

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of John Evans W1582

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Kentucky } Sct

Laurel County        }

On this [blank] day of June 1834 personally appeared before the Judge of the Laurel Circuit, in open Court, John Evans, a resident of said County aged 79 years, who being duly sworn according to law upon his oath made the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed 7<sup>th</sup> June 1832. He states that he entered the Service of the United States in the Revolution, as a volunteer under Lieut Thomas Carlin [Thomas Carlan] (an Irishman) in February 1781 in Henry County [now Patrick County] Virginia about 5 miles from the North Carolina line The rendezvoused just over the line in N.C. in Surry Co. in the last of February 1781 or the first of March & a little before the Battle at Guilford [Guilford Courthouse NC, 15 Mar 1781], there were 40 odd men in his Company, some of their names he still recollects (towit, Griffin, Hampton, Bird, Halstead, Suilavan & Christian. His Capt was by the name of Headspeth [probably Hedspeth], but he did not continue long with them, and he served out the ballance of his service under the Leut aforesaid. Colo. Phillips was with them some times. His service was performed on horse back, and they were called Rangers or mounted Infantry, and ranged the Country about the Adkin [sic: Yadkin] River, and little Adkin in Surry County, Wilkles [sic: Wilkes], & Guilford, and in the mountains in Henry County Va. They were more particularly engaged after the Tories, some of whom the caught one they caught in Surry Co. by the name of Tate the took him to Richmond Surry Co. [now Yadkin County] N.C. one Sunday evening, and Colo Shepherd being there, so soon as he saw him drew his sword & struck him and wounded him. He states that he was in acuteral Service as a ranger aforesaid from some time in February afs'd. untill some time in July the same year, being not less than five months. He did not enter the service for any particular time but to continue as long as was necessary; He returned home several times during his service to get clothing &c. but his service was one continued service, under the same officer and he deems it all one tour of Service. he was discharged by his said Leut some time in July afs'd. for the whole service. In the next month August of the same year (1781) He volunteered under the same officers and marched to york Town Va. thro' Pitsylvania [sic: Pittsylvania County], Halifax, Charlotte &c. When they arrived at york his Company was added to a company commanded by Capt James Poteete [sic: James Poteet, also of the Henry County Militia]. His Major was by the name of [George] Waller, Agetent named Voice. The Colo. he believes was by the name of [St. George] Tucker; Randal Hall, Sergt. & was afterwards a preacher. During this tour he was at the Siege of York where & when Cornwallis was taken, as he believes on the 19<sup>th</sup> of Oct'r. 1781. He was discharged some time after the Seige, and returned home which place he reached sometime in December, being sick he was about the last of his company getting home, of those who returned at all. He was in actual Service not less that five months this tour. In answer to interrogatories put by the Court he says he was born in Caroline County Va. in the year 1765 and was not quite 15 years old when he first entered the service. was raised up in the mountains and used to hardships & his gun. He has no record of his age. After the Revolution he moved to East Tennessee, Hawkins Co. from there to Lincoln Co. Kentucky & he now lives in Laurel Co Kentucky. He volunteered each of his tours, & rec'd. discharges from his officers, from Leut Carlin the first, the other from his Colo. after the Siege of york, they are both lost. He was acquainted with General Washington & Layfeyette [sic: Lafayette] of the regular army & Count Degrassee [sic: Comte De Grasse of the French Army].

He refers to John Pearl, Lawrence Hansel & Genl William Smith of Rock Castle [sic: Rockcastle] County for his Character. There is no Clergyman living in his neighbourhood, neither is he sufficiently acquainted with any Clergyman in this County to obtain from them the certificate required by the

Department of War. He has no record evidence of his services & knows of no person living by whom he can prove his services. He hereby relinquishes all claim to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the roll of the Agency of any State what ever Sworn & subscribed this day & year aforesaid

[signed] John Evans

[In addition to Gen. William Smith, John G. Evans certified the declaration.]

NOTE: On 20 July 1850 Mary Evans, 72, applied for a pension stating that she married John Evans on 30 March 1797, and he died 23 May 1837. Her declaration was certified by another John Evans. The file includes a copy of a bond signed in Lincoln County KY on 29 Mar 1797 by John Evans and Thomas Vaughn for the marriage of Evans to Mary Price. There is also a copy of the record of the marriage on 30 March 1797 by Rev. Thomas J. Chilton. On 13 Apr 1855 at age 76 Mary Evans applied for bounty land, adding that she and John Evans had been married by a Baptist preacher named Thomas "Shelton."