

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

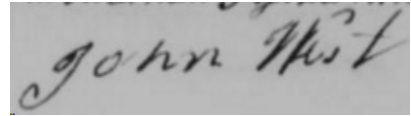
Pension Application of John West W4530

Margaret West

NJ

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

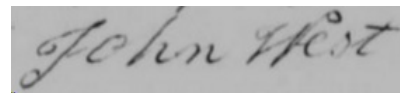
Commonwealth of }
Pennsylvania }
Greene County Ss } Before me David Gray the Subscriber one of the Associate Judges of the Courts of General Quarter Sessions of the peace and of the Courts of Common pleas in and for said County Came personally John West and being Sworn according to law doth depose and say that in the begining of the revelutionary war he lived in Glocester [sic: Gloucester] County in the State of New Jersey that he served several towers in the Melitia service and nixt joined the flying camp for Eight month under Capt John Davise [John Davis?] was in two scrimiges on the North River that whilst he was joined in the service of Country in the flying Camp he the deponent Inlisted in the light horse servise called the troop of light dragons under Capt Michal Rudolph [sic: Michael Rudolph BLWt945-300] commanding the Third Company in the troop Comanded by Col Hernery Lee [sic: Henry Lee BLWt1299-500] for during the War the deponent say that he Inlisted in the light horse servse in Elizabeth town in New Jersey and joined the troop at Burlington but the date of his Inlistment he does not recollect From Burlington went to Guilford Courthouse in N. Carralina from thence went Camberline [unknown] & in a scrimage with the enimy he was wounded in the head was in the Battle at the Uta Springs in S. Caralina [sic: Eutaw Springs SC, 8 Sep 1781] That at the Close of the war after Cornwallas surrendered to the American Army [sic: Cornwallis at Yorktown VA, 19 Oct 1781] he the deponent was honorably discharged in S. Caralina at a place near Charlestown but has lost his discharge The deponent further says that he is now grown advanced in years and by reason of the wound that he received in his head his eye sight is impaired and he is unable to labour so that he is now in low circumstance and stands in need of Assistance from his Country for support the deponent says he was better than 5 years in the army
Sworn and Subscribed this Twenty Seventh day of
Aprile 1818 before me David Gray



Greene County in the }
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania } Ss On this Twenty sixth day of August in the year 1819 before me, the subscriber, one of the judges of the Court of Common Pleas for the county and Commonwealth aforesaid, personally appeared John West the applicant named in the above declaration and resident in the said county and Commonwealth, who, being by me first duly sworn according to law, doth, on his oath make the following declaration; to amend the defects of the above declaration pursuant to the endorsement made by the Secretary for the War Department:” That he entered the service of the United States according to the best of his recollection in the latter end of September or forepart of October in the year next preceding that in which General [Anthony] Wayne took Stony Point [16 Jul 1779], 1778, in Lee’s Legion, in the Virginia line. That he served one campaign in the Southern states after Cornwallis was captured and was disbanded near Charleston in South Carolina in the fall of the year 1782 and arrived at his home in Gloucester County in Jersey State after the corn was gathered, and the hogs put up to fatten. That, the spring following he thinks in the latter end of April or the first of May he met the officers of the Company in Philadelphia according to the directions of an advertisement, published in the newspapers and then and there received his written discharge signed by captain James Armstrong [BLWt45-300].

Sworn and subscribed before me the 26th August 1819

David Gray



Greene County } Ss
 Pennsylvania } On this [blank] day of September in the year one thousand eight hundred and twenty personally appeared in open Court being the Court of Common Pleas in and for the said County in the said State and a court of record proceeding according to the course of the Common law with a jurisdiction unlimited in point of amount, keeping a record of its proceedings, John West aged sixty eight years resident in the County and State aforesaid who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath declare that he served in the Revolutionary war as follows, to wit, four years and ten months in the Company of troop commanded by Cap'n John Rudolph [John Rudolph VAS2156] of the Regiment commanded by Col Henry Lee as stated in his original declaration dated the [blank] day of April in the year one thousand eight hundred and eighteen upon which he now holds a pension certificate Numbered, [blank; 15050]

And I do solemn swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift sale or in any manner disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions of an act of Congress entitled "an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War" passed on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property or securities contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the Schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed.

