

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Stewart¹ W11555 Martha B. f91VA
Transcribed by Will Graves 4/26/12

[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. 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 fails 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 errors or omissions to my attention.]

[f p. 16]

State of Georgia County of Monroe

On this 23rd day of October in the year 1832 Personally appeared in open Court before the Honorable Christopher B Strong Judge of the Superior Court for said County which court is now sitting William Stewart a resident of said County and State aged sixty-nine years and ten months 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 was drafted in Amherst County Virginia in the fall of 1778 at which time he had just arrived at 16 years of age and entered the militia under Captain Pamplin [Richard Pamplin], in a Regiment commanded by Colonel Daniel Gains [Daniel Gaines], the company was mustered at Amherst Court House, and claimant was appointed by Colonel Gains, issuing Commissary of the Spirits and provisions to those of the troop that were collected at Amherst Court House until the Regiment rendezvoused at Richmond in the State of Virginia when claimant was appointed Sergeant in Captain Pamplin's Company and continued to fill that appointment until the expiration of his term of service, the detachment to which claimant belonged was stationed during this term of service which was for six months at Richmond and in that neighborhood: we were in no engagements during this tour – within a short time after the expiration of this above mentioned term of service, claimant was again drafted and entered the service for another tour of six months, and entered the service in Captain John Christian's Company of militia in a Regiment commanded by Colonel Vance [Samuel Vance], at the commencement of this term of service claimant was again appointed Sergeant which appointment he continued to fill in Captain Christian's company until the expiration of his term of service, during this tour of service the Brigade or Division was commanded by General Lawson [Robert Lawson], and was in no engagements or battles, we were in hearing of the firing during the engagement between the British and a part of the American Army under General Wayne [Anthony Wayne] at Jamestown², a part of the Army which was at that time under the command of General Lawson, marched all the night preceding the battle for the purpose of joining General Wayne, but were they will ordered by taking wrong roads and failed in forming a junction. General Lawson was suspected by some of the soldiers of being not very desirous of joining the Army under General Wayne.

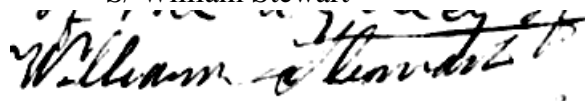
¹ BLWt38559-160-55

² This is probably a reference to the engagement between Wayne's troops and Cornwallis' troops at Green Spring on July 6, 1781.

After the expiration of the last mentioned term of service, claimant was again drafted for another tour of six months, and entered the service under his brother Captain John Stewart of Amherst County Virginia in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Tucker, and the brigade was commanded by General Holt Richardson. Applicant was at the siege of Little York from beginning to end and after the surrender of the British Army [October 19, 1781] claimant marched several days as part of the guard in conducting the prisoners on their way towards the Winchester barracks where claimant was taken sick and discharged a few days before the expiration of his term of service. In addition to the above claimant served a short term in guarding through Virginia the prisoners taken at the Cowpens [January 17, 1781] in North Carolina [sic South Carolina] by General Morgan. Claimant was again called on as belonging to the second division (the County where he lived being laid off into divisions) in the State of Virginia to march against the British some time in the year 1779 or 80, who were at that time marching on from the South through the settlement where claimant then lived in the State of Virginia under the command of Lord Cornwallis as claimant understood. Claimant does not remember what length of time he spent in this term of service, but the tour was short, and claimant was not engaged in any battle during that time, in conclusion claimant conscientiously believes that during the above mentioned terms of service, he served at least for the space of two years; during some of the above mentioned terms of service claimant served longer than the time for which he was drafted, and at other times was discharged before his term of service had actually expired. Claimant remembers very distinctly that he was under the command of General Lafayette at a place called Mobben Hills [Malvern Hills] in the State of Virginia, where the Army under the command of Lafayette was stationed some short time, and claimant remembers that the Army marched from that place across a large swamp called Chickahominy, but does not remember how far said swamp is from the Mobbin Hills neither does he remember particularly where they went after they crossed the swamp, nor during what tour of service the last mentioned circumstances took place. Applicant was born as he has always understood and believed in Hanover County Virginia on the 8th day of November 1762, he had a record of his age which was burnt in 1812 when he had the misfortune to lose his house with all his books and papers besides other valuable property by fire: he has already stated that at the time of being called into the service he lived in Amherst County Virginia and he lived there 8 or 10 years after the war, from Amherst claimant moved to Oglethorpe County Georgia where he lived between 30 and 40 years, from there he moved to Monroe County Georgia where he has been living for the last 7 or 8 years, and where he now lives. Claimant has stated the manner of his being called into the service. Applicant saw General Wayne often, the 1st time he saw GENERAL Wayne was today preceding the fight at James Town, Applicant Salm any regular officers but remembers the names of but few; he often salt Baron Steuben who was often employed in training the troops: Claimant knew Colonel Tucker and General Nelson, but is not certain whether they were regular officers. Applicant had discharges from each of his terms of service, but they have all been lost or destroyed or burnt in the fire mentioned. Gabriel Christian a clergyman is the only person in Claimant's neighborhood by whom he can prove any actual service, he served one tour under said Christian's father. Applicant feels flattered in believing that any or if necessary all his neighbors would be willing to testify to his character for veracity and also to their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution.

He hereby relinquishes any 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.

S/ William Stewart



Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

S/ Christopher B Strong, Judge

[Gabriel Christian, a clergyman, and Cuthbert Collier gave the standard supporting affidavit. In addition Gabriel Christian testified that during the lifetime of his father Colonel John Christian he recollects frequently to have heard his father say that William Stewart was with him in the service during the revolutionary war at the siege of York at which time John Christian was a Captain.]

