

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Polly (Polley) W3036

Susan

f53VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

11/1/12

[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 Adair County Court January Term 1833

On this 7 day of January 1833 personally appeared in Open Court before the Worshipful Justices of the County Court of Adair County in and for the State of Kentucky now sitting John Polly Senior a Resident Citizen of the County and State aforesaid aged 72 years who being first duly sworn according to law on his oath make the following Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832 – that he entered the service of the United States as a private volunteer Militia man in the year 1777 for the term of six months under Captain James Shelton, Lieutenant Turley Choice [Tully Choice?], Ensign William Ferguson, in the County of Pittsylvania State of Virginia he was immediately marched to the flower gap near the Blue Bridge where he was stationed about two months as a guard to the Frontier from there he was marched to Fort chissel [probably Fort Chiswell or Chiswell's lead mines] on New River where they joined to another Captain's Company whose name he does not now recollect he was There for some time and had a Battle with the enemy after which he was marched back to flower gap where he remained in service guarding, scouting &c until his term of service expired having served for six months was then marched to Colonel Hughes where he was Honorably discharged by his Captain and returned home. He again in the year 1778 in the same County and State as before stated he thinks in the month of March into the service of the United States as a volunteer Militia man for three months under Captain Thomas Brown, Lieutenant Jacob McCraw & Ensign Elliot [?] his Christian name not now recollected he was engaged the whole of this tour in escorting public provisions clothing & munitions & was from Peytonsbury Virginia to Salisbury North Carolina & other places as ordered in this tour. He faithfully served his country 3 months and was at Peytonsbury Honorably discharged and returned home. He still continued a Citizen of the same County & State and in the latter part of the year 1780 he enlisted under Captain Turley Choice for and during the war and immediately entered the service as a regular soldier he marched to Haw River where he was joined to General Greene's [Nathanael Greene's] Army and attached to Major Walton's [word written over and could be Wallace's] Battalion he remained there for a considerable time and was marched to various points in places sometimes in Carolina and in Virginia and in this way he was kept for a long time marching from place to place as he understood in the summer & fall of 1781 to divert the Enemy but so it is he went as he was commanded in this way he continued in service until the final conclusion of phase which he thinks was in 1783 but he states most positively that in this last mentioned service he was engaged in the service for upwards of three years, he was after the close of the war Honorably discharged by his Captain, and thus his services ended for which he has received no compensation, he states that he received discharges in writing for each of his tours but at that time he did not know that they would be of any service to him & was long since either lost or

mislaide them so that he cannot find them or any of them nor does he know where they are our he has no documentary Evidence and that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his services, he further states that he was born in Pittsylvania County State of Virginia in the year 1760 as he has always been informed by his parents which he believes to be true, he never heard them speak of his birth being any other time than the ones stated, he has no register of his birth, he continued a Citizen of Pittsylvania County Virginia until after the close of the war when he moved to and settled in the State of South Carolina in Camden District, where he married and resided about 12 years when he removed to Washington County (now) in the State of Tennessee where he remained until the year 1803 when he moved to the State of Kentucky and settled in the neighborhood of the place where he now resides and in which neighborhood and the place he now lives he has ever since resided. 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 sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ John Polly

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Polly". The ink is dark and the handwriting is somewhat stylized, with a prominent loop at the end of the name.

[Franklin Berry & John W Garrott gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

State of Kentucky Adair County: SS

The Amended declaration of John Pauley for Pension

Be it remembered that on this 17<sup>th</sup> day of May 1833 personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the Peace in and for the County of Adair aforesaid John Polly who being duly sworn deposeth and saith that by reason of old age and the Consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of all his Service and the various incidents that happened during the war but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the period mentioned below and in the following grades

He states positively that he served as a volunteer militia man six months under Captain James Shelton and he also states positively that he served three months as a volunteer militia man under Captain Thomas Brown as he has stated in his original declaration, and presumes he need not again set forth the particulars as he has in his former declaration hereto annexed; stated the events respecting the two aforesaid towers [tours] with as much precision as he can recollect.

