

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Jacob White W8076                      Mary Lefoy    VA  
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 8 Feb 2015.

State of Virginia, Bedford County to wit

On this 26 day of January 1846, before me Reaves J Scruggs a Justice of the peace in and for said county, personally appeared Hendrick Nichols 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 July 4, 1836, and the explanatory Act of March 3<sup>rd</sup> 1837; for the benefit of the heirs of Jacob White and his widow Mary White (whose maiden name was Allen, whose 2<sup>nd</sup> husband was named Jno Lafoy, or Lafo, or Lafong [or John Lafoe; see endnote].

That declarant is the Administrator of Mary Lafoy, whose first husband was Jacob White dec'd. of said County, who was a private soldier in the Revolutionary war in the Virginia Malitia and served three tours as such from said county, if not more. One tour which the said White served, was in about the year 1777 or 8, out on the Western Frontier, either at the lead mines [near Fort Chiswell in present Wythe County], or on the Holston, or both, for the purpose of guarding the mines, and the settlers against the Indians. Jno Pratt [John Pratt] his brother in law, and Rich'd Roberts [Richard Roberts, pension application W4573] was with said White during the performance of said tour of at least 3 months duration if not more, under the command of Cap Wm Leftwitch [sic: William Leftwich]. The said White served another tour of duty in the Winter and Spring of 1781, and was at the Battle of Guilford in March 1781 [Guilford Courthouse NC, 15 Mar] – under cap [William] Terry, as he is informed of 3 months duration. And another tour at the Seige, or battle of 96, in S. Carolina [Siege of Ninety Six, 22 May - 19 Jun 1781], under cap Clements, of three months duration if not more; White was gone a long time from home on this occasion – so much so as to fail making a crop and when he returned home had to buy corn and other provisions for his family. All this service was after said White was married.

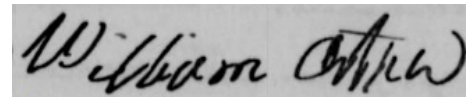
Declarant further says, that the said Mary Lafoy, whose maiden name was Allen – was married to said Jacob White her first husband, during and in the early part of the Revo'y war say in the year 1775 – that her husband the aforesaid Jacob White died in said County, in or about the year 1802; That she was afterwards married to Jno Lafoy, or Lafo, in the year 1804 or 5 who died on the [blank] day of July 1824 – and that the aforesaid Mary Lafoy died in said County on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of dec'r 1840 and declarant now claims the pension due said Mary Lafoy under the Act of July 1836 and March 3 1837, in consideration of the Revolutionary services of her first husband, Jacob White aforesaid for the benefit of the heirs of said Jacob White and Mary Lafoy whose maiden name was Allen. All of which will more fully appear by reference to the proof annexed.

Hendrick hisXmark Nichols

State of Virginia. Franklin County to witt

On this 9<sup>th</sup> day of April 1845, before me Patrick A Bassett a Justice of the peace in and for said County, personally appeared William Arthur [pension application S6528] a respectable resident of the County of Henry, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath say – That he is 83 years old, and was well acquainted with Jacob White dec'd. of Bedford County – during the Revolutionary war – the same person who married Mary Allen in Bedford County in the early part of the Revo'y war, say in the year 1775. Deponant is satisfied, that said White performed at least three tours of duty in the Revo'y. war. The first tour he served was out at the lead mines in the year 1778 under Capt Wm. Leftwich of 6 months duration, it being while he lived on otter river – for the purpose of guarding the frontier against the Indians. The next tour that said White served was at the Seige of 96 in S. Carolina in the Spring and Summer of 1781 under Cap Clements and served 3 months at least if not more before he returned home. Said White also performed a tour of duty in the Spring of 1781, (and was at the Battle of Guilford in March 1781) in the malitia from Bedford also; under the command of Cap. Wm. Terry, and Col [Charles] Lynch – he left home in Febuary, and returned the month of May. Said White told deponant, that Cap.

