

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Patrick Board W5854

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

Commonwealth of Virginia }
Wood County SS }

On this 15th day of October 1832 personally appeared before the County Court of the County aforesaid Patrick Board a resident of said County and State aforesaid, aged 82 years on the 12th day of June Last past, who being duly sworn according to Law doth on his oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

That he enlisted in the army of the United States in the year 1776 or 1777 for the term of three years with Capt. Dark [see endnote] and served in the second Rifle Regiment of the Virginia Line under the following officers, to wit, The Company was commanded by the said Capt Dark, the Regiment was commanded by Col. Anthony Wayne, that he enlisted in the County of Barkly [sic: Berkeley County now WV] and State of Virginia in which County he resided at the time of his enlistment. that the said Regiment was marched to the State of Maryland, from thence to Long Island where this affiant and the whole Co'py of Dark were taken prisoners by the British, but that he & 6 of the men made their escape the same night. this was about eighteen months from the time of his enlistment. that he then joined a Company of regulars from New Jersey Commanded by Capt John Henry, under whom he served eighteen months; that he was under the Command of Generals Washington & Wayne. that he was in an engagement at Chestnut Hill. that he was regularly discharged at the expiration of the said three years at Newport in the State of Rode Island [sic: Newport, Rhode Island, occupied by the British until 25 Oct 1779], that his discharge was burnt up in his house 37 or 38 years ago. that after his return to Va. he was drafted for nine months under Capt [Zackquil] Morgan. this was in Shepherdstown Va. that he was during said period of nine months at the Capture of Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown Va. [19 Oct 1781]. 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 and Subscribed in open Court
Virginia Wood County Court October Term 1832

Patrick hisP.B.mark Board

Patrick Board this day came into Court and Subscribed and made oath to his declaration agreeable to an act of Congress passed June the 7th 1832 in order to obtain a pension for his services as a Soldier in the Revolutionary War and after the Court had fully examined the applicant and the forgoing Statement, examined Samuel Barrett [pension application S6590] who states he knew the applicant during the revolutionary war in actual service, and verily believe the statement made by the applicant to be true, and the said Court do hereby declare their opinion that the above named applicant was a Revolutionary Soldier and served as he stated.

Virginia Wood County to wit

Patrick Board, in addition to his declaration to obtain a pension - hereunto annexed after being duly sworn, says that he resides near forty miles from the Court House of said County that from his age & infirmity is very difficult for him to attend the Court further says that he was born on the 12th day of June 1750 at a place called the pigeon hills in the State of Pennsylvania the name of the County not recollected that the record of his birth was burnt some thirty and forty years ago he also says that there is no person now living to his knowledge who knows of his service in the Revolutionary War but Samuel Barrett whose affidavit is hereby annexed that there is no Clergyman living in the part of the County where he resides that he is known to Caleb Wiseman Thomas Cain Barnet H. Foley Charles Rector and William Dyar who reside in his neighborhood & who can testify as to his carracter for veracity & their belief as to his services as a soldier of the Revolution

Patrick hisPBmark Board

Sworn & subscribed before me the subscriber a Justice of the Peace in & for said County on this 15 day April 1833 —

Presley Woodyard

[The following report is by District Attorney Washington G. Singleton who investigated many pensioners from present West Virginia. For details see pension application S6111 of David W. Sleeth.]

Patrick Board. Served 3 yrs. draws \$80. p annum.

I the undersigned Patrick Board in pursuance of the requisition of the Secretary of war give the following statement of my age and services as a soldier in the war of the Revolution to wit. I was born June 12th 1750. - Early in the war of the Revolution (I cant tell in what year) I enlisted in the county of Berkeley virginia for Three years under Capt. Dark (I can remember Capt. Darks christian name) we rendezvoused at Harpers Ferry. Capt. Stephenson's company of regulars rendezvoused at same place and same time [see endnote]. we marched on to Frederick town Md. I cant recollect the names of any other town or towns through which we marched - perhaps we went through Georgetown Bladensburg - we were six or seven days going from Fredericktown to Headquarters, but I cant tell where head quarters were, nor where we joined the army. I can't recollect the names of my colonel, Lieut Colonel, Major or adjutant nor the number of the Regt. to which I was attached - perhaps belonged to the 2nd Virginia Regt. - after joining the main army we marched to Long Island - cant tell how long we were on the march from Fredericktown to Long Island - at Long Island the American army was surrounded by the British and the whole army except myself and six others was taken Prisoners [see endnote] - my self & the 6th others made our escape & hid in the river under the roots of a sickamore tree - after night we crept out. broke a lock that fastened a boat - took the Boat and crossed the river to the "Virginia shore - I then joined Capt. John Henry's company and marched to the Red Banks and then to "the Peolies [Paoli PA; see endnote] where we had a skermish with the British in which Genl. Anthony [sic: Anthony Wayne] commanded and defeated the British army. from there we went to Stoney Point [see endnote] - I served out my touer of three years and got my discharge - I proved my service by Samuel Barrett. we saw and knew each other in service - I proved Samuel Barretts service. I cant say how long he was in service - nor can he know how long I was in service - we saw and knew each other while in service as before stated - James Stephenson wrote my Declaration & charged me \$50. In witness of which I hereto subscribe my name. Dec'r. 27, 1834

