

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Fields R3529

f134NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 12/23/08 and 2/12/13

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading fails to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call errors or omissions to my attention.]

[I found the handwriting of the writer of this claim difficult to decipher—please use this transcription with care.]

State of Kentucky, Perry County

On this 8th of February 1832 personally appeared before said Probate Judge of Perry County and State of Kentucky John Fields a resident of said county and state aforesaid age eighty seven years old who has been duly sworn according to the law, doth on his oath make the following declaration to obtain benefits of an act of congress passed on the 7th June 1832.

That he was mustered and entered the service of the United States in February seventeen hundred and eighty one and served until he thinks the 10th October 1784, seventeen hundred eighty four, and that he served all the time under the following officers: Thomas Vincens [? Thomas Vincent?] was the captain of his company, Samuel Brashers was the Lieutenant of his company and Andrew Hanna was Ensign of his company. Col. Sevier [John Sevier] had the entire command of all the soldiers and men in that country and at that time. My captain Thomas Vincens discharged me at [?] [looks like "BellKenan"]¹ North Carolina. That he at the time of entering the service was a resident of Squabble State,² State of North Carolina. Squabble State was that part of the territory that laid between what was called Walker's Line and Henderson's Line and if there was any county covering it at that time, he does not recollect it. That the company he belonged to was made up and left the neighborhood some months before he joined it.

That their operation was mostly confined to the valley of the Holston River as that was then the western frontier. Added also that forces under the command of Col. Sevier was dispatched to the settlements for the protection of the immigrants, that they moved from one place to another and in building block houses and forts. That they built Selby's Fort and Bledsoe's Fort. That the enemy consisted of Indians, Tories and fragments of Ferguson's army[?]. That there was a celebrated general as he called himself that the settlers dreaded more than any other. He was a half blood white and Indian and was called by the name of General Bengé and that this is the same person who took Elizabeth Livingston, wife of Peter Livingston and afterwards retaken in little Stony Gap. After the skirmish with Bengé and the British soldiers at Chickamauga there was recruits sent out for more men attached to Col

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² http://www.historicsullivan.com/archives_manuscripts_0062_box002_item002.htm

Sevier as we learned there was a great many of his men killed. That he volunteered to serve throughout the war and entered the service as before stated. That he learned from Brashers that his captain Thomas Sawyers had been killed early on in the fighting and that he, Brashers, acted as Captain until it was over.

That he was in the Lookout Mountain battle upon the bluffs of the Tennessee River and upon that day Col. Sevier had the command, Col. Martin also, Samuel Brashers, Lieutenant Vincens, Elliott and Butler [?]. Captain Butler was killed and so was Elliott, that this battle was fought in the fall [?] of 1783. Col. Sevier was in the action and was entirely victorious and this was the last battle of any note that was fought for some years. That he was not all the time engaged in the regular military forts and defense line but was in detached portions defending the different neighborhoods and families and the base of operation included from Selby's fort to the Tennessee river, from 150 miles to 2 hundred miles backward and forward just as the emergency demanded. That his captain discharged him at Bell Kenon in the State of North Carolina but that if he ever gave him a written discharge he don't now recollect, but he is of the impression that he never got any as they had little to do with books papers or writing and there was but little mustering done and but little military display. That he entered the service in his 16th or 17th year and was born in the year 1765 and as to the record of his age, he has none now nor to his recollection never had.

He hereby relinquishes any claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and he declares that he is not on the pension Rolls of any agency in any state except the state of North Carolina that is for military service in the Old War or the Revolution.

[John Fields, X his mark]

[attested by R. S. Brashers, Probate Judge]

Another Version

Pension Application of John Fields, Natl Archives Microseries M804, Roll # 791, Application #R3529

Annotated and transcribed by Nancy Poquette

State of Kentucky, Perry County, 8th of February 1852, John Fields, age 87 years old: That he mustered and entered the service of the United States in February 1781 and served until the 10th October 1784, and that he served all the time under the following officers. Thomas Vincens was the captain of his company, Samuel Brashear's was the Lieutenant of his company and Andrew Hamma was {?} of his company. Col. Sevier had the entire command of all the soldiers and men in that country and at that time. My captain Thomas Vincens discharged me at Bell _____n North Carolina.