Schedule of property possessed by John West aforesaid

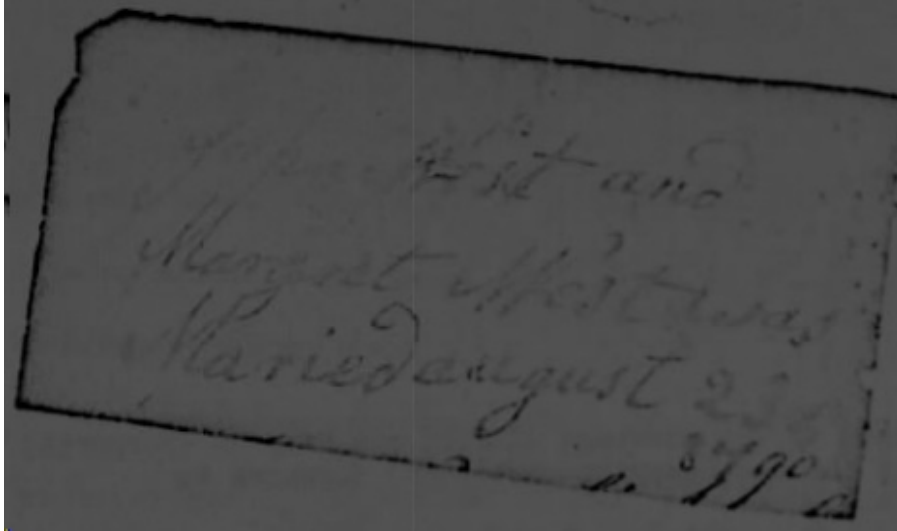
one mare and colt.	\$40.00
one horse.	40.00
three cows \$8 each.	24.00
Three yearling calves.	7.00
Two Spring Calves.	3.00
Ten sheep.	10.00
Nine hogs.	9.00
House hold furniture.	<u>15.00</u>
	148.00

I am a farmer, almost blind and can do but very little work
 My wife aged fifty two years is very sickly and seldom able to do anything.
 One daughter Susannah, sixteen years old just able to maintain herself by spinning and house work,
 One son James eleven years old small of his age and can scarcely do what will maintain himself;
 One son Samuel nine years old. And one son John seven years old,
 Live on a very hilly and barren piece of land supposed to be vacant about twenty acres cleared except that it is heavily covered with dead timber which is continually falling down and renders it almost impossible for me to work it indeed cannot without the benevolent assistance of my neighbours.
 All the pension I have hitherto drawn I have paid out to creditors except what was used for the support of my family and I yet owe thirty five dollars.

Sworn & subscribed in open Court 18th Sept 1820 John West

NOTES:

On 7 July 1845 Margaret West, about 74, applied for a pension stating that she married John West on 23 Aug 1790 in Strasburg, Lancaster County PA, and he died on 21 May 1826. She submitted the record made by John West shortly after the marriage in a Testament, which is shown and transcribed below. The writing is very faded (contrast enhanced here), but the writing appears to match the signature of John West.



John West and Margret West was Married August 23 1790

The authenticity of Margaret West's application was challenged in the following letter to James L. Edwards, Pension Commissioner:

Washington Township Oct. 11th 1845

Sir I received yours of 18 August on 8 sept. and have made diligent enquiry about John West and his widow. I find by William West a brother of John West that his widow has been dead for some years and believe the application to be an imposition

I am very respectfully your obedient servant
[signed] William Downey

On 2 Dec 1846, however, Jane Rush certified that she had first known Margaret West, formerly Margaret May, and John West in York County PA by 1791 or 1792, that they moved to Greene County in 1803 or 1804, and that she was still acquainted with Margaret West. Others also swore that Margaret West was still living.

On 14 July 1846 Henry Jacobs stated that "the eldest son of them the said Margaret & John married the sister of your deponent, and is now at least fifty four years of age, they also had John, Sam'l, Susannah & Elizabeth and other Children...."

On 9 June 1847 Susanah Coen of Wetzel County (West) Virginia certified the marriage of her sister, Margaret, to John West. On 18 Aug 1847 she stated that she was 61, that Jacob, the eldest son of John and Margaret West, was seven years younger, and that Jacob was one of 10 or 12 children of John and Margaret West.

After numerous letters from her agent, Margaret West was finally issued a pension certificate on 27 June 1849.