

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of Major Lea S1549

fn10NC

Transcribed by Will Graves 7/19/06

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[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original.]

State of Tennessee, Claiborne County

On this 20th day of September one thousand Eight hundred and thirty three personally appeared before me John T. Hardy an acting Justice of the peace for said County of Claiborne and State of Tennessee, Major Lea at his own house aged Ninety two 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 June 7th, 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States as a lieutenant called in the Militia service by legal authority in the month of July or August one thousand seven hundred and Eighty. The troops were drafted for three Months from Caswell County in the State of North Carolina, perhaps was then called Orange County, as to that this applicant is not positive. Rendezvoused at Hillsborough were then attached to Captain John Graves Company under the Command of General Butler from Hillsborough were Marched through Guilford County and across the Adkin [sic, Yadkin] River in order to cooperate with and Join General Gates, the Militia from Virginia and the regular troops went different routes, all marching to Join General Gates but before the troops under the command of General Butler Joined General Gates this applicant states that he was taken sick and unable to March which prevented him from being in the battle when Gates was defeated. This applicant states that the baggage Wagon having fell into the hands of the British he lost all the Cloathes [sic] that he had taken with him, the troops became much scattered and disorganized, some of the Company to which this applicant was attached he never saw afterwards until he had served out his time of three months and returned home.

This applicant further states that the year following and in the month of September as well as he now recollects to wit in the year one thousand seven hundred and Eighty One, there was Another call for troops. The draft was again for three Months. He again Entered the Service of the United States as a Lieutenant in the Militia Service called out by legal Authority from the same County in the company Commanded by Captain Adam Saunders in the Regiment commanded by Col. William More [sic, Moore][.] [He] does not recollect the Name of the Major[.] [He] was Again under the Command of General Butler[;] were Marched across the Country directly to Wilmington which place was then in the possession of the British and Tories. He understood the object of the expedition was in part to relieve and retake Governor Burk [sic, Thomas Burke], who had precious to that time been taken prisoner by the Tories—At Wilmington we had two skirmishes with the British and Tories but no great damage done on other side. Never came to a general engagement nor was General Butler able to retake or rescue Governor Burke from the British and Tories[.] [F]rom there we were Marched in various

directions through the Country watching the movements of the British and Tories but Had not a force sufficient to come to an engagement with them, they being strong in that section of the Country at that time[.] [T]hus we spent are time until our tour of Service expired and the troops were discharged that had been drafted for three Months and had served out their time. This applicant has no recollection at this time of having a personal acquaintance with any of the regular Officers except Col. Dixon [Henry Dixon], Major Dixon and Major Thomas Dunnahoo [sic, Thomas Donoho]. This applicant states that he was born in Spotsylvania County in the State of Virginia in the year one thousand Seven Hundred and forty two. He has no record of his age at this time not having seen the family register for many years. He was living when called into service in what is now Caswell County North Carolina and he believes it was then called the same. He moved from there to Tennessee upon Holston River after the war was ended from there to Claiborne County Tennessee where he now lives. He had a commission as Lieutenant in the Militia Company where he lived and when the Militia were called for from his County He Marched out as a Lieutenant whenever it was regularly his time to serve as stated in the foregoing part of this declaration. The general circumstances of his services he has also stated in the foregoing part of his declaration. As to his character for veracity and truth he refers to Peter Huffaker, Thomas Jones, Devereux Shumate, Capt. Daniel Huff, John Wallace, Esqr., William McHenry and his acquaintances generally. This applicant states that he has no documentary evidence of his services and that from Old age and infirmity and the consequent loss of memory he cannot remember the exact number of days he served over and above the two three months tours of duty as stated in his declaration, he therefore only claims a pension for six Months service as a Lieutenant in the service of the United States called into service by Legal Authority two tours of duty for three Months each. He further states that from old age and bodily weakness, he is unable to travel to Court in order to make his declaration in a Court of record.

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 whatever.

Sworn to & Subscribed before me John J. Hardy, a Justice of the peace for said County the date above written.

S/ Major Lea

Attest: S/ John T. Hardy, {SEAL}

Justice of P__ C__C__

We, Thomas Massey a Clergyman residing in the County of Claiborne and State of Tennessee And Harman Hopper¹ also a Citizen of said County do hereby certify that we are well acquainted with Major Lea who has subscribed and sworn to the above declaration that we believe him to be 92 years of age, that he is reputed and believed in the neighborhood where he resides to have been a soldier of the revolution and that we concur in that opinion. The said Harman Hopper further states that he served with and knows that said applicant served a 3 months tour of duty as a Lieut. in the company commanded by Capt. Adam Saunders as stated in his declaration.

Sworn to and Subscribed before me the date above written.

S/ John T. Hardy, JP

S/ Thomas Massey

S/ Harman Hopper, X his mark

¹ FPA W252