

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Joshua Armstrong W23461

Sarah

f68PA

Transcribed by Will Graves

1/16/12

[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.]

State of Illinois, Greene County: County Commissioners Court of Greene County

On this second day of December 1833, personally appeared in open court, (being a court of record) in and for the County of Greene, Joshua Armstrong, a resident of the County of Greene and state of Illinois, now in the seventy eight year of his age, who being first duly sworn according to Law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress (passed) June 7th 1832, that he was drafted into the service of the United States as a Private in the Pennsylvania Militia, in the year 1777 to serve a tour of sixty days under Capt. Leard, attached to Col. Chambers regiment. General Potter's Brigade, while the British were in Philadelphia. He was in two engagements against the British, the first at Chestnut Hill, the second at the Seven Stars [?] near the Gulph Mill [near Valley Forge], where his brother John Armstrong was taken prisoner, and confined in Philadelphia until the British abandoned the place, and after a few days of his release, he died, alleging that he was poisoned while in confinement.

2nd-Sometime after, the date not now distinctly recollected, he was drafted as a Private in the Pennsylvania Militia, to go against the Indians at Standing Stone [November 10, 1782]-he served two months of this expedition under Lt. Junkins [Jenkins?] from Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, the services performed in Canoe Valley, Junietta [?] – the Company was divided and stationed at different points to protect the frontier, the names of the different Officers not at this time recollected.

3rd-He served a tour of duty of two months at Wheeling Fort, and was engaged during the time in scouting – his impression is that during this service he was under subordinate Officers, who were changed during the time and their names not now recollected.

4th-In the year 1781, about the 1st Day of August he entered into the service of the United States at Pittsburgh, under General George Rogers Clark, Colonel Crockett [Joseph Crockett], Majors Crittendon [John Crittenden] and Wells. He was in the service, this time four and a half months and served as an artificer (besides performing military duty under Captain Bruce) under Mr. Anderson foreman of artificers-during this service he was with the troops down the Ohio to the Falls, and returned by water to Wheeling. He lost his brother, Joseph Armstrong who was killed in the expedition, having received a wound at the Falls, at the same time Capt. Keller [probably Capt. Abraham Kellar or Keller, killed December 12, 1781] was wounded, who also died.

5th-He served a tour of duty of two months at Wheeling under Colonel Marshall of the Pennsylvania Militia, who gave him a written discharge a few days before the expiration of his time for carrying an express to Deckers Fort [also called Dunkard's] Mingo bottom on the Ohio, which service was performed at great hazard – the discharge has been lost. He states upon his

oath aforesaid that his whole service amounted to twelve and a half months. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a Pension or Annuity except the present, and he declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of any Agency in any State.

Whereupon the Court propounded the following interrogations to the applicant:

1st-Where and what year were you born?

Ans.-I was born in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania August 1, 1756, and was raised in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania.

2nd.-Have you any record of your age, and if so where is it?

Ans.-My age was recorded in a large family Bible now in my possession.

3rd.-Where were you living when called to service, where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Ans.-I was living in Cumberland Co., Pennsylvania when called into service, since the Revolutionary War I have lived first in Monongahela from thence to Virginia in Rockingham County where I married from there I removed to Bourbon County Kentucky and after a residence of six years, I removed to Greene County, Kentucky, remained there six years and then removed to Warren County Kentucky, lived there sixteen years, and then removed to the territory of Illinois in the year 1810, since which time he has resided in the territory and State and now in Greene County, Illinois.

4th-How were you called into service, were you drafted or did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if a substitute, for whom?

Ans.-I have stated in my declaration as near as my memory will serve me, the manner in which I was called into service-the service under General Clark was volunteered under a promise of pay as an artificer; but I never received any.

5th-State the names of the regular officers, who were with the troops where you served, such Continental and Militia Regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service?

Ans.-I have already stated in my declaration all that is distinctly recollected and esteemed material to my application.

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

Ans.-I never received any discharge except the one from Col. Marshall, that I recollect, and that has been lost as before stated.

7th-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 your services as a soldier of the Revolution?

Ans.- The Revd. Major Dotson, Revd. Fletcher Dotson, Revd. William Smith, John Thompson, General John Thompson Jr., Chester Bethel, James Rusk, Jefferson Robertson, Morris Armstrong (his son) and Chilton Smith.

In witness whereof the said Joshua Armstrong subscribed his name in open court on the date before mentioned.

S/ Joshua Armstrong, X his mark

Sworn and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

S/ Mortimer Kennett, Clk

[Major Dotson, Fletcher Dotson, William Smith, a clergyman, and Chester Bethel, James Rusk Jefferson Robertson, Morris Armstrong and Chilton Smith gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[f p. 12: On February 6, 1846 in Jersey County Illinois, Sarah Armstrong, 82, made application for a widow's pension under the 1838 act stating that she is the widow of Joshua Armstrong, a revolutionary war pensioner at the rate of \$41.66 per annum for his service in the revolution; that she married him July 7th 1785; that he died December 25, 1844.

Sarah Armstrong

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[f p. 16: copy of a marriage bond issued to Joshua Armstrong and Henry Ewing of Rockingham County Virginia on July 1, 1785 conditioned upon the marriage of Joshua Armstrong to Sarah Morris daughter of Morris Morris of Rockingham County.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$41.66 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private in the Pennsylvania militia for one-year and 15 days. Veteran's widow was pensioned in a like amount