

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of John W. Porter W3037

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

[Punctuation partly corrected.]

State of Kentucky }

Floyd County } Ss.

On this 18th day of November 1833 Personally appeared in open court before the Justices of the Court of Floyd County now sitting John Porter resident of Floyd in the County of Floyd and State of Kentucky aged seventy four years, 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 herein stated – (this applicant was born in the county of Guilford in the state of North Carolina, and moved to Clinch River in the State of Virginia in Washington County in the month of Oct 1772, my purpose was to go to Kentucky but was compeled to stop on Clinch on the account of the Indians in Kentucky we forted that year, the succeeding years till 1779 all summer & lived by hunting in the fall & winter. many small fights ensued with the Cherokees from 1772 to 79 – during the year 1776 or 77 this applicant belives a treaty was made at the Long Island of Holstien [sic: Treaty of Long Island on Holston River at present Kingsport TN, 20 Jun 1777] by Gen Christy [William Christian] with the Cherokees, but the Shawnees came from Kentucky & the Lakes and the Cumberland Mountain formed an almost impenetrable security for them. I then resided at a place called the Hunting ford on Clinch. I entered the service under Col. Cambel William was his given name [sic: William Campbell] on the 11th day of March 1779 as a volunteer for one year My Captain was by the name of Snody [John Snody, also spelled John Snoddy]] and Lieutenant Jackson, our business was to “scout and range” through all that region of Country which now composes the Counties of Russell, Scott and Lee this was all Washington then, we was to protect it also and inform the settlements of the aproach of the Indians. in a few days after my engagement our company was armed and equipped and we all started, we kept together till about the middle of August for it was about this time that the Indians generally came, we then was divided into squads of two & 4 men, we [illegible word] and all scouted till December (1779) we rendevouzed at a place called the “rye cove” about 40 miles from Abingdon a little small village then. this “Cove” is now in Scott County. whilst we remained here we would frequently go out but discovered no Indians. we saw several Indians and took a few but was not much disturbed during the year 1779. in February 1780 we turned out from the cove & went to scouting ground (all together) and remained there till the middle of March, rec’d. discharges & returned home. I rec’d. mine from Jackson at least I recolect he handed mine to me during this first years service we frequently passed over the Cumberland Mountains which was not authorized by our orders. In April after my discharge afs’d. I returned to Huntersford and remained there about four weeks Col. William Campbell and we was called Indian spies. I was promised pay 5 shillings per day for my previous years service and the present year and was again commanded by my old Captain Snody this was in May (for we had not done planting corn) in the year 1780. my time of engagement was one year as an enlisted soldier – ameiately we went out from the settlements in Washington to the frontiers our Company was divided, and our places of scouting & spieing was also divided by natural boundaries, such as Mocasins [sic: Moccasin] Creek Powells valley (Bones [probably Boone’s] old trace) Clinch River and Gesses river [sic: Guests River]. this applicant states that the Clinch river district fell to his part and his comrades and we dilligently marched and spied all that summer according to our orders. I deem it necessary to state the section of country which was the southern western part of virginia adjoining Kentucky covered an immense territory. The population is even now scarce and sparcely settled and amediately on the confines of Cumberland Mountain. I served out my time but he will here state that this was a cold and

severe winter 1780 and in January the whole company was bound to brake up, for we all suffered so much from hunger & cold we had nothing provided us by the Government and had to live on venison &c. we staid at home till about the first of March and again went out and continued to "spy" and range" till June 1781. I again received from Snody a discharge from the service, but he did not give a discharge in full, deducting two months that I lost by the winter. this applicant received no pay for his services, but was to have land in Kentucky which he never got. during this years service I saw but one Indian and killed none. our direction indeed was not to fire, but upon seeing Indian sign or Indians to retreat with all possible speed to the settlements so that they might be prepared. I rec'd this last discharge and returned home. At this time I was young and inexperienced & I probably lost my discharges but this applicant state he now has no positive recolection of what he done with them. to prevent misunderstanding, although Col Campbell was the commanding officer under whom orders we acted yet he never was with us one single day – for when we returned to the settlements the last winter we was out to wit 1780 & 1781 (a part of – Jany) we heard for the first time that Col Campbell had taken the british at Kings Mountain [7 Oct 1780] and took a great many tories with the british; I seen some malitia regiments (under Col locke [Francis Locke] of N Carolina) yet I never served with one I never saw a Continental Regiment during the Revolutionary war for in fact I never saw a british soldier or a Continental Reg't. I knew Col. Smith [probably Daniel Smith], a malitia officer, and Gen Christy and Capt Preston, Col. Campbell and Col Arthur Campbell. I served at the commencement of the Revolution on the frontiers. I lived ever since in the mountains and frontiers. I have thus given my detail which is entirely from recolection for this applicant is now & has been some time blind and consequently and aged memory has prevented him from [illegible word] in detail my services – I have no documentary evidence in my favor unless my name can be found at Richmond

