

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Lewis¹ W303

Mary C. Lewis

f75VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

9/29/13

[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 12]

Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress of the 7th of June 1832

State of Tennessee Franklin County:

On this 2nd day of June 1834 personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions in said County, at the courthouse in Winchester, James Lewis, now a resident of the County of Franklin in the State of Tennessee aged seventy-eight years on the 6th April last who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7th, 1832. That he enlisted in the Army of the United States, & served as herein after stated. Affiant states – That he was born on the 6th April 1756 agreeably to the Register of his age: That at the commencement of the revolution & before Independence was declared, he joined an independent company commanded by Captain Nicholas Lewis: That a short time after this Lord Dunmore [John Murray, Lord Dunmore, last Royal Governor of the colony of Virginia], then Governor of Virginia removed some powder from the public magazine in Williamsburg, & put it on board one of the public armed vessels, which caused considerable excitement & numerous companies were marched to Williamsburg, Hanover Courthouse & elsewhere. That affiant marched to Williamsburg, the distance being about 140 miles where they were trained & instructed in military discipline, & after a short time we were discharged & returned to our homes, being absent from home 20 days as well as he remembers. This was in 1775 as well as he recollects. In the latter part of the year 1775 or early in 1776 Captain Thomas Walker raised a rifle company in Albemarle & Louisa [counties]. Affiant had a nephew William T Lewis who enlisted & received the appointment of orderly Sergeant to the company. The company when raised marched to the Eastern Shore of Virginia William T Lewis was taken sick & returned home in the fall of that year on furlough. He observed to affiant he was afraid he would not be able to do duty again & if affiant would take his place he would give me up all the pay & emoluments of his office, & I should hold his office of orderly Sergeant to the company. I agreed to do this in October 1776. Sometime in November 1776 I joined the 9th Virginia Regiment which was then stationed in Accomack & North Hampton Counties. About this time Captain Thomas Walker resigned & William Henderson the first Lieutenant was appointed to the command of the Company. The Regiment was composed of the following companies – viz. – two rifle companies Walker & Hays's from the counties of Albemarle, Louisa, Augusta &

¹ BLWt3067-160-55

Rockbridge, Captain S. Woodson's [Samuel Woodson] Company from Goochland & the other companies commanded by Captains Joines, Cropper, Sneed, Poulson & Sneed all of whom were musket men. The field officers of the Regiment were Colonel William Fleming Commandant Lieutenant Colonel George Matthews [George Mathews] & Major Sears [John Sayres or Sayers]. About this time say early in December 1776 the Regiment received marching orders to join the Army at the North. The sick & invalids were sent to the head of Elk by water. I was one who marched by land. We got to Philadelphia before the Invalids & some short time after the battles of Trenton [December 26, 1776] & Princeton [January 3, 1777]. From Philadelphia we marched to New Jersey where we lost our Colonel Fleming who had taken the smallpox in the natural way. After his death Colonel Mathews took command of the Regiment & Major Sears was appointed Lieutenant Colonel in his place. About this time there was orders issued that the whole of the troops that had not had the smallpox should be inoculated. Headquarters were then at Morristown [New Jersey]. We marched & counter marched over the greater part of the Jerseys that winter. After that our headquarters were removed to Valley Forge. I acted as orderly Sergeant from the time I joined the Regiment, until sometime in July following as well as I recollect when I received the appointment of Sergeant Major to the Regiment. Sometime in the summer of 1777 there was a Regiment made up from the most expert riflemen the command of which was given to Colonel Morgan [Daniel Morgan]. The greater part of Hays & Henderson's Companies were taken & their officers were all taken, but one Lieutenant Hudson Martin who was on the recruiting service in Virginia. I had the charge or command of the balance of the company, which at first did not consist of more than 6 or 8 men but from a few recruits, some that returned from furlough & some from the hospital were afterwards increased to some 20 or 30. For them I made out the pay & muster rolls & did the duty of a commissioned officer. Sometime in the summer we marched to the Highlands of York at which place General Washington got information of the enemy being in the Chesapeake Bay. The enemy landed at the head of Elk. About the 12th September the Battle of Brandywine was fought [sic, September 11, 1781]: I was in that battle. Towards the latter end of September the British took possession of Philadelphia. On the 4th of October I fought in the battle of Germantown, where myself & the whole of the Regiment to which I belonged was either killed or taken prisoners with the exception of a drummer who had charge of Colonel Mathews horse. Lieutenant Colonel Sears was killed & Colonel Mathews was badly wounded. That evening after taken we were all safely lodged in Philadelphia New Jail where we suffered with cold & hunger. In June 1778 perhaps the 16th I with others to the number of about 135 were exchanged for an equal number of British prisoners. The next day we arrived at our camp (White Marsh) our Army making preparations to intercept the flight of the British from Philadelphia. I received my discharge in a day or 2 after reaching As Sergeant Major from General Muhlenberg [Peter Muhlenberg]. I then at the same time enlisted for three years or during the war with a promise of promotion from General P. Muhlenberg. I then received a furlough for three months at the expiration of which time or in a few weeks after I received my second discharge – there having been some arrangement with regard to the quantity of officers, directing the number to be [indecipherable word]², & causing some to be supernumeraries, which prevented my promotion. I deposited my two discharges at the Auditors Office in the City of Richmond at the time I received certificates for the depreciation of my pay. Affiant knows not what has become of them since. At the time I

