

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of David Cobb R2071

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Tennessee }
Smith County } Court of Monthly Sessions february term it being the first Monday in the
said month and year 1837

Present the Worshipful Exum Whitley Alfred A. Brevard Leroy Cage Reason Barrow and Isaac Goodall Esqrs

On this 6th day of february 1837 Personally appeared before the county court of Smith county Catherine Cobb a resident of the town of Carthage and county of Smith and State of Tennessee aged Seventy five years as near as she can recolect (having no record of the same of other documentary evidence) Who being first duly Sworn according to law in open court doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed July the 4th 1836 That she is the widow of David Cobb who was a private in the army of the revolution and was drafted as one of the Militia from Lincoln County State of North Carolina. he was marched from thence into South Carolina to Join the army under General [Horatio] Gates. The commanding officer that headed the troops from Lincoln was General [Richard] Caswell She does not at this time recolect the Captains name as it was previous to her marriage and before she was much acquainted her recolection therefore on this part of his services rest more from having her two Brothers converse with her after their return and his statements her Brothers were John Bird and William Bird who were enlisted regular Soldiers and were engaged in almost all the Principle Battles fought in North and South Carolina John Bird was a Captain and drew his Pension and if yet living resides on Broad river still a Pensioner She further states that her husband was present and engaged in the Battle of Camden [16 Aug 1780] where the brave De Kalb was killed he was then marched or rather retreated to Charlotteville [sic: Charlotte NC] and was engaged in several partial engagement some times under Genl [Thomas] Sumter and sometimes under other officers whose names at this distance of time she does not recolect he served this time six months and some day as she has frequently heard him say and also received a discharge but throught time and old age it has been destroyed

He remained but a short time at home before he entered the service again but in what manner or how long she is not able to say as in those days the whole country were sometimes under arms at other pursuing or endeavouring to pursue their own occupations at home it was not long after this and during these little excursions that she became acquainted with and was married to her husband the said David Cobb it was brought about and hastened more on account of the acquaintance with her Brothers who were still in the army and as these were her only Brothers her sympathy perhaps led her to respect the life of a Soldier as far Superior to those who stayed at home She was married to the said David Cobb in 1780 in the Spring of the same year they were married by Robert Alexander who was a Justice of the peace and then or afterward a quarter master in the army. But the Tories who were about this time taking courage from the presence of Cornwallis the Brittish General began to be very troublesome and the consequence was a draft for most of the young men in Lincoln County; her husband therefore was drafted and went under the command of Captain Loftain their Generals name was Dixon [sic: possibly Col. Henry Dixon] he was marched to Batties ford where they had a severe Battle with the tories. they were marched from thence to Salsbury [sic: Salisbury NC] and there were at the taking of several Tories some of which were hung they were then marched back and were engaged in several Battles with the tories some times under under Col William Moore sometimes under General Sumter he served this tour six months and was discharged but the discharge has been lost or mislaid together with all the paper by which any information could be obtained this was the summer after their marriage as well as she can recolect She further declares that she has no record or other documentary evidence of the facts herin set forth that through old age and infirmity of body she cannot recolect many circumstances that a few year ago were quite familiar to her. She is verry certain that their marriage took place as above

stated and before the last period of her husband Services That her husband the aforesaid David Cobb died on the 27th day of June 1827 and that she has remained a widow ever since that Period as will more fully appear by reference to the proof hereto annexed.

Sworn to and subscribed on the day and year above written in open court
Catharine herXmark Cobb

State of Tennessee }
Smith County } November term 1838

On this 5th day of November in the year 1838 personally appeared before the County court for said Smith County Catherine Cobb a resident of Carthage Smith County and State of Tennessee aged seventy five years who being first sworn according to law doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed July 7th 1838 entitled "an act granting half pay and Pensions to certain Widows" That she is the Widow of David Cobb who was a private soldier in the War of the revolution and served a tour of six months in the Militia Service of North Carolina under General Caswell and some part of the tour was under Gen'l Sumter but the principle part of this service was under General Gates her husband was at the battle of Camden or Gate's defeat where the Baron De Kalb was killed this affiant had two Brothers in the service at the same time John Bird a Captain in the regular army and her other Brother was William Bird who was a corporal Her husband Brother Ralph Cobb was a Captain of a Roe [sic: Row] Galley She cannot recolect the names of his Captain at this time but recolects that he served this tour six months as the recolection was always kept fast in her memory his frequently conversing about it afterwards and when her Brothers would come to their house it was generally the topic of conversation. The next period of his service was some time afterwards he was drafted again from Lincoln County North Carolina and served a tour of six months under Capt Thomas Loftin and belonged to the troops under General Dixon he was at the battle of Baty ford on the Cataba river [sic: Beatti's Ford on Catawba River, where no battle is known to have occurred] He was marched from thence to Salisbury and was present at the taking of several Tories on the rout and from thence was engaged in several partial engagements but owing to the great lenth of time she can not be particular She thinks the battle of Guilford [Guilford Courthouse NC, 15 Mar 1781] was fought during this last tour of Service but she cannot say whether he was in it or not She frequently heard him speak of Gen. Green [sic: Nathanael Greene] and she thinks her husband must have been part of this last tour under him but of this she will not be positive; he served six months this last tour and was regularly discharged which discharge was lost after the marriage