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 and year aforesaid

John hisXmark Porter

State of Kentucky } Novr Term
 Floyd County Court } 1833.

Questions and answers to John Porter.

Qu. 1^s where and in what year were you born?

Ans. I was born in Guilford North Carolina on the 19th day of April 1759

Qu. Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

Ans I have it set down in my book which is at my house as I am informed for I cannot see.

Ques. Where were you living when called into service where have you lived since the revolutionary war and where do you now live

Ans. I was then living in Washington county virginia and was called into service there. I lived in the same county until Russell county was struck off of it and then Scott struck of Russel and Lee countys [in 1814]. I then lived in Scott, and moved to this state and county where I now live (since the revolutionary war.

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

Ans. I volunteered for one year to keep the Indians down and ranged & spied that year, the next year I enlisted for a year on my own account as was my first years service.

Qu. State some the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served: such Continental [or] mallita regiments as you can recolect and the general circumstances of your services.

Ans. I never saw a regular officer in my life unless Colo. Campbell was one. there was no british were I served being entirely on the back woods. I never saw but a few miltia reigiments but never served

in one, not a continental regiment. I continued as a volunteer for one year in Washington county Virginia to guard against the Indians who had come in upon the settlements several times and stole the horses and murdered and burnt house. I served out this time and received a discharge from the service, our company was commanded by Captain Snody and we traversed all the south western part of Virginia where Lee Scott & Russell county is now situated we killed no Indians during that year but saw Indian sign, who he thinks had discovered the scouts and fled down Sandy or the Kentucky river after crossing Cumberland Mountain. I then enlisted another year 1780 and served till January 1781 and the weather becoming so exceedingly cold we all was compelled to break up and go home where we staid till March and went back to our duty and staid till June 1781. and our time expiring I received my second discharge (which was for 10 months) and returned to Hunters ford where I then lived. we had no battles with the Indians during my last year service, and I never saw any but my companions did, but there was sign where they had come up and crossed the mountain. I was to have bounty land as I was promised and also pay, but I never recd the land or pay.

- Qu. Did you ever receive a discharge from service and if so by whom was it given and what has become of it
- Ans. I received two both signed by Snody and I never took any care of the discharges after I found I could not get any land. I cannot say for certain whether I lost them or what has become of them – it is out of this applicants possession and he does not know where either is.
- Ques. 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. Why the Rev'd Samuel Hanna the Rev'd Ezekial Stone the Rev'd Joseph Kelley to Henry B Mayo Esq to Col Daniel Hager to Judge Graham to David K Harris. Daniel Auxier. Samuel Auxier. Col John Vanhose to James Brown Esq to James Hager to Colo Nathaniel Auxier, to Sam'l. Clark Esq. to Thos. Shears to William Webb

NOTE: On 10 July 1843 Martha Porter, 73, resident of Johns Creek in Floyd County, applied for a pension stating that she married John Porter in 1790 or 1791, and he died 23 Nov 1842. In an application for bounty land on 24 Mar 1855, she referred to her husband as John W. Porter and stated that her name was Martha Huchersen before she was married to him in Rye Cove by James Gipson (probably James Gibson), a justice of the peace. This application was witnessed by John George and Jane A. Porter of Floyd County. The file includes a copy of a bond signed on 31 Jan 1789 by John Porter and Edmund Pendleton for the marriage of Porter to Patty Hutcheson. Other documents in the file show that in 1843 Martha Porter's daughter, also named Martha, was married to Robert George and living near Prestonsburg KY. On 10 July 1843 her sister, Susannah Wells, was said to be the widow of Richard Wells (pension application W6437) and living on Daniels Creek in Johnson County KY. She deposed that she had seen her sister and John Porter "on thare horses starting to a place called the rie cove in Virginia to git married." On 26 July 1848 Martha Porter deposed that she was 77 and still a widow.