

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of James Ward W1105 Elizabeth Ward VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 16 Apr 2013.

State of Kentucky }
Lawrence County } SS

On this 14th day of March 1834 personally appeared before the undersigned a justice of the peace for the county aforesaid now sitting James Ward resident in the county of Lawrence and State of Kentucky aged seventy five 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 entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated — He volunteered at Fort Chisel Hill in Montgomery County Virginia [sic: Fort Chiswell now in Wythe County] for six months June 12th 1776 under Col. Christy [William Christian], Capt. Magavick afterwards he served under Capt. McClanahan Capt [James] Newell. this was to go against the Cherokee Indians in their nation. Col. Sayers was when at home his immediate militia Col. he was marched in a South western direction to Abingdon [in Washington County VA] and to the Town house on the head of Holstein river, from there to indian nation at the Long Islands of that river [sic: Long Island of the Holston River at present Kingsport TN] the army halted for a few days as the boats were not all ready and the militia had not yet all arrived. he descended the river, he crossed French Broad we arrived in the indian nation and was re-enforced by the State of North Carolina consisting of two thousand men after which the joint army burnt all the indian towns and most or all their corn. When Williamsons [Col. Andrew Williamson's] men & the Georgia troops defeated the Indians down further in the nation [at Tamassy SC, 12 Aug 1776] the indians all fled and crossed the hiwasey [sic: Hiwassee River], and left their country the North Carolina and Virginia troops all returned home. he marched to the long Islands which was about the 20th of October 1776. he was dispatched with expresses and orders from this place to Powells valley, and the Clinch forts as they were termed. After going to Powells river he returned up Clinch river to the forts, and delivered the orders. there was a Sergant and a file of men along he went to Blackamors fort [sic: present Fort Blackmore, Scott County] and then went to Hustons fort off of the river on a creek [sic: Houston's Fort on Moccasin Creek in Scott County], thence to Cowans fort at Castles woods [Fort Preston on land of Daniel Cowan in Upper Castlewood]. from there he was marched to Abington thence to the Town house. and there remained except about two weeks in November when he went to the Islands until the 23^d day of December 1776 he was discharged and McClanahan gave it to him few incidents ocured during this Tour. he was in no battles

1778 February the day he has forgotten but thinks it was the 23rd day he engaged for one year unless sooner discharged in Washington County Virginia under Col. Russell, Capt. Smith as an indian spie against the Shawny [sic: Shawnee] indians, that was in the year after the indian treaty, at the Long Island which he thinks was in 1777 [Treaty of Long Island, 20 Jun 1777]. The Shawny indians had two ways in coming to the Clinch settlements one way up Sandy river the other way up Kentucky river early in March (1778) he was marched to the frontiers, and he was marched down to Cumberland Gap where he scouted until June 1778 without having any engagement with the indians, one morning in June the company of scouts in which he was was fired on about day light near the Gap at the first onset a man by the name of Taylor was shot the company retreated up to the Top being then on a bench of the mountain, he (Ward) endeavored to bring Taylor off and after remaining with him, and giving every assistance it was imposible to save him, he was killed scalped by the indians the company at length regained the Top, and the indians came up, here the Company made a halt and maintained their position for an half hour but at length were compeled to retreat which was done with great difficulty several of the scouts were killed, William Shenett & his Bro. Isaac [Isaac Shenett] were among the slain. the company retreated to