That he at the time of entering the service was a resident of Squabble State, State of North Carolina. Squabble State was that part of the territory that laid between what was called Walkers Line and Henderson's Line and if there was any country covering it at that time, he does not recollect it.

That the company he belonged to was made up and left the neighborhood some months before he joined it. That their operation was mostly confined to the valley of the Holston River as that was then the western frontier. Added also that forces under the command of Col. Sevier was dispatched to the settlements for the protection of the immigrants, that they moved from one place to another and in building block houses and

forts. That they built(?) Shelby's Fort and Bledsoe's (?) Fort. That the enemy consisted of Indians, Tories and fragments of Ferguson's army. That there was a certain general as he called himself that the settlers despised more than any other. He was a half-blood white and Indian and was called by the name of General Binge and that this is the same person who took Elizabeth Livingston, wife of Peter Livingston and after {?} taken to little Stony Gap.

After the skirmish with Binge and the Butcher soldiers at Chickamauga there was recruits sent out for more men attached to Col. Sevier as we learned there was a great many of his men killed. That he volunteered to serve throughout the war and entered the service as before stated. That he learned from Brashear that his captain Thomas Sawyers had been killed early on in the fighting and that he, Brashear, acted as Captain until it was over That he was in the Lookout Mountain Battle upon the bluffs of the Tennessee River and after that day Col. Sevier had the command, Col. Martin(?) also Samuel Brashear, S_____ N_____ Elliott and Butler (?). Captain Butler (?) was killed and so was Elliott. That this battle was fought in the Fall (?) of 1783. Col. Sevier was in the action and was entirely victorious and this was the last battle of any note that was fought for some years.

That he was not all the time engaged in the regular military forts and defense line but was in detached portions defending the different neighborhoods and families and the base of operation included from Shelby's fort to the Tennessee river, from 150 miles to 2 hundred miles backward and forward as the {?} demanded. That his captain discharged him at Bell_____n in the state of North Carolina but that if he did give him a written discharge he don't now recollect. That he is of the impression that he never got any as they had little to do with books, papers or writing and there was but little mustering done and but little military display. That he entered the service in his 16th or 17th year and was born in the year 1765 and as to the record of his age, he has none now nor to his recollection never had any ?}{?}{?}{?}{?}

State Of Kentucky, Perry County: Polly Fields states upon her oath that she has been the wife of John Fields for a great many years, that she lived with him sometime before the year 1800 until about fifteen years ago. She states from the time she married him that he often told about being in the old war and described very (?) frequently the battles, officers etc. He often spoke of Col. Sevier, Col Cleveland, Campbell Cristia [perhaps a mistaken reference to Col. William Christian] and that he was in the battle of King's Mountain, Lookout Mountain, Chickamauga etc.. She states that Fields had a long scar on his head running back from his forehead lengthwise, perhaps 4 inches long. He claimed to have been wounded in the hip.

That he had been palsied for at least twenty years and that the last 15 years of his life he had but little mind. She states that she has not lived with him for the past 15 or 20 years but she has lived about with her children. That she has not kept no record of her children's age. That she had by said. Fields nine children and 2 are dead. That Stephen Fields, her son, is the oldest. That she has never paid no great deal of attention to his descriptions and tales about the war but knows very well that he always claimed to have been in the war before the battle of King's Mountain. That several years ago she got a divorce of said Fields owing to his condition and some other causes, therefore she states as she is informed she could have

no interest in the claim of him as the court will not permit her to have part as she is not his wife. That he died in 1852. That he always spoke of Stephen Fields being out.

State of Kentucky, Perry County, Stephen Fields states that he is 56 years old and that he has been a resident of Perry County Kentucky for 46 years. That his father John Fields filed papers for a pension in Feb. 1852 and died the 23rd of July 1852, That he was present when Judge Brashear and the agent Wm. Fulkerson came to his father's house to prepare his father's papers. He states that his father was so low and palsied that it was impossible for him to talk plain and the Agent spoke at the time that it was impossible to understand what he said.

