Pension Application of Charles Steuart R10148
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia  SS
Jackson County  On this day 1 Day of May 1832, Personally Appeared before me Thomas Cain a Justice of the peace in & for this said County of Jackson & State of Virginia Charles Stuart a resident of the County & State aforesaid Aged Seventy three 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 of 7th June 1832 that he entered the service of the United under the following named officers & served as herein stated

That in Monongahalia [sic: Monongalia] County & State of Va about 2nd day of June in the year 1780 [see endnote] he was drafted in the Va. millitia & placed under the command of Captn Peter Pickinpau Lieutenant Thomas Harrison Ensigns name affiant does not reccollect. Major Charles Martin Affiant says he was marched to Martins fort in the County & State aforesaid and was stationed at said fort for the express purpose of defending & guarding the same from the attacks of the Indians who had invaded the County & murdered several persons to wit James Stuart & A M Smally & took several prisoners affiant states that he was engaged in guarding and defending Martins fort on Crooked Run in Monongahalia County Virginia & the Country & water courses ajacent thereto & protecting & holding in check as far as possible the Savage Indians who were continually comitting outrages & murdering the inhabitants of northwestern Virginia untill about 3rd day of October 1780 when he was discharged from the service by his Captain Peter Pickinpau having serve four months as a private soldier. Again in the spring of 1781 declarrant believe to the best of reccollection about first day of April 1781 in Monongahalia County Va affiant volunteered his service & was placed under the command of his former officer & was marched from Stuarts fort [on Stewart Run near Hagans] to Harrisons fort [near Bowlby] both the above forts were situated in Monongahalia County Va the Indians had made an incusion & murdered 2 men named the one – Wright & the other Crawford a woman named Pindall was also killed [see endnote] – The above murders were committed near Harisons fort in the County & State before named from fort Harrison declarrant was marched in pursuit of the Indians to the head of Duncards Creek [sic: Dunkard Creek] a water of Monongahalia [sic: Monongahela] River near the head of Duncard Creek affiant says the party to which he belonged found a surveyors chain which the Indians had carried off & which chain belonged either to Crawford or Wright that killed as before stated Affiant says he followed the Indians on the waters of Middleisland [Middle Island] Creek a water of the Ohio River Capt Pickenpau dispaered of overtaking the Indians & affiant returned to Stuart fort in Monongahalia County Va where he was discharged by his said Capt Peter Pickenpau after having served on the above tour twenty days. Again about 25th day of April 1781 in Monongahalia County Va affiant was ordered to repair to fort Harrison aforesaid by John Evans [pension application S8444] Colonel of Monongahalia County affiant was placed under the command of Lieutenant Thomas Harrison & detailed for the express purpose of performing the duties of an Indian Spy & was marched in obediance to the orders of his said Lieutenant he was marched to various places & spied in the vicinity of fort Harrison to wit on the waters of Monongahalia River Declarrant was then discharged by Lieut Thomas Harrison at fort Harrison aforesaid after having served twenty days a private soldier an Indian Spy Declarrant having returned home to Stuarts fort in the County of Monogahalia situate upon Camp Run affiand was ordered by his said Col Evan to hold himself in readines to march at a moments warning as it was not certain that the Indians had so far left the country as to authorise, a carelessness upon our part and also ordered affiant to keep up a vigilant watch and guard in and about the said Stuarts fort, in which
service declarant was engaged untill some time about the last of October, which brought about the time of
year when the Indians usually ceas’d. their depredations upon the White settlements in western Virginia
Declarrant was in the spring of the year 1782 recommended by the County Court of Monongahala to the
Executive of Virginia as a Lieutenant in the room of Lt James Ivins who had resignd, and was
commissioned accordingly. Early in the spring of the year 1782 the settlements were again compelled to
repair to the forts in their several neighbourhood and by order of the said Col. Evans to keep up a
watchfull vigilenc to prevent a suprise upon the inhabitants   About the last of August we received
information that a large number of Indians, ware inbodied and that it was expected that our forts and
settlements would be attacked. Col. Evans gave orders that declarant shoul’d. take five men and march
upon a spying expedition in the direction that the Indians was most likely to be met with. Declarant and
men did march & crossed the Monongahala River by the head of Scotts mill Run to Dunker Creek thence
down said creek crossing said river & by Harris’ fort home, having satisfied our selves that it had been a
false alarm. After our return home we continued to watch and guard the forts until the fall of year 1782.
Declarant states that in the spring of the year 1783 the inhabitants ware again compelled for fear of an
attack by the Indians to assemble in forts, and affiant was ordered by his said Col. Evans to command at
Stuarts fort, and keep up a constant examination, and enquiry in the neighbourhood, for the enemy and,
to be at all times in readiness to march, in the latter part of this summer the Indians made their
appearance in our neighbourhood and killed two of our neighbours and carried of som property
Declarrant was ordered to take the command of 15 men and make persuit which he did   We assembled at
Morgantown & cross’d. the Mongahela and marched from thence to Stradlers fort [Statler Fort on
Dunkard Creek] from thence to the head of Buffalo. here finding that the Indians had been too long gone
to be overtaken before they could reach the Ohio River and our force being two small to pursue them
further in safety we determined to return to the Fort   Stuarts Fort which we did and continued to guard
the Fort untill the last of October at which time we ware discharged by Col Evans. Declarrants services in
the Revolution now ended having served as Indian Spy and private soldier eleaven months and as
Lieutenant Commandant of Indian Spies about twelve months.
Declarant is not certain whether he can prove his services by any person now living as he is now old and
infirm so that he cannot travel in search of his old comrades, bu whom alone he could prove his services
affiant is also two infirm to travel to the court hous of Jackson County from which he resides twenty
miles. Declarant can refer to [blank space] two citizens of the County of Jackson who can testify to their
beleav of declarrants having been a soldier of the Revolution and the opinion of the neighbourhood
Declarrant hereby relinquishes all claim whatsoever to a pension or annuity except the present and
declares that his name is not on the roll of the agency of any state or teritory. Subscribed & sworn to the
day and year a fore said [signed] Charles Steuart

