

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of William Longley R6435

Transcribed by Will Graves

State of Tennessee, McMinn County

On this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of June personally appeared in open Court, before the Justice of the County Court of said County, William Longley a resident of said County and state, aged about seventy-two years, who being first duly sworn according to the law, doth, on his oath, make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress, passed June 7, 1832:

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named offices, and served as herein stated.

He entered the service as a drafted man, in the militia of the State of Virginia, in the month of October, 1780, as well as he could recollect, in Loudon County in said State, where he then resided with his father, -- under the command of Major Armistead, whose Christian name is not recollected -- Captain Thomas Humphries, Lieutenant John Bartlett. There were about 700 troops from said County of whom declarant was one and he thinks they were called light infantry. These troops were marching from Loudon County to Williamsburg in Virginia where they were stationed in the barracks for several months, and from whence parties of our men were detached to hold the British forces under Arnold [Benedict Arnold] in check. After being stationed here one month, declarant does not recollect the precise time, the British forces landed at Burrill's [sic, Burrell's or Burwell's?] ferry at the mouth of the James River, where about 200 of our men and declarant one of them, were stationed. We stood our ground and fired upon the enemy until our cartridges were exhausted, each man of us having fired near 30 rounds, when we were so far outnumbered that we had to retreat. We retreated to Williamsburg, 6 miles from the above named ferry and on reaching there all our troops retreated from town and the British marched in and occupied our barracks that night. We had retreated only a mile or two into the woods from there, after night set in we marched back to town and attacked the enemy, drove in their pickets, and fired on them until outnumbered and drove from the field. Next morning we were marched for Richmond and on the same day the enemy left Williamsburg, crossed James River at Jamestown, and marched up the country. Near the same time that we got to Richmond the enemy arrived at Manchester on the opposite side of the river, and commenced destroying property and burning large quantity of tobacco stored there. We were stationed on Chuck's Hill. When the British appeared a part of our men were stationed on the bank of the river to prevent them crossing, and if any had attempted it they would have met with a warm reception as we were very hungry and greatly incensed at them. We had but one field piece, a six pounder and it was placed on the hill before mentioned and leveled against the enemy and its effect fell so well amongst them that they were quickly induced to leave off their depredations and quit the place. The enemy left Manchester and pursued their course still further up the country and after some time turned their course and marched to Yorktown. Declarant & his comrades were stationed at Richmond as he thinks, about six weeks, when they were marched from there and joined the army under Gen'l Lafayette at Yorktown on the Gloucester side of the river. About this time or shortly after, the siege was formed, as the army under Washington shortly after arrived. Declarant was at this time constantly employed in working on the entrenchment and other works, that was

going on. During this siege declarant was in several skirmishes with part of the enemy. On one occasion after night 500 of the Virginia troops, declarant one of them, with 500 of the French under the command of Lafayette were marched to make a track through the enemy's line on the Gloucester side, another detachment having made an attack on the other side. Declarant recollects getting so near the enemy works, that he put his hand upon them and looking up saw the tar barrels placed on the breastworks to be lighted in the event of an attack. The firing having ceased on the York side, we were countermarched the enemy having discovered us, and opened their guns upon us as they thought, but their balls went far above our heads. Declarant was one of the troops forming the hollow square into which the prisoners were marched when Cornwallis surrendered. The prisoners taken on the Gloucester side were marched to Winchester in Virginia, Declarant being one of their guards. These prisoners were guarded at Winchester three months, as declarant thinks when they were marched to Frederickstown in Maryland, where declarant was discharged in February as well as he recollects, 1782. Declarant cannot recollect the precise time he served, he will set it down at fifteen months, as he is confident he served that long. Declarant was born in the State of New Jersey in the year 1761 as he was informed by his parents -- has no record of his age nor has he seen one as well as he knows. He resided in Loudon County for a short time after this war, then in Shenandoah, Rockbridge, then in Washington, all in Virginia, whence he removed to Sevier County Tennessee in 1800 where he resided until he came to the County of McMinn Tennessee, where he now resides. He received a written discharge from the service at Shephardtown, VA from Col Niswonger but it is lost, and he knows not where it is. James D. Sewell, a clergyman, John Grisham, George Long, & Jackson Smith, are some of his present neighbors and can testify as to his veracity, & their belief of his service as a soldier of the Revolution.

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.

Sworn to and subscribed the 3rd day of June 1833

S/ A. R. Turk, Clerk

S/ William Longley

We James D Sewall, a clergyman residing in the County and state aforesaid, and John Grisham residing as aforesaid, hereby certify that we are well acquainted with William Longley who has subscribed and sworn to the above declaration; and we believe him to be 72 years of age; that he is reputed and believed in the neighborhood where he resides, to have been a soldier in the Revolution, and that we concur in that opinion.

Sworn to and subscribed the 3rd day of June 1833

S/ A R Turk, Clerk

S/ James L Sewell

S/ John Grisham