That he asked when the Declaration of Independence was published and when he was told, then spoke and said that it was about seven years after that the he entered the service. That he was wounded in the shoulder and was also shot through the hip by a bullet which made him a cripple all his life. That he always claimed to have served six years and served until peace was made. That he claimed to have been at the Moravian town when Cornwallis landed. That he claimed to have been at the battle of King's Mountain and often described how during the battle Ferguson was killed. That Ferguson was killed by Col. Joseph Lewis, and he took Ferguson's clothes and sword. That a woman Ferguson was keeping told the American officers that Ferguson had his sword in his left hand and had been wounded in his right arm before that time.

That he always spoke of Col Cleveland and that he was present when Col. Cleveland had Daniel Wells hung as a Tory. That Captain Martin, Captain Cloud (?), Captain Knighting was gone from the neighborhood, the Tories came in, robbed (?) and killed a boy came and let the Whig Captains know and they then returned and caught Wells and hung him by order of Col. Cleveland.. That my father always claimed to have been used by the Col. of his regiment to bear dispatched from one place to another as he had been raised in the Indian country and was used to an Indian life.

That Solomon Blair some years ago living in Alabama, who was a soldier with my father, hearing that my father was intending to apply for a pension, made out a statement and swore to the same, which statement has been lost. That there has been many persons to see his father in order to attend to his business. He states that when he went to the Moravian town or some town called Hossertown (?) the Tories took his horse, a grey horse, and kept him a short time and returned him.

That his father always told him when he was to bear a dispatch it was placed in his sock next to his foot and often searched(?) by the Tories but never found anything out. That he always told him his brother Stephen Fields was a soldier with him but not all the time in the same regiment. That his father had a very long scar on his head and he always said it was done by a sword.

That for fifteen years he had been badly palsied and the last 2 or 3 years of his life so much so that he could not eat himself and was perfectly helpless as much as a child. And Judge Brashear when he signed his statement held his body and the agent his hand. That he

has no hesitancy in saying that his father was not less than 90 years old when he filed his statement and at the time of his statement of Feb. 1852 he was wholly unable to tell anything correct. That he always claimed of entering into the service at fourteen years old and serving during the war which he said was six years. That he never had no record of his age nor his children. That he had nine children and seven living. That if all his father knew about the old war was published it would make a large volume. He always connected his brother Stephen with most all his facts.
(25th Jan 1853)

Stephen Fields appeared before me Probate Judge of Perry County and swore to and made his mark to the above statement and also certify that he is a man that can be relied upon oath and also has no doubts as to John Fields' claim and that he served in the old war. That I was present when the Agent took his statement . He was too low to make a proper or correct statement. His voice was too weak and his speech had almost left him. I held his body while the Agent held his hand and would further state that he had been palsied for at least fifteen years and was a cripple, counting from my own recollection his children and other circumstances I could not place him less than 90 years old when he died. Given under my hand this 25th day of Jan 1853

R.S. Brashear, Probate Judge

Second Statement of Stephen Fields:

State of Kentucky Perry County, This 10th day of October 1854, Stephen Fields: that he is a resident of said county and the son of John Fields late of this county who died the 23rd of July 1852 and was an Applicant for a pension under the act of July 7th 1832. That he was present when the first agent took his statement in February 1852. That his father nor him ever saw the Agent before and that he and Judge Brashears was not there more than one hour and that he said the statement would be a great accident if it proved to be correct, as he was wholly incompetent to give anything correctly as he could not hold himself still at no time or in no position whatever [*Parkinson's disease?*] His speech had been injured for years. That his father was scarified on his head, hip and hand. That one of his fingers was useless and for many years was disabled in his hip.

He is very certain that about twenty years ago his father had papers prepared for a pension and he thinks it was done by Alexander Pontic Sen. But in this he is not certain. Pontic is now in Illinois and has been for twelve or fifteen years. He recollects perfectly well that a man by the name of Blair(?) gave his affidavit in behalf of his father about the time of his first application. That he has never been in the condition to attend to his business for at least 20 years before his death.

