

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Joshua Prewett<sup>1</sup> W27643      Maria Berkshire<sup>2</sup>      f140VA  
Transcribed by Will Graves      11/20/12

[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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Kentucky Henry County: SS

On this 5<sup>th</sup> day of May 1834 personally appeared in open Court before John Chilton, Samuel Ireland and William O'Bannon Judges of the County Court of Henry County now sitting Joshua Prewett aged 69 years who being duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of an act of Congress passed the 7<sup>th</sup> of June 1832.

This declarant states that he was born in Bedford County State of Virginia in the year 1765 where he remained until after he arrived at the age of thirteen years when his father married a second wife. He being unwilling to come under the government of a Step Mother deserted his father and in company with a family of Movers came to Kentucky, after being in Kentucky about six months he went to the Garrison at Louisville and in the month of March 1779 he the said Joshua Prewett did enlist under one Captain George [Robert George] of the Artillery, for a period of five years and was attached to General George Rodgers Clark's [George Rogers Clark's] Regiment, he states that the day after he enlisted the Regiment under the command of General Clark left the Garrison and marched below the falls and got aboard some boats that had been pressed by General Clark; they then descended the Ohio River as low as its junction with the Mississippi where General Clark determined to ascend the Mississippi in pursuit of some Indians that had retreated up the River after having done some mischief in Kentucky. Here he states they had to leave some boats such as were not constructed foregoing upstream with the balance of the crafts such as Keel boats, Skifts &c. They proceeded up the Mississippi as high as its Junction with the Missouri [River] on arriving at that place General Clarke ordered the Regiment ashore and proceeded after the Indians. He states that after spending some time in a fruitless pursuit after these Indians General Clark ordered the Regiment back to the landing. They then got aboard of their boats and descended the Mississippi River seven miles below the mouth of the Ohio River where they landed their boats, and by order of General Clark went ashore on the East shore of the Mississippi River, here the declarant states that General Clark ordered the erection of a fort and some block houses. The Regiment [indecipherable word]<sup>3</sup> under the direction of General Clark proceeded to build a fort and two Block Houses and sometime in the month of July 1780 – the fort was attacked by a numerous tribe of Indians he thinks that the number of Indians was about six times as many as Clark had in the fort, they demanded a surrender of the

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<sup>1</sup> BLWt110265-160-55

<sup>2</sup> Former widow

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fort. Clark sent out Captain Helms and an interpreter to learn the terms upon which day demanded the Surrender. Helms was informed by the interpreter that the women and children that were in the fort should be spared but that officers and soldiers should be put to death. Helms through the interpreter replied that then they all would die together and returned with his flag to the fort. General Clark approving of Captain Helms' reply ordered the fort to prepare for a defense, in a short time the Indians made an attack upon the fort by firing upon the East side of the fort there fire was returned from the fort which was kept up for the space of six days and nights with but little intermission when the Indians finding their attack to be of little effect retreated during this engagement he states there were three or four in the fort killed and some few wounded – how many he does not now remember. He states that when the Indians attacked the fort, that the hunters were out in pursuit of provisions for the regiments and that many of them were killed before they reached the fort, – after the Indians left the fort General Clark ordered a pursuit and in the pursuit he states they discovered that some of the Indians had been killed and appearance proved that the Indians had some wounded amongst them he states that after pursuing the Indians a short time they returned to the fort where they remained until the fall of the year. General Clark then ordered that the Regiment should go up the Ohio River as high as Louisville accordingly they boarded their boats and some time later in the fall they reached Louisville. General Clark then ordered that they should proceed to build a fort for their security and such buildings as would add to the comfort during the winter season and after some time spent in laboring they erected a fort, block house &c. Here he states they remained until the summer of 1781. General Clark then ordered Captain George to take his Company of artillery and board a row galley and go up the Ohio River in order to give security to those that had settled near the river and to afford some safety to those that were moving down said River. Accordingly Captain George with his Company of Artillery boarded said row galley and ascended the Ohio River as high as the mouth of the Big Kentucky and in order to alarm the Indians he states that Captain George would frequently have his cannon discharged. He states they were alternately ascending and descending the Ohio River until the winter of 1781 when they went into the forts at Louisville and wintered with the balance of Clarke's Regiment.

