

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of John Patton W162

Mary

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Transcribed by Will Graves

State of Tennessee, Bedford County

On this 10<sup>th</sup> day of August personally appeared in open Court before Samuel Philips, John B. Armstrong, John L. Nuill [?] could be Nuilt] – Justices of the Court of pleas and quarter Sessions of the County of Bedford in the State of Tennessee aforesaid John Patton a resident of said County aged 76 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 passed 7<sup>th</sup> June 1832 --

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated – as a revolutionary Soldier. About the year 1778 or 1779 as well as he now recollects, he was drafted in York District in the State of South Carolina and enrolled in a Company of light horse commanded by Captain Duff and went on an expedition called the Snowy campaign against a detachment of Tories who were collected on Kittle Creek on the West side of Broad River in the State of South Carolina, said Tories were attacked and defeated by the Main body of the detachment, but he this deponent nor the company to which he belonged were not in the action, being ordered on other duty which prevented them from participating in the engagement: after returning from the above mentioned expedition, he was drafted in another expedition which was ordered out against a band of hostile Cherokee Indians who were committing depredations on the frontiers of the State of Georgia, he was then enrolled in Captain Andrew Love's Company the detachment or Regiment, which went on this tour of duty was commanded by Colonel Neel of South Carolina: after returning home & being discharged from the Campaign against the Indians, he with 15 or 20 others from the said District of York South Carolina determined to enter the service again, and traveled up to the State of North Carolina, and on the battle ground at Ramsour's Mills which was in Lincoln County joined General Sumpter's [sic, Thomas Sumter's] brigade as a volunteer under the command of Captain Thompson and remained a volunteer in Sumter's brigade so long as the British and Tory hostilities existed in that section of the Country, with the exception of a tour of duty he performed in what was called the Siege of ninety six [sic, Ninety Six] , in which expedition he was under the command of Colonel Henderson, at this place General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] commanded in person. After joining Sumter's brigade at Ramsour's Mills he went with said brigade into South Carolina and at a place called Bratton's farm attacked & defeated a detachment of British and Tories under the command of Colonel Turnbull in this engagement they killed & wounded a considerable number of Turnbull's men & took nearly 30 prisoners: after disposing of the dead wounded & prisoners, they continued their march after Turnbull, who had fortified his Regiment at the Rocky Mount on the Catawba River, at this place, we again attacked Turnbull but were unable to dislodge him he being advantageously posted: we were then marched to Graves's [?] ford on the Catawba River about 7 miles above Camden South Carolina to prevent a party of the British from escaping to join the Main Army near Camden, we were encamped at this place at the time General Gates was defeated we were then marched up the River to a place called Graves's farm at the mouth of Fishing Creek at which place we were attacked by Tarleton's Cavalry and badly defeated having lost about 300 men: after General Sumter's brigade was again collected and organized for service, we were ordered to march down the country and attacked a Fort occupied by the British on the Congaree River called Buckhead but this attack proved ineffectual we having failed to dislodge the British at that post: about 2 miles below Buckhead we captured 15 wagons loaded with munitions of war to supply the Fort, we also killed, wounded & made prisoners of the guard attached to said wagons: Whilst engaged on duty in that Section of the Country we marched further down the River and attacked another Fort in possession of the British called Right's Bluff [sic, Wright's Bluff] on the Congaree River near the mouth of the Santee in this attack we had a severe engagement lost a considerable number of our men in killed & wounded and the General was compelled to draw his men

and leave the British in possession of the Fort: we then marched further down the River to Cords or McCord's farm, thence across the Country to Black River with a hope of joining General Marion's troops, but were unable to learn where Marion was at that time: we then marched up Black River until we got about opposite the head of Lynches Creek at which place we were ambushed and attacked by a party of British commanded by Colonel Watson at this place a sharp fire was kept up on both sides for some time but without much effect & General Sumter discovering that Watson had more than double the number of men under his command at that place, ordered a retreat which we effected in good order, the British seeming not to be inclined to pursue us: We then returned to head quarters in Mecklenburg County North Carolina: -- Where the troops were concentrating to attack Ferguson at King's Mountain this declarant set out with a part of General Sumter's men with the expectation of being engaged in that action but was taken sick on the line of march & became unable to travel: This declarant further represents that he has no documentary evidence to assist his recollection, he having received no discharge from General Sumter or any other person; and half a century having now lapsed since the time of his service he presumes many things have escaped his recollection which might be necessarily stated in his declaration, he is not certain that he recollects all the skirmishes he may have been engaged in many of the officers together with their names with whom he was then familiar he has entirely forgotten: he is unable to state precisely at this remote period the length of time he was engaged in the Service of the United States as a revolutionary Soldier according to the best of his recollection it was upwards of two years how much over that term he cannot now say: 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. S/ John Patton

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

S/ Jas. McKisick, Clk

[Joshua Yates, a clergyman and James McKisick gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

Questions propounded by the Court

1<sup>st</sup> When and in what year were you born?

A: I was born in Augusta County in the State of Virginia

2<sup>nd</sup> Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

A: My age is recorded in a Book which I now have at home, and according [to] that Record was born on the 14<sup>th</sup> of February 1755.

3<sup>rd</sup> Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

A: I was living in York District in the State of South Carolina near Hill's Iron works when I entered the service, after the revolutionary war was over I married in Lincoln County in the State of North Carolina in which County I settled and lived until the Fall of 1805, at which time I moved to this State (Tennessee) lived three years in Wilson County in this State: in the year 1808 I moved to this County (Bedford) in which I now live & have lived since the year 1808.

4<sup>th</sup> How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom?

A: In the two first Campaigns which I served I was drafted as before stated in this declaration. All my other services were performed as a volunteer. I performed no duty as a substitute.