Patrick hisXmark Board

Note - the statement of Mr. Board is Wholly inclusive [inconclusive?] - his mind and recollection seemed rational enough on all subjects except his revolutionary services. as to them he knew & recollected nothing - from his examination I could not resel [resist?] the conviction of his being an imposture, but in this I may be mistaken, for Samuel Barrett who has given a very satisfactory statement says he knew Board in service & he then understood that he had been enlisted for 3 yrs - Boards name may nave been found on the Roll - that fact would remove all doubt - but in the absence of that fact I should say, unhesitatingly that he is an impostor - - it will be remarked that he alledges to have enlisted under Capt Dark. - I think Darks first entrance in the service was in a higher grade than captain - How is this. W. G Singleton. Dec. 28, 1834
I omitted to state that Board at the time of makeing his Declaration resided and still resides in Jackson Cty. 16 miles from the county seat. he made his Declaration in Wood County 30 miles from his home. W G S.

[On the cover of the report Singleton wrote "a special examination of this case is requested - Comparison" The last word apparently requests a comparison of Board's declaration with his statement to Singleton.]

[The following letter was sent to J. L. Edwards, Commissioner of Pensions. The envelope bears date "June 17 -" - evidently in 1835 or 1836 after suspension of Board's pension.]

Pt. Plst. [Point Pleasant] Mason Cty. viz.

Sir, The other day there was placed in my hand a Letter of yours in relation to the pension of one Patrick Board of Jackson Cty (formerly Wood Cty but became Jackson [in 1831] by the creation of that County which was taken off parts of Wood Mason & Kanawha) in which you say that "I find upon a re-examination of your declaration and papers connected with it that your claim was admitted without the production of the evidence required by the regulations. As your name does not appear upon the payroll you will be required to furnish additional evidence before the payment of your pension can be resumed". It may perhaps be well to premise in the

first place that not myself but a Gentleman of the name of Stephenson prepared this mans papers - and in the second place that I am personally and well acquainted both with Mr. Stephenson and Mr. Board - and in the third place that Mr Board is a very aged man with but one hand in very low circumstances in Life. His hand he lost some twenty or more years ago in blasting rock in a well which he was then digging. Under these circumstances and knowing that if in point of fact he is entitled to any thing that morality would award it to him I have presumed to address you regarding his case. I know nothing about the merits or demerits of his claim but in a conversation with the Gentleman who drew his papers I was informed that it was highly probable that you were under some mistake about his case for he had served in the militia as well as in the regular service and that the militia service was properly proved and that in fact the regular service was performed not in the virginia but in the Pennsylvania Line and that living evidence of that was produced viz. a Mr. Barnett. Will you be kind enough to examine the papers again and see if there may not be some mistake about Boards pension and if you still find that your last impressions were right state to me what further proof is required and as an act of charity I will prepare the papers for that old man should he be able to produce satisfactory proof so as to get the payment of his pension or any part thereof resumed for any thing that he may be entitled to however small would be a great help to him in his aged and decrepid helplessness and extreme poverty. He is I assure you an object of charity

Yours &c very respectfully

Henry J. Fisher

The undersigned, residents of Jackson and Wood Counties in the state of Virginia, having been acquainted with Patrick Board of the county of Jackson aforesaid for the last fifteen or twenty years, and believing that the rigid course which the fraudulent conduct of others has required on the part of the war department in reference to Pensioners in this part of Virginia has not only depreciated his hard earned reputation as a Soldier of the Revolutionary war, but has likewise deprived him of the small pittance provided by the laws of his country for the support of those who fought for our liberties - feel ourselves called upon to declare our conviction that the measures necessarily adopted to detect the frauds of others has (no doubt unintentionally) operated to the prejudice of his claims upon the gratitude of his country

