

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Joseph Lafar W21556

Catharine Lafar

f24SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

10/11/08 rev'd 1/5/16

[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. The word 'illegible' or 'indcipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. 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 skills fail 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 material errors or omissions to my attention.]

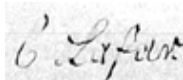
[p 4]

State of South Carolina, District of Charleston

On this tenth day of April 1838 personally appeared before the Honorable Thomas Lee one of the Judges of the United States Court, and the City of Charleston and district of South Carolina, Mrs. Catherine Lafar, a resident of said City aged Seventy five years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on her oath make the following declaration, in order to be entitled to the provision of the 3rd Section of the Act of Congress of the 4th of July 1836. That she is the widow of Joseph Lafar deceased, who was a Sergeant in the "Ancient Artillery of Charleston," South Carolina militia during the War of the Revolution, and served as such during the periods herein mentioned. To wit, He enrolled himself in said Corps in the year 1777, for when she married him in January 1778 he was a member of said Corps for some time previous & with said rank of Sergeant, Saith that with a few intermissions he was constantly under arms with the said Corps, until the fall of Charleston on the 12 May 1780, more especially from the landing of the British at Port Royal in February 1779, and during the Siege, & Saith when the said surrender of the City took place he was taken a prisoner while under arms, as a Sergeant as aforesaid, and after being detained a prisoner of war, he in about two months became a prisoner on parole, and continued as such to the time of the evacuation [Charleston South Carolina was evacuated by the British in December 1782], Saith that in about a month after this event took place, said Corps of artillery was reorganized, under the Command of Captain Anthony Toomer, and her said husband had his link of Sergeant given him, which he continued to hold to the time of his death, which took place in 1795, Saith that she has remained unmarried ever since and is now a widow, Saith she was married to said Joseph Lafar on the 25th January 1778, Saith that she states the above facts to the best of her recollection and that her memory of them grows more indistinct, Saith that many, who could have direct proof are dead or left the State, or by reason of decline of memory unable to give evidence in her behalf, but Saith the services of her husband as aforesaid was matter generally known to Charleston, Saith she is now feeble in health and poor in circumstances and humbly hopes the war department seeing the shortness of life in the South and the difficulty of procuring proves will take her case into its kind consideration.

Sworn to before me this then April 1838.

S/ C. Lafar



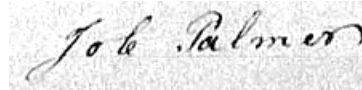
S/ Thos. Lee, Dist. Judge of

U. States for S.C.

[p 6]

I hereby Certify, that I was acquainted with Joseph Lafar in the Revolutionary War, and was on guard duty with him in the Charleston Artillery sometime during the War and have no doubt in my mind that he served in his Station during the Continuance of the War; but I have had but little acquaintance with his widow.

S/ Job Palmer¹



South Carolina

Joseph Righton² aged 76 years being duly sworn maketh oath that he knew the late Joseph Lafar well, That he was in the Ancient Battalion of Artillery of Charleston with him during the revolutionary War, That the said Joseph Lafar was a good and faithful Soldier always prepared and ready to do his duty. That the said Joseph Lafar was at the lines during the whole Siege of Charleston and that for five or six months before the Siege the Ancient Battalion of Artillery were in Constant Service liable to be called out in almost constantly on duty. That the Artillery and the rest of the Militia were for many months before the Siege engaged before the City of Charleston in throwing up lines and preparing for the Enemy. That for at least six months before the fall of Charleston no man was able to follow his Business. That it was a period of general Alarm. Indeed Deponent has no hesitation in saying that they were in actual Service for at least six months before the surrender of Charleston.

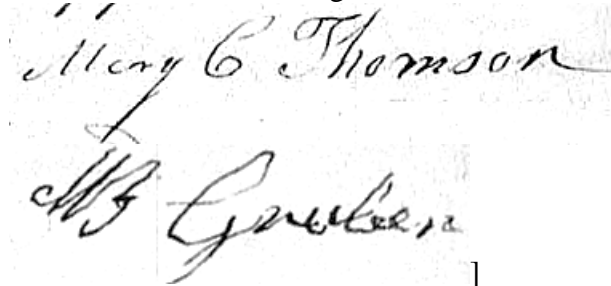
S/ Jos. Righton



Sworn to before me in open Court this 10th April 1838

S/ Thomas Lee, District Judge

[Mrs. Mary C. Thompson, 77, and Mrs. Margaret Barbary Gruber (widow of Daniel Cobin), 78, both of Charleston, each gave an affidavit dated April 1838, in support of the widow's claim.



Mary C. Thompson
M B Gruber]

¹ [Job Palmer S21917](#)

² [Joseph Righton W22074](#)

[On June 12, 1858, Mrs. Catharine Foote, wrote to the President of the US (Buchanan) saying she was the daughter of Joseph and Catharine Lafar, that her mother was a pensioner of the US at half pay, that her mother was her sole support and the sole support of her (Mrs. Foote's) "orphaned daughter" (not named in the letter), that she (Mrs. Foote) is feeble and unable to support herself and her orphaned daughter; that she (Mrs. Foote) also had a son, now deceased.

Catharine Foote]

[facts in file: Veteran married January 25, 1778, Catharine Boillat or Boillut who was born April 16, 1763; that Joseph and Catharine; Joseph Lafar was born May 16, 1753; the widow was still alive and living in Charleston as late of March 4, 1846, when she applied for benefits under the act of June 17, 1844, in addition to the \$100/year pension she was then drawing.]

[Veteran's widow was initially pensioned at the rate of \$40 per annum subsequently increased to \$100 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for her husband service as a private for 2 years in the South Carolina militia.]