

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of John Arthur: W5635

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

This is to certify that I John Arthur of the County of Bedford, was drafted in the Bedford militia, I was called into service under Captin Thos. Leftwick and was marched immediately to join Gen'l. Gates near Campden South Carolina [see note below]. I was engaged in the Battle at Gates's defeat, the time I was engaged under that call was five months, after which time I was regularly discharged. the date I do not recollect. In the course of about three months afterwards I was again called out under Capt'n. John Trigg of Bedford and was marched directly to Pourtsmouth [sic: Portsmouth] in Virginia and was attached to Major MClaman's Ridgmt I was engaged for the space of three months, after which time I was discharged, that being the time for which I was call'd out. I returned home & remained But a few days before I was again ordered out & was marched by Captn Isaac Clemmans to the fort at Ninty six [sic: Ninety-Six SC]; at which time I served three months & was discharged. I remained at home But a few days Before I was called out & was march'd by Capt'n John Trigg to Yorktown, where we Join'd Col [St. George] Tucker's Redgmt under General [Robert] Lawson. I was there engaged in the battle at the taking of CornWallis at which time I received four several wounds to wit both of my knees, my right arm and my under Jaw, from which wounds I have suffered more or less ever since. I am of late much disabled from labouring, which is the only means I have to support myself & a helpless family, and am entirely destitute of any kind of property. All of the above nam'd discharges I have lost except one, and for all of which time I have never received any sort of compensation except one four-pound bill. Given under my hand this tenth day of July 1824.        John Arthur

State of Virginia

Bedford County S : S

On this 17<sup>th</sup> day of May 1843, before me Lewis C. Arthur a Justice of the peace in and for said court personally appeared Mr. Jno Arthur a respectable resident (Aged 85 years) of said County, 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 the 7<sup>th</sup> June 1832: That he served four regular tours in the Malitia during the Revo'y. war amounting in all to about 13 months. The first tour he served under Cap. Thos. Leftwick, of the Bedford Malitia, that they met at New London, in then said County [now in Campbell County], about the last of May 1780 and marched from thence, under said Cap't. with Aug. Leftwick as Lieut. and Dan'l. Mitchell as Ens'n by the way of Disces Ferry on Staunton river, to Hillsborough N. Carolina, the place of gen'l rendesvous; that the Troops remained there 6 or 8 weeks and marched from thence to the Pedee [sic: Pee Dee River] and crossed into S. Carolina, and by the way of Rugly's Mills [sic: Rugeley's Mill] to said Camden S.C. and hearing of the British, we set out to meet them, and did meet them at Camden S.C. the Americans was commanded by Gen'l. Gates, in which action at said place the americans suffered a defeat by the British on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of August 1780 that the american malitia was routed, and dispersed, and returned home not having been organized again for action, and declarant also returned home from said tour at Gates defeat having served about four months from the time he left home, until he returned.

That the 2<sup>nd</sup> tour declarant served was under Cap. Jno. Trigg of the Bedford Malitia. that they met at N London on the 15<sup>th</sup> of Jan'y 1781 and marched from thence through Petersburg, and Smithfield, to Portsmouth Va was marched backwards and forward in the lower part of the state under Col. Wm. Trigg and Gen'l. Mulenburg [sic: Peter Muhlenberg] and was discharged about middle of April, at Prince George Ct. House and returned about the last of April 1781 - making about three months and a half service he performed during said tour to Portsmouth.

That the 3<sup>rd</sup> tour he performed was at 96 in S. Carolina under Gen'l. Green [sic: Nathanael Greene] (the Cap.s name he can not recollect) in June 1781 - that the company to which declarant belonged on said occasion met as usual, at N. London the place of rendesvous

- about the 1<sup>st</sup> of June 1781- and marched to 96 S. C. where the americans entrenched themselves under Gen'l. Green - outside the British fortifications - and remained there the best part of two months [sic: 22 May - 19 June] - fighting part of the time - and trying to make the British surrender - but they held out until they had reinforcements sent there - and then the Americans had to retreat into N. Carolina - when the malitia to which he belonged was discharged about the last of August making three months that he served at the Seige of 96. which was after the Battle at Guilford [Guilford Courthouse NC, 15 March 1781].

