

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of Robert Hedges (Hodges) W11327

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Kentucky

Franklin County Sct

On this 20<sup>th</sup> day of August 1832 personally appeared before the County Court of Franklin Composed of the following Justices Edward S Coleman Samuel B Crockett John McKee now sitting, Robert Hedges aged 72 years, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832.

That he entered into the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated.

That he entered the service of the United States as a soldier of the revolutionary army, in the year 1776 in Oct of that year, in the State of Virginia at Dumfries in Prince William County, as a Clerk of Colo. Burr Harrison - Col Joseph Nevel, who were Commissaries and paymasters general the Western Troops waters Ohio &c that in this capacity as Clerk he served for one year, as a Volunteer, in said service, that he faithfully served out said Time, that John Nevell [sic: John Neville] was the Col. of the regiment to which he belonged, that Ayrebuckle was the Major of said Regiment, that the number of this Regiment was 13<sup>th</sup> of Virginia, that from Dumfries he marched to Pittsburgh thence to fort Whiston [sic: Fort Wheeling] where Capt Ebenezer Yance Commanded, that Col Nevell had not yet come on; that from fort Wheeton we went down in Boats for Point Pleasant at the mouth of the Great Kanaway [sic: Kanawha] River, at this place he remained untill the last of August or first of Sept under the aforesaid Col Nevell, that during this stay he had many skirmishes with the Indians, that from this place he returned to fort Pitt where a treaty was Concluded with the Indians. that he wrote as clerk during the treaty about three weeks, that Simon Girty was the Indian interpreter [see note below], after the treaty Col Harrison and myself returned home to Prince William County Virginia, that he there was then discharged by having finished his busyness.

That in the year 1777 he again entered the service of the United States, as a Cadett in the Company of his father, John Hedges who was the Captain. George Madden was Lieut, Robt Browther Ensign. that he volunteered for the Term of three months, that he at the time he Volunteered he lived in the of Prince William State of Va that the Commandants of the Regiment were Major James Ewell Col Jesse Ewell of the same county & state aforesaid, that the adjutant to the regiment was John Lawson. Paymaster Col William Crawford that from the place of rendevous in Prince William they marched to Frederick Town in the State of Maryland, thence through Little York in Pennsylvania thence to Lancaster in Pennsylvania and thence crossed the Schoolkyll [sic: Schuylkill River] at Parkers ford thence ~~we joined~~; on this march he joined a Brigade Commanded by Gen Will Crawford, that thence they joined the Grand army above Philadelphia, then Gen'l. Washington was the commander in Chief. Shortly after the Battle of Brandywine [11 Sep 1777], and a few days before the battle of Jarman Town [sic: Germantown PA, 4 Oct], that he was not in the Battle of Jarman Town owing to Gen Crawfords covering the retreat, that not a gun was fired in the Regiment to which he belonged, that Gen'l [Anthony] Wayne was there, that Gen Morgan was also there [sic: Daniel Morgan, Colonel at Saratoga NY at the time] and officers who command from the regulars, that he recollects Gen'l Stephens [sic: Edward Stevens] a militia officer, from this place they went to Vally forge [sic: Valley Forge] into winter Quarters, and were discharged at Lancaster after having faithfully served five months a longer time than he had volunteered for, that the number of Rigmnt not recollected, that this discharge took place in the winter 1777 or 8.

That in the Spring of 1778 he Volunteered often times under Captains & Liutenants to guard the River Potomack [sic: Potomac] in all about 8 or 9 months between the year aforesaid and 1781.