Terry told him to go out and kill hogs, or any thing else he could get to eat for the troops – that he went out and killed a fine hog himself, and brought it in to camp. From what he knows himself, and heard, and from General reputation, the said White must have performed in all at least 12 months service in the Revo’y war – all of which service was from Bedford, in the malitia, and after said White was married. The said White living near neighbour to deponant when he served the two last named tours of duty – and that he was well acquainted with his family. Said White died about 43 years ago in Bedford and about three years after, his widow married John La-fong (or Lafo, (so pronounced) now pronounced La-foy) being a Frenchman – who was a regular soldier in the Cavalry during the Revo’y war – and died in said County about 20 years ago – and that his widow, died about 2 or 3 years ago in the County of Bedford. Dep further says that his brother in law Jno Pratt was in the service out at the lead mines, against the Indians at the same time that said Jacob White was under the said Wm. Leftwitch. Dep. also says that said White performed the tour at 96 in South Carolina, directly after he returned from the battle of Guilford and returned the latter part of the Summer, or early part of the fall of 1781 – that he was gone so long from home, that he made no crop, and when he returned home, he had to buy corn, and other provisions for his family – he being a married man at the time, and had 2 or 3 children.



Lynch’s [now Lynchburg] Oct’r. 21<sup>st</sup> 1846  
Sir [probably James L. Edwards, Commissioner of Pensions],

Yours of the 18<sup>th</sup> is at hand, in relation to the claim of Mary Lafoy.

As regards the Guilford tour I respectfully ask that you would review the History of the Revo’y war in regard to that service and you will be satisfied that all of the Malitia was not discharged immediately after the Battle but pursued the enemy as far as Deep River! (which I believe is in S.C. [sic: Chatham County NC]) under Gen’l Green [sic: Nathanael Greene] before they retraced their steps – and those that seved or was drafted for 3 mo was disbanded about the 1<sup>st</sup> of May at (perhaps) the old Iron works [on Troublesome Creek] in N.C. [See endnote.]

It is true there were 6 week men at the Battle of Guil’d detailed for that Special emergency to fight the battle and return home. I recollect, that Jno. Hally [John Holly S9588] of Bed’d (detailed from Bottetourt [sic: Botetourt County] at the time) was of that class, but if you will examine the papers of Henry Adams [W5595] dec’d of Bedford Co you will find that he was allowed 3 mo. for this tour, on obtaining his pension under the Act of 1832 – and the evidence of Capt. Wm. Adams, his son, lately sent you, shews that Jacob White and Henry Adams belonged to the same Company – rec’d his discharge for 3 mo, (on Cap. A’s testimony) and of course should receive the same pension on it. Please review Henry Adams papers, and satisfy yourself more fully on the subject....

The husband of Mary Lafoy (Jno Lafoy I think –put in a claim for a pension in his life time (Act 1818 I believe) please say what were the obstacles to his obtaining it. R. H. G.

[The rest of this letter from Robert H. Gray relating to proof of the time of marriage is not transcribed here.]

State of Virginia, Bedford County to witt

On this 29 day of October 1846, before me Chris Morgan a Justice of the peace in and for said County, personally appeared Thomas Payne, a respectable resident of said County, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath say – that he is 82 years old; and became acquainted with Jacob White, who married Mary Allen, just after the close of the Revolutionary war; say in the year 83 or 84 and he recollects distinctly that said Jacob White was then a married man, and had at least 5 children – the oldest of which Byrd White, must have been at the time he became acquainted with him (Jacob White), at least 8 or 9 years old – and judging from his children, deponant is satisfied in his mind, that said Jacob White must have been married to his then wife, whose maiden name was Allen, at least as early as the

year 1775. Deponant knows nothing of the Revo'y. Services of said White, of his own knowledge. That after his death which was about 40 years ago – his widow Mary married John Lafoy, who died also, about the year 1823, to 5 – and that his widow died about the year 1841 or 42, or 4 or 5 years ago – and that the widow Mary Lafoy, left one child living by the said Jno Lafoy, whose name he believes is Lavina, or some such name.

