

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of James Ireland R5491

fn33NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

The State of Indiana, St. Joseph County: St. Joseph Probate Court May Term 1848

On this 15th day of May A.D. 1848 Before the Probate Court of said County now sitting, in and for said County, Personally appeared John Ireland a resident of the vicinity Mishawanka, in the County and State aforesaid aged 67 years who being first duly sworn in open Court doth on oath make the following Declaration in order to obtain a pension that was due his mother the late Nancy Ireland, deceased, under the act of Congress, passed on the fourth day of July, 1836, granting pensions to widows of Revolutionary Soldiers, that she was the widow of his father of the late James Ireland, deceased, who was a Revolutionary Soldier and served from Roan [sic, Rowan] County North Carolina. That his said parents were married in Rowan County North Carolina on the 17th day of October, 1776, as appears by the family record of his parents, which is now in his possession, which is hereto attached, said record was made by my Father the said James Ireland in his own handwriting prior to A.D. 1800 when his said parents resided in near Cane Ridge [could be Cave Ridge] in the County of Bourbon and State of Kentucky – and that he remembers of seeing said record as long ago as the year A.D. 1800 and that he has no doubt but that it is contains the true date of the marriage of his said parents he does not know for certain but thinks he has heard his parents say that they were married by Justice of the Peace named Sharp. That his parents resided in said in Rowan County North Carolina until about the year 1787, then moved to Bourbon County, in the State of Kentucky, where they resided until about the year 1805, or 6, then removed to Preble County of Ohio, where they live up to the decease of the said James Ireland, which took place about the year 1826 aged about 74 years when he died and that the said Nancy Ireland remained in Preble County until the year 1831, then removed to St. Joseph County, and State of Indiana, and that she died in Penn Township in the County of St. Joseph aforesaid at the residence of this deponent on the 3rd day of September, 1839, aged about 86 years when she died, that she did not intermarried after the decease of her said husband, but remained a widow of to her decease and that her maiden name was Nancy Fleming, that she left children her surviving to wit: this deponent and William Ireland both of said St. Joseph County Indiana which are now living being her only children that survived her and our now living. That he has heard his father and mother relate the Revolutionary service of his said father which is as follows as near as he can recollect to wit: that his father was a resident of Rowan County North Carolina and went into the service of his Country in the early part of the Revolution being the year 1775 or the forepart of 1776, when he entered the service and before his marriage to Nancy Fleming as aforesaid and served six months under Captain William Knox of said Rowan County, in the capacity of first Sergeant, and that after his said marriage he served of terms in the capacity of Ensign, he does not recollect all the particulars of his father's service nor all of the Officers that he served under, thinks he served one term under Captain James Purviance and that in 1780 & 81 and the Company commanded by Captain Bickerstaff in Colonel Martin's Regiment and that his father was at one time when in service a Tory, after they had taken the Tory prisoner. That after the pension law of March 1818 his father considered that he was entitled to a pension but was not willing to call on government for support but a short time before he died he had concluded to make application for a pension, but died soon after he had concluded to apply for a pension and therefore his application was not made. He refers to the proofs hereunto annexed and prays that the pension due to his said mother at her deceased may be granted to him and his brother William – being the only surviving children of his said father & further declarant saith not.

S/ John Ireland

State of Indiana, St. Joseph County

Before me the undersigned a Justice of the peace in and for said County this day personally

came John Ireland of lawful age who being first duly sworn deposed and saith that he is the reputed son of James Ireland, and that he well remembers hearing his Father say that he entered the American Army in the spring of 1776 first as Sergeant, under Captain William Knox in (I think) the Continental regulars, that he served at that time six months, soon after his return home he was married I have heard him say that after that he served several Tours. One of which he spoke of as the Snow Campaign. Most of the time in South Carolina under Captain James Purviance as Ensign this was in the Summer of 1780. And from circumstances he must have continued through the following winter. As I have heard him tell of being in the Army at the time of the Ramsour's Battle [Ramsour's Mill] in Lincoln County North Carolina which was two weeks before the birth of one of his children And as he wished to see his Wife before the engagement, while the Army was marching to meet the Enemy, passing within a few miles of his house he left & went home not expecting the Battle to commence so soon he did not return to the Army until the battle was principally over, but still in time to discharge his Rifle at the Enemy. And although he had often shot when he had a good chance to kill, this was the only time he was certain of bringing down his man. This time he saw him Fall. This was about the first of June 1780. I well recollect of hearing him say that in the Winter following the British were in possession of a certain town, the name I do not recollect, and as the American Army marched to attack them the British left and as the Small Pox was raging among them, as they retreated they left a corpse of an individual who had died with the Disease exposed probably with the intention of giving the Disease to the Americans. As soon as he could he left the Army & returned home & himself and all his family were inoculated & the child before spoken of was about six months old at this time. I well recollect hearing my mother say that while Father was out in the service (in the Army) that same winter, she had to tie her babe in the Chair, while she went out to milk her cow & feed the Cattle &c that at one time the Chair overset & child came near being burned to Death before she came in. All of the above conversations I well recollect of having from time to time with my Father & Mother.

S/ John Ireland

[David Purviance, David Ireland, John Ireland and David Foster all gave affidavits in support of the claim.]