

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Nicholas Proctor¹ W8537 Catharine f56VA
Transcribed by Will Graves 11/30/12

[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 Illinois County of Hamilton: SS

On this 19th day of March in the year of our Lord 1834 personally appeared in open court before the Circuit court of Hamilton County in said State now sitting Nicholas Proctor a resident of Hamilton County in said State aged 78 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 act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. He was born in Brunswick County in the State of Virginia in the year 1756, and at the age of 5 or 6 years he left Virginia & moved to North Carolina Rowan County, whe [sic, where] he lived until he was about the age of 19 years. He entered the service in the year 1778 near the Holston River in the State of Virginia as a volunteer under Captain Cornelius Riddle for the purpose of defending the Virginia frontier. He rendezvoused at Powell's Valley on the 10th of March 1778 where we were under the command of Lieutenant Hargrave (Captain Riddle not being along) marched through the Wilderness to a Garrison called Boonesborough, where we were attached to Captain Benjamin Logan's company, & continued under his command 2 or 3 months. He then volunteered immediately under Captain John Holder Captain Logan being promoted to the command of the first Regiment. We were employed in guarding the Garrison day & night and ranging through the country to spy out the enemy: when they came into the Country. Four hundred and forty-four Indians with some British and French came on the 18th of August 1778 and demanded the surrender of the Fort. We followed them ten days and nights in succession keeping up a constant fire we kept the Fort having lost 2 men killed and four wounded: we killed and wounded a good number of the enemy, but he does not recollect the number: in the foregoing service under the several captains he was engaged in all together six months. He knew Colonels Daniel Boone and Richard Callaway. Soon after this Colonel Bowman came on from Virginia with one hundred sixty men, which formed the 2nd Regiment in that country. He this deponent still being under the command of Captain Holder was attached with Holder's command to Colonel Bowman's command & Regiment & still continuing in service all the winter & spring sometime in July 1779 sent on a campaign under the command of Colonel Bowman to Old Chillicothe, against the Shawnees, where we met with the enemy, and fought them about four hours and were compelled to retreat, sustaining a loss of nine men in one wounded. The enemy pursuing, overtook us when we gave them battle again. We fought about two hours and sustained our position and kept the ground. We then returned home to Boonesborough, ranging & spying and fighting the enemy occasionally as we encountered them,

¹ BLWt26634-160-55

continuing constantly in service either in the field or in Garrison which is the 2nd period of my service ending in September 1779 making one year from the end of my first period of service of 6 months this ending in September 1778. I still continued in service under Captain Holder when General Clark [George Rogers Clark] arrived, who sometime in the summer or fall of the year 17[last 2 digits written over and illegible] called out a Regiment on the campaign against the Pickaway Towns [Piqua Towns] on this Service & against the Miami & Sandusky & Scioto Indians. We rendezvoused at Cincinnati we took the towns at old & new Chillicothe, & Wills town, destroyed all their corn & produce, burnt their towns, killed 17 Indians & took 30 prisoners. This campaign lasted about 63 days in which we lost some killed & some wounded, he returned home to Boonesborough and sometime after I was sent to Estill's Station on guard, and served as a spy under Captain James Estill, under whom I served until the close of the Revolutionary War. In March 1783 we encountered a body of Indians of about 25 in number who attacked Estill's Station, containing 3 men, the Indians killed one girl who was out of the Station, he was out on a scout at the time: the Indians also took one Negro men & 2 horses and the scouts getting news followed, overtook & killed 17 the rest escaped. We lost 7 killed 4 wounded. The whole time of his service under Captains Holder & Estill from the end of his 2nd period of service in September 1779 to the end of the Revolution was 4 years – making in all of my service under Captains Riddle, Logan, Holder and Estelle 5 years & 6 months. I have stated all the remarkable transactions that took place within my knowledge. I knew General Clark, Colonels Boone, Bowman, Callaway & Logan & Major Smith: my whole service was as a volunteer. I got no regular discharge: nor have I any documentary evidence of my service. I had no record of my age: Since the Revolution I have lived in Madison County Kentucky then moved to Butler Kentucky, I then moved to Hamilton County, State of Illinois where I have lived ever since. I know of no person who can testify as to my service in the Revolution except Joseph Proctor,² Little Page Proctor,³ Mathias Horn⁴ and William Horn whose affidavits are hereto annexed. I am known to Isaac Hale a clergyman and James Hall, Merril Willis, Lewis Lane, William Lane, Jesse Hiatt and a great many others his neighbors who can testify as to their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution, and as to his veracity and respectability & integrity.

