Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Virginia documents pertaining to John Todd VAS4736

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

[From rejected claims in the Library of Virginia. Several documents in this file are not legible enough for transcription.]

The Deposition of Benjamin Whaley [S31472] taken at the house of William Moreland in the County of Bourbon and State of Kentucky, who being in his 74 year and duly sworn deposeth and saith,

That he became acquainted with Col. John Todd at Louisville Kentucky about the month of August 1781 when Gen'l. George Rogers Clarke [sic: George Rogers Clark VAS269] was about to carry on an expedition against Detroit, and that Colo. John Todd was then acting as Colo. of the Illinois Regiment and sat as a Colonel in a Councel of War held by Gen'l. George Rogers Clarke at the falls of Ohio, when it was determined to abandon the propos'd expedition on acc't. of the lateness of the season, and difficulty of obtaining supplies and the troops were generally disbanded, and this Deponant further saith that he was a Captain at the time of his Acquaintance and sat in Council [part missing at bottom of page] of a Captain for his Services during the war of the Revolution and further this Deponant saith not [4 Sep 1833]

Fayette County towit: September Court 1833. [19 Sep 1833]

James Masterson [W8422] aged Eighty one years, came into Court and made oath that he came to Lexington Kentucky in the year 1779. That he was well acquainted with John Todd who was then a resident of Kentucky and that Mrs. Mary O. Wickliffe, late Mary O. Todd, was the only child of said John Todd, who was born in Lexington Kentucky, some time about the year 1781. And that she is still living and the wife of Robert Wickliffe. And that said John Todd was killed at the Battle of the blue Licks [19 Aug 1782] in said state as he always understood and believes in the year 1782. which is certified.

The Deposition of William Martin [W5327] taken at the office of Whittington & Agnew[?] in the Town of Versailles County of Woodford & State of Kentucky on the 1st day of Octr 1833. The said Martin is 72 years of age and is now drawing a pension from the United States for services rendered them as a soldier who being duly sworn deposeth and saith That he became acquainted with Col. John Todd who was killed at the Battle of the Blue Licks in the year 1782. Early in the year 1779 That they both served under Gen'l George Rogers Clarke in the Illinois Regiment against the Indians and was at the taking of the Town called French Toor[?] and several other Indian Villages on the Big Miami & Mad River And that Col John Todd continued in the service of the United States in the Virginia State line and Illinois Regiment from the time he became acquainted with him in 1779 untill he will killed at the Battle of the Blue Licks in the year 1782 And further this deponent saith not

To the Governor & Council of the State of Virginia R Wickliffe & Mary Owen Wickliffe the latter only child & heiress of Colo John Todd deceased shew that The said John Todd about the year 1778 entered the service of the State of Virginia & held a command under the then Colo Clarke [several undeciphered words]. this fact they believe will be manifest by Colo Clarkes Letter to Mr Jefferson the then Governor of Virginia to be found in the 454 & 5th pages of the first Volume of the Memoroirs[?] & Correspondence of that gentleman. your memmoralist state that at the time of Colo Todds appointment his residence was

Lexington & where he family continued to reside untill his death But that he himself continued to [undeciphered word] & perform duty in his redjm't untill the year 1782 at Kaskaskia [undeciphered word] & Louisville. That about 1780 It was contemplated to send an expedition [illegible word] Detroit & to strengthen the [part missing at bottom of page] to the [three undeciphered words] & commander in chief of all the forces in the western parts of Virginia. That during the absence of Clarke the command devolved on Colo Todd which he exercised untill Gen'l Clarkes return about the beginning of the year 1781, that on the return of Clarke & the assembling of what officers he could to consult about the result of an expedition against Detroit It was decided that the expedition for the want of men & military stores ought not to be under taken. But, the Capture of Lord Cornwallis [19 Oct 1781] & the consequent prospects of peace gave to Colo Todd leisure to see his family & devote portions of his time to his private affairs, as did General Clarke & other officers attached to the Military establishments in the west. That Colo Todd did however [part missing] 1782 he the service at Vincennes Kaskaskia & Louisville is known & well recollected by the few surviving In the Army & country & as they are informed the papers of General Clarke and of quarter master Lenacy fully shew. They state that about the month of August in the year 1782 Colo Todd being on a visit to his family at Lexington headed a party of volunteers & pursued the invading army of Indians & British that had besieged Bryant Station [Bryan's Station near Lexington KY, 16 Aug 1782] & came up with them near the blue licks where he was defeated & slain leaving your petition Mary Owen an infant of above twelve months old. your petitioners state that they believe that Colo Todd never received his pay as [part missing at bottom of page] That the pay & bounty or [undeciphered] due to Colo Todd be awarded to your petitioners as his only reppresentatives &c

Signed R Wickliffe Mary O. Wickliffe

Petition for Bounty land.

H[ei]rs of John Todd Colo State line.

There is a mass of testimony fil'd with this Petition, too great to be particularly referd to, & examined. It is, in truth, unnecessary to refer to, & examine the Testimony. It does not appear, by any evidence of Record in any of the public offices of the government, that Col. John Todd was an officer of the Illinois Regiment or was in the regular military service of the State. He was the County Lieutenant & Commandant of Illinois: & probably often in the Field, to aid General Clark in his military operations. He was killed [in] The Battle of Blue Licks.

As Col. Todd was not an officer in the regular military service of the state, his heirs are not entitled to Bounty land. I respectfully report this claim not allowable.

Resp'ly submitted

John H Smith Com'r &c

April 21st 1834