[f p. 38]

State of Georgia County of Monroe: SS

Now on this 4th day of October in the year 1833 again appeared before the honorable Christopher B Strong Judge of the Superior Court for said County which court is now sitting; the same William Stewart who appeared in said court and made his declaration therein on the 23rd day of October 1832 in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th, 1832 – And the said William Stewart being again 1st duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following additional declaration to obtain the benefit of the act aforesaid – He states that after having his declaration again read over in his hearing he cannot undertake to alter it in any material respect in regard to the length of his service or to make it more precise in that respect or in respect to the different grades in which he served. He states that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following grades. For one year he served as a Sergeant. For one year he served as a private soldier and for such service he claims a pension. Applicant states that he is unable to produce his sergeants warrants for his discharges all of which were consumed by the fire mentioned in his original declaration to which this is an amendment.

S/ William Stewart

[f p. 40]

State of Georgia County of Monroe: Now on the 12th day of March in the year 1833 [sic, 1834?] before the honorable Christopher B Strong Judge of the Superior Court for the County aforesaid the same William Stewart who has before appeared in this Court on the 23rd day of October 1832 and also on the 4th day of October 1833 again personally appears in open court and after being first duly sworn doth on his oath make the following additional and amendatory declaration in order to obtain the benefit of an act of Congress passed June 7th, 1832. That at the time of his entering the service in the fall of 1778 he was sixteen years of age and was in his 17th year at the time of his having the appointment of Sergeant referred to by the Commissioner of pensions and that his receiving the appointment at that time might be owing to the fact that his elder brother Captain John Stewart had previously been in the service and to the additional facts that Captain Pamplin's Company was composed almost entirely of claimant's neighbors and acquaintances and those of his family – Claimant asks leave to specify more definitely in respect to the last mentioned tour named as for six months, he is satisfied that in that tour he did not serve six but, to the best of his recollection after reflecting not a little on the subject, two months he was called into service the first of September and returned home sometime in the month of

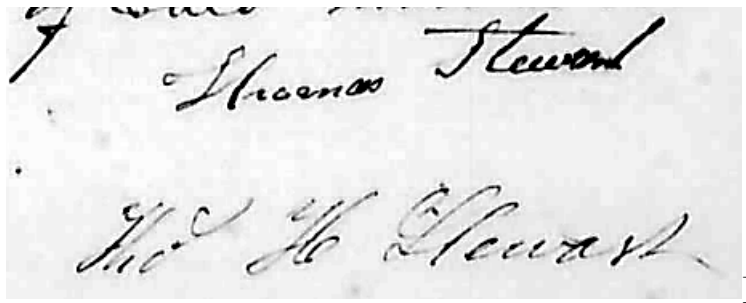
November 1781 he thinks before the middle of the month mentioned he feels safe in saying that in that tour he was in actual service not less than two months and that the whole time acted as Sergeant – in relation to the other terms of service he still feels impressed [?] that they were as stated in his original application; he states most positively that he served out the full time of each of the terms referred to and hopes that the precise term of service rendered by the Regiment commanded by Colonel Gaines and of the troops commanded by General Lawson may be known to the commissioners of pensions and hopes that whether they were for more or less than 6 months he may be allowed such pension as those terms of service will entitle him to as he knows he did at the time stated served his country faithfully to the best of his abilities and is now aged, infirm and destitute – Claimant repeats that in the 1st term of service he served as issuing commissary and afterwards as Sergeant as therein stated, and also that he served as Sergeant during the whole time he was under the command of Captain Christian – during the time of claimant's service he filled the appointment of Sergeant except the 1st part of the tour in which he served as issuing commissary to Colonel Gaines as already stated both of which appointments in were bestowed on claimant by Colonel Gaines himself who was a near neighbor to claimant's father – Claimant is unable to specify more particularly than he has done but hopes his statement is sufficiently definite to enable the Department to settle on at least some period for which he is entitled to a pension – he still feels confident that in all he served fully two years and this confidence is the result of an estimate of his services made long since at the close of the war but in undertaking to specify he finds it out of his power to be more definite than he has been already, and trust, as stated before, that the same may be satisfactory: if not he of course will be bound to acquiesce in whatever disposition the Department may think proper to make of his application.

S/ William Stewart

[f p. 7: On March 3, 1855 in Monroe County Georgia, Martha B Stewart, 72, filed a claim for a widow's pension under the 1853 act stating that she is the widow of William Stewart, a pensioner of the United States for his service in the revolution; that her husband departed this life in Macon County Georgia June 9, 1848; that she married him December 17, 1837. She signed her application with her mark.]

[f p. 12: On November 5, 1855 in Monroe County Georgia, the widow applied for her bounty land entitlement; that she was married to her husband in Monroe County Georgia December 17, 1837 by Mickleberry Merritt a Justice of the Peace; that her name prior to her marriage was Martha B Wilson. She signed her application with her mark.]

[f p. 20: On May 12, 1855 in Monroe County Georgia, Thomas Stewart [the son of the veteran] and Thomas H Stewart [the grandson of the veteran] gave testimony in support of the application of Mrs. Martha B Stewart for her pension as the widow of William Stewart



James Stewart
J. H. Stewart

[Facts in file: Charles T Wilson, son of the widow, was a resident of Jones County Georgia in 1861 and referred to his mother as being deceased at that time.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$100 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private & Sergeant for 2 years in the Virginia service. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]