Deposition
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received my second discharge as Sergeant Major to the 9th Virginia Regiment our Army lay on the North River at a place called Robinsons [word written over and indecipherable]³. From there I returned home to Virginia. Affiant received his second discharge about the ___ day of October 1778. In 1778 I received from Mr. John Allen the appointment of Issuing Commissary to Burgoyne's troops. I repaired to Albemarle Barracks about first day of December & issued provisions to such as were authorized to draw & some time in December Burgoyne's troops came home. I met them at Charlottesville where they remained some short time. Returned to Albemarle Barracks & continued to furnish them with provisions until first August 1779. On the 5th of August 1779 I got married & repaired to my farm – received from Mr. Allen some 6 or \$7 in silver which is all I received for my eight months services as commissary. My rank & pay as commissary was equal to that of a first Lieutenant on Continental establishment. In the spring of 1781 I served a two months tour in the militia & was discharged two or three days prior to the 4th May 1781. I was an Ensign or 2nd Lieutenant in this tour I don't recollect which. I got home from this tour a few days before Colonel Tarleton [Banastre Tarleton] paid us a visit at Charlottesville with his cavalry & mounted infantry. His visit was about the 4th May 1781. In the tour I served there were three companies of militia called out from Albemarle. They were commanded by Captains Miller, Woods & Taliaferro. The Regiment was commanded by Colonel Holt Richardson [Holt Richeson], Lieutenant Colonel Reuben Lindsay & Major Armistead. Captain Taliaferro to whose company I belonged was taken sick & went home. I made out the pay & muster rolls, drew the money & paid the men their wages. I afterwards received an appointment to receive provisions & clothing for the Army. I did not continue long in that office. I only recollect of receiving one draw of beeves & one lot of clothing which were sent on to Head Quarters. I never received any consideration as pay for the same. After the capture of Cornwallis [October 19, 1781] at Yorktown there was no necessity for the continuance of the office. I never received any land for my military services. I certainly am entitled to bounty land if I had never served that the tour when I enlisted for three years or during the war. There were more officers in proportion to the men than necessary & a part had to be sent home as supernumeraries. This was the reason General Muhlenberg gave me my discharge. Affiant served as before stated in his first tour 20 days, in his second tour as orderly Sergeant & Sergeant Major 21 months. In his 3rd tour upwards of 3 months when he was discharged by becoming a supernumerary as before stated. In his 4th tour as commissary with the rank of first Lieutenant 8 months as before stated. In his 5th tour 2 months, in the militia as Ensign or 2nd Lieutenant. In his 6 time not recollected & he claims no pay for it. Affiant hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of any Agency in any State.

Sworn to & subscribed in
Open Court 2nd June 1834
S/ Al. B. Wagner, Clerk

S/ Jas. Lewis



whereupon the court propounded the following interrogatories

1st Where and in what year were you born?

Answer – On the 6th April 1756 in ___ County Virginia agreeable to the Register of my age &

³  Farm?

information he has received.

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

Answer – I have a record of my age at my residence in Franklin County Tennessee.

3rd Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Answer – I was living in Albemarle County Virginia when called into service – & there till I moved to Franklin County Tennessee where affiant moved & settled in 1812 & where he has since lived & yet lives.

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

Answer – He answers as stated in his previous declaration.

5th State the names of some 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.

Answer – He answers as stated in his declaration.

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

Answer – He refers to his previous declaration.

7th Did you ever receive a commission & if so by whom was it signed & what has become of it?

Answer – He never received any commission in the regular service – When he acted as commissary he received his appointment from the Head Commissary. He had a commission as Ensign or 2nd Lieutenant when he performed one of his tours – which he lost or mislaid & he don't recollect who it was signed by & refers to his previous declaration.

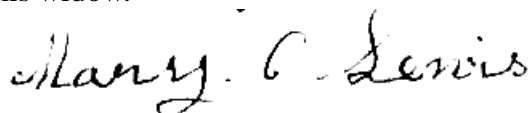
7^{th[suc]} State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

Answer. He refers to John Driskill a clergyman & James Campbell

Affiant further states that he knows of no witness that he can now produce to prove his revolutionary services. And the evidence herein contained & produced is the best in his possession & power of his Revolutionary services.

[John Driskill, a clergyman, and James Campbell gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 8: On February 14, 1853 in Franklin County Tennessee, Mary C Lewis filed for a widow's pension as the widow of James Lewis, a revolutionary war pensioner at the rate of \$97.50 per annum under the 1832 act; that she married him in Albemarle County Virginia in October 1826; that her husband died in Franklin County Tennessee February 21, 1849; and that she continues his widow.



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[p 5: On March 14, 1855, the widow filed for her bounty land entitlement as the widow of James Lewis. She adds note new facts in making this application.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$97.50 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private in the Virginia Continental line. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]