Thomas hisXmark Payne

In presence of [one name illegible] Ro H Gray

State of Virginia, Bedford County to witt

On this 8<sup>th</sup> day of December 1846, before me James L Wingfield a Justice of the peace, in and for said county, personally appeared Mr. John P Nichols a respectable resident of said county, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath say – That he is 85 years old – and came to the said County of Bedford, from the State of Maryland, in the year 1779, and in some short time after, saw him, Jacob White, who married Mary Allen in said county, during, or before the Revolutionary War – at some public place or muster, and knew him by sight only – being shewn, or pointed out to deponant, to whose knowledge it then was first brought, that he White was a married man – but that in the course of some 12 months after, he deponant stayed all night, at said Jacob Whites house being on a fishing trip, on Staunton River – where s'd. White lived; and that he recollects distinctly, that the said White, and wife (maiden name Allen) had a least two or three children – of whom Tom or Byrd was the oldest, being at that time six or eight years old – and from the ages of said Whites children he deponant is satisfied in his own mind, that he was married to said Mary Allen before the Revo'y. War. That as regards the Revo'y. Services of said White, he dep't knows nothing personally, only by information, his services being rendered before depo't came to said County, or to the South – he dep't. being employed as a public waggoner, hauling provisions Whiskey &c for the troops at N. London [New London] and elsewhere. Said White died some 40 years ago, and his widow married Jno. Lafoy, who was a regular soldier, and died some 20 years ago – and his widow about 6 or 7 years ago. [signed] John P Nichols  
In presence of Ro H Gray

Lynch's. May 14, 1847

Sir [apparently the Secretary of War], Since my letter to you on the 12<sup>th</sup>, in regard to the case of Mary Lafoy, on which I appealed from the Commissioner of pensions [James L. Edwards] decision to you – I have rec'd finally, a letter from him, In reply to mine enclosing the Afft [affidavit] of Jno. P. Nichols, of which delay (ever since last winter) I complained to you in mine of above date of the 12<sup>th</sup> – which last letter of Mr. Edwards and my reply to him of today you will also have before you. In which letter he Mr. E. not only misrepresents the purport of Nichols Afft – but also impeaches his character by implication and in substance states, that Nichols character must be cleared up, before his afft can carry any weight with it &c – and this too only corresponds with his general opinion of persons giving testimony in such cases – that there is no dependance to be placed in the correctness of their evidence, and Dr Crump the Chief Clerk, presumes that every man is a villian, both claimant, Witness, and Agent as he says that with the use of Spiritual Liquers witnesses can be obtained to swear to anything the agent pleases &c. Now surely no man is worthy, or fitted to hold such responsible offices who maintains such odious opinions of his fellow species as that they are all corrupt without an exception, and can be bribed with a little Spirit to swear to anything the Agent choses to dictate – and becomes my duty as agent to vindicate, both my own, and the character of Nichols, against such vile aspersions – and if you will only examine the Afft of Nichols you will see, that it bears so [no?] such construction as is put upon it by Mr Edwards. And further Sir what right has he to impeach the character, of a witness, or require additional evidence of his being a man of standing and veracity – as in this, and many other cases, after I have complied fully with his own rules, which requires that the Justice of the peace before whom the deponant qualifies, shall certify to his credibility &c. which has been done in this case by a Justice who has known Nichols from his youth up. I protest, sir, against any such power being placed in the hands of the com'r. of pensions, by which he can, and does make whatever vexatious illegal exactions of Agents that he dislikes, with a

purpose no doubt, to drive them from the business, because they will not become his Fawning Sycophants I suppose. I have heard from a disinterested source, that cases under my superintendance, had been hardly dealt with, and rejected, which should be allowed. And I say with all confidence and candor, that there are at least 10, or a doz of my cases rejected in his hands which are well established, and ought to be allowed – better established than many that have been allowed. I dislike extremely to have to trouble the Sec’y. of War with any appeals, or complaints of this sort – but there is a point, beyond which forbearance ceases to be a virtue and that I have arrived at. My own dignity and character, and the rights of the parties, and character of the witnesses, all require that we should stand before you vindicated against such foul charges, as are made by Edwards & Crump, against the characters of parties concerned in the prosecutions of pension claims – for if all parties are so corrupt, as they profess to believe, of course, claimants can expect but little and slow justice at their hands – and for the few claims allowed to the number of claimants, this dept as far as the Gov’t is concerned these offices are as a sinecures to it, and ought to be abolished – for in 100's of cases they “seem to take delight in keeping up a vexatious, correspondance with the Agents of parties – after the claim is as well established as it can well be, and that according to the rules too – for no other reason that we can imagine than to injure certain Agents, without regard to the rights of parties – or to protract business, and to take a long time, and a great deal of labour, in allowing a few claims – and thereby keep themselves in power &c.

