetime that he never got his pay as Government had not the money. It was these conversations of his father that caused him to find out the £20..11½ filed with the application of his mother for a Pension Affiant left Virginia the last time in 1819 in his 22nd or 23 year and his father Joel Preston moved to Tennessee in 1828 and died October of the same year. affiant has a good recollection of the family of the Prestons as related to him by the different members of the different families before he left Virginia and never understood or heard of any by the name of Joel Preston but his father who lived in Bedford county in the time of the war of the Revolution nor since that Period that was in service in time of the revolution Affiant has heard his father often related about his services and some of the officers particularly Colonel Stephens perhaps afterwards General Stephens [sic: Edward Stevens] and the suffering of himself and the rest of his fellow soldiers from hunger and cold He has no doubt but he is the only Joel Preston in the State of Virginia in the service of the United States

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 6th day of July 1849 [signed] Caleb Preston

Mr Ferguson [Adam Ferguson, agent for Lucy Preston] sir since I saw you in conversation with my wife in Relation to the residence of her uncle Isaac Cundiff [sic: Isaac Cundiff, pension application S9252] at the time of the Revelation he must have lived with in 6 or 8 miles of father at that time and was a solger also and if he is yet alive Can prove all things nesserary he was a live the last I herd of him and was living on the same place Bedford County virginia C. Preston

State of Virginia
Bedford Couty to wit

On this day [16 Jan 1851] personally appeared John Turner before me one of the acting Justices of the peace in and for the County aforesaid, and made solemn affirmation in due form of Law, And says he was well acquainted with Joel Preston who Married Lucy Tate his now present widow And further says he believes him to be the identical Joel Preston who served in the Virginia Continental line, from the following circumstances (Viz) That he had many years ago heard the said Joel Preston relate being engaged in circumstances that occurred in the war, and having such full confidence in his firmness and veracity that he cannot doubt his assertions. That he was a Babtist Preacher and had a son Caleb Preston. That he is informed (and verily believes) the said Joel Preston died in Smith County Tennessee. This affiant says he served himself in the Revolutionary war and is now nearly ninety years of age.
John hisXmark Turner

NOTES:

The file includes a copy of the minister's return for the marriage of Joel Preston to Lucy Tate by Nathaniel Shrewsberry. Also in the file is a fragment of a family record transcribed below.

On 2 Feb 1844 Booker Preston, 62, stated that he was a nephew of Joel Preston and was present at his marriage to Lucy Tate.

On 26 Oct 1849 Daniel Cliborn of Macon County TN, aged 80 in the previous May, made a supporting statement that includes the following: "Affiant married a cousin of Joel Prestons and lived in about seven miles for thirty years before affiant moved from Virginia to Tennessee. Affiant left Joel Preston living in Virginia about the year 1804 or 1805 consequently was acquainted with him from a boy, were together frequently Preston was older than affiant was a large masterly young man rather inclined to be wicked until after he returned from the Revolution and was married to his first wife but afterwards professed religion and became a celebrated Baptist preacher."

On 12 April 1855 Lucy Preston, 88, applied for bounty land.

Caleb Preston son of Joel and Lucy his wife was born [?]th day of september
Nancy Daughter of the same

179[?]
179[?]