

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of Robert Bleakley (Blakeley) W279

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

[Capitalization and punctuation partly corrected]

State of Kentucky } Sct

Wayne County }

On this 24th day of September 1832 personally appeared in Open Court before the County Court of the County court of Wayne and State of Kentucky Robert Blakely a Resident of Wayne County and State of Kentucky aged seventy four years or seventy five years old on the 12th day of January 1833, 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 first Sirgent as herein stated.

My first service was in the latter part of September 1773 I enlisted with Capt. John Floyd as a volunteer for 18 months to go to the opost [outpost?] on or near the Ohio. Col. Charles Lewis was Col and Andrew Lewis Chief Commander of the Expedition, & I then lived in Henry county Virginia [formed from Pittsylvania County in 1777] on Black Watter [Blackwater River, in Franklin County since 1786]. We according marched, we marched to the waters of New River to Drapers Meadows at Col. Billy Prestons [William Preston's plantation at present Blacksburg] we then marched down new River to the mouth of the Cannawwa [sic: Kanawha River at Point Pleasant] and on the 10th day of October 1774 we had a severe battle under Andrew Lewis our chief commander and other officers, with the Shawnee Indians. 86 of our men was killed in the battle & many wounded. Charles Lewis was mortally wounded Col. William Flemming [sic: William Fleming] of Roan Oak [sic: Roanoke River near Big Lick, now Roanoke VA] was our Doctor or Surgeon. on the next day the Indians sent in a flag & Govenor Dunmore came up with about 2000 more officers & soldiers, and the Indian agreed to capitulate and gave 5 Indians as Hostages, to be sent to this Opost, untill a final Treaty. Our company with my captain & officers was then sent to the lead mines [at Fort Chiswell in present Wythe County] in Virginia on New River. we were then under the command of Col. James Caloway [sic: James Callaway] & Col. Charles Lynch at the Lead mines for 4 months. in the year 1775. & some time in July my 18 months having expired, I then voluntered under captain Joseph Martin for three months at the lead mine aforesaid, and [as?] first Sergant to go down to Shelby & Eaton Fort on Holston River [in present Sullivan County TN], to guard said forts & scout after the Indians which service I performed & was discharged at Eatons fort or in writing. And about the time I was discharged I again volunteered & acted as first Sergant under Capt James Shelby for three months to guard the said forts and scout after the Indians, which tour I again performed & got my discharge from my captain in writing. I then some time about the latter part of Nov. 1775 returned home to Henry County Virginia. In the year 1776 I volunteered under Capt Hugh Crocket as first sergent on the Waters of Roan Oak, I think in Bottetourt [sic: Botetourt] County Virginia (having business there) to march on an expedition against the Cheroke [sic: Cherokee] towns under the command of Genl. William Christie [William Christian] & Johnathan Hansby [sic: Jonathan Hanby] Col & Isaac Shelby Col. & Ivan Shelby [sic: Evan Shelby] Col. with about 340 men. we marched to the good springs on Holstin [sic] 2 miles above the Long islands of Holston [at present Kingsport TN], where we had a battle with the Indians [Battle of Long Island, 20 Jul 1776]. We had but one wounded man of the Whites & we found Dead 35 Indians & many more reported to be dead. We then marched to the Cherokee Towns and stayed there about 25 days destroying seven towns. We then marched back to the Long islands of Holston and was there discharged in about the first week of December 1776 by my officer in writing having in this expedition served 4 months 23 days. I then went home again to Henry county. and in May 1777 I again volunteerd as 1st Sergent under Captain Peter Harston [sic: Peter Hairston] to go to the Treaty of the long Islands of Holstin under the command of General William Christie. I marched and performed the duty of the expedition a treaty was made [20 Jul 1777]. I was on duty and served something more that three months & was discharged by my Captain Peter Harston in writing at the Long Islands. I

again went home & in about August ~~the first of~~ August 1781 ["1" written over "0"] as first sergent I again volunteerd under Capt William McClannahan to go against the tories on New River under command of Col. Charles Lynch & Col. Pady or Patrick Lockhart for a term of three months, we accordingly marched to Drapers Meadows on New River and there took 50 or 60 Tories or more and hung three tories and whiped and half hung many others. we then marched back & was discharged for our tour ~~not~~ serving but ~~about~~ 2 months I then returned home & the next morning after I got home I was informed by an express from Genl. Washington for all that could bear arms to come to him at the siege of York [28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781] I volunteed as a captain & got 25 mounted armed men to go with me all well equiped to go to the siege of York. & we marched three days journey on the waters of James River with great speed, & there met an express for all to return home, that Lord CornWallace [sic: Cornwallis] & army had surrendered to Genl. Washington, and we returned taking us better than five days. I got my house papers & discharges all burnt on French Broad [River in] Tennessee about 16 years past I have no documentary evidence and I know of no person in this county whose testimony I can procure, who can testify to my services but served 33 months & 23 days, for which I claim compensation. I the said Robert Blakely was born in Calonine [sic: Caroline] county in the State of Virginia the 12th day of January 1756 to the best of my recollection, having no particular record of my age at this time. I lived there untill I was going on 13 years of age being an orphan boy then removed to Bedford county virginia stayed there but a short time I then removed to my friends in Henry County Virginia, which county I made my residence until after the war & shortly after the war I married and lived in Henry county about 3 years. I then moved to North Carolina Burk [sic: Burke] County. there I lived about 13 years. I then moved to tennessee Green [sic: Greene] County and lived there about seven years. I then moved to Knox County Ky. lived there about 10 years & then moved into Tennessee again Roan [sic: Roane] County and lived there about 4 years. I then removed to Kentucky first Cumberland county & then Wayne County where I now live, going on six years
 I the said Robert Blakely relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or anuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the pension Roll of the Agency of any state
 Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid. [signed] Robbert Bleakley

