

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Jonathan Cowherd W8619 Elizabeth Cowherd VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

State of Kentucky Green county Sct.

On this 28th day of February 1833 personally appeared in open court before the Judge of the Green Circuit court holden at Greensburgh Kentucky Simeon Cowherd, a son of Johnathan Cowherd a resident citizen of said county and state aforesaid, (said Johnathan Cowherd being a man of unsound mind,) said Simeon Cowherd being duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain for his said father the benefit of the provision made by the act of congress of the 7th day of June 1832. Towit That his said father Johnathan Cowherd according to the family tradition is seventy seven years of age last October was born in the county of Culpeper state of Virginia, resided there till 1796 in that year he removed to Green county Kentucky where he has continued to reside since. that many years since at least twenty five, while his father's mind was free from disorder or derangement, he learnt from him that during the American revolution, in the year 1775 or 1776 he served a tour in the Virginia Militia of twelve months from the county of Culpepper, where he resided at the time, in a company then commanded by Captain Abraham Buford [pension application S46372], and he thinks in a redgment commanded by Col. Stephens [sic: Edward Stevens], who was afterwards General Stephens; in this tour his said father represented that he served only as a private soldier, at Norfolk and in the county of Suffolk and was in the Battle of the Long Bridge [Great Bridge, 9 Dec 1775]. Said Simeon also stated that he had in like manner learned from his father, that in the year 1781 he served a second tour of six months in the militia of said state from the same county, as a Lieutenant in a company commanded by Capt Elijah Kertly [sic: Elijah Kirtley] in whose redgment he does not remember, but recollects to have learnt from his father that Major Robert Powel [sic: Robert Powell] & Major Robert Robuck were commandants of the Battallions of said Redgment. This service he learnt in like manner was performed in some of the lower counties of Virginia, guarding & defending the seaboard.

Said Simeon also stated that he had seen many years past the commission of Lieutenant to his father from the governor of Virginia, under which this last tour mentioned, should have been served, the said commission he thinks according to the best of his recollection, was dated in the fall of the year 1780 – after this last tour was served (his father as he had frequently heard his say, Capt Kertly was appointed Major & he had been appointed to command the company – Captain Buford who commanded the company at the commencement of the Revolution having been commissioned Colonel –said Simeon stated that his recollection was the more perfect & strong upon this subject from the circumstance of his fathers keeping a bundle of Commissions filed away together amongst which was a commission as assistant Judge of the Green Circuit court, and as quarter session Judge, and the commissions of Captain & Lieutenant as above stated – about the time his father became deranged he burnt many of his papers amongst which were some patents for land, and from the fact that the papers above named towit the commissions cannot now be found amongst his fathers papers) he presumes they have also been destroyed, at least he cannot now after the most diligent search find them He knows of no documentary testimony, by which his fathers services aforesaid can be proved. He expects to ba able by positive & traditionary testimony to establish his said fathers service. So far as he can he relinquishes every claim to any annuity or pension for his father except the present and declares his fathers name so far as he knows or beleives is not on the pension roll of any agency in any state. said Simeon states that John Barret Esqr who is clerk of the Green Circuit and county courts is the committee to said Johnathan Cowherd regularly appointed by the Green circuit court after said Johnathan, had been found by an inquisition taken in said court, to be of unsound mind. Sworn to and subscribed the day and date above

[signed] Simeon Cowherd

This is to certify that Johnathan Cowherd, (now a resident of Green County Kentucky) in the Summer of the year 1775 enlisted as a private soldier in my Company in the Culpepper Minute Battalion, that he marched with said Battalion to Williamsburg in the latter part of that summer, & that he continued with a part of that Battalion in service at the Great Bridge, Norfolk & other places in Virginia until the summer of 1776, when the said Cowherd was sent home, with the remaining part of said Battalion, which Battalion was not, (as far as my knowledge extends) again called into service.

Given under my hand this [blank] day of October 1832

A. Buford formerly Col in the Virg'a line

State of Kentucky Green County Sct.

This day Simeon Cowherd came before me a justice of the peace in and for Green county Kentucky, and made oath that since the return of the declaration made by himself for a pension for his father Johnathan Cowherd, he has found amongst the old papers of his father a discharge herewith filed marked A. the commission however he has not been enabled to procure, but has caused a letter to be written to the Secretary of state of the State of Virginia, requesting an examination of the office, for evidences of his having been commissioned as Lieutenant, and if such a commission did issue to forward the evidences to Col Richard M Johnston to be laid before the department. the said Simeon also states that he had within a few weeks past been at the late residence of Colonel Buford of Scott county Ky, whose affidavit he had heretofore taken, he went with the view of getting his affidavit stating if he could recollect more particularly the time of his fathers service as a private soldier in the company of minute men, but found that the said Buford had died in June last of the Cholera as he was informed by his family – Captain Kirtley under whom his father served as lieutenant died in 1796 as he has, always understood, he was a connection of this affiants – He is informed by, Captain Daniel Barbee [S12951] of Mercer county Ky that the minute men, of Virginia in the year 1775 all served a year – said Barbee informed this affiant that he was in the minute men and served a year under Captain John Green of Culpepper and was receiving a pension therefor but did not serve in the same company with this affiants father. He requests, that the Secretary at war of Commissioner of pensions would examine the length of time the, minute men under Capt. Abraham Buford, have been allowed for, he believes it will be found they were allowed for one years service. He has been informed by his mother, Elizabeth Cowherd, that the minute men in the company of which his father served were drilled at Culpepper Courthouse about six weeks before taking up their march & joining the army; he has been as yet unable to procure any other or further testimony, than what he has herein referred to. He prays that the department may make an allowance of pension for 1 year as a private soldier, and six months as a Lieutenant. Sworn and subscribed before me, this 20th day of November 1833.

[signed] Simeon Cowherd

[The file includes the following:]

Agreeably to a general order by his Excellency the Governor of Virginia [Benjamin Harrison] Payton Randolph [Peyton Randolph] Commanding The commadants of Companies will march their respective companies to their respective Courthouses and discharge their men I thereupon discharged [page damaged]than Cowherd he serving six months and [illegible] days commencing on the 15th day of June 1781 Given under my hand this 15th day of Dec 1781

Countersigned/ Robert Powell Maj CCM

Elijah Kirtley Capt. C.C.M.M

NOTE: On 4 April 1845 Elizabeth Cowherd, 54, applied for the pension owed to Jonathan Cowherd up to the date of his death on 20 July 1844, for many years previous to which he had been a "Lunatic." As proof of her marriage she submitted a copy of the marriage bond signed in Culpeper County on 2 April 1777 by Jonathan Cowherd and her father, Thomas Kirtley. She stated that she had been 84 years old since 31 Jan 1834, that of their 12 children the first was dead, the next named Willis Cowherd was 65 years and some

months old, and the youngest named Coleby Cowherd was 40 years and some months old. She also stated that she and her husband moved from Virginia to Green County about 40 years previously, and that she lived 10 or 12 miles from the courthouse.