

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Joseph French W79

Judah French

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

[Punctuation and capitalization partly corrected.]

State of Tennessee }

Fentress County } on this the [blank; 23rd] day of October 1832 personally appear'd in the court of pleas and quarter sessions now sitting for the County of Fentress aforesaid which is a court or record Joseph French a resident citizen of united states and of said County and State aforesaid aged 72 years in August Last and after being 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 7th June 1832

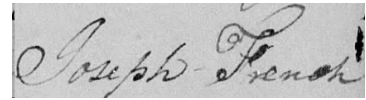
that he entered the service of the unites states in the revolutionary war in the County of Henry in the State of Virginia the dates of the times of service he is at a loss but it was in the fall season of the year he marche'd off from Henry County Virginia a volunteer though it was understood that it shouud stand as a drafted Tower. John Dilliard [sic: John Dillard] was his Captain and Abram Penn Col we mach'd to the middle Moraven Town [sic: middle Moravian Town, Bethabara] in North Carolina thence to the Moraven Town [Bethania or Salem] it being another Town of the Moravens. we marchd from there to the shallow ford of yadkin [Yadkin River] and as we march'd to the Shallow ford we met some few wounded coming from the Shallow ford that had been wounded in a skirmish between the Tories and Whigs [14 Oct 1780], from thence we cross'd & turn'd up the yadkin in search of the Tories and crossed the yadkin in various places and went to the Hollows of the yadkin [The Hollow along Ararat River in present Surry County NC and Patrick County VA] and marched to various places and finally returnd home to Henry County Virginia and was discharged by said captain for a three months tower. He was once before that occasionally called on to go against the Tories in North Carolina under Captain Shelton, and Col. Hugh's [sic: Archelaus Hughes] and stationed about five weeks near the hollows of the yadkin Serv'd about seven weeks that time and was dismissed and went home and march'd off again in a third time under Lieutenant Peter Leke [Peter Leak] to guard General Sumpter's [sic: Thomas Sumter's] Waggons to South Carolina we went some distance into North Carolina and was put under Col Hampton [possibly Wade Hampton] did not go on with the waggons throug fear of the enemy, was finally discharged from service after being out from home a short time in service and returned home and was again called out agreeable to number [i.e. by lot] and went into North Carolina under his former Captain Dilliard and march'd to several places and finally was dismiss'd from service after seving a very few days, and sometime thereafter was called out agreeable to enrollment and march'd off from Henry County under Captain Rubel [sic: Owen Rubell] his first name not recollected, staid under said captain but a few days and was then put under Capt James Pertete [sic: James Pteet] and serv'd under said Captain the remainder of my tower He was under Major [George] Waller, they march'd through various places in Virginia to Petersburg and Cabin Point [on James River in Surry County], thence near old James Town cross'd James river at Swan's Point [Swanns Point] thence Williamsburg and finally went to York we joint the militia of Bedford County Virginia at Swanspoint when we arriv'd at york he was under Col [St. George] Tucker. he was put to the most servile labor at York for many days and was badly straind in in the right arm in carrying and throwing on a pole some thing that we made of Brush for the purpose of Breast works [fascines] he has never been able to use his said right arm near so well ever since to this day he was sick at York about the time of the Surrender of Lord Cornwallis [19 Oct 1781] and after his surrender was discharged by his said Captain James Pertete

He had two written discharges for two towers one from Captain Shelton and one from Capt. Pertete, and his full tower he serv'd the full time out he had no discharge written owing to neglect he states his dischargs are lost and that he has no documentary proof of his services he was born in Hanover County Virginia an raised in Goochland and Louisa county in said state and was moved to Henry County Virginia where he liv'd during the war after the war moved to york district in S. Carolina and there liv'd

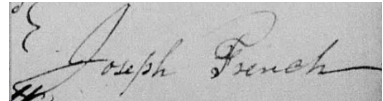
nineteen years and then moved back to Henry County Virginia and staid there about one year, and then mov'd to Knox County Tennessee staid there and in Blount County Tennessee about nine yea's and then moved to Overton County Tennessee, and to the part that is now Fentress County where he has liv'd ever since

He has no doubt but he can prove his services by a certain William May [pension application W5335] whom he learns lives some place in the Cherokee nation near Hewasee river [sic: Hiwassee River] he can prove by said May the most of his sevicees and by John May [R7051] a brother to said William, the ballance of his services Said John May lives some place in the Hiwassee district as he believes He hereby respectfully submits to this worshipful court whether he shall procure the testimony of said John & William, or will they permit him to give the next best evidence he can as prescrib'd by the war department

he thinks that his services in all amount to at least eight months and perhaps nine month counting the time of returning home. He has no other other possible opertunity of proving services that he knows of except as herein setforth. He hereby relinquishes Every claim whatsoever to a pension or annuity Except the present and Declares his name is not on the pension Role of the agency of any State



State of Tennessee }
Fentress County } On this the 22nd day of July 1833 personally appeard before the Justices of the court of pleas and quarter sessions for the county of Fentress aforesaid now seting which is a court of record Joseph French a resident citizen of said county, and after being duly Sworn according to Law, on his oath deposes and makes the following amendmendment to his original Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act Congress of the 7th June 1832; he states that it was out of his power at the time of arrangeing his original Declaration to get a clergyman, there being no clergyman within his vicinity, and is still out of his power for the same reson he states that he serv'd in the revolutionary at least Eight months a private soldier, as already stated in his original Declaration for which he claims a Pension



NOTE:

On 4 Jan 1839 Judah French, 72, applied for a pension stating that she was married to Joseph French at the home of John Abbington in Henry County by John Newman, a Baptist preacher, in 1783 "in harvest time of cuting wheat and rye... about the first day of July... the Second Summer after her said husband was at the Siege at little york." She stated that their first child was born about 12 months after the marriage and was 54. She stated that Joseph French died on 24 Jan 1837. Rebecca French, 44 since the previous October, stated that her father died on 24 Jan 1838, and that she had four brothers older than herself named William (the oldest), Josiah, Thomas, and John. A Treasury-Department document dated 31 Jan 1839 states that the widow of Joseph French received the final pension payment up to the date of his death, 24 Jan 1838.

On 22 March 1840 Judah French stated that she was 78 and that her oldest child, William, was born on 15 June 1783. On 14 July 1840 Henry Dillon (Henry Dillen, pension application S45891) stated that he had lived within three miles of Joseph French when he was married, and that the marriage occurred before the birth of his oldest child, Katherine Goniels[?], on 2 March 1793.

On 22 Feb 1844 Judith French at age 77 stated that she was married in the summer of 1782. On the same date William French stated that he would be 61 on the next 15th of June and was living with his mother, Judah French.

The file includes several statements from former neighbors of Joseph and Judah French.