That his father was a dissipated man and drank to excess whenever he could get it, this habit he said he acquired while in the army. He was also a lover of the roads. That he was no scholar. He thinks one time he had a Record (?) written down of his fathers family but now it is lost. He thinks his father was born on the 28th day of December in the year 1763 and he himself was born on the 20th day of October in the year 1797.

That the agent told him and his father while they was at his house when his fathers statement was taken and in the presence of Judge Brashear that he must not put in his declaration "No opinions and no 'thinks so's'" but must fix a time when he entered and when he was discharged as the Law requires it. that he was present when his father appeared in the Perry County court and was examined by said court and was sworn to a declaration which was handed over to the clerk of this court. That this was in the spring of 1834 or 5.

That he has reason to believe that the said declaration is in the clerk's office and that said, that he makes this Affidavit in order that the office in the town of Hazard may be examined to see whether his father's old papers can be found or not, as he has been informed that his father's claim has been rejected on the account of his last statement not agreeing with the payments made to him that appear on the pay register at Raleigh N.C. that he is interested to the extent of ?}{?}{?}. That he humbly asks the commissioner of Pensions to receive and file this affidavit and if the old papers can be found of his fathers to receive and file them as well.

Statement Of Margaret Brashers:

Margaret Brashers states upon oath that she is a pensioner of the United States at the rate of \$ [this was left blank] dollars per annum and is a resident of Perry County and has been for many years. That she is the wife of Samuel Brashears a private in the Revolutionary War at one time and she understood at another time was a Lieutenant. That she was born on the 18th of August 1762. That she has known John Fields, deceased, for a long time and that she has heard him very often speak of John Fields being a soldier in the old war and was out with him before. That she lived in Squabble State, N.C. during the war, that part of the territory embraced between the Henderson and Walker's line and that most of the people in that part of the country had to fort except those that was in the service. That all the boys that could hold up a gun was compelled to go in the service. That most all fortified in Selby's fort on the Holstin River. That John Fields was generally considered to be the most talked-of in those days in defending the frontier settlements from Indian degradations (?), that he was considered the fastest man in the whole country so much so that the Indians could not catch him at all. That he was a spare-made man, trim and active. That the first time she saw him was during the year that the Battle of King's Mountain was fought. That Fields came into the fort with some other men.

That she recollected him always afterwards. She often heard her husband and Fields talk about the old war before she came to Kentucky 40 years ago. That she knew Fields from the time he came to Selby's fort until he died in Perry County KY. She is certain it was in the year 1780. That he was a cripple for years and badly palsied. That she has no doubt that Fields was about her age if not older. That he was a man of weak mind and prided in his activity and fun in his younger days.

Estill County, State of Kentucky (this 10th of December 1853)

John McQueen states upon his oath that he is not less than ninety years of age but don't know the precise time he was born, but was born on Little River in the state of Virginia and removed to North Carolina by his father at a time when he was quite young. That he has known John Fields of Perry County KY since they was boys together. That his father lived

on the north fork of the Holstin River close to the Fields and so lived until the close of the revolution.

This John Fields applied for a pension several years ago as he understood and sent word for his statement on his behalf but he never got it. That John Fields was about the age of the affiant but he, Fields, entered the service before he did. That Fields at one time belonged to the company of Captain Sawyers and at another time to the company of Captain Vincens (?) and under Col. Sevier. That he belonged to the company of Captain North (George he thinks) and was under Col. Campbell or Camel and John _____land his captain. That he was in the Battle of King's Mountain and so was John Fields. That Col. Ferguson was pointed out by someone who said he used his sword in his left hand and caused to be shot by order of Col. Campbell. That Campbell after the battle had all the Tories hung and killed and intended to kill all until prevented by the other officers.

