

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of John Pettis W3449

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia

County of Spotsylvania to wit

On this 7th day of August 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of Spotsylvania County now sitting John Pettis a resident of Spotsylvania County in the State of Virginia, aged seventy eight 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 provision made by an act of Congress passed 7th June 1832. viz

That he entered the service of the United States in the year seventeen hundred and seventy nine or thereabouts, and served under the following named officers, viz Philip Johnson a Captain. he was drafted in the Virginia Militia in the County of Caroline under the said Johnson, he marched from thence to Williamsburg, and joined some regiment, but the number and Commandant not now recollected. he remained in Williamsburg three months, and was then marched home. He further declares that after his return from Williamsburg and after the lapse of two or three months he was again drafted from Caroline and marched under the same Captain to Williamsburg where he remained forty days. He the said John Pettis hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension, or annuity except the present, and he declares that his name is not in any pension Roll, or agency in any State, and declares that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure, who can testify to his service.

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year afsd.

John hisXmark Pettis

Questions propounded to John Pettis by the Court

Where and in what year were you born?

Ans. I was born in Spotsylvania County, State of Va. I do not know in or about what year I was born, but believe about the year 1754

Ques. Have you any record of yr age, and if so where is it?

Ans. No I had one, but have lost it

Ques Where were you living when called into service, where have you lived since the Revolutionary War, & where do you now live?

Ans. I was living in Caroline County when called into service, I have resided in the Counties of Caroline, Orange & Spotsylvania since the War and now live in Spotsylvania.

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 was drafted

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

My recollection is very imperfect, and have stated in my declaration all I now remember

Ques. Did you ever receive a discharge from this service and if so by whom was it given, and what has become of it?

Ans. No. I never received one, the Captain of this Company after the several services mentioned in the declaration marched the company back to Caroline and there dismissed the company

State the names of the persons to whom you are known in the neighborhood in which you now reside, and who can testify as to your character for veracity, and their belief of your services as a soldier of the Revolution?

Mr Willoughby is the only person alive whom I now know who knew me about the time of the Revolution. Capt Lewis Nelson, Richard Richards, & Hezekiah Richards are my nearest neighbors, and have often heard me speak of my services. Sworn to & subscribed the day & year afsd

John hisXmark Pettis

State of Virginia. County of Spotsylvania. to wit

On this th day of August 1832 personally appeared before the Justices of the County Court of

Spotsylvania John Pettis a resident of and in the County of Spotsylvania and State of Virginia aged seventy eight 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 enlisted in the Army of the United States in the year seventeen hundred and eighty with Samuel Coleman and served in the first Regiment of the Virginia Line under the following named officers viz Colo. Samuel Hawes, Capt Francis Cowherd and General [John] Green. that he lived in the County of Caroline in the State of Virginia when he entered the service. he marched through the States of North & South Carolina and was at the battles of Guilford Court House [15 Mar 1781] and Eutaw Springs [8 Sep 1781], and finally marched to Salisbury and was there discharged on or about the [blank] day of Jany 1782 making his time of service one year & six months —

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

Sworn to and subscribed in open Court the day and year above written

John hisXmark Pettis

NOTE: On 21 Sep 1841 in Orange County VA Martha Pettis, about 84, applied for a pension stating that she married John Pettis in the spring of 1782 in Port Royal in Caroline County, and he died in July 1833. Her application was supported by a declaration stating that her name before marriage was Patsy Reynolds, and that her father “kept school.”