She further declares that she was married to the said David Cobb on the 6th day of October seventeen hundred and eighty five by Robert Alexander a Justice of the peace That her husband the aforesaid David Cobb died at Florence Alabama on the [blank] day of July 1827 That she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service but the marriage took place previous to the first day of January seventeen hundred and ninety four to wit at the time above stated

Sworn to in open court on the day and year above written Catharine herXmark Cobb

State of Tennessee }
Smith County } On this day personally appeared John Scott a resident of Smith County and State of Tennessee before me Nelson Thornton one of the acting Justices of the Peace in and for the county aforesaid and made oath in due form of law that he was well acquainted with David Cobb during the War of the Revolution or that part of it which was carried on in North Carolina. This deponent then was Young about eight years of age as well as he recolects, his father lived on the main road leading across the Catawba river in Lincoln County North Carolina David Cobbs father lived about 1½ miles off and this deponent was well acquainted with the family. About the time of Gates defeat or a little afterwards and before the British marched past his fathers house this deponent distinctly recolects of seeing David Cobb in Service marching past his fathers and knows of his own knowledge that the service was in army of North Carolina under Colonels Dixon and others he recolects that David Cobb was in the light horse troops he saw him when marching by in the army or Brigade or

regiment he had on a horsemans Cap a Sword and a brace of Pistols before him but this deponent thinks they were Militia horse company and not regulars and thinks and believes they were drafted for six months. This deponent does not recolect the particular Captains under whom David Cobb served but Captain Loftin was a resident of that County and Cobb may have served under him The first Colonel of the County of Lincoln was Grimes who was disgraced under the following circumstances. this deponents uncle Major [William] Chronicle was Major under Grimes in the battle of Kings Mountain [7 Oct 1780] and Just before the army arrived at that place Grimes told Major Chronicle that he had received verry disturbing news - that he must return home or never expect to see his wife who was sick that he must leave the command of his regiment to him. Major Chronicle accordingly took command was foremost in the charge and was killed in the earley part of that hard fought battle Grimes of course was considered a coward and was superceded by Colonel Dixon

The battle of Batys ford that Mrs. Cobb speaks of took place three miles below at Sherralls ford [sic: Sherrill's Ford] but it may have went by the name of Batys ford Cobb was out at that time and a considerable time afterwards the Cobbs were true Republicans and fought well for their country and independence there were one of them Ralph Cobb was in the regular service as this deponent believes. this deponent believes that said Cobb was in service passing and repassing his fathers house six months at least and has no doubt but he served much longer as he was out continually. but believes so far as his knowledge goes it was princip in the drafted or volunteer troops. This deponent cannot state only what he saw with his own eyes and heard confirmed by others. this deponent has no doubt but he served at least six months and he would not be wrong he thinks if he was to say twelve months at different tours Sworn to and subscribed before me this 29th day of april 1839 [signed] John Scott

State of Tennessee }

Macon County } On this 23^d day of July 1851 personally appeared before me John C Marshall one of the acting Justices of the peace in and for the county of Macon aforesaid and a Justice of the county court being a court of record Mary Kison a resident of the county and state aforesaid aged fifty three years who being first duly sworn according to law makes the following Declaration in order to obtain the benefits of the provision of the act of Congress passed the 7th day of July 1838 and the different acts refered to in the original papers of Catherine Cobb now on file in the Pension office at Washington

That she is the daughter and heir at law of Catherine Cobb deceased who made application in her lifetime for a Pension under act of July 7th 1838 passed by Congress. That the said Catherine Cobb was in her lifetime entitled to a Pension in right of the service of her husband David Cobb father of this Declarant and filed proof sufficient documentary and by living witnesses who had a personal knowledge of the facts of his service. Declarant states that her own recolection of the services of her father is from the often and repeated narratives and descriptions given by her father in his lifetime of his services as a soldier in the war of the revolution and of the battles he was engaged in and the tours of service he performed. She heard these things so often repeated by her father while living that they became familiar to her all of which she fully believes to be true Her father was in the habit of telling over these hardships to his family and more especially to his old companions in arms soldiers of the revolution that often he met with in her presence and she has no doubt whatever was true. She will here state in addition to what her mother has stated and which is now on file in the Pension office and which she here specially refers to and prays may taken as part of this declaration. That she has often heard her father state his tours of service wherein he served at the battle of Batys ford in North Carolina where General Davidson was killed [sic: Gen. William Lee Davidson, killed at the Battle of Cowan's Ford, 1 Feb 1781] the tour of service in South Carolina at the battle Utau Springs [sic: Eutaw Springs, 8 Sep 1781] his tour of service at the battle of Guilford and other places in the war of the Revolution His battles with the tories all of which she is informed and believes are stated in the original papers on file as before stated. And she further declares that she believes from her own recolection his tours of service in three month tours or six months continuously was at least twelve months in all and for this she claims the benefits of the Pension for such service that should have been allowed her mother in her lifetime. She further declares

that her said mother Catherine Cobb died on the 17th day of May 1843 That her said mother remained a widow from the death of her husband until the her own death as above stated and that she had not [illegible word] married but remained a widow. That she knows of none of her brothers or sisters now living but herself all of which will more fully appear by reference to the original paper and the proof hereto annexed. Sworn to and subscribed before me this day and year first above written
[signed] Mary Kison

NOTE: The file includes a copy of a bond signed 5 Oct 1785 by David Cobb and Barney West for the marriage of Cobb to Kitty Bird.