

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of John Jones: W7920

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

Virginia Kanawha County, to wit-

On this 15th day of January 1833 personally appeared in open court before Lewis Summers Judge of the Circuit Superior court of Law & Chancery for the County of Kanawha afores'd John Jones a resident of the said County aged seventy seven years eleven months & thirteen days, 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 June 7th 1832-

That in the year 1773 he and two others commenced an improvement or settlement on the great Kanawha river in the County of Greenbriar [sic: Greenbrier] & State of Virginia (now Kanawha County) [now in West Virginia] about seventy miles west of the frontier inhabitants of the State of Virginia but in the spring of 1774 they were driven from their [word illegible] & compelled by the incursions of the indians, to take refuge among the inhabitants of Greenbriar County on Muddy Creek - that he immediately volunteered as a soldier under Capt. Mathew Arbuckle, to aid in building a fort [Fort Arbuckle] on Muddy Creek, & to guard the inhabitants against the incursions of the indians- That afterwards in the fall of the year 1774 he volunteered under the same Capt Arbuckle, who raised a company to march against the western Indians in lord Dunmores campaign. That Capt. Arbuckle's company joined the division of the Army under the command of General Lewis, and marched with that division of the army to the mouth of the great Kanawha river at Point Pleasant, where a severe engagement ensued between a part of the army of Gen'l Andrew Lewis and a large body of Indians. This applicant entered into the battle at its commencement and continued without interruption in the middle of the engagement until its termination fighting from sunrise until late in the evening, before the Virginia forces succeeded in routing their savage adversaries- This bloody and hard fought battle took place on the 10th of October 1774-

This applicant further states that about the middle of September 1776 he enlisted as a regular soldier under Capt Mathew Arbuckle at the mouth of the great Kanawha river, then Greenbrier County and about one hundred & fifty miles west of the inhabited part of that County. The other officers of Capt. Arbuckle Company the applicant believes were Andrew Wallace first Lieutenant, William Woods 2nd Lieutenant & John Galligher ensign - That the soldiers composing that Company erected a fort at the mouth of said Kanawha river [probably Fort Randolph at Point Pleasant], and continued there during the [words illegible] of the year 1776 and until the close of the year 1777, when this applicant received a written discharge from Capt. Arbuckle, and returned to the inhabited part of the County of Greenbrier- That he hath lost or mislaid said discharge so as to be unable to produce the same. That after he enlisted as afores'd this company of Capt. Arbuckle was reinforced at their station at Point Pleasant afores'd by the company of Capt. [William] McKee, which marched as the applicant believes from the County of Bottetourt [sic: Botetourt] Virginia. The other officers of that company were, he believes, William Moore & John Moore 1st & 2nd Lieutenants & James Gilmore ensign. The company of Capt McKee continued at Point Pleasant until the discharge of the applicant- During the period of his service at Point Pleasant, an attack was made upon the fort at Point Pleasant - by a body of Indians who being compelled to abandon the attack directed their march to Donnally's fort situate about one hundred & fifty miles in the interior of the State and on the frontier of the inhabited part of the County of Greenbrier [about 10 miles north of present Lewisburg] - Ascertaining that the Indians were marching against that part of the County, two bold and daring soldiers dressed in the savage costume, made their way through the wilderness, and apprised the inhabitants of their danger barely in time to save them from total extermination.

That after the discharge of the applicant as afores'd and his return to the inhabited part of the County of Greenbrier at the close of the year 1777, he was at the beginning of the year 1778 employed and he believes under the authority of the State of Virginia as an Indian Spy, at the rate of one dollar per day, but without rations clothing or munitions of war, the applicant

furnishing these for himself. That the distance he was employed to act as a spy was between sixty & seventy miles, & immediately west of the inhabited part of the County of Greenbrier afores'd - That he continued to act as a spy for the period of two years beginning as afores'd in the early part of the year 1778 and quitting at the beginning of the year 1780- That William Morris Leonard Morris and John Patterson were spies with him during the same period, the two first of whom died in the County of Kanawha, and whether the latter still survives is unknown to the applicant. This applicant resided in the County of Greenbrier from the year 1773 until the establishment of the County of Kanawha out of the western part of it, since which time until the present period he has resided in the County of Kanawha- He has no record of his age, but is satisfied it is correctly given as herein before stated - He cannot state with precision the character of his engagements under Capt. Arbuckle, whether he belonged to the Virginia Continental line State volunteers or Virginia Rangers. He knows however that in Lord Dunmores expedition he was a volunteer, and that when he engaged as afores'd, in 1776 a second time in the service and was stationed at Point Pleasant, it was under the authority of the State of Virginia, & the applicant has always believed that he was a regularly enlisted soldier, and perhaps as a ranger. He never was drafted, or acted as a substitute. This applicant refers to Major. John Hansford as the person in his neighborhood most capable of attesting the truth of this declaration, & with confidence appeals to him and all who know him for evidence of his character for honesty & veracity. There is but one person living within the knowledge of the applicant who can personally attest as of his own knowledge the truth of any part of this declaration respecting the services performed- He is a very feeble and aged man who resides in this State in the County of Mason by the name of William Arbuckle, & who was in Lord Dunmores expedition. To procure this testimony would be very inconvenient to the applicant as well as to the witness & the difficulty of doing so The labor and suffering which it would inflict on himself as well as the witness have induced an abandonment of the attempt.

The applicant 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 in open court the day and year first afores'd

[signed] John Jones

NOTE: Frances Jones applied for a pension in Kanawha County VA on 21 March 1838 when she was 78 years old and had lived in that county for two years. She declared that she married John Jones in Culpeper County VA on 17 Nov 1775, and that in the following spring she emigrated to Greenbrier County. She stated that her husband enlisted with Capt. Arbuckle during a visit to Point Pleasant and that they both remained there until the fall of 1777.