And finally I protest against Mr. Edwards right to violate the late law of Congress, which dispenses with the requirement of record proof of marriage alone and to take such as would be admitted in a court of Justice in proof of the marriage of the parties &c – all we ask is shew justice at your hands in behalf of the poor and needy claimant.

yours respectfully/ Ro H Gray Att’y

[The file contains several other letters not transcribed here complaining of the decisions of the Pension Commissioner, James L. Edwards.]

Lynch’s May 28, 1847

Sir, I write to inform you that I went to Bedford for the purpose of taking Affidavits to prove the character and standing of Jno. P Nicholes (as required by you) who testified in the case of Mary Lafoy, as to the probable time of his marriage to Jacob White, by the ages of their children, when he first got acquainted with them in 1779, 80. when I got to Bedford Court, I found myself anticipated, and that the Affts of Thos. Payne Mr — Casey, and others, had been taken and forwarded to you some time since, in the case of Patrick Lynch [W8071] in which case, it seems a like difficulty occured in your Mind, as to the integrity of Nichols in supposing that he had made fale [false], absurd, and contradictory statements, as to his own services in the war.

In a conversation with Mr Casey, he stated the difficulty to be this – That Nichols stated that he was in the service with Lynch, while, his statement of his age, only made him 13 years old at the time and therefore false! as you supposed – but when he Nichols explained that he was a waggon boy at the time, his statement is made quite reasonable. Then further, if there is any apparent contradiction in Nichol’s Afft it was not wilful, for I am authorized to use the name of Pleasant Preston of Bed’d a Merchant – who says that he drew up the Afft of Nichols, in Lynch’s case, and that if there was any contradiction as to service, the error was in himself, and not in Nichols – for he says, that he never saw a man seem to manifest such a sincere desire to adhere to the truth as Nichols did; and that he believes him to be strictly a man of Truth – indeed, this is the general character of all who knows him. Payne, Casey, and others whose Affts are sent you in Lynch’s case, to substantiate his Nichols character, are his near neighbours so far as I know, myself, and have heard from others. But, why was it necessary to take any other Affts as to the Marriage in Mrs. Lafoys case than that of Wm. Arthurs, who stated most positively that White was a married at the time he went into service, and had at least 3 children – and that his evidence as to marriage, was at least as positive as it was as to Whites service, if not more so, and 2 of the 3 tours allowed was mainly, if not entirely on Arthurs evidence! Then why is his evidence I would ask, good as to service, and not as to marriage, and that too when the main consideration of the pension, is on the

service of the husband. I am in hopes, that all difficulty is now removed, and that you will issue the certificate.

Yours respectfully/  
Ro H Gray Att'y

NOTES:

After the Battle of Guilford Courthouse militia troops were discharged either at Ramsey's Mill about the end of March 1781, or they continued into South Carolina.

On 9 April 1845 James Maxey made a statement similar to that of William Arthur, adding that Thomas Allen served with Jacob White on the tour to the lead mines. On 11 April 1845 Thomas Roberts, 62, son of Richard Roberts, stated that he had heard Joseph White say that his brother, Jacob White, had served the tour of duty to the lead mines.

There is a separate file for John Lefoy (Lefae/ Leface; R6269) labeled "Foreign troops," but the file contains no original document. A note on the file reads, "N.C. residence. Act 1818," indicating that while living in North Carolina he applied for a pension under the act of 1818, which provided for impoverished veterans of the Continental Army. That act did not include foreign troops.

On 6 Nov 1849 a certificate was issued to Mary Lafoy, payable to Lavina Nichols, for 7½ months service by Jacob White.