

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Armstrong ¹ W8229 Jane Armstrong
Transcribed by Will Graves

f83NC
7/25/14

[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. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. 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 skills fail 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 material errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Tennessee, Smith County: SS

On this 29th day of November 1825 personally appeared in Open court being a Court Record for said County John Armstrong, a resident in said County, aged 72 years, who being first duly Sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the provision made by the acts of Congress of the 18th of March 1818 and the 1st May 1820, that he the said John Armstrong enlisted for the term of nine months on the first day of March in the year 1777, in the State of North Carolina, in the Company Commanded by Captain Alosey High in the Regiment Commanded by Colonel Archibald Lytle in the line of the State of North Carolina on the Continental establishment; that he continued to serve in said Corps until the first day of December when he was discharged from the service in South Carolina in the State of South Carolina in 1777; that he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension except the present, that his name is not on the roll of any State except North Carolina; and that the following are the reasons for not making earlier application for a pension – I was in Missouri [?]² in 1818. Continued near two years very sickly, new [sic, knew] not of the pension till I returned to Tennessee and sent to North Carolina to my Captain, he was dead. I could find no testimony that would answer [?] I sent papers going on four years ago, my Witnesses you did not receive – And in pursuance of the 1st May 1820, I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818, and that I have not since that time by gift sale or in any manner disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions of an act of Congress entitled “an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War” passed on the 18th day of March 1818, and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me, any property or securities, contracts or debts due to me, nor have I any income other than what is contained in the Schedule annexed hereto, and by me subscribed, that since the 18th of March 1818, the following Changes have been made in property – Two head of Horses—one died in 1819 – one Cow—Calf — 1 draw Chain—lark [?] Chain half Worn, and hoe, and auger—is worth ninety one Dollars four Shillings-- I have had no property since, not being able to support it. The applicant has no trade but planter, not able to follow it by old age and bodily infirmity. He has no family residing with him but his wife Rebecca aged 50 years, not healthy.

S/ John Armstrong³

Sworn to in open Court 29 November 1825.

¹ BLWt19543-160-55

² 

³ this is unlikely to indicate the actual signature of the veteran since the hand writing is identical to the body of the application

S/ J. Pickett, Clk

[p 45]

State of Tennessee Hickman County: Whom as this day came William Hill before me Joel Smith one of the acting Justices of the peace in and for said County and made oath that he was acquainted with John Armstrong in North Carolina and in the County of Wake and of his own knowledge knows that the said John Armstrong did enlist as a common soldier for the term of nine months in the service of the United States in the North Carolina Line under Captain Allsohigh [?]⁴ and in Colonel Archibald Lytle's Regiment and marched with men on the first day of March in the year 1777 and marched from Hillsboro to South Carolina and there continued to serve until our term of nine months was out and there then the said John Armstrong was honorably discharged by his officers. Sworn to and subscribed to the 21 day of October 1825

S/ William Hill, X his mark

[p 47]

State of Tennessee Wilson County: This day came Solomon Rogers before me James Foster an acting Justice of the peace for the County aforesaid and maketh oath that Solomon Rogers has been acquainted with John Armstrong from his youth and of his own knowledge knows that the said John Armstrong enlisted as a common soldier for 9 months in the service of the United States in the North Carolina line and entered in the service I believe on the first day of March 1777 under Captain Alsey High in Colonel Archibald Lytle's Regiment and marched from Hillsboro to the South and did not return until his time of service for which he enlisted expired and fully believe that said Armstrong did faithfully perform his tower [tour] of duty agreeable to enlistment as I was well acquainted with Captain High that he enlisted under and said Armstrong before and after they went into service and after they returned home from the service and always understood that said Armstrong served the whole time for which he enlisted further I say not only I am no ways interested in the pension of said Armstrong. Sworn to and subscribed before me this 27th of October 1825

S/ Solomon Rogers

[p 63]

Raleigh 19th January 1826

James L Edwards Esquire
Sir,

In obedience to your request I have examined the muster rolls of the Soldiers of the revolutionary war for the name of John Armstrong whose declaration accompanies this, but do not find it their own. I am nevertheless of opinion that he served as stated in his declaration. I knew Alsey High under whom Armstrong says he enlisted, and find from the Journals of the Congress which sat in Halifax in April 1776 that said High was then appointed a Lieutenant in the line of this State. (As heretofore stated) I have been informed the musterrolls of that part of the Army of this state which marched to the South in the early part of the war were lost or destroyed.