As the grounds of this conviction we deem it proper to state that during our acquaintance with Patrick Board we have never had reason to doubt his statements relative to his services in the Revolutionary war - that we have never heard them doubted until a full developement of the frauds of Certain Pension agents caused suspicion in relation to almost every claimants right to a Pension - that ever since a severe illness which he endured several months before he was called upon by the District Attorney for his second declaration, he has constantly exhibited a want of recollection even as to occurrences of recent date, that at the time he was called upon by Mr. Singleton we are confident none of his acquaintances would have expected a correct statement from him of even the events of the previous day, and that we have full confidence in his honesty and integrity and believe that his first declaration contained nothing but the truth - And we moreover believe that he is not and perhaps never will be capable of giving a correct statement in relation to his services in the Revolution. And we would further remark that he has for several years been deprived of one of his arms lost by an accidental explosion whilst engaged in the blasting of rocks and that his relatives as well as himself are in indigent circumstances and unable to afford him that subsistence which nature demands. Given under our hands this 20th day of Sept'r. 1836.

[signed] David Hopkins Chas. Rector Wm Sheppeard Thos Cane

[The file contains a similar testimonial dated 10 Apr 1837.]

Parkersburg Va. Decr. 6th 1836

Dr. Sir [W. G. Singleton of Winchester]

Mr Board has sent this paper to me, with a request that I would forward it to you. the persons whose names are attached to the foregoing statement, are his immediate neighbors, and men to be relied upon. The first two are magistrates of this County, the latter of Jackson County. If any thing could be done for the old man, it would be very gratifying to him and his neighbors. The fact of Mr. Barretts getting a pension upon his evidence, ought to have some weight in deciding upon his case -

If you recollect Mr. B. makes the same statement in favor of Mr. Board, that Mr. Board made in favor of Mr Barrett, they having served together - will you be so good as say to me in what way Geo. & Thos. Leach [George Leach W27584 and Thomas Leach S8837] was disposed [the rest unrelated to Board].

Yours Respectfully &c D R Neal

[Written beneath: "From a personal acquaintance with D R Neal I believe him to be a gentleman honesty & probity W G Singleton"]

Wood County (Va.) to wit

This day personally appeared before me the subscriber, Samuel Barret of said county and made oath that, he served as a private in the Revolutionary war under Gen [William] Woodford three years, and that during this term he frequently saw Patrick Board now of Jackson County Va. who was also in the service, a part of the time in the rifle Corpse under (then) Capt Morgan - and the residue of the term in the service, but does not recollect whose company he belonged to - that he was acquainted with P. Board before he entered the service as well as since - and knows him to have served as above stated at least three years in the Virginia line. Given under my hand this 4th day of September 1837

J. G. Stringer J.P.

NOTES:

On 9 Feb 1776 a Capt. William Darke took command of a company raised in Berkeley County in the 8th VA Regiment of Foot commanded by Col. Peter Muhlenberg. This Capt. Darke was promoted to Major on 4 Jan 1777, was wounded and captured at the Battle of Germantown on 4 Oct 1777, and remained a prisoner until 1 Nov 1780. In the same regiment was the company of Capt. John Stevenson raised 10 Dec 1775 in Augusta County. In early 1776 Muhlenberg's regiment marched to the South, evidently without Board. At about the same time Colonel (later General) Anthony Wayne took command of the 4th Pennsylvania Continental Infantry. The several references to him suggest that Board transferred to his command.

At the Battle of Long Island on 27 Aug 1776 the Americans were defeated, but about 7000 of the 9000 Americans managed to escape in fog and darkness. At Paoli in the night of 21 Sep 1777 Gen. Anthony Wayne was surprised and defeated. At Stony Point NY on 15 Jul 1779 Wayne was victorious in a night-time attack.

On 27 July 1846 Mary Board, 75, of Ripley in Jackson County, applied for a pension stating that as Mary Keezer she married Patrick Board in May or June of 1789 or 1790 "in Washington County in the State of Maryland near the Potomac River, a few miles above Harpers Ferry and below Antietam Creek & about seven miles from Shepardstown in Va," and that he died in Jackson County on 6 Nov 1839. She added, "That the Pension of said Patrick Board was at one time suspended and when the United States District Attorney for the Western District of Virginia was sent to examine & question pensioners & investigating their cases for the purpose of ascertaining who were & who were not justly entitled to pensions, this declarant's Husband the said Board was by reason of old age and other causes insane & his memory completely gone and wholly unable to answer any questions rationally on any subject whatever - and this declarant thinks that he the said Board served in the Maryland line has often heard him speak of Col. Dart and Capt Wysong as his commanders."

Her application for a pension was initially denied for lack of proof of her marriage. On 20 May 1850 as evidence of marriage, she stated that her first child was born in October 1791. In a letter dated 23 July 1851 Mary Board acknowledged receipt of her pension certificate but complained that she had not received the pension that was owed her husband from the time it was suspended to the time of his death. The letter was witnessed by her son, Thomas Board.