Questions propounded by the court

Where & in what year were you born?

In Brunswick County Virginia in the year 1756

Have you any record of your age & if so where is it?

I have none

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

I was moving to Kentucky or the Virginia frontier when I entered into service. I have lived in Madison & Butler counties Kentucky and Hamilton County Illinois where I now live. How were you called into service, were you drafted, did you volunteer or were you a Substitute & if a substitute for whom?

I volunteered

State the names of some of the Regular officers who were with the troops where you served: such Continental & Militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your Service.

² FPA S11270

³ FPA W576

⁴ FPA W10110

I have stated the names of such officers as I knew & such regiments as I knew. Whether the officers be Regulars or the Regiments be Continental or Militia I do not know: and the general circumstances of my service I have stated.

Did you ever receive a discharge from the service & if so, by whom was it given, & what has become of it?

I never received any discharge & in answer to the 7th interrogatory I have already stated the names of some of the persons to whom I am known in my 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 the agency of any State.

S/ Nicholas Proctor, X his mark

[Isaac Hale, a clergyman, and James Hall gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

Be it remembered that Little Page Proctor appeared in open court on the day & year aforesaid who being first duly sworn deposes and says that he is personally knowing to the truth of the facts & tours of service as related in the foregoing declaration of Nicholas Proctor for a pension, that this affiant served with & was a messmate of the said Applicant for a greater part of the time & knows of his personal knowledge that the said necklace did serve as he states and at the times he states from the Spring of the year 1778 until the close of the Revolutionary War and that he acted as a brave and orderly soldier. He also personally knows of the greater part of the battles as related by the said necklace and that the said necklace is a man of integrity, veracity and respectability in his neighborhood.

S/ Little Page Proctor

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Little Page Proctor". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name "S/ Little Page Proctor".

[f p. 9]

State of Kentucky Estill County Sct.

The affidavit of Joseph Proctor Mathew Horn, & William Horn states that Nicholas Proctor enlisted as a private soldier on Holston [River] under Captain Riddle in the latter part of the year 1777 or the beginning of the year 1778 and in spring of the year 1778 was brought to Kentucky and served under Captain Logan during the year 1778 and was stationed at Boonesborough and during the year 1779 he remained at Boonesborough under Captain Holder in the year 1780 and 1781 – he served at Estill's Station under Captain James Estill, Samuel Estill Lieutenant – he also served at McGee's Station under Captain Dulin James McGuire Lieutenant, the time he served there he cannot recollect. He also served during the War or until peace was made and during the two years he was stationed at Estill's Station he was employed the greater part of the time as an Indian Spy and acted as such. He was also in the battle at the Siege of the Fort at Boonesborough and acted as a brave Soldier. He went a campaign with a small number of men to the Indian Towns we think at old Chillicothe. He also went on Clark's Campaign and messed with these affiants, they are also of opinion he served on other campaigns, but the names or times of them they cannot recollect, He was a private soldier during the whole Term of his servitude and he served 6 or 8 years or more. Given under our hands this 9th September 1833

S/ Joseph Proctor, X his mark

S/ Matthew Horn, X his mark

S/ William Horn, X his mark

[f p. 13: On April 19, 1854 in Hamilton County Illinois, Catharine Proctor, 69, filed for a widow's pension under the 1853 act as the widow of Nicholas Proctor; she states that she married him January 27, 1820; that her husband died July 26, 1835 and that she remains his widow. She signed her application with her mark.]

[f p. 55: On April 22, 1854 in Hamilton County Illinois, John Proctor Junior and Mary Proctor gave testimony that they were present at the marriage of Catharine Proctor to Nicholas Proctor and that Catharine and Nicholas lived together as man and wife until Nicholas's death. Their relationship, if any, to the veteran and/or his widow is not stated.]

[f p. 52: On October 28, 1868, and Hamilton County Illinois, the widow, 83, a resident of McLeansboro post office in said County filed another affidavit in order to continue her pension.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 2 years in the Virginia militia. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]