That the 4<sup>th</sup> tour that declarant served, was under Cap. Jno Trigg of the Bedford Malitia. That he was at home only a week or two from the tour at 96 before he was again called out to go to Yorktown, to take Cornwallis. that they met at N. London again and marched under said Cap. Jno. Trigg about the middle of Sept. or earlier down to yorktown where entrenchments were thrown up, and the place besieged [page torn] fighting from day to day until Lord Cornwallis surrendered on the 19<sup>th</sup> day of Oct'r 1781. that during said Battle, declarant was wounded by a cannon ball from the enemies guns - for which wound so rec'd. at said place he was allowed a pension by the state of Virginia of \$60 per An [annum], which he is now, and has been receiving something like 18 years. That he served about two months on said occasion at the capture of Cornwallis.

That the reason why declarant has not applied sooner for a pension under the Act of June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832, is that he understood that he was not entitled to receive a pension under the law, and his Invalid too, at the same time, but that by a subsequent act to 1832 he is entitled to receive both, and do accordingly claim, in addition to the Invalid pension, which he is now receiving from the State of Virginia a further pension from the Gen'l. Gov't. under the Act of June 7, 1832. in consideration of his Revo'y. services recited above, which services was proven, either in whole or in part when he obtained his Invalid pension That Thos. Dixons testimony was filed in the Executive departments of Va which alone prove three tours that declarant served - to wit, at 96, at Portsmouth, and at yorktown [see pension application of Thomas Dixon S30387]- besides the Aff'ts of others- he thinks also Wm. Arthurs - which he wishes the commissioner of pensions to obtain a copy of [pension application S6528] - as evidence to be filed with the declarants papers. And further he saith not. John hisXmark Arthur

State of Virginia

Bedford County S . S .

On this 20<sup>th</sup> day of July 1843, before me Lewis C. Arthur a Justice of the peace, in and for said county, personally appeared Mrs Isabella Mitchern, a respectable resident of said County who being first duly sworn according to law; doth on her oath say - That she is 85 years old and [illegible word] well acquainted with John Arthur during the Revo'y. war - the same man that was wounded by a cannon ball, at the capture of Lord Cornwallis - and for which wound the said Arthur obtained a pension from the Gen'l. Govt at \$60. per. An. or rather, State of Va. as a Invalid. That said Jno. Arthur, served two or three tours in the Revo'y. war - if not more - one tour she thinks he performed with her husband Benj. Mitchern [see pension application for Benjamin Mitchen R7284] and another tour, he the said Jno Arthur served as a substitute for her husband the aforesaid Benj Mitchern - she having been married to him before or in the early part of the Revo;y war. It has been so long ago that she has forgot most all about it - but thinks one tour was under Capt. Thos. Leftwich. Thos Arthur, that married Sally Dixon also served 2 or 3 tours, but she cannot recollect the places he served at this time, but is satisfied of the fact [see pension application of Thomas Arthur W5636] - both Jno and Thos. Arthur were small men - and brothers. Isabella herXmark Mitchern

Test Ro. U Gray

Sworn to and subscribed, on the day and year above written -

Before me [signed] Lewis C. Arthur J.P.

In presence of Silas hisXmark Mitchern Rhoda herXmark Mitchern

NOTES:

At 10 PM on 15 Aug 1780 the army under Gen. Horatio Gates set out from Rugeley's Mill intending to surprise the British outpost at Camden 12 miles south. Unknown to them, the

British army under Cornwallis had come to Camden and at the very same hour had set out from there heading north. The two armies collided in the middle of the night, and the Battle of Camden occurred the next morning.

On 10 April 1851 Elizabeth Arthur, "maiden name Adams," age 81, applied for a pension stating that she married John Arthur in Bedford County in Oct 1784, and that he died 24 Aug 1850. A family record in the file states that Elizabeth Adams, daughter of John A. and Sarah Adams, was born 28 Sep 1769, and it lists the names and dates of birth of her 13 children.