

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of John Jones R5719

fn96NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

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State of Tennessee, Washington County

On this 18th day of May 1855 before me and acting Justice of the Peace in & for said County, personally came John Jones aged 94 years, a resident of the said County, in my neighborhood, & who being duly sworn according to law, states that he is the identical John Jones who was a private in Captain Jack Martin's Company of North Carolina Militia in an 18 months tour of service in the Revolutionary War; that he was drafted in Surry County N. C. in the fall of 1779, for the tour of 18 months, and served for the entire term of his draft, and was honorably discharged at the Court House in said Surry County on the Big Creek of Dan River in the Spring of the year 1781. During the term of his said service, he was engaged in a skirmish with the Tories in the said Surry County at the House of one "Lander's" & in October of the year 1780, he was at the great battle with the British and Tories under Colonel Ferguson [sic, Major Patrick Ferguson] at the height of "King's Mountain," in South Carolina. In that engagement he served in the division commanded by Colonel Isaac Shelby. He recollects that officer well; as well also Col Campbell [William Campbell], who had the chief command, & Col John Sevier. He has not, in his possession, any discharges, or other papers connected with his said service; but refers to the Comptroller's certificate of the State of North Carolina showing the amount of money paid him in the Surry District on account of which he resided and other proof & papers on file in the pension office in his application for pension under act 7 June 1832. His memory has much failed him, on account of old age and bodily infirmity and he has many afflictions, being now reduced to a state of complete poverty & living on the bounty of his neighbors & County; & many facts connected with his service he is now unable to state. After the battle of King's Mountain he assisted in guarding the prisoners to Camden, where he remained in service some length of time, when he was ordered to Surry County at which place he was honorably discharged, as he has detailed above; for which he was paid in the federal depreciated currency of the day.

He makes this declaration in order to obtain the Land Bounty due him under the 8th & 9th sections of the act of Congress passed 20th March 1855 & that he has never obtained any land bounty under any act of Congress whatever.

S/ John Jones

[supported by affidavit of John Edwards and William T. Erwin as to the reputation of Jones as a soldier of the Revolution.]

State of Tennessee, Washington County

On this 27th day of February 1852, personally appeared before the undersigned, acting Notary Public in an aforesaid County, John Jones, aged 90 years in March next, a resident in the south part of said County in the mountains on the Nolichucky River about 18 miles from Jonesboro, the County seat of said County; and 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 under the following named officers and served as herein stated. He was drafted at the Court House in Surry County North Carolina for the term of 18 months sometime in the Fall of 1779 and became a private soldier under Captain John Martin,

commonly called Jack Martin, and served under said Captain for the full term for which he was drafted, and at the conclusion of his full tour of 18 months service, he was honorably discharged either at the muster ground or at the Court House (he does not recollect which) near the Big Creek of Dan River in said County in the Spring of the year 1781.

He states that during the first year his service was more particularly confined to keeping down the Tories in the western part of the State (North Carolina) in which he was drafted. About three or four months after entering into service, Captain Martin had an engagement with the Tories at one Lander's farm close to the Big Creek of Dan, in which the Tories were dispersed. He states that in consequence of old age and consequent loss of memory, he cannot recollect the officers of the Tory party, although he once knew their names. The Tories thickly infested that region of County, and he was continually engaged in scouting parties to protect the Whigs, and those who adhered to the American cause.

Towards the Fall he found himself with Captain Martin in Western North Carolina and he joined Col Shelby who had a detachment & who with Cols Campbell, Sevier and others were making efforts to bring on an engagement with the British & Tories. The British were finally brought to a stand and had encamped on the top of King's Mountain in South Carolina, in York County of that State. He was engaged in said battle, which, to the best of his recollection was fought in the early part of October 1780. He recollects Cols Campbell, Sevier and Shelby, the latter of whom he was under in the engagement. He recollects General or Colonel Ferguson the commander of the British, who was shot, and buried by the Americans after the battle near the spot. The Americans stayed all night on the field of battle, the prisoners being put in a pen and guarded.

After the battle, we took the prisoners consisting of British & Tories to Camden and after remaining there some time and continuing in active service, the company was ordered back, and it came back Surry and was discharged. The British & Tories by this time had been to a great extent quailed and quieted.

He states that in consequence of old age & loss of memory, he cannot recollect the officers whom he knew you in the service. He knows that he did know them, but their names are beyond recall nor does he know what amount he received as his monthly pay. He recollects distinctly that the soldiers who enlisted were promised £5 bounty, but being in the militia, he was offered no bounty. He received clothing, and some pay in the Continental money, but he cannot recollect the amount.

He states further that he has no documentary evidence of his said service, nor does he know of any person who can testify to his service now living. He carefully kept his discharge in a small trunk, but more than 25 years ago, his sister's house, where he kept his trunk, was burned up and his discharge also.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to any pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any of the States or Territories.

In answer to the interrogatories commencing on page 96 of the Pension Laws, said Jones further states:

1. He states that he was born in Henry (old) County on a small Creek called Leatherwood, in the year 1761 and in the month of March of said year.

2. He has no record of his age. It got burned in the fire mentioned above which destroyed his discharge, besides his entire family record. He was in his 18th year when drafted, and recollects that his record stated his being born in March.
3. On the "Big Creek" of Dan, in Surry; after his discharge, he lived a short time in Surry – he then removed to Henry (old) County, Virginia and often saw Patrick Henry – from there he removed to Surry N. C., thence to Lincoln N. C., thence to Spartanburg S. C. where he was when the War of "12" broke out, during which he served a 3 months term under Captain John Means; he next came to Carter County Tennessee and shortly after the last said war, he went to Burke County N. C., after which he came to his present residence near the "7 Islands" on the Nolichucky River Washington County, Tennessee, at the foot of the "[illegible word, looks like "Unaka" or "Unaked"] Mountain" (which divides Tennessee from N. C.) within 2 miles of the N. C. Line, where he has resided upwards of 25 years last past.
4. He was drafted as aforesaid.
5. He has stated as much in relation to the 5 query as he can recollect in his foregoing declaration. He knows of others, but his memory has failed him. He remembers one John Fields, the fifer of Captain Martin's company, Isaiah (called "Yar") Fields, a private; Amos Roebuck, a private; Bill