the settlements and went to the rye cove here Robinson & Snodys [possibly Capt. James Robertson's and Lt. John Snoddy's] scouts joined us and we returned to the battle ground and buried those who had fallen. the indians had by this time left and had gone higher up on Clinch and had killed several persons. he arrived at Cowans fort in the month of November (1778) and was there discharged on the last day thereof 1778. the services of the spies and scouts not longer being necessary as the indians had all gone home & had ceased to annoy the settlements from the 17th Oct'r. 1778 when he killed a boy by the name of Darton near the fort— The country through which he marched was the country where Lee Scott and Russell Counties now are situated. sometimes he was a far down as where the Gap as before mentioned there were no occurrences worth relating during this year. he served with no Continental Officer or Regiment or Companies and the circumstances of his service are as above stated; he states that he received his discharge from Henry Smith. One circumstance that occurred this last year he will mention is that the Shawny Indian Chief "Big [illegible but another document says "Big Aacorn"] was killed in the fight aforesaid and he thinks that he killed him. but he certainly does not know it is a fact, but knows he hit him, as he had more than one bullet in him he does not pretend to say he killed him certainly.

The next year he went to the district of Kentucky. he arrived there in May 1779 without being disturbed by the indians he arrived at Boonsboro [sic: Boonesborough] he found it impossible to farm to enjoy the land in Kentucky and resolved to go back to Va. Col. Boone [sic: Daniel Boone] was taken by the indians [8 Feb 1778], and most of the settlers were about abandoning the country and going back but it was impossible to return being now summertime. he therefore July 1779 about the middle (the 15th [?]) he enlisted for two years as many did under Col. Bomar [sic: John Bowman] (the commander of the Virginia troops that had come some time before as relief to Kentucky & under Capt Hays of Kentucky. he was afterwards placed under the command of Capt Drake. he was promised six hundred acres of land for his enlistment. the first place he was marched to was after the Shawneese indians over the Ohio river. Col. Bomar who took about two hundred men along commanded he was marched across the Ohio to Old Chillicothe [sic: Old Chillicothe, late May 1779] the attack was made the whites in the night and after a long fight with the indians, we were forced to retreat. the indians greatly outnumbered us and had been aware of our approach. they pursued us and they continued to follow us until the Harrodsburg [sic: Harrodsburg KY] troops met us. and the indians had to retreat themselves. at this time the indians contended long before they would give up. from this place the troops were marched back to Harrodsburg in Kentucky and here he states he remained in the fort until the Spring following 1780. in April he was marched to Lexington and remained here and some times scouted until July 1780. the indians prevented the settlers from making salt two or three attempts being made they adventures[?] killed, about this time for he cannot state the dates of the month accurately. the settlers on Licking were all taken and Riddles fort [sic: Ruddles Station, 24 Jun 1780] torn down & taken by the indians from [one or two illegible words] and the french with them. Gen Clarke [sic: George Rogers Clark] ordered all that could bear arms to be ready to go, and everyone capable of rendering service turned out troops and all, and marched fourth after the indians which the army overtook at one of their towns call Pickawa [sic: Piqua in Ohio]. This Town was burnt [8 Aug], and about thirty or forty indians killed in the battle he was marched back by Boonsboro and chiefly all of Bomar men were discharged and sent home. in October he went to Col Logans fort [Benjamin Logan's station 1 mi W of Stanford] where he remained some time the length thereof he cannot now ascertain. he returned in December the same year to Harrodsburg he was commanded by Major Hugh McGairy who lived at the Spring. there was not indian disturbance this winter. it was exceeding cold and many of the cattle died with cold. in the beginning of the Spring 1781 he was removed to Boonsboro where he remained on duty until June when he guarded some men to the Crab Orchard. from there he came back to Harrodsburg and in July or August 1781 he received his discharge for two years. this discharge he sent to Richmond by two men who were buying up discharges from soldiers about 27 years ago and they never returned it to him. in the year 1780 Capt Drake was killed by the indians.

