

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of Ralph Stewart W6168

Mary Stewart VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 3 Apr 2013.

[Punctuation partly corrected.]

Virginia Logan County to Wit

This day personally appeared before me the Subscribing Justices of the peace in and for the County & State aforesaid Ralph Stewart, a resident of said County aged Eighty four years, who after being duely sworn according to Law made the following declaration in order to obtain, the benefit of the provisions of the Act of Congress, passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832

That in the year 1773 he was commissioned, by Lord Dunmore, then Govenor of Virginia as Captain of a Company of Rangers formed in Augusta County for the purpose of protecting the defenceless frontiers of Western Virginia against the Indians after receiving this commission he marched with his Company to the head waters of the Monongahela, where he remained some time guarding the frontier settlements; from thence he was ordered with his Company to Tygarts Valey [sic: Tygart Valley], where his Company was stationed until some short period previous to the battle of Point pleasant [10 Oct 1774] at which place they joined the Army under Colonel [Andrew] Lewis, and participated in that severe struggle with the Indians; after which he returned with his Company again to Agusta County and from thence to Tygarts Valey where he was stationed, guarding the frontier against the Indians until the year 1778.

In the year 1778 His commission was renewed by Patrik Henry [sic: Patrick Henry] then Governor of Virginia; and he was order with his company to join the Army in Carolina Commanded by General Green [sic: Nathanael Greene, who took command of the Southern Army on 3 Dec 1780] He was attached to a Regiment Commanded by Col. Robert McCleery and Major Smith [see endnote], was at the battle of Guildford [sic: Guilford] Courthouse on the 15<sup>th</sup> of March 1781. He was with the Army who pursued the British through Virginia [10 Jun - 28 Sep 1781], and was engaged with the Enemy on many occasions, (Viz) at Hot water [26 Jun 1781], Ground squirrel bridge, and Charlottesville [4 Jun 1781], in one of which he was severely wounded by a Cut from one of Tarletons Sabres [Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton's Legion] which disabled him in the right arm, and which wound he has never recovered from the effects of, and on which account the Legislature of Virginia granted him an Invalid pension of 60 dollars per annum in the year 1823. He further declares that in consequence of his wound that he returned home, to Augusta County; but only continued a few days: his services being needed, he joined his Company then proceeding to the seage of Yorktown [28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781], where he remained until the surrender of Cornwallis, when he was ordered to aid in conveying the prisoners to Winchester barracks, at which place he was discharged. He believes his discharge was signed by an aid of the Marquis Lafayette, whose name he does not now recollect.

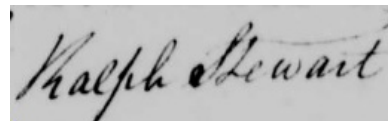
On his return home, he applied to the paymaster at the Town of Staunton for payment for his services during the war, and was offered by him some Continental paper (as it was named) which he declined accepting, as it was of very little Value, so that he never received anything for his services which extended over a period of more than three years under the last mentioned Commission.

This declarant also states that he moved from Agusta County Va. on to the waters of New river now Giles County and that he continued in the County of Giles and Logan to the present time. He was born in Augusta County and has never permanently removed out of his native State. he left his discharge & Commission with his friend Col George Pearis of Giles County, but they have since been lost Col Pearis haveing had his house broken and his papers plundered as he has been informed

The pension granted by the State of Virginia being intirely an Invalid pension for this State gives no other, he is informed that it is unnecessary to relinquish. Nevertheless if required by the Act of

Congress of June 1832 He desires himself to be understood as relinquishing all claims to any pension whatever but what is justly due to him by the Laws of his Country; and that his name is not found on any pension roll except as above stated on the State roll of Virginia for Invalid pensions.

Sworn to and subscribed before in the day & year above written [sic: apparently 10 Jan 1834]



[The justices of the peace certified that Stewart lived 33 miles from the courthouse and was unable to appear in court because of bodily infirmity.]

Interrogatories propounded by Joseph Straten a Justice of the peace that is to say —

1. Where and in what year were you born? Answer. I was born in Augusta County, Virginia in the year 1752 according to the best information I can obtain.

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

Answer. I have not except traditionary.

3. Where were you living when called into service? Where have you lived since the Revolutionary war & where do you now live?

Answer. I resided in Augusta County VA. when I entered the service – have resided in same County since and also in Montgomery & Giles Counties – and am now living in Logan County Va.