He states that he may have been mistaken in his original declaration as to the time he enlisted in it; may be that he is ignorant of the difference between the Virginia State line and Continental troops but he positively states that he did enlist under Captain Turley Choice in the year 1780 as stated in his former declaration and upon reflection he is now able to state that he was in Colonel Williams Regiment General Hugar's [probably B. G. Isaac Huger's] Brigade. He was joined to that Corps at a place called the high rock ford he well recollects that he was in several skirmishes with Cornwallis' troops while on their march to Guilford Courthouse, that he was in that Battle [March 15, 1781] he well recollects that General Hugar was wounded in that Battle. He recollects General Stephens [Edward Stevens] was also wounded he recollects that some short time after the battle at Guilford he was marched on to Fort Watson where there was some skirmishing but the particulars he does not recollect so well as to venture a particular description he recollects Marion [Francis Marion] was there he further states that he was at the Battle of Camden [Battle of Hobkirk Hill, April 25, 1781] he was also at the Siege of Ninety Six [May 21-June 19, 1781]. Sometime thereafter he cannot state how long it was General Greene

marched on to Virginia and declarant under Captain Choice and Colonel Williams was marched on to the North through Maryland into Pennsylvania he recollects being at Hagerstown & Lancaster where the [they] quartered for a considerable time and marched to various places & routes in Maryland and Pennsylvania he did not join the main Army again until the surrender of Cornwallis but was not discharged until after peace was made he positively states that he faithfully served 6 months as a militia man as before stated as also the 3 months tour and that he served in each of them with an embodied Corps called into service by Competent authority and that during the periods aforesaid he was constantly either in the field or in garrison and for the time which service was performed he was not employed in any civil pursuit,

He likewise states that he served as an enlisted Soldier the time before stated for at least two years that in the last service he served with an embodied Corps called into service by Competent Authority that he was either in the field or garrison the whole time But mostly in the field and for the time during which the service was performed he was not employed in any civil pursuit – should he be mistaken as to his belonging to the State troops or Continental line he knows he is not mistaken as to his Services nor the length of time of each and for which Services he claims a pension. Should his name not be found on the state or Continental rolls and for that cause a pension cannot be allowed for that service he hopes a pension will be allowed for the term he served in the militia though he hopes his name is on the rolls and will be found, he has no hope of ever obtaining any positive evidence of service the time has been so long and he is so far removed from the Country where the service was performed and does not know a single individual in Kentucky by whom he could prove Service; and having lost his discharges as stated in his original Declaration he has no documentary [evidence] of the fact nor is he able to go to the Country where the services was performed to search for proof indeed he knows of none even there. Where and in what year were you born. Answer. I was born in Pittsylvania County State of Virginia in the year 1760 agreeable to the information of my parents which I believe to be true.

2. Have you any record of your age if so where is it

Answer I have none nor had I ever any

3. Where were you living when called into service where have you lived since the revolution and where do you now live

Answer I lived in Pittsylvania County State of Virginia when I entered the service and continued a Citizen of that County and State until after the Close of the revolutionary War, after which I moved to and settled in the state of South Carolina Camden District, where I resided about 12 years when I moved to Washington County (now) State of Tennessee where I remained until the year 1803 when I moved to and settled in the County of Adair State of Kentucky where I now live.

4. How were you called into service were you drafted did you volunteer or were you a Substitute and if a Substitute for whom

Answer. The first and second tours I served as a volunteer militia man, the third and last I served as a Regular private.

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 I recollect General Greene, General Stephens, General Marion, General Huger, Colonel Williams under whom I served in my last tour

[6]. Did you ever receive a discharge from the service and if so by whom was it given and what

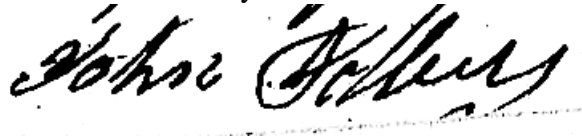
has become of it

Answer. I received a written discharge for each tour given by my respective captains to wit the first by Captain Shelton, the 2<sup>nd</sup> by Captain Brown and the 3<sup>rd</sup> by Captain Choice all of which I have long since lost.

7. State the names of some 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.

Answer. I am acquainted with John W Garnett, Franklin Barry who has certified for me in my former declaration together with many others who would likewise certified the same was it convenient to procure their attendance But I live in a remote Section of the County thinly settled and I have said but little about my services and I further state that there is no clergyman living near me nor do I know of any who has heard it reputed in the neighborhood that I was a soldier of the Revolution as I live an obscure life and have for many years and said but little about my service it having been performed so long ago, but I have no doubt that any man with whom I am acquainted would certify to my character and veracity. Subscribed and sworn to the day and year aforesaid.

S/John Polley

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John Polley". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.

[f p. 20: On August 26, 1843 in Kentucky, Adair County, Susan Polley, 79, filed for a widow's pension under the 1838 act stating that she is the widow of John Polley a soldier of the revolution pensioned at the rate of \$37 per annum; that she was married to her husband "in the Commencement of the year 1783" in Camden South Carolina; that her husband died September 4, 1840 and that she remains his widow. She signed her application with her mark.]

[Facts in file: There is reference in the file to the veteran and his wife having had 7 children the oldest of whom is believed to be at least 60 years old in 1843.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$30 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831, for service as a private for 9 months in the Virginia militia. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]