

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Elisha Witt W3059

Phebe

fn45VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

10/11/11

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

State of Kentucky Estill County: SS

Be it known that on the 20th day of November 1832 personally appeared in open Court before James McGuire, Samuel Tipton & Benjamin Straughn Justices of the County Court for the County of Estelle aforesaid now sitting Elijah Witt a resident of said County of Estelle aged 73 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 & served as herein stated. That in the year 1776 or 1777 he was drafted in the militia and to the service of the United States from Amherst County, State of Virginia & served a tour of three months – Richard Ballenger was his Captain, Colonel Hugh Rose was, doth we were marched to the lower part of Virginia, was discharged at Jude's Ferry on James River – he cannot state the month when he was called out but recollects that it was cold weather – and in 1778 he was again drafted and served a tour of three months from Amherst County Virginia – John Jacobs was his Captain, Colonel Francis Taylor was commander was stationed a good part of the time in Albemarle County Virginia to guard the British prisoners – where he was discharged – In 1780 he volunteered & served a tour of duty in the militia from Amherst County of three months – his best recollection is he went out in the month of June – John Diggs was his Captain & John Pope was Colonel – was marched down to the lower part of Virginia – was at Mush Island [Mud Island?], Gwinn's Island [Gwynn Island] & was discharged near Suffolk town –

That in June 1781 he was drafted in the militia from Amherst County Virginia & continued in service till after the surrender of Cornwallis – this tour was for three months, but after the tour was out he volunteered. William Harris was his Captain, John Pope was his Colonel – we joined the Army above Richmond – thence to Pigeon Hill – thence to Mobbin Hill [Malvern Hills] – thence to York & continued there during the siege – He recollects seeing Lafayette – General Stevens [Edward Stevens] commanded the division to which he belonged – was at the right of General Lawson – after the surrender of Cornwallis he was one of the guard to guard the British Prisoners to near Winchester, Virginia, where he was discharged – he does not recollect that he had any written discharges if he had they have been long since lost or destroyed. He claims for fourteen months service & knows he served that long – he was a citizen of Amherst County Virginia when he went into the service – He was born in Albemarle County Virginia in 1759 the 18th of September – He has in his possession an old record of his age & of his Father's family – it is in an old Sermon Book – He removed from Albemarle to Amherst County Virginia & from thence to Kentucky in 1795 & now lives in Estill County aforesaid where he has resided for 30 years or more – He has no documentary evidence in his possession by which he can establish his services – he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure

to establish his services except Zachariah King of Estelle County – He is well known in Estill County & Alvin Hall & John R Powers can testify concerning him –

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State.

S/ Elisha Witt



I Zachariah King of Estill County Kentucky aged 67 years – do hereby certify that I have been well acquainted with Elisha Witt, who has subscribed & sworn to the foregoing declaration ever since I was a boy – that I believe him to be 73 years of age – I further certify that from my own recollection of said applicant from what I have often heard my Father say, who was a soldier of the revolution, that said Witt was a soldier of the Revolution & served as he has stated in his declaration. I was born in Amherst County Virginia & lived a near neighbor to the said Witt – & have known him & been his neighbor ever since – I know that said Witt was out several times as a soldier during the Revolution – I cannot state precisely the time he served but believe from my recollection & have no doubt he served the different tours & the length of time he has stated in his declaration – said Witt has always maintained a fair character and been reputed in the neighborhood where he resides a soldier of the Revolution.

S/ Zachariah King, X his mark

[Alvin Hall & John R. Powers gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[fn p. 9: on July 18, 1839 in Estill County Kentucky, Phebe Witt, 80, made application for a widow's pension under the 1838 act stating that she is the widow of Elisha Witt, a revolutionary war pensioner; that she married him in Albemarle County Virginia on the 17th day of July 1781; that she knows of no record of her marriage but has a family record of all of her children's ages in a hymn book now in the possession of her son Silas Witt; that her husband died December 16 1835 and that she remains his widow. She signed her application with her mark.]

[fn p. 17: Silas Witt gave testimony that he is 35 years old on the 9th of September last; that he is the son of Elisha and Phebe Witt; that he is in possession of a hymn book containing the record of the ages of the children of his parents.

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[fn p. 17: William Witt, 57, gave testimony that he is the oldest child of Elisha & Phebe Witt and concurs in the testimony given by his brother Silas.

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[facts in file: family record:

William born September 1785

Anna born August 29 1782 or 1784

Charles born__ 21, 1786
Abner born June 20, 1789
Elisha born February one, 1790 or 1792
Nathan born October 20, 1794
[name torn off] born April 19, 1797
David born October 27, 1799
John born June 27, 1801
Silas born September 9, 1803.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$46.66 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 14 months service as a private in the Virginia service. Veteran's widow was pensioned for a like amount commencing March 4th, 1848]