The following are declarrants answers to the interogatories prescribe by the War department.
1   I was born in Lancaster County & State of Pennsylvania in the year 1761 as I always heard & believed.
2   I have no record of my age
3   When I was called into service I lived in Monongahalia County Virginia  Since the revolutionary war I
   have lived Monongahalia  Wood & Jackson Counties & State of Virginia where I now reside
4   My first tour I was drafted   My 2d tour I was a volunteer. After that I acted under the orders of my
   Colonel   at the latter end of my service I served as a Lieutenant by virtue of a commission signed by
   the then Governor of Virginia whose name I have forgotten & as such I commanded Indian Spies
5   I served with Virginia millitia & Indian Spies & no other troops to the best of my recollection so I
   never was attached to the regular army. I only became acquainted with the officers under whom I
   served to wit Capt Pickenpau  Lut Harrison  Col John Evans &c I do not recollect the No. of any
   regts whatever   I have detailed the circumstances of my service as well as I can recollect in my
   declaration
6   My discharges & commission I have lost or mislaid many years ago
I am known to two of my neighbors who can testify as to my character for veracity & their belief of my having served as I have stated.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid. [signed] Charles Steuart

[John Ewine and Alpheus Cain certified Steuart's character and reputation as a soldier.]

[The following report is by US District Attorney Washington G. Singleton who investigated many pension applications from present West Virginia. For details see my appendix in the pension application of David W. Sleeth (S6111). The report is much faded.]

Charles Steuart – Suspended

Thomas Boggs a Magistrate of Jackson County says he has known Charles Steuart for many years. lives a neighbour to him – thinks him too young to have done service in the war of the Revolution.

Mrs. Stewart wife of Charles Stewart says they were married 48 yrs ago. her husband was then in his 21st year of age – the year previous to their marriage – her husband was out in the Indian War. –

[i illegible word or abbreviation]. I called at Steuarts House on the 28th Dec'r 1834. he was from Home. had gone to Kenhawa [sic: Kanawha] for salt. some sixty miles from Home. – he lives .5 miles from the County Seat – made his declaration before a Magistrate in the country. – it was written by one of the Lewis county agents. – I understand from different Gentlemen that Steuart is a Harty man, and is in the Habit of going to the County Seat every week of his life – I left word for Steuart to meet me at the County Seat. he did not attend – the General opinion is that he has no well founded claim to a Pension. – the fact of his having made his declaration in the country is prima facia evidence of fraud.

W. G Singleton
Jany. 2, 1835.

NOTES:

According to Chronicles of Border Warfare attributed to Alexander S. Withers, the raid on the Stuart and Smally families near Martin’s Fort occurred in June 1779. The book also relates the attack on Wright, Crawford, and Mrs. Pindall.

“Lewis county Agents” refers to a group of corrupt pension agents from Lewis County who filed numerous fraudulent pension claims. A note in the file reads as follows: “Messrs Mitchell & James M Camp agents.” Singleton suspected John Mitchell and James M. Camp of being part of the Lewis conspiracy.