He remained in Kentucky the winter and all next year 1782 and determined to live in the cuntry and little or no damage took place in the curse of the next year 1783 the indians broke out and in May 1783 he volenteered for three months the indians invaded the cuntry during that summer and all the people fortified, the attacked most all of the forts. he was in Briants fort [Bryan's Station] when the indians attacked that place. this was close to Lexington, the indians, however, did not take the fort. and the forts all marched out against the indians, and overtook them the second day after he started at the Blue Licks. he was commanded by Col. Tood [sic: John Todd] a lawyer who lived near Lexington, perhaps at the place he states that he had no Captain particular during this battle, Col Tood was killed [at the Battle of Blue Licks, 19 Aug 1782.] he fell in fifteen feet of this applicant sixteen others were killed under Col Tood on the way back to Lexington the remains of what were left were met by Col. Ben Logan in the retreat he (Ward), got a fall which has injured him from this day to this. the troops went back and buried them that were killed he did not go. he was taken back to the fort and discharged. He has no documentary evidence in his favor, but believes he can make proof of his services by some served with him during the revolution. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and declares his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state— sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid. James hisXmark Ward

[Certified by Oldon Williamson and Thomas Kirk, a clergyman.]

Questions

1 Where and in what year were you born?

Ans. He was born in the County of Fincastle in the year 1758 [sic: formed from Botetourt County VA in 1772] (on the 25th March)

2. Have you any record of your age and if so where is it

Ans. I have not. & only know it by my mothers account[?]

3 Where were you living when called into service, where have lived since the revolutionary war, and where do you now live—

Ans I lived in Montgomery [sic: Montgomery] County on New river and lived ever since the revolution in Kentucky where I now live I have been as for many years.

[4] How were you called into service were you drafted did you volenteer or were you a substitute, and if a substitute for whom

Ans. the first time he volenteered, for six mo. the second time he enlisted for one year and served not quite nine months. the 3rd time he enlisted for two years. the 4th time he volenteered for three months.

5 State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served, such continental and millitia regiments as you can recollect and the General circumstances of your service

Ans it is hard to remember officers names so long ago. but he knew Gen. Clarke in Ky. Col. Christy Col [William] Preston Col Pickens Col Locke Col Russell Capt. Preston Major King Captain Smith, Col Wilson, Major Johnson, Capt Taylor, Capt Dickson, Col Harlan, Col. Bomar, Capt. Holden, Capt Evans, Capt McClanahan Col Andy Sayers, Lieutenant Robertson Capt Cowan Capt Watson Sergant Ventors He served a six months tour in 76 against the Cherokees. He served near nine months as an indian spie, he served in one term of enlistment two years in Kentucky before the state was laid off, he was in on several fights during the time afs'd. he was also in the battle of Chilacothy under Bomar. he was in Briant Station when the indians attacked it, he entered as a volenteer and served a three months tour at the battle of the Blue Licks. he was in the service four different times during the revolution

6 Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so by whom was it given and what has become of it

Ans He rec'd four discharges. one he lost. the other he sent to Richmond. the other he left in Virginia and does not know what became of it. the other he knows he was discharged but has no recollection what has become of them—

7 State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify

as to your character for veracity and their belief of you service as a soldier of the revolution Ans. The Rev'd. Thomas Kirk, Nathan R Mullett, Aulden Williamson, Levi Blevins, Jurdan Clay, Benj Porter, William Porter, George Orton Jr, James Delong Ruben Crum[?], Adam Crum [pension application S8260], James Kirk Ben. Burchett, Joshua Jones.

[14 Mar 1834] The deposition of George Hardwick [pension application S8674] relative to the services of James Ward. during the year of 1780 he states they were engaged in Kentucky in the service of the United States that Ward had come to Ky the year previous to him Hardwick that according to his present recollection that he was at Boonboro when he first seen him. that Ward and him are about the same age, he being perhaps a year or so the oldest man he has known him ever since and there exist now doubt about his being the same person, that he lives near him at this time If Ward was in the blue lick battle he has no recollection of seeing him there, relative to the services of James Ward in virginia he knows nothing of only from himself, he lived in Bedford below the blue ridge, And further this deponant saith not.
[signed] George Hardwick

[29 Apr 1834] The deposition of Abner Childers aged eighty years of age, taken in the town of Louisa State of Kentucky.