Very respectfully your Obedient Servant

S/ Wm Hill [William Hill, North Carolina Secretary of State]

[p 11: On June 16, 1854 in Fayette County, Kentucky, Jane Armstrong, age 64, applied for a widow's



pension based on the service of her deceased husband, John Armstrong. She states she married John in Montgomery County Kentucky on August 27, 1827. They were married by Thomas Boon a preacher. She was Jane Patrick before her marriage. She states "that about the year 1836 her said Husband John Armstrong started from Clark County Kentucky where they then lived to the city of Nashville, Tennessee on Business and that she never saw him after he left[;] that she has been informed and believes her said Husband died in the State of Tennessee some time in the year 1847 or thereabouts." She signed her application with her mark.]

[p 15: certified copy of a license dated August 27, 1827 and issued in Montgomery County Kentucky to John Armstrong to marry Miss Jane Patrick. Also a copy of the certificate signed by Thomas Boone indicating that he had joined together John Armstrong and Jane Patrick in marriage on August 27, 1827.]

[p 18: affidavit given in Clark County Kentucky on June 30, 1854 by Allen Armstrong who states that he is the son of John Armstrong by his 3rd wife Jane Armstrong who is making application for a pension; that affiant received a letter saying that his father had died near Nashville Tennessee at the house of a man by the name of Mike Embry; that his father was near 100 years old when he died in 1847.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Allen Armstrong". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background. The name "Allen" is written in a larger, more prominent hand, while "Armstrong" is written in a smaller, more compact hand. The signature is followed by a small, circular mark that appears to be a flourish or a seal.

[p 25: On September 8, 1854 in Henry County Tennessee, Michael Emery, William M Emery & Catherine Armstrong gave testimony that John Armstrong died in the house of Michael Emery in Henry County Tennessee on or about the 15th day of February 1841; that John Armstrong was a revolutionary soldier and a pensioner of the United States.]

[p 29: On October 12, 1854 in Fayette County Kentucky, Allen Armstrong a resident of Clarke County Kentucky gave testimony that he is the reputed son of John Armstrong deceased; that his father married one Jane Patrick in Montgomery County Kentucky; that at the time of his marriage his father was on a visit to the affiant and the affiant's sister, Heitz Owings [?] who lived in Madison County Kentucky; that in the year 1813 or 1814, the affiant lived with his father in Smith County Tennessee in which County "his mother the wife of said John Armstrong died. That he was then about 12 to 13 years old, he then went to Jackson County Tennessee to live with his brother and he afterwards moved to Kentucky and has been here ever since at the time he left to go to live with his brother he left his father John Armstrong living in Smith County Tennessee that after the death of his mother his said father broke up housekeeping and went to live with his daughter Polley Wyatte he thinks in Smith County Tennessee. The most of the time after the death of his mother his said father John Armstrong when about and lived with his children he had 9 some lived in Tennessee and some in Kentucky some in Missouri he made his home principally in Tennessee until his visit in Kentucky the time he married Jane Patrick. That his said father John Armstrong and Jane Patrick was married and they never finally parted and they were never divorced. John Armstrong was a very old man at the time his wife started to Missouri. He John Armstrong went on to Tennessee to see his children with the expectation of going on to Missouri to join his wife but being old he supposes he had not much use for all wife and remained there with some of his friends to his death. He is satisfied that there was no misunderstanding with him and his said wife. That his said father John Armstrong deceased as he has always been informed and believes was a soldier in the Army of the Revolution from the State of North Carolina where he wants

lived and he said John Armstrong as this affiant has often heard him said John Armstrong and others say he was a Pensioner of the United States on account of his Revolutionary services this affiant has often seen his Pension certificate and has often seen Eagle half dollars which said John Armstrong told him he had drawn as pension money from the agent at Nashville Tennessee...."]

[p 50: On March 14, 1855 in Fayette County Kentucky, the widow Jane Armstrong, age 65, filed for her bounty land entitlement as the widow of a revolutionary war soldier; in this document she states that her name prior to her marriage was Jane Foster and that her husband died in Tennessee about the year 1839. No explanation was offered as to the difference in her name prior to her marriage or the date of her husband's death.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$8 per month commencing December 19, 1825 for service as a private for 9 months in the North Carolina Continental line.]