State of Kentucky } Sct
 Clinton County }

On this the 1st day of February 1853 personally appeared before M[e] W H Davis a Justice of the peace within and for the County and State aforesaid Margaret Blakeley aged 73 years who being duly sworn for that purpose on her oath makes the following Declaration in order to obtain Bounty land for the service of her Deceased Husband John Maloney Declarant states that she was married to John Maloney in Jefferson County East Tennessee married by John Jackson. that her name before she was married was Margaret Kingkade [probably Kincaid]. that she was married in the 17th year of her age Declarant states that her said husband enlisted about the 29th day of August 1806 for five years about the 29th year of his age enlisted at Hiwasee Garrison [sic: Hiwassee Garrison] under Captain Amstead went to Sullovens Island [Sullivans Island?] after being in the standing army for some time and there remaind in service making out his full time of five years and brought home with him an honorable discharge Declarant states that she and her said husband had three children when he enlisted. that her said husband Got in to a dificulty at Sparta [TN] and Got Killed on the 24th July 1812. that she married Robert Blakely in Anderson County Tennessee & that they moved from there to Wayne County Kentucky where he he Dec'd about 19 years ago and that she is still a widow and has remained a widow ever since his Death She states that she has four children by said Maloney towit Edmond Maloney, Hanna Collins Jane Love Eleanor Branham & one child by Blakely named John and these are her only living children
 Margaret herXmark Blakely

State of Kentucky }
 Clinton County }

On this the 5th day of March 1853 personally appeared before me Samuel Owens a Justice of the peace within and for the County & state aforesaid Margaret Blakely widow of Robert Blakely

Decd aged seventy three years - a resident Citizen of Wayne County Kentucky living about three miles from me her statements being entitled to full credit and after being duly sworn for that purpose on her oath makes the following Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress approved the third day of February 1853 extending the benefit of the pension laws to widows of Revolutionary Soldiers and pensioners who have been married subsequent to Eighteen hundred Declarant states that she was married to Robert Blakely in Anderson County in East Tennessee in the month of October at the time stated in her Declaration for bounty land By Squire Ed Hawkins, lived there about three or four years, then moved to Cumberland County where is now included in Clinton County Kentucky, remained there about three years then moved to Wayne County Kentucky to the neighborhood where she now lives and has lived ever since. Declarant states that her said husband was a Revolutionary Pensioner at the rate of fifty two dollars and some cents the exact number of cents she cannot now recollect that R[?] Garth applied for his pension under the acts of 7th June 1832 Declarant further states that she and her said husband lived together as husband and wife from the time they were married until his death which took place in Wayne County Kentucky within one mile of the place where she now lives declarant states that her said husbands claim was allowed before he died but he had not drawn the money that after his death she drew the ammount that was due him Drew it as his widow which will appear of record as she supposes. She cannot state any thing of the places where he done his service that that was performed long before she knew him. she states that he was as well as she can recollect 75 years of age when he laid in his claim and has been dead twenty years this month the exact time of the month she cannot now state. she states that she was married first to John Maloney who was a soldier in the war of 1812 and Got Killed at Sparta in a few months after his return home while on a visit there. she states that she has sent to the pension agints her claim for Bounty Land for the service of said Maloney together with the affidavits of David Maloney a brother of her said husband John Maloney proving his service & Death and also her marriage with Robert Blakely all of which she makes part hereof. She states that she is old and frail and not well able to attend County Court, that she lives in less than one mile of the Clinton County line and finds it more conveniant to make her Declaration there than in Wayne. She states that she has no record of her marriage with Robert Blakely and is informed that the state of Tennessee had no records of marriages at the time she was married and she relies of necisity on the Testimony now on file in the pension office in her said claim & reputation of marriage she states that her son Edmond Maloney & her Daughter Elly Branham were both old enough to recollect her marrige with said Blakely. she states that she was not married before 1800 but at the Time stated. She states that she is old and frail and kneed the amount due her if any thing
Margaret herXmark Blakely

NOTE: On 20 Aug 1853 Margaret Blakeley stated that she was then staying with her daughter and son-in-law, George and Elly Branham. On 20 Mar 1855 Margaret Blakeley applied for bounty land for Robert Blakeley's service, and reapplied for John Maloney's service. Other documents in the file provide the following additional information: Elly Branham was 53 in 1853, and George Branham was 66 in 1856; in 1855 John Blakeley of Wayne County and Barnabas Branham of Clinton County made supporting affidavits for Margaret Blakeley; in 1852 David Maloney, 74, brother of John Maloney and resident of Washington in Rhea County TN for the previous 46 years, stated that he had served in the War of 1812.