4. How were you called into service? Answer I volunteered as Captain of a Company of Riflemen & served as such.

5. State the names of some of the Officers who were with the troops where you served, such Continental & militia regiments as you can recollect & the general circumstances of your services?

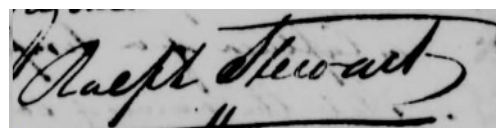
Answer. I was acquainted with Gen'ls Washington, Lafayette, [Anthony] Wayne, & [Charles] Scott, & Cols. John Willis, Thomas Huggard [sic: Thomas Hugart], Robert McCleery, Wm Boyer [sic: William Bowyer] are the principal and the principal circumstances of my services are set out in the foregoing declaration.

6<sup>th</sup> Did you ever receive a Commission, & if so by whom was it signed? and what has become of it?

Answer. My first commission as Captain was signed by Lord Dunmore, my second by Patrick Henry, which were left with Col George Pearis of Giles County for safekeeping & lost or destroyed, he having his dwelling house broken open and plundered as I have been informed.

This declarant also states that he removed from Augusta County as aforesaid to New River in the County of Montgomery some forty years ago, and deposited his discharge with Col. George Pearis for safekeeping – as also his Commission – which have been lost or destroyed.

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



[The following are among the [pension applications in the Library of Virginia](#). They appear to be copies.]

William Smith Esq from Giles Co./ at Richmond

Dr Sir yesterday R'd. your Welcome Letter of the 3<sup>d</sup> Inst. informing me you had succeeded in a Law to grant a pension to old Ralph Stewart, & I lost no time in communicating to Stewart the contents of your letter – He desires to thank you most sincerely for your executions in his behalf

I wrote the power of Attorney annexed, by which he wishes you to Receive the fifty dollars you

wrote you would bring to him if your received authority – perhaps I have not wrote the instrument in due form – you are fully at liberty to alter it as you see proper but I hope the Treasurer will excuse it, seeing the intention, is honest, & good

Old Mr S. was in great need but on the receipt of your letter, I advanced him the money, takeing his receipt & order on you & wish you to hold the cost, till we [the rest missing from the online file]

With sentiments of esteem & gratitude for your kindness, I hereby appoint you my Lawfull Attorney to demand and Receive on my account the Sum of Fifty dollars, granted to me by the Honorable Legislature of Virginia at their last Session for my Service during the Reavolutionary War; of the Treasurer for the State of Virginia your Receipt to him to be good and binding against me & my Heirs for ever – as Witness my Hand & Seal the day & date above written

Witness/ William Stewart

Ralph Stewart

Anthony Lawson

If Mr Smith should have left Richmond before this reaches that place, the Treasurer is respectfully requested to pay the above mentioned sum to Thompson H. Caperton who is hereby fully authorised to Receive it; & give a receipt in my name for the same Witness my hand & seal

Witness A. Lawson

Ralph Stewart

24 Mar 1823

Recd a warrant in the name of Ralph Stuart for fifty dollars for his present relief.

See law passed 30 Jany. 1823

T. H. Caperton

[Top part of the following missing from the online image.]

do herby make constitute and appoint T. H. Caperton of the City of Richmond and state aforesaid my true and Lawfull Attorney to receive in my behalf of the proper authority; my Pension of Sixty Dollars, allowed me, by an Act of assembly passed on the 30th of January 1823 and which became due to me on the 30th January last past

In witness wherof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 9th day of June in the year of our Lord 1824

Teste/ Henry Stewart

Ralph Stewart

[Similar powers of attorney were granted in later years.]

#### NOTES:

I could find no Col. Robert McCleery, but there were a Col. John McCreery and a Maj. Robert McCreery in the Augusta County Militia. Col. Daniel Smith of the Washington County Militia was at the Battle of Guilford Courthouse.

Henry C. Stewart, George B. Stewart, and Robert Stewart witnessed some of the documents in the state pension file.

On 17 Dec 1846 Mary Stewart, 74, applied for a pension stating that she married Ralph Stewart in June 1788 in Montgomery County, and he died 17 Nov 1835. With her application is a copy of a bond signed by Ralph Stewart and William Tracey on 5 June 1788 for the marriage of Stewart to Mary Clay.