

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of James Caldwell W9770

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

This day personally appeared before us the County Court of St Francois County State of Missouri now sitting on this fourth day of November in the year of our lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty three James Caldwell aged between seventy and seventy one years of age and makes oath to the following services agreeably to the late law of Congress allowing pensions to old soldiers. In the spring of the year 1778 I served a tour of militia duty of fifteen days pursuing a party of hostile indians who had burned Farlows fort in Culbertsons bottom on new river [sic: Culbertson's Bottom then in Greenbrier County VA, now Crumps Bottom in Summers County WV] under the following named officer Capt. Archibald Woods [Archibald Wood] in the county of Green Brier on the frontier of virginia. I served another tour of militia duty for my Father in the spring of the year 1779 under the command of Capt. Thomas Wright of one month stationed at the house of William Lafferty in green brier county Virginia on new river at the mouth of indian creek. Both of those tours I served before I was sixteen years old. In the fall of the year 1779 I emigrated to Kentucky and in the spring following year I returned to Virginia. In the year 1781 I served a tour of duty a drafted militia man of one month under the command of Capt. Archibald Woods who was stationed at the house of Thomas Shelton at the mouth of richland creek on new river in the county of Green brier state of Virginia

I served another tour of duty the month following of one month at the same place and under the same officer as a substitute for a Mr Richards

Late in the fall of the same year I served a tour of one month under the Command of Capt. Archibald Woods in guarding the frontiers stationed at the house of Wm. Lacy on new river Virginia. The field officers Col'n. Sam'l. Brown [Samuel Brown] Lieutenant Col'n. John Stuart. For the above services I never received a cent of pay.* [see the passage between asterisks below]

The next services I rendered was in the year 1782 in what is now the state of Kentucky then a district of Virginia I was drafted and served a tour of one month under the command of Capt. John Woods who was stationed at Estell's station [Estill's Station about 3 mi SE of Richmond KY] on the waters of silver and drowning creek

I served another tour of one month at the same place and the same year a substitute for Henry Boyers during which time we were fired upon by the indians which was returned by us. we received no injury said services were rendered in Lincoln County Kty under the command of Col'n. Benjamin Logan

In the fall of the same year I was drafted and rendezvoused at Bryant station Fayette county [sic: Bryan's Station, Fayette County] company officers Capt Andrew Kinkead Lieut. William Young ensign John Bryan. Commandant of Battalion Col'n. John Logan Commandant of Regiment Col'n Benjamin Logan Commander in chief General George Rogers Clark. we joined the army where Cincinnatti now stands and marched to the new Chilicothy [sic: Chillicothe] on the head of big Miami where we killed sixteen warriors and took about as many prisoners women and children. The Indians fired on us in the night, there was a considerable firing on both sides the indians bearing off their dead if any they had To the best of my recollection the said term of service lasted about six weeks. *In the fall of the year 1781 I took up my permanent residence in the neighborhood of the celebrated Col'n. William Whitley [at Stanford] in Lincoln County Kty. who fell in the battle at the River Thames [Chatham, Ontario, 5 Oct 1813]. I was and always considered myself as a minute man ready to march against the enemy whenever they were known to be amongst us during which time I did many hard tours that it is out of my power to recollect their duration or date of service but among them I was at the recapture of a Mrs McClure at the horse lick on rock castle river Kentucky also that of a Negro woman who was a prisoner we retook the spoil of about six families and that day fortnight we met a company of indians in Millers bottom on Kentucky river that

had defeated a company of about twenty families we retook the spoil which the indians had taken from the said families Whitley and myself killed one wyandot there was another killed and one wounded each of the two last mentioned tours lasted about eight days. we were commanded by said William Whitley*

About the middle of the summer 1783 there was two men came from the head of Kentucky river and made oath that there was an indian town sitting there Col'no. Logan and [Isaac] Shelby called for volunteers there was about two hundred and fifty among whom I was one where I served a tour of about three weeks under the command of Captain Joseph Kennedy

In the fall of the year 1783 Capt. John Woods was ordered out by Col'n. Benjamin Logan to guard in families through the wilderness among whom I was one and served two months

In the winter of 1783 I enlisted in lincoln county Kty under Capt. Moses Luny [Moses Looney] and went to the muscle shoals [sic: Mussel Shoals] on Tennessee River under the direction of General [Griffith] Rutherford of North Carolina which lasted three months

In the summer of 1785 I went a tour of eight or ten days a substitute but for whom I do not recollect under Capt Joseph Kennedy ordered by Col'n Benjamin Logan of Lincoln county Kentucky. In 1786 on the tenth day of Sept I rendezvoused at Lincoln Courthouse under the command of Capt Baker Win of Col'n. James Barnetts regiment Commander in chief General George R. Clark who marched to the wabash against the Weaws[?] a tour of about six weeks a substitute for Parker Steel

In the year 1790 I rendesvoused at Bourbon court house on the tenth day of September – commanded a company, as a captain Maj Horatio Hall commanded the battalion Coln. James Trotter commanded the regiment we marched to Cincinnatti the place of general rendesvous where we joined General [Josiah] Harmar we marched from there to the Maumee village on the maumee of the lakes where on the twenty second day of Oct we had a battle [Battle of Pumpkin Fields] where we lost nearly two hundred man I was ordered out about midnight with twenty-two of my company there was eleven fell three wounded threw up as hind riders a brought in Vincent Cushinberry was one of them which will be seen by reference to the papers of Gen Harmars campaign and my muster Roll The campaign lasted about six weeks to the best of my recollection [signed] James Caldwell

State of Missouri }
County of St Francois } Sct

Personally appeared before me, the undersigned, a justice of the peace in and for the County aforesaid James Caldwell, who being duly sworn, deposeth and saith, that, by reason of old age, and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service, but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below, and in the following grades – For one year and four months, I served as a private; and for such service I claim a pension. [signed 4 Nov 1833] James Caldwell

NOTE: On 23 Jan 1844 Meeke Caldwell, 74, applied for a pension stating that she married James Caldwell in Lincoln County KY on 30 Nov 1786, and he died on 6 Sep 1836. She submitted a page from the family record that she had kept for 50 years, which is transcribed below. The file also includes a copy of a bond signed on 29 Nov 1786 by James Caldwell and Andrew Harris for the marriage of Caldwell to Meeke Perrin. A letter by Meeke Caldwell dated 27 Feb 1858 had Locust Ridge Post Office in St. Francois County as her address.

James Caldwell was born July the 4th 1769
Meeke Caldwell was born February 27th 1769
Wedded November the 30th 1786