

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Joseph Power (Powers) W9235

Sarah

f60VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

11/15/12

[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 Kentucky Fleming County Sct.

On this the 23 day of June 1832 personally appeared before the County Court of Fleming County, now sitting, Joseph Power a resident of the said County & State aged seventy-one 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 provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7th, 1832.


That he entered the service of the United States as a drafted militia man, under Captain Thomas Humphreys, in the month of November 1780 and to serve a tour of two months – that they marched from Loudoun County Virginia (where he was drafted) under Major Cox to Fredericksburg where Major Cox received orders to return home & await further orders – that accordingly they returned home and waited for orders, but received none before the time expired.

That in February 1781 – he was drafted to serve another tour of two months & under the same Captain Humphreys, marched from Loudoun, Virginia to Williamsburg where they joined the Army – from thence to York & back to Williamsburg and to Jamestown – the latter trip to Jamestown was with only 50 men & under a detached Captain whose name is not recollected. That he served out his tour & was discharged in writing – That about the first of September 1781 – he was again drafted to serve a tour of two months and marched from Loudoun County Virginia under Captain Augustus Elgin, to Gloucester opposite to York – and was there joined to the main Army – Colonel West marched us to Gloucester – that we remained & United in the siege of Cornwallis at York & continued in the service until the surrender of York [October 19, 1781] – and afterwards marched with the British prisoners from York up to Noland's ferry, where the Marylanders receive them – that in the meantime his tour was out, but that he continued in service over his time. That at the expiration of this service he was discharged. He recollects General Weedon, Colonel Mathews, Colonel Ennis, besides the officers of the militia. He states that he was always regularly discharged but has lost his discharges – that he knows of no person who served with him & who can testify actually to his services, & that he has no documentary evidence. He refers to Samuel Roberts, Oliver Norman, Obadiah Nate, & John Ringo, who are acquainted with him & can state his character & the opinion of the neighborhood as to his services.

He states that it is not convenient to procure the certificate of a clergyman, and relies on the statement of the persons named. He says that he was in actual service about 7 months. He hereby relinquishes all claims whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and he declares that his name is not on the roll of the agency of any state.

Sworn & subscribed the day and year aforesaid in open Court.

S/ Joseph Power



[Samuel Roberts, Oliver Norman, Obadiah P Nate, & John R Ringo gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[f p. 36]

State of Kentucky Fleming County Sct.

On the 25th day of March 1846 personally appeared before the Subscriber one of the justices of the County Court of said County of Fleming Joseph Powers resident of said County, and aged 82 years on the 14th day of March last, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the provision of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

That he was born in Loudoun County Virginia where he lived until he entered the service of the United States, as follows early in the year 1781 (in February he thinks) the precise time not recollected, being drafted, he entered the service in the company commanded by Captain Thomas Humphreys, the Battalion Commanded by Major Ramsey (of Fredericksburg Virginia) in the Regiment of ___ by Colonel ___ of Virginia militia. That he then continued in the Service until he had served a full tour of 3 months, the service being rendered on James River, from Williamsburg down to York town, thence to Hampton and thence up to Richmond, Virginia, where at the end of his service (3 months) the role was called and he discharged no discharge certificate having been given. And that he again entered the Service in the fall of 1781 (the precise time not recollected, in the Company commanded by Captain Augustus Elgan the Battalion commanded by Major George West, in the Regiment commanded by ___ and served a full term or tour of 3 months on York River and in and about Yorktown, viz. that he was in the battle of Yorktown and at the surrender of Cornwallis and guarded some of the prisoners that were taken, and shortly afterwards was again discharged without any certificate thereof. And that he knows of but one witness to wit, Burtis Ringo¹ by whom he can prove said Services. And that in those 2 tours he served for 6 months besides about 15 days he was in the service previously and was ordered back and discharged.

That after his said last discharge he returned to said County of Loudoun Virginia where he resided until the ___ day of ___ 1793 when he moved to the State of Kentucky and settled in the said County of Fleming where he has resided ever since, and still resides, and that he has no property or estate whatever, has a wife aged 78 years to whom he was married in 1785 and that he and his wife are supported by their widowed daughter Mrs. Seybold who is in indigent circumstances, that he did once on a piece of land in said County of Fleming but in the year of ___ lost it by a paramount claim since when he was supported by his son-in-law J. Seybold up to the ___ day of June 1843 when he died and since that his wife and their widowed daughter Mrs. Seybold has supported them (he & his wife) and is now their only support and she is in indigent circumstances. That he is so afflicted and helpless that he cannot help himself either in or out of his bed and is wholly unable to labor at anything and is actually needing the assistance of his Country and unable to attend any Court. 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

¹ [Burtis Ringo S31329](#)

agency of any State and that he never has received a pension of any kind.

And therefore prays to have the benefit of said act of June 1832. He has never applied for a pension before because he was not aware of any law to make his services until very recently & he was not until his son-in-law's decease so needy.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

Teste:

S/ John Debell

S/ Joseph Powers, X his mark

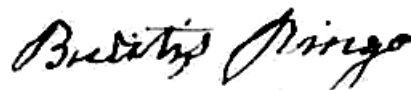
[f p. 38]

State of Kentucky Fleming County Sct.

