

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Joel Maxcy W5331 Betsey Ann Maxcy VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris and William C. Schneck. Revised 22 Aug 2014.

State of Illinois
Sangamon County SS.

On this 4th day of September [1832] personally appeared in open Court before the County Commissioners Court of Sangamon County now sitting Joel Maxcy a resident of the County and State aforesaid aged 70 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.

In the year 1780 I was drafted a militia man in the service of the United States at Prince Edward Court House Virginia and on the fourth day of June in the same year I was enrolled in Captain Jesse Owen's Company. The Lieutenants name was Dudley Madearman [sic: Dudley McDearman; compare the pension application of Charles Massy (Massey) W9536] and Ensign [Joseph] Rutledge. We belonged to the fourth Virginia Regiment Commanded by Colonel [James] Lucas, Lieutenant Downman [sic: Lieutenant Colonel Rawleigh Downman] and Major Morriss [sic: Nathaniel G. Morris], Adjutant [Robert] Bradshaw. At Hillsborough North Carolina we rendezvoused and marched from thence to Camden [see endnote]. I was in that action [Battle of Camden SC, 16 Aug 1780]. Our Regiment formed the left flank of the Army. On that I served in the Company of Captain Thomas Williams being detailed to his Company in [illegible word] the platoons. The orders from Gen. [Horatio] Gates were not to fire untill ordered by him, but the Brittish having driven in our van guard and being in full march toward our line Captain Williams Commanded our platoon to fire. This induced the whole line to fire. The whole line then broke and the retreat commenced. General [William] Smallwood commanded the troops from Maryland. I knew also a Major Masena[?] belonging to the same troops. Our Brigade Major, was Major Williams. Captains Preston, Swebston [sic: Richard Swepson], [Thomas] Williams, [Jesse] Owens, and Fountain[?] were the Captains in our Regiment. Colonels Richardson [Holt Richeson] and [Samuel] Cobb Commanded the Second Virginia Regiment and a Colonel [John] Glenn another of the Regiments [see endnote]. I know of no living witness by whom I could prove my service. I received no written discharge from that service nor have I ever received any pay. From Hamden [sic] we went to Hillsborough we marched to New Garden where we mustered out of service by Colonel [Ralph] Falkner about the fourth or fifth of October. I returned then to Prince Edward and immediately enlisted in the volunteer service under Captain Charles Allen of the same County. From this place we marched to Petersburg [sic: Petersburg] and were attached to the 2nd Regiment of Volunteers Commanded by Brigadier General Larson [sic: Robert Lawson] Colonels [Everett] Meade and John Holcom [sic: John Holcombe], and Major [St. George] Tucker. Our 1st Lieutenant was named Williamson 2nd Lieutenant James Allen and Ensign John Overstreet. We were stationed at Petersburg and marched from that place to whatever point there appeared to be danger. We were never in any action. I was mustered out of service about Christmas by Gen. Lawson and received a written discharge when our three months had expired from Capt. Allen. This discharge I have lost. I was born in the year 1762. I have no living witness by whom I can prove this service, and I have no documentary evidence to prove the same. I was born in Prince Edward County Virginia. I have no record of my age. I lived in Virginia until about thirty five years ago when I removed to Logan County Kentucky, then I moved to Butler County and then about four years since to this place. I can refer to Mr. Sears who has known me for fifteen years, Mr. Markham has known me for twelve or fourteen years and have always heard me speak of my services as a Revolutionary soldier. I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declare that my name is on the pension Roll of the Agency in no State
Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid Joel hisXmark Maxcy

Springfield April 10th 1833

James L. Edwards Esq'r.
Comm'r. of Pensions.

Sir./ Being fully apprised of the very great press of business at the present time in your Bureau it is with a good deal of delicacy that I return the papers of Joel Maxcy unamended. Mr. Maxcy is in indigent circumstances, enfeebled by age and resides at a considerable distance from this place, and as I cannot believe that on an examination of the objections to the admission of his claim by the examining clerk, you can concur with him that the papers are defective, I have deemed it uneconomical to put Mr. Maxcy to farther expense in the premises. In order that you may be given as little trouble as possible in the examination I below write out the seven interrogatories prescribed by the Department and will to each annex the answer taken from the face of the returned declaration.

1st. Where and in what year were you born?

Answer. I was born in Prince Edward County Virginia in the year 1762.

2nd. Have you any Record &ca [of age]? – I have not.

3^d Where were you living when called into service where since the war and where do you now reside? I entered the service at Prince Edward Court House, since the war I have resided in the counties set forth in my declaration, and I now reside in this Sagamore County Illinois.

4th How were you called into the service? I in the first instance was drafted and served four months, and then volunteered and served three months.

5th For the answer to the fifth I must refer the Commissioner to the declaration, only stating here that Mr. Maxcy has not only mentioned the different Regiments in which he served but also the names of every officer in each Regiment.

6th Did you ever receive a discharge &ca? For the first term of service I received no written discharge, for the second I did but but I have since lost it.

7th State the names of the persons to whom you are known in your neighbourhood and who will testify as to your character and their belief in your services as a Revolutionary Soldier? Samuel Sears a Clergyman and James Washam

The fifth Interrogatory in the "Brief Objections" which is marked in the negative, reads as follows, "Has he mentioned with precision the length of service, and the different places in which he served in Language so definite as to enable the department to determine to what amount of Pension he is entitled"? Mr. Maxcy states that on the 4th day of June in the year 1780 he was enrolled – mustered out of service about the fourth or fifth of October following. He returned "then" to Prince Edward and immediately entered the volunteer service and was mustered out about Christmas and received a written discharge when the three months had expired to wit, some nine or ten days after Christmas: Mr. Maxcy does not contend for three or four days service and I should think that his right to a pension can not be doubted. He has not pretended to hold any office and it is but presumable if he had held one inasmuch as his pension would have been larger he would have claimed accordingly.

I am well aware how much the consideration to form facilitates business in the Department and if the Commissioner of Pensions shall still deem the objections as fatal they shall be remedied as he may point out. I am Sir/ Very Respectfully/ Your Ob't Serv't/ Edward Jones

P.S. The Examining Clerk has marked No 4 in the negative also it was a complete oversight.

NOTES:

The clerk's handwriting is so bad that the word "Camden" was misread in the pension office as "Cowpens." Special thanks to Col. William C. Schneck for help in deciphering many of the names. Col. Schneck also informs me as follows regarding the passage "Colonels Richardson [Holt Richeson] and [Samuel] Cobb Commanded the Second Virginia Regiment and a Colonel [John] Glenn another of the Regiments": "This is a somewhat confused reference to the 1st (not 2nd) Regiment, the senior leaders of which were as follows: Colonel: Holt Richeson, Lieutenant Colonel: John Glenn, Major: William Boyce (also served as brigade major), and Adjutant: Samuel Cobbs."

On 2 Aug 1853 Betsy Ann Maxcy, 62, applied for a pension stating that she married Joel Maxcy 17 Feb 1815, and he died 27 Dec 1844. On 8 Dec 1853 she added that the marriage occurred in Warren County KY near the border with Butler County. Two years later she applied for bounty land. A letter dated 22 March 1856 states that Betsy Ann Maxcy had died.