

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of John Cundiff W8647

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Kentucky }

County of Hardin } SS.

On this 19th day of September in the year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty two, personally appeared in Open Court before the Hon Paul J Booker, Commonwealths Circuit Judge, now sitting, John Cundiff, a resident of the State of Kentucky, and County of Hardin, aged 76 years on the 14th day of January ensuing the date hereof - 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. About the time that the British forces were coming around to Petersburg [sic: Petersburg VA, about 22 April 1781], he volunteered for three months, and entered the service under Captain Joshua Early, or Yearly [Early] - William Leftridge [sic: Leftwich] Commanded as Major [sic: Lt. Col.] - Charles Lynch as Col. - The day and month, or even the year, he is unable to speak of, or fix, with certainty as he was an illiterate man, and could keep no memorandum of dates or other events. He states that he served out said term of three months - at the expiration of which he was marched back with the same officers into Bedford County Virginia where he originally volunteered, and in which he resided. He further states that perhaps about a year [sic] after he was discharged from his first engagement, he again volunteered his services for the term of three months, he still residing in the same County of Bedford and State of Virginia. At this time he was mustered into the service, at a place called Water lick, and his Captains name was Alexander Cummings, or Cummins. he was marched from that place down towards James River, by a place called the Long Onery [sic: Long Ordinary], (a country inn) to what was called the Pointy fork, a branch of James River. In this time they were united with some other Companies and men under the Command of a Col. [St. George] Tucker, and General [Robert] Lawson. At the 'pointy fork" he and the troops with him united with Baron or General Steubane [sic: Baron von Steuben] who was in command of a part of the American troops. At the junction of the Pointy fork, the troops thus united, were crossed over James River, and a skirmish took place with the British, who had pursued us - and so closely that considerable baggage was left - the American troops not having time to convey it across the River [see note below].

We were marched down James River, through Richmond Virginia in pursuit of the British, who passing through Richmond before us, had burned the Town. From Richmond we still pursued them to York Town, where we united with the main Army, & were part of the troops to whom Cornwallis surrendered [19 Oct 1781]. He states that he served out his second engagement of three months, and was discharged at the place of the surrender afs'd - the place of the company to which he belonged being filled by some other Company raised for that purpose. He obtained no written discharge in either case. In his first tour he was in no engagement, but was stationed the principal part of the time at what was called the Indian Bridge, not far from Petersburg.

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 or territory whatever.

Sworn to and subscribed, the day and year afs'd.

John hisXmark Cundiff

NOTES:

"Pointy fork" was probably Point of Fork at the junction of James and Rivanna rivers where a large depot of military stores had been taken from Petersburg in advance of the British occupation of that town. On 5 June 1781 Lt. Col. John Simcoe with a much smaller force bluffed Gen. von Steuben into abandoning those supplies at Point of Fork.

On 28 Dec 1839 Sally Cundiff, age 80, applied for a pension stating that she married

John Cundiff in Bedford County on 15 May 1778, and he died 18 Sep 1837. With her application is a list of the names and dates of birth of their seven children, as well as the following list of the children of John Cundiff's parents:

A List of the ages of the Children of Richard Cundiff [and M]ary his wife

Benjamin Cundiff was born august the 23^d 1748

George Cundiff was born May the 25th 1751

Nanne Cundiff was born March the 30th 1754

John Cundiff was born January the 14th 1757

Elijah Cundiff was born June the 10th 1759

Winne Cundiff was born July the 4th 1762

Charlotte Cundiff was born March the 21st 1764

Joice Cundiff was born September the 18th 1766

Elisha Cundiff was born June the 20th 1769

Levice Cundiff was born March the 21st 1772

A true Copy of Names & Dates written by me John Ayers