In the summer of 1782 he states that General Clark ordered his Regiment up the Ohio River where a part of said Regiment went aboard on the boats and a part went by land. He states they united on the Ohio River where Cincinnati now stands. Here this declarant states they built a block house and deposited some baggage and left some sick soldiers. General Clark thence ordered his Regiment to the upper Chillicothe towns on arriving at said towns the Indians made some defense in which engagement the Indians had 12 or 14 killed and some taken prisoner. General Clark remained at said towns until he ascertained that the Indians had dispersed, he then ordered a return to the block house. After reaching the block house it was ordered by General Clark that the Regiment proceed to the fort which they had built at Louisville. Accordingly some of the soldiers went aboard of the boats and some with some horses went by land, he states that he was one that was sent by land and joined the Regiment at Louisville later on fall of 1782 – Of this declarant further states that the Regiment under the Command [of] General Clark was stationed at the Fort at Louisville and that the men were frequently sent in small companies to the different forts in Kentucky for a pair defense. He states that he remained in Captain George's Company of Artillery discharging his duty as a faithful soldier until the month of March 1784 when he the said Joshua Prewett was discharged in writing, which discharge he states was signed by his said Captain George –

He states that he has no documentary evidence of his Service – and independent of

respectable traditionary evidence which he will now offer to the Court – that he can prove by respectable witnesses that he did rendered the service as alleged in the foregoing declaration – he hereby relinquishes every 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 or territory.



Interrogatories put by the Court

Qus. Where and in what year were you born

Ans. I was born in Bedford County Virginia in the [year] of 1765

Ques. Have you any record of your age and if so where is it –

Ans. I have no written record of my age.

Ques. Where were you living when called into service where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live –

Ans. When I entered the service I was traveling through Kentucky – Since the Revolution I have lived altogether in Kentucky and now live in Henry County Kentucky

Ques. How were you called into the service

Ans. I enlisted for 5 years –

Ques. State the names of some of the Regular officers who were with the troops where you served and such Continental and Militia Regiments as you can recollect and the General Circumstances of your Service

Ans. Of the regular officers those were General Clark, Colonel George Slaughter, Colonel Crockett, Major Crittenden, Captain Witherton, Captain Bailey, Captain Helms, Captain Benjamin Roberts and Captain George of the Artillery

Ques. Did you ever receive a discharge and by whom was it signed and what has become of it

Ans. I did receive a discharge for 5 years service signed by Captain George by order of General Clark. My discharge I kept until Colonel Broadhed [probably Daniel Brodhead] was appointed paymaster. I then gave him my discharge to draw my pay which discharge he kept and paid light wise if he got any

Ques. State the names of persons with whom you are acquainted in your present neighborhood who can testify to your character for veracity and their belief of your services as a Soldier of the Revolution

Ans. I will name of William Smith and Richard W Shockeney

[William Smith & Richard W Shockeney gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

I Benjamin Haydon aged 75 years do certify that I was a Soldier of the revolution and part of my service was performed under General George Rogers Clark and as far as Joshua Prewett the above applicant has stated in his declaration respecting the services upon the Chillicothe expedition I certify is correct the time expended upon this expedition I think was about 2 months.

S/ Benjamin Haydon<sup>4</sup>



<sup>4</sup> Benjamin Hayden or Haydon FPA S37972

[f p. 24: Application for a pension under the 1853 act and a power of attorney dated November 8, 1869 signed by Maria Berkshire in Trimble County Kentucky in which she states that she is nearly 61 years old; that she formerly was the wife and widow of Joshua Prewett formerly of Henry County Kentucky who died in Trimble County Kentucky January 27, 1843; that at the time of his death he was a pensioner of the United States under the act of June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832 at the rate of \$80 per annum; that she married him in Henry County Kentucky July 12, 1829; that they were married by Jonathan Kidwell, a minister of the gospel; that her name prior to her marriage was Maria Yager daughter of Lewis Yager; that after the death of her first husband and on September 11, 1845 in Trimble County Kentucky she married Jeremiah Berkshire; that Jeremiah Berkshire died in Trimble County Kentucky May 8, 1868; that she remains his widow; that her post office address is Milton Kentucky; that her residence is 5 miles from Milton and 9 miles from Bedford on the road leading from Bedford to Hunter's Bottom on the Ohio River in Carroll County Kentucky. She signed her application with her mark.]