He states that during the revolutionary war he knew James Ward the applicant to be in the service of the United States against great Briton, between two and three years, that in the year 1779, he enlisted for two years in Kentucky under Col. Bowman and served out his time, he served with him eighteen months himself, and then a seperation took place and change of officers, He also state in the year 1777 perhaps 1778, he served as a Spy on Clinch in Virginia for one year. or nine months Spies allways commenced Spying early in the Spring, and quit late in the fall.

Qus'tn by Justice of the peace –

Do you know about his serving under Christy for the first six months in 1776.

Ans. I do not know it only from hearsay, but he served near upon three years to my knowlege and further He saith not.
[signed] Abner Chiders

[Ward was pensioned at \$80 per year by a certificate dated 16 May 1834 and issued to Richard Mentor Johnson, a Member of Congress.]

NOTE:

Ward's file contains a letter pertaining to allegations that his application and others were fraudulent. For details see the pension application of William Cox, pension application S30960.

On 14 March 1853 Elizabeth Ward, about 61, successfully applied for a pension as the widow of James Ward, who died on 15 July 1848. Henry Burgess, Esq. certified that he joined in matrimony James Ward and Elizabeth Williamson, but he did not give the date of the marriage. On 27 June 1853 Henry Burgess stated that the marriage occurred in September 1810 in Floyd County KY "upon the bank of the tug fork of sandy river." On 29 June 1853, however, John Wellman and Jeremiah Wellman stated that they had been present at the marriage, and that it occurred in the fall of 1807, and that the record of the marriage was destroyed in a fire in 1808. Washington Ward and Nathan Ward certified that James Ward had died on 15 July 1848. On 23 April 1856 at age 63 and living in Johnson County KY, she applied for bounty land stating that her husband died on Rockcastle Creek on 16 July 1848. On 23 March 1872 Elizabeth Ward at age 80, resident of Rockcastle Creek in Martin County KY (formed in 1870), applied for an increase in pension. Her postal address was given as Paintsville, and the document was witnessed by George W. Ward and T. W. Newberry. A letter dated 9 May 1872 stated that Elizabeth Ward was not positive about her age.

Elizabeth Ward was reported as dead in 1872, but a statement dated 6 Oct 1873 indicated that she

was still living with her son on the farm owned by her late husband at the forks of Rockcastle Creek in Martin County. The report by a special agent investigating the case for possible fraud stated: "I proceeded to the supposed residence of Claimant [Lovina Ward, with whom Elizabeth Ward was confused] Paintville Johnson Co, Ky 65 miles up the Big Sandy river and there found that Claimant lived 20 miles over the mountains by a road inaccessible by wheels – but the County Court commenced that day at Paintville and among it members was the identical Greenville Preston referred to in the Post Masters letter as the son in Law of Claimant." The agent there obtained the following statement from Greenville Preston:

State of Kentucky/ County of Johnson Ss

Personally appeared before me at Paintsville County & State aforesaid this 6th day of October 1873 Greenville Preston who being duly sworn deposeth and saith as follows. I live on Jones Creek six miles from Paintsville. I married a daughter of Shadrack and Lovina Ward who lived at the mouth of Greasy Creek in Johnson County. Said Shadrack has been dead full ten years and his widow Lovina died some time in the Spring of of 1782, or perhaps in January. It was cold weather. I attended her funeral. Her oldest son is named James A Ward. She lived at the time of her death with Joseph Davis, another son in Law. I understood that she was making an application for a pension on account of her husband who got a substitute in the war of 1812 or the Revolutionary War. I knew an old Lady who is called Aunt Betty Ward the widow of James Ward. She lives somewheres at the Forks of Rock Castle ten miles from Warfield in Martin County. I never heard of her death. Have heard of her as living within a year. She is a very large fat old woman I suppose she is seventy or seventy five years old I knew her husband. He died over 20 years ago – I have no interest in this case [signed] G. Preston