

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Benjamin Proctor¹ W3594

Susannah

f88VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

11/28/12

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

State of Missouri County of Cooper: SS

On this 6th day of May in the year 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the Judges of the County Court held within and for the County of Cooper aforesaid now sitting Benjamin Proctor a Resident of the County and State aforesaid, aged about seventy-three years as near as he can recollect, who being first 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 at Boonesborough where he was partly raised in the year 1776 as near as he can now recollect, under the command of Colonel Daniel Boon [Daniel Boone] and Colonel Richard Callaway, where he remained fighting the Indians at Boonesborough and in scouting & Spy parties as necessity required at least one year as near as he can now recollect, that he was thence moved to Estol's Station [Estill's Station], where was put under the command of Captain James Estol [James Estill] where he remained fighting the Indians at the Station & in Scouting parties as necessity required at least four years longer, that he afterwards went on a campaign against the Shawnee Indians (the time he has entirely forgotten) on the waters of the Miami River under the Command of Captain Christopher Irvine, Colonel Thomas Canaday and General Benjamin Logan, that they moved to and drove the Indians from their Towns and pursued and killed many of them and took others prisoners and was there discharged from the service of the United States; that he served as volunteer in every place & in the capacity of a private soldier, notwithstanding he was all the time exempt from military service by law in consequence of being badly maimed and disfigured in both of his hands – This declarant further states upon oath that on account of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot recollect the precise length, time he served in the revolutionary war – but according to his best recollection he served at least five years at Boonesborough and Estol's Station in the manner above stated as a private from the year 1776 at which he first entered until the close of the revolution, and at least six weeks as near as he recollects, on General Logan's Campaign against the Shawnee Indians for which he claims a Pension, and further states that he has no documentary evidence & that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure, who can testify to his service – George Shirley whose certificate is here with attached.

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.

Subscribed and sworn to the day & year aforesaid

Interrogatories propounded by the Court

Ques 1st Where in in Fort year were you born?

¹ BLWt53668-160-55

Ans. I was born in Rowan County North Carolina in the year, as near as I can recollect, 1760.

Ques. 2nd Have you any record of your age, & if so where is it?

An. I have none, I had my age recorded in a book which I loaned to one of my neighbors and it became misplaced.

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

An. When I first entered the service I was living in Boonesborough now in the State of Kentucky and have since the war lived in Kentucky and Missouri and now live in Cooper County Missouri.

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

An. I always volunteered

Ques. 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.

An – As to the Officers and Regiments I can only state such as I have already mentioned in my Declaration (read it) – when I first came to Boonesborough Colonel Daniel Boone was a prisoner in the Towns of the Shawnee Indians, when Colonel Callaway commanded in his absence – On learning that the Indians were making preparations to attack Boonesborough Colonel Boone made his escape from them on a nice young mare which she rode down the first day and came the balance of the way on foot into Boonesborough, gave the alarm & made necessary preparations for the attack – when the Indians came and sieged the Fort nine days and left us – I was present & heard Boone telling his narrative when he first arrived. Colonel Richard Callaway was building a Boat to cross Kentucky River when the Indians secretly came upon him and killed him – while I was at Estol's Stationed – Captain Estol was one day making a canoe to cross Kentucky River, when he received news that the Indians had come near the station and killed a young woman by the name of Jane Guess and had also taken off a Negro boy, when Colonel Estol immediately pursued them with a company of twenty-five men including himself and in 2 or 3 days overtook them and [a] severe conflict ensued, at the first onset seven of the whites fled, leaving eighteen and it was afterwards said by the Indians, the Indians was twenty-five strong – during the engagement Captain Estol was killed by an Indian and while the Indians by whom he was killed was in the act of scalping him, he was shot by my brother Joseph Proctor – they fought till but 4 of the flights survived, and 3 Indians 2 of whom died before they got to their Towns as we were afterwards informed by the Indians – I was [indecipherable word] & received this information on my return –

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

An. I never received any written discharge.

Ques 7th 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.

An. I can mention George Shirley, Andrew Briscoe and Stephen Gregg & Robert P Clark with many others.

S/ Benjamin Proctor

Benjamin Proctor

[James L. Wear, a clergyman, and that Jacob McFarland gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

This day appeared in open Court George Shirley aged about sixty years as near as he can now recollect, and being first sworn saith, That he arrived at Estol's Stationed about the month of September in the year 1779, from which time have been well acquainted with Benjamin Proctor the above Applicant for a Pension and state upon oath that said Proctor was engaged in the revolutionary War as he states from that time till the close of the revolution in the year 1782, and always understood while at Estol Stationed that said Proctor was at the big battle at Boonesborough and he believes from information that he served as he has stated, and said Shirley further states that said Proctor has always been maimed in both of his hands yet was as able-bodied and [indecipherable word or words] a gun as well as any man, he further states that said Proctor is now a clergyman of respectable character.

S/ George Shirley, G his mark

[f p. 13: On September 12, 1850 in Benton County Missouri Susannah Proctor, 87, filed for a widow's pension under the 1848 act stating that she is the widow of Benjamin Proctor late of Benton County Missouri and a pensioner of the United States for his service in the revolution; that she married him April 5, 1779; that her husband died July 4, 1850. She signed her application with her mark.]

[f p. 23: On March 22, 1856 in Dade County Missouri, Elizabeth Stockstill gave testimony that she is the oldest member of the family of children of Benjamin & Susanna Proctor; that she, affiant, is unaware of any family record showing the time of the marriage of her parents or the births of their children; that she does not know with certainty her own age or the time of her marriage to David Stockstill her husband; they were married in Madison County Kentucky and removed to Missouri soon after their marriage; that the record of the births of her children were destroyed by fire but that thereafter they requested a friend to record the dates of births of their children which reads as follows: "Date of Ages Elizabeth Stockstill is said to be 18 years older than Thomas her son, the wife of David Stockstill, Thomas Stockstill was born January the 17th 1809, Huldah Stockstill was born 11 day of November 1811, Sally Stockstill was born the 10th of December 1812, Polly Stockstill was born the 3 day of September 1814, Benjamin Stockstill was born the 13th of September 1816, Lucy Stockstill was born the 23 of October 1819, Susannah Stockstill was born the 7 day of February 1821, Katharine Stockstill was born the 24th day of June 1823, Zebedie Stockstill was born the 2 day of October 1825, David Stockstill was born the 15 day of May 1828."; That she, affiant believes she was married in the year 1807 or 1808; that her parents Benjamin and Susanna Proctor at that time were living together as man and wife in Madison County Kentucky and had been living together from the affiant' earliest recollection. She signed her affidavit with her mark.]

[Facts in file: Veteran married Susanna Shirley at Estill's Station April 5, 1779 or 1788 (both dates appear in the papers in this file); the names of the children of the veteran and his wife which appear in various documents in the file are as follows:

Elizabeth their oldest child who married David Stockstill
Nicholas born at Estill's Station and about 62 years of age in 1853 when living in Jackson
County Missouri
Joseph, aged about 60 years, deceased as of 1853
Nancy, aged about 58, married Simkin Harryman who was born April 26, 1794
John aged about 56 in 1853
Francis Proctor, aged about 53 in 1853
Katharine Proctor, deceased as of 1853
Lusaney, aged 58 in 1853
Jabez aged 45 years in 1853
Mary aged 42 and deceased as of 1853
Susanna aged 40 and deceased as of 1853

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as
a private for 2 years in the Kentucky [sic Virginia] militia. His widow was pensioned in a like
amount.]