[f p. 32: On November 8, 1869 in Trimble County the widow filed for her bounty land entitlement as the widow of a revolutionary war veteran.

[f p. 14: certified copy of a record showing the following: "This day married by me Joshua Prewett & Mariah Yager July 12, 1829.  
Jonathan Kidwell, M. Gospel"]

[f p. 15: certificate given October 13, 1869 in Jefferson County Indiana by Cornelius Vail, undertaker, 58 years old, that he delivered a coffin for the burial of Jeremiah Berkshire to Tremble County Kentucky on May 9, 1868.]

[f p. 21: Extract of a marriage record taken from tremble County Kentucky showing that Jeremiah Berkshire & Mariah Prewett were married by Jeremiah Strother, minister of the gospel November one, 1845]

[f p. 21: certificate issued by the clerk of the tremble County Kentucky court that satisfactory evidence was submitted to show that Joshua Prewett late a pensioner of the United States departed this life January 27, 1843.]

Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831, for service as a private for 2 years in the Virginia militia. His former widow was also pensioned.]

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I hereby Certify that on a pay roll of Captain Robert George's Company of Artillery of the Western Army, commencing the 4 June 1779 and ending 3<sup>rd</sup> December 1781 the name of Joshua Prewett appears. I further certify that on a Muster Role of said Company commencing the first January and ending the 15<sup>th</sup> of February 1784 the name of Prewett also appears, but he is here called Josiah and is said to be on furlough – he is however believed to be the same man. Given under my hand at the Auditor's Office Richmond, this 9<sup>th</sup> day of May 1838.

S/ Jas. E. Heath

Aud.

Note: – the same name appears on all the intermediate rolls

Of this day Joshua Prewett personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the Peace for Henry County and was duly sworn to the following statements

Question at what time did you enlist in the regular Service ansr. In the year 1778 or 9

Question under what officer did you enlist

ansr under General George Rogers Clark

Question How long did you serve

ansr I was in the service 5 years

Question How many battles were you in

ansr Two

Question where were you discharged

ansr at Louisville and the discharge was given either by General Clark or Captain George

Question did you ever receive a patent for any land for your services ansr. I did not and further this deponent saith not.

The above affidavit was taken before me Robert Samuel a Justice of the Peace for Henry County and State of Kentucky given under my hand and seal this first day of September 1837

S/ Robert Samuel, JP

[Note: this file contains a certified copy of the veteran's pension application as transcribed above. In addition, this file contains the following affidavit:

*I Blan W. Ballard aged 75 years do Certify that I was a Soldier of the Revolution, my services was performed principally under General George R Clark. I further Certify that Joshua Prewett who has subscribed and sworn to the foregoing declaration was an enlisted soldier in Clarke's Regiment and belonged to Captain George's Company of Artillery and served as he has stated in his declaration above. I have a perfect and distinct recollection of said applicant and know that he was on the several companies stated in his declaration and I know him to have been a good and faithful soldier. Given under my hand this May 19 [last digit unclear], 1834.*

*S Blan W. Ballard<sup>5</sup>*

[Note: the attestation refers to the affiant as "Major Blan W. Ballard".]

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<sup>5</sup> [Bland W. Ballard W20655](#)

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Addendum to Joshua Prewett W27643

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. 15 Jan 2021.

This day Joshua Pruitt personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the peace for Henry County and was duly sworn to the following statements.

Question at what time did you enlist in the regular service ans'r in the year Seventeen Hundred and Seventy eight or nine

Question under what officer did you enlist  
ans'r under Genl George Rogers Clark

Question How long did you serve  
ans'r I was in the service five years

Question How many battles were you in  
ans'r Two

Question where were you discharged  
ans'r at Louisville and the discharge was given either by Genl Clark or Capt George

Question did you ever receive a patent for any land for your services ans'r I did not and further this deponent saith not

The above affidavit was taken before me Robt Samuel a justice of the peace for Henry County and State of Kentucky given under my hand and seal this 1<sup>st</sup> day of Sept 1837 Robt Samuel JP