

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Zachariah Wharton W6487

Sarah

fn33VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

9/5/11

[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 Virginia County of Morgan to wit

On this 27th day of May, 1833, personally appeared before the County Court of Morgan County, Zachariah Wharton, a resident of said County, and State of Virginia, aged seventy-four 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 provision made by the act of Congress, passed June 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States as a drafted militia man, in June, of the year that the troops under Cornwallis surrendered at York, in Virginia, and served as a private soldier for six months, he was drafted in Spotsylvania County, Virginia, and rendezvoused at the Bowling Green, and was placed under Captain Francis Coleman, Lieutenant Benjamin Robinson, James Davenport was the orderly Sergeant of the company, he thinks his service commenced in June 1781, his service was performed in the following manner, viz. The troops to which he was attached were marched to Williamsburg, and put under the command of General Joseph Weedon¹ [?], Colo. Merrywether [Meriwether] and Major Hardeman, and marched to a place below Williamsburg, called Stony Point, and was in a skirmish at the latter place, with the British, & were defeated, and driven from their, owing as was suspected by many at the time, to the cowardice of General Waden, the command was then given to General Lafayette, the troops were marched back & passed through Fredericksburg home to the Stafford side of the River; and into Culpeper, & into Orange County, and joined the Army under General Washington at Brocks Bridge, the Army then advanced against the British, through Louisa, Fluvanna, &c on to Richmond, near which it was said General Wayne, who commanded the van, beat the enemy, the company to which this applicant belonged was about 15 miles in the rear of the van, at that time they pursued on to York where the British Army was besieged, and afterwards, during the siege he worked a great deal in erecting the fortifications, while engaged in this work, his brother Samuel Wharton was badly wounded by a shot from the enemy, and carried to the hospital where this applicant was sent to attend him as a nurse, and was in the hospital when Cornwallis surrendered; some time after the surrender of Cornwallis, the company of Captain Coleman was discharged, their time being out; but this affiant was retained with his wounded Brother, sometime longer, and then went home, and took means to have him carried home, which occupied him about ten days longer than the six months, which he served, there is no clergyman residing in his neighborhood. 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 any agency, in any state.

¹ Possibly a mistaken reference to General George Weedon.

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

Test: S/ J. Richard, C. M. C.

S/ Zachariah Wharton, X his mark

Question by the Court, where, & in what year were you born?

Answer. I was born the 27th day of March, 1760, in Orange County Virginia, about 20 miles from Fredericksburg, & 5 miles from Wilderness Bridge.

Question by the Court, have you any record of your age, & if so where is it?

Answer. I had a record of my age in my father's Bible; but about 25 years ago, my house, with all its contents, including the Bible, was burnt.

Question by same, where were you living when called into service, where have you lived since the War, and where do you now live?

Answer. When called into service I lived in Spotsylvania County Virginia, after the War I remained there several years, & then removed to Hampshire County Virginia, and lived there until Morgan County was formed and then fell into the latter County, where I still live, and have remained in my present neighborhood for near 38 years past.

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

Answer. I was drafted in Spotsylvania County for six months; but the place where we rendezvoused by order, was the Bowling Green, I believe in Caroline County, my father endeavored to get me exempted because I was not eighteen at the time,² but could not succeed.

5th by the same, 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.

Answer. Generals Washington, Wayne and the Marquis de Lafayette were the principal commander's, I knew General Weeden, and also remember General Matthews Colonel Meriwether, Major Hardeman, he was a small man, remarkable for his activity and strong voice, and often got off his horse, which was a gray, to correct the awkward movements of the troops; At York there was fresh troops, commanded by a French officer, whose name I cannot recollect; I cannot now say, whether all the officers above named, were regular troops or not.

6 By the same. Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, if so, by whom was it given, and what has become of it.

Answer. I did receive a discharge from the service from Colonel Meriwether, it was burnt, when my house was burnt as before stated.

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.

Answer. All the old inhabitants of this neighborhood knows me, Jonathan James presiding Justice of our court, Colonel Robert Guthrie, Colonel John Sherrard, Jacob Richard Clerk of the Court, John Hunter, Colonel Neely, also, Conrad Lotman who was captured at Yorktown, and in deed I am well known to almost all who have resided in my present neighborhood for many years.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension, except the present, and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State, there is no clergyman in his neighborhood.

² Since the surrender of Cornwallis occurred in Oct. 1781, if the veteran was born in 1760 as he stated, he would have been 21 years in 1781. The only explanation I can think of for this discrepancy is that the veteran misstated the year of his birth in answer to the first interrogatory.

I am now unable from bodily infirmity to travel to the place where I marched, to procure testimony as to my services, and if I was there I know of no one I could prove it by those to whom I was best known are dead, or removed to other parts of the Country, where it would be impossible for me to find them 'tis now many years time I left that neighborhood, and of course I must be forgotten by all who then knew me, I have altered greatly since I resided in this neighborhood, I was, when I just came here remarkably large, stout robust man, and in tolerably good circumstances, I am now reduced to extreme poverty, and am very infirm, those who would have known me forty years ago, would in all probability not recognize me now, when I went into the Army I was a young man, living with my father, and known to but few persons, while in the Army, I was some time in active service, sometime in the hospital, acquaintances formed under those circumstances were slight, and probably not strongly impressed on the minds of those who were with me.

[Michael Widmeyer and Michael Pentony gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[fn p. 9: On July 22, 1839 in Morgan County Virginia, Sarah Wharton, 69, filed for a widow's pension under the 1838 act stating that she is the widow of Zachariah Wharton; that he was a pensioner of the United States for his service in the revolution; that her husband died in Morgan County March 15, 1835; that she married him on or about the 8th day of January 1788; and that she remains his widow. She signed her application with her mark.]

[fn p. 9-10: John Young gave testimony in which he said he was present at the marriage of his sister Sarah to Zachariah Wharton; that the marriage took place at Orange Courthouse Virginia; that they were married by a Baptist Minister name Saunders. He signed his affidavit with his mark.]

[facts in file: the widow died February 14, 1848 leaving 9 children at her death: Nancy, Elizabeth, John, James, Samuel, Benjamin, Robert and Nelson all of whom were thought to be living as of 1851 except Samuel. In addition to the 9 children who survived her, the widow also had 5 other children namely Joseph, William, Darkey and two who died in infancy and before they were named.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$21.10 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 6 months & 10 days service as a private in the Virginia militia.]