5<sup>th</sup> State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

A: At the time General Sumter was defeated there were 300 regulars attached to his brigade & under his command, to what regular officers they belonged I am not certain, perhaps to General Roundtree's [?] brigade; if he was a Continental officer, & my recollection is that he was, General Sumter's brigade never encamped with General Rutherford's, we were not at General Gates defeat

where General Rutherford was made a prisoner by the British, we were guarding Graves's Ford on the Catawba River & could very distinctly hear the Artillery during the action: the general circumstances in relation to my service are stated as correctly as I can now recollect them in my declaration, with the exception of an Attack made upon a British fort at Granby South Carolina at which place the British had armed five or six hundred Negroes belonging to the South Carolina planters, we besieged this place & would have taken it from the British officer & Negroes in the fort had not Col. Watson a British officer arrived with a strong reinforcement at a very lucky moment for them & an unfortunate time for us.

6<sup>th</sup> Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

A: I never received a discharge from General Sumpter or any other person for my revolutionary services: when I joined his brigade at Ramsour's Mills as a volunteer my engage[ment] was during the war

7<sup>th</sup> State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

A. I have been well acquainted with James McKisick the Clerk of this Court from his childhood also Ezekiel Dickson, both of these men have known me from their boyhood to the present day: I am acquainted with the people were generally in the neighborhood where I live: I am acquainted with the members of this Court, with the Sheriff of this County and many of the persons in Bedford County, having lived in the County for upwards of 20 years last past.

S/ John Patton

Personally appeared in open Court Robert Cowden<sup>1</sup> a citizen of the said County of Bedford and makes the following statement on oath in relation to the services rendered by John Patton the before mentioned applicant:

That he was in several campaigns with the said John Patton: one of which is not mentioned in the foregoing declaration to wit the Stono campaign in which they marched against a body of the British forces to near the Seaboard in the Southern edge of the State of South Carolina this tour of duty was for three months but the troops were over that time on said expedition, he states he was acquainted with said John Patton in the time they were both boys up to the commencement of the revolutionary war – having both went to the same School – he was acquainted with him during the war & when they were both in service they have frequently conversed since the revolutionary Struggle of occurrences which took place during the different Campaigns they served.

Sworn to & subscribed in open Court 10<sup>th</sup> of August

S/ Jas. McKisick, Clk

S/ Robt. Cowden

[facts in file: John Patton married January 19, 1785 in Lincoln County, NC, Mary Wilson; she was born Sept. 16, 1764; he died February 28, 1838; their children

Jean David born Oct. 9, 1785

James born Sept. 19, 1787

Margret born April 10, 1790

John born Oct. 10. 1792

David born March 15, 1795

Joseph Wilson born Oct. 10, 1797

Betsy Barry born Nov. 20, 1799

Polly McKisick born April 7, 1802

Martha W. born March 2, 1806]

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State of Tennessee, to wit, Personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the peace in and for the County of Bedford in the State aforesaid John Patton who being duly sworn to this amendment of his original declaration, deposes and saith that by reason of old age & 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: That is to say: --

The first Tour of duty which he served as a soldier of the revolution was under Captain Duff, the particulars of which are mentioned in his declaration, this Tour was one month – he served as a private --

The Second expedition or Tour of duty, he served under Captain Andrew Love, this was for three months, the particulars of this expedition are also stated in his declaration, he was a private in this campaign also --

The Third tour of duty he performed was called the Stono expedition, he has not mentioned this expedition particularly in his original declaration, but it is referred to in the Affidavit of Robert Cowden one of the witnesses to his services, to whose Testimony he respectfully refers the department: it being correct as far as it goes. In this expedition this deponent was attached to the Wagon department, and hauled baggage for the militia. The above mentioned place (Stono) This Tour of duty was for three months, he was under the command of an officer attached to the Baggage department named Johnson, the grade of this officer he does not distinctly recollect, he thinks he was called Captain or Major; --after the Battle was over at Stono he was pressed with his Wagon & Team to haul the baggage of the regular Soldiers from thence to Savannah & detained for that purpose four weeks, after which he was discharged and sent home & was not ordered on to Savannah by being detained as above stated it made this tour four months; he was also a private in this Campaign, but being confined to his Wagon and Team, and not bearing arms in this expedition, he cannot recollect distinctly the names of the officers in command: he does recollect though that Colonels Neel & Watson were in command over the troops to which he was attached: --

In June 1780 he joined General Sumter's Brigade at Ramsour's Mills as stated in his declaration as a volunteer, and remained in his service & under his command until the capture of Cornwallis at little York; with the exception of a tour of duty called the siege of Ninety Six which Tour he performed under the command of Colonel Henderson, and although General Sumpter had no command in this expedition, he understood that it was by his advice & consent that this deponent & others of his men performed the duties, this tour was for one month--

This deponent states he was at least 16 months as a volunteer under General Sumpter as a Soldier of the revolution all of which time he was under his command & subject to his orders: the Battles and skirmishes in which he was engaged he has [word obliterated] according to his recollection in his original declaration, And being a resident of South Carolina before & during the revolutionary war he was well acquainted with the geography of that Country which was the seat of General Sumpter's operations & so often called on to perform the duties of a spy and pilot, that it would be utterly impossible for him now to designate the many & different services assigned to him; he hereby states that in the different Campaigns mentioned he served eight months duty as a militia man before he joined General Sumpter, that he served 16 months under General Sumpter as a volunteer amounting in the whole 22 years for which service he claims a pension. All the services he rendered was in the capacity of a private --

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 20<sup>th</sup> day of December 1832.            S/ John Patton  
S/ Jordan C Holt, JP