Burtis Ringo being of lawful age and first duly sworn deposeth and saith that he has been acquainted with Joseph Powers (to whose declaration this is annexed) ever since a small boy, that he knew him in Loudoun County, Virginia from the time he was 7 years of age, that the families of deponent and said Powers lived near neighbors – within a mile of each other, knew when he entered the service of the United States which was early in the year 1781, deponent & said Powers into the service together in the same Company under Captain Humphreys of Loudoun County Virginia they served together for 3 months when said Powers was discharged without certificate and returned home. And deponent then into the service "during the War." And again that fall (of 1781) they met and were in the service together, where said Powers again served 3 months in the fall 1781, we were both at the siege of Yorktown and at the surrender of Cornwallis, deponent knows that said Powers was in the Service fully 3 months on this tour. That powers marched some of the prisoners and deponent also went with some of them to the barracks at Winchester Virginia and shortly after that Powers was discharged and returned home, having served fully 6 months, 2 terms of 3 months each honorably and faithfully. Powers has always borne a good character and been a good and worthy citizen and is now helpless and needs the assistance of his Country, and he and his wife are now supported by the labor of a widowed daughter and concurs in all the facts as declared by him deponent is himself aged 84 years and a pensioner.

Subscribed and sworn to this 25th day of March 1846

S/ Burtis Ringo



[f p. 41]

The Amended petition of Joseph Powers of Fleming County Kentucky upon his application for a pension.

Your petitioner states that he first entered the service in said Company of Captain Thomas Humphreys in Loudoun County Virginia in the month of September 1780 that they were called & mustered into service and marched on this journey to join the Army at Williamsburg (expecting to be kept in the service all the coming winter) 7 days and being in their march said 7 days they were ordered back (as said, because not wanted as expected when ordered out) with instructions to keep themselves in readiness for Service at any time they might be called and they were then marched back to the County of Loudoun and there disbanded accordingly, having been in actual service more than one month from the time they were mustered and received into the service and returned and discharged.

That they were then called in the said first tour (set forth in his original petition) about the

1st of February 1781 having been waiting, ever since their return in the fall, for the call there being considerable grumbling with many of their Company, they thinking their march when ordered back in the fall previous, might be considered a full tour and if so, that the time for their second tour had not yet regularly arrived, but petitioner was anxious to go & made no objection, he with his Company did (however) go into the Service, the call &c being by Competent authority as he understood, and served as a private at the places &c as formerly stated, And served until sometime in the month of May 1781. That it was considerably over 3 months he served in this tour – from the time he joined his said Company and was mustered into service in February & they marched, until his discharge, as formerly stated in May 1781.

That he again entered the service in the month of August 1781 in the said Company of Captain Elgan in Battalion of Major George West, that he & his Company were marched & hurried on to join the Army at Williamsburg, without waiting for other Companies, or their Battalion, and on their arrival there they were placed under the Command of other and older officers to be drilled and were drilled by them several days, that they were kept in the service preparing for Cornwallis. And he was engaged in working on the entrenchments at the Siege of York, was in the Battle at Yorktown And Surrender of Cornwallis that many of the prisoners were sent up to Fredericktown Maryland by way of Loudoun County Virginia that his Company (he being with it) was sent as a guard that far on the way to wit Nolin's ferry on the Potomac River on the road from Leesburg to Fredericktown Maryland where they were to assist in crossing the prisoners & baggage that after a heavy and slow march they arrived at Nolin's ferry Said ferry, that he assisted in crossing the troops, prisoners, baggage &c that it was dark, or about twilight in the evening when they finish crossing the prisoners, &c over. The troops going on, being sufficient there once over the River, to go on to Fredericktown, And they were all there (at Nolin's ferry) discharge, that evening, And he returned home to his father's that same night. This discharge &c was sometime in the month of November. The distance from York to Nolin's ferry by the route they traveled was about 180 miles (then called) and they were expressly directed to guard the prisoners at that point (ferry) that in his former petition he did not state about his first call, entry, March and orders to return in the fall of 1780, because advised it was not necessary to state anything but 2 tours, but he has stated his service now from the first except this, which he further states as to his 2nd or spring time of 1781, that he and 50 man just a day or 2 after his said tour (spring 1781) (of two months) was out were ordered from Williamsburg (where they then were) to James town to watch the British at that point as well as the ferry & assist expresses at that fairty that after their arrival there, the Captain proposed that 5 men (good water men) (with a Sergeant) volunteer to guard & attend the ferry at Cobham (then called) opposite to Jamestown, that he volunteered as one to, and did, take that place, they were sent for 6 days & before there 6 days were out, the residue of the detachment of 50 man (the British coming up within the 6 days) fled to join the main Army (leaving petitioner & said 5 others at Cobham) and leaving them cut off from the main Army & no means of getting to it. And after the (British) withdrew to go to Yorktown, petitioner & his 5 comrades then crossed the River, and made their way home to Loudoun County Virginia, having no means to go on, they paid their way home the first days travel they had not the first mouth full of provision, the balance of the time they traveled upon one meal a day until they reached home in Loudoun County Virginia. It was commonly called 200 miles & by some 180 miles from Jamestown to his home. The Captain's name of their detachment to Jamestown was a stranger to him and his name he does not recollect. All of his Company under Captain Humphreys were at home & discharged before he left Jamestown after the British withdrew so as to enable him to return with safety. He further states that by reason of

old age, and the consequent loss of memory, he cannot swear positively as to the precise dates of the month of his entering, and leaving the service in each of the said tours, but according to his best recollection fortified by his often repeated declarations made after his return (knowing it to be so) and sits that he served not less than 6 months and more, excluding his services when called in the fall of 1780.