That John Fields who applied for a pension in the County of Perry and who died as he understands in the year 1852 went out 3 or 4 times in the service of the United States before the Battle of King's Mountain. That the reason he well knows the service is that most all the soldiers was mustered into the service at forte Shelby or Selby which was called before that time Old Block House afterwards rebuilt and called Fort Selby after General Shelby or Selby. That this part of North Carolina was called Squabble State. That just before the Battle of King's Mountain there was fortified in the old Block House the following families Hackers, Fields, Easker (?) ! Combs and Brashears, the father of Samuel Brashears. Samuel was out also.

Question. State how long John Fields was out. I can't say the precise time but I can safely state that he was out in all not less than two years but his best impression is that he was out longer. That he at one time belonged to the same regiment that Fields did, that of Col. Sevier. He was acquainted with Col. Campbell, Col Cleveland, Sevier, Shelby. That Fields was wounded on the head by a cutlass, a short sword, during the battle of King's Mountain.

State of Kentucky Perry County

Nicholas Combs Senior states upon his oath that he is a resident of said county and that he is upwards of ninety years of age. He states that several years ago he had papers filed under the act of Congress [in margin: Act 1828] passed June 7th 1832. That his papers were prepared by Elisha Smith and the he had his discharge and gave his discharge to James Love (?) to take to Washington City as he was then Congressman. He states that he always had his discharge up until he gave it to Love and that the discharge read that he was discharged during the war and signed by Capt. William Lewis and Col. Martin Armstrong.

He states that he has known John Fields (who was a resident of this county) for many years and states the he has known him since they were young men when the Revolution was in progress he states that they were residents of North Carolina and he was in Dunsmoore County Virginia when Cornwallis was taken at Little York. That John Fields of this county has a short time ago applied for a pension and that he died, perhaps July 1852.

That the same John Fields was to his own knowledge a soldier in the Revolutionary War and so was Stephen Fields his brother. That John had gained a considerable reputation in the war before the capture of Ferguson at King's Mountain.

That said Fields was at the hanging of the Tories on the Yadkin river when Wells, Thomas Roberts and St____ine were hung. And this was before the Battle of King's Mountain were fought. Fields was a man who had a character for being an Indian and Tory fighter. I understood from my associate soldiers that Col Lewis or Capt Lewis selected 5 or 6 of his best riflemen and pointed to Ferguson and told them he had to fall. They all shot and several balls hit him. Ferguson at that time used his sword in his left hand as he had been wounded previously in his right arm. He was close to the neighborhood when the battle took place. Fields claimed to have been in that battle and was wounded in the hip on that day.

He was a cripple for several years of his life and originated in the hip. He was also badly palsied and remained so for a long time. That his wife left him perhaps fifteen years ago owing to his condition. That he has heard Fields very often give a history of his service in the old war and many long descriptions of his hardships, battles, officers, starvations, Indians, Tories, etc. but I have forgotten a great deal of my past history and past events. That he would get drunk, cry and talk. He stated he did not belong to the same company with Fields but at different times saw Fields in the service as they were defending the frontier from the Indians and Tories. That he has known Fields from that time until he died. That Fields some years ago as he learned applied for a pension and about that same time that deferment(?) died. That Fields often spoke of Col. Cleveland as Cleveland had the Tories hung on the Yadkin river. Spoke of General Campbell having the Tories hung at King's Mountain after the battle was over. Spoke of Col. Sevier. Claimed Capt. Sawyer at one time being his captain and Capt. Thos Vencens at another * That Fields at his death was about the age of the deponent but had little mind of his later years and had entirely lost the use of himself.

*[written in margin along the right side and top of page, presumably to be inserted at the *] and Captain Shane(?) and Capt. Stark at another. He thinks that Capt Shane was from Surry Co. The old Block house known as Selby's fort was in Wilkes County Squabble State embraces Wilkes and Surry and laid towards Salisbury(?) when at Jonesburg.

Don't know how long he was in the service nor don't know when he was discharged nor when he entered the service. He states he saw him in the service before the Battle of King's Mountain on several occasions. That he had gained considerable character about the time he saw him. He thinks the battle of King's Mountain was fought in the year 1780.