That in Feb 1781 he enlisted under Capt Robert Bowling [sic: Robert Bolling, pension application S6689] of Petersburgh [sic: Petersburg] of Va. that John Scott was the Leut and Horatio Turpin was the Coronett [sic: Cornet] of the horses that he enlisted for 6 months as a Sargent to the

horses, that he then resided in Dinwiddie County Va that he furnished his own horse bridle saddle and arms, that they Joined Col D Call [sic: Maj. Richard Call] at Petersburg, that they were there trained untill about may 1781 that they went then to meet Gen'l Tarlton's horse [sic: Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton's Legion] at Maherin [sic: Meherrin River], that Tarlton came on and defeated us and he lost all his clothing and retreated to Petersburg, where he joined the Gen'l Baron Stuben [sic: Baron von Steuben], who had 950 regulars and that he here gave them a battle [25 Apr] under the command of Gen'l Stuben that Gen Philips [sic: William Phillips] again Beat the americans, that he retreated through Virginia Richmond city, that at the White oak Bottoms near James Town Gen Mulenburgh took Command and had a Gen'l. engagement, and the British retreated [sic: see note below] that there ocured no other engagement untill the Siege of York [28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781], that he was in that Siege, under Capt Bowling Col Call Gen'l. Baron Stuben, that at the Siege of York he was the Quartermaster to Col Call's light Dragoons for about 8 weeks.

That he has no documentary evidence now in his possession except a written order of Col Call appointing him Quarter master which is herewith annexed [lost by the preparer of the application], that he had other written documents which he placed in the hands of Joseph Lecompte his representative in Congress, who he understands placed them in the war department what they are he does not now recollect but should they be found in the department he prays the same to be considered in his behalf on this application, & that he knows of no one by whose testimony he can procure to prove the services aforesaid. He hereby relinquishes all claim whatever to any pension or annuity and declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of any state in the union.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

[signed] Robert Hedges

Questions put to the applicant by the Court —

Where and when were you born

ans I was Born in Prince William County near Dumphries in the the 1760

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

ans I have in the County Parish of Delingin[?], State of Virginia.

Where were you living when called into the service, where have you lived since the revolution, and where do you now live.

Ans When I was called into the service I lived in Prince William County, State of Virginia. Since the revolution untill 1818 I lived in said Prince William County. Since 1818 I have lived in Franklin County Ky.

How were you called into the service, were you drafted, did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if so for whom.

Ans I Volunteered every Tour as above stated but one and in that I enlisted for 6 months under Capt Robert Bowling.

State the names of some of the regular officers who was with the troops where you served, such continental and militia regiments as you can recollect, and the general circumstances of your services.

I recollect Col Call who commanded the troops of horse when I was at Jarman Town. I recollect Gen'l Morgan Gen'l Wayne Mulenburgh was the regular commandants. Col Jesse Ewell, Col Crawford, a regular Comd & Major Ewell. The Captains was my father John Hedges, that at James Town I recollect Gen'l Baron Stuben Gen'l Charles Scott Gen'l Morgan [sic: not at Jamestown] Gen Wayne Muhlenburgh & Layfayette [sic: Lafayette] and the comd in chief Gen Washington, Col Crawford, Col Harrison Col [Josiah] Parker Col Call my col. that during his whole time of service he received as pay but continental money, that he was under Col D Call a short time before the Battle of York appointed Quater master, and has yet the order of Col Call in his possession making said appointment which is herewith annexed

Did you receive a discharge from service and if so what has become of it.

ans. If I received a discharge I have lost it. I think I received a discharge but am not certain.

State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood, and who can speak and testify as to your character for veracity ad their belief of your services as a soldier of the revolution. I state Larken Carr & J D Chambers persons to whom I am known

NOTES:

Simon Girty, known as "the white savage," had been raised by the Indians who killed his father. Later in the Revolutionary War he led Indian attacks against the Whites.

I could not identify any engagement near Jamestown at which Gen. Peter Muhlenberg defeated the British.

On 7 Mar 1853 Mary Hedges applied for a pension stating that she married Robert Hedges in Prince William County in Jun, the year illegible , and he died in Shelby County KY 28 May 1848. In the file is a copy of a bond signed 3 Jan 1817 by Robert Hedges and Larkin Carr for the marriage of Hedges to Mary Dowell. On 3 Jul 1855 in Hendricks County IN Mary Hedges applied for bounty land, stating that she was only 50 years old. On 28 May 1856 she amended the estimate to 58. Elsewhere in 1832 it was stated that Robert Hedges had "three or four wives, and had an immense flock of children by each."