S/ Joseph Powers, X his mark

[attested June 20, 1846]

[f p. 57]

The deposition of Thomas Powers taken on behalf of Joseph Powers on his application for a pension and pending at Pension Office.

Deponent states that he is now aged 76 years in August past. That he is the brother of said Joseph Powers that said Joseph served in the revolution. That the said Joseph marched out in the fall of 1780 and after having been marched on their route some days they were ordered back. And that said Joseph again left time and entered into service in the month of February 1781, was guard at Cobham after his tour was out and did not arrive at home (in Loudoun County Virginia where we lived) until late in May or the first of June 1781. He served more than 3 months in this time, this I recollect well.

And in August of 1781, the said Joseph Powers again entered the service & was at the siege of York, Battle of Yorktown, and surrender of Cornwallis & marched back guarded the prisoners to Nolin's ferry on the Potomac on the road to Fredericktown & returned home from Nolin's ferry being discharged there. The prisoners came in our neighborhood on a Saturday & stopped to layover for Sunday & Joseph came home on Saturday (& told us about the siege & surrender) many of the neighbors went on Saturday to see the prisoners but Joseph had to go back early on Monday morning & [indecipherable word], to guard the prisoners on to Nolin's ferry & help them over the River & returned that on the next night late in the night I knew he was at home early in the morning, And he was returned must have been late in November. I knew that on the Saturday evening he left the prisoners & came home he went to a corn shucking [several lines interlined and too small to decipher] in the neighborhood. He was gone more than 3 months in this tour (fall 1781). I was going to school in the fall of 1780, when he first started and was ordered back. I was anxious to continue at school but when farming time came on I had to quit school (because Joseph was gone in the Service) and work on the farm. And I knew that when he returned (having started in February previous) we were in the middle of our cropping season having done all our planting, were busy plowing it being just before harvest. When he started away again, shortly after harvesting was over – in August as well as I can now recollect & returned with the prisoners as before stated. Deponent recollects the Sabbath the prisoners were in the neighborhood from the fact also, that one of the women in the neighborhood who had had several bastard children went up to see the prisoners, also, and one of them a Dutchman asked her if he might get on behind her & she said yes & done so. And the officers said he might go & discharged him (at least this was the general understanding). I know that they were married and lived in the neighborhood until I left that Country in the year 1793, with Joseph Powers, we having come out to this Country together. And I have heard that Dutchman sing many a song and never shall forget him when & where he got his wife. I knew that Joseph in his two tours of spring & fall of 1781 served more than 6 months in the Army, this was well understood by us all at the time. I was quite young at the time but have a distinct recollection of everything that passed at that time though my memory does not serve to fix the days of the month I recollect that

I was glad I was not old enough to be drafted & was sorry that I had to leave school & farm it, because Joseph was gone. I recollect the fields, I worked in & of some of the different accounts we would get from the siege of York.

My Brother (said) Joseph Powers was married I think about the year 1786 to his present wife & then we came out to this state together in 1793 having been married myself about 2 months only previous to our starting, leaving my father & mother they are living in Loudoun County Virginia. Father died the fall after we moved out to this state.

Deponent was well acquainted with Burtis Ringo who has (as said) deposed in this case, our fathers were neighbors & he & Joseph were in the service together in springtime of 1781 if not fall of 1780. Deponent was also acquainted with Henry Taylor also, who was raised in the same neighborhood, we were all boys, playmates together, & used frequently to be in swimming together & were intimate until grown & our removal to this state.

S/ Thos. Powers

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thos. Powers". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and somewhat slanted to the right.

[Attested June 24, 1846 in Bracken County Kentucky

[f p. 9: On September 26, 1851 in Fleming County Kentucky, Sarah Power, 83, filed for a widow's pension stating that she is the widow of Joseph Powers [sic]; that she married him December 29, 1785 in Leesburg Virginia; that they were married by the Reverend Thompson; that her husband died June 4, 1849 and that she remains his widow. She signed her application with her mark.]

[f p. 10: Burtis Ringo, 89, and Henry Taylor, 82, gave a supporting affidavit dated September 26, 1851 in which they state that they were well acquainted with Joseph Power and Sarah Taylor when they were married December 29th, 1785; that Joseph and Sarah lived together as man and wife since that time; that Joseph power died June 4, 1849 in Fleming County, Kentucky.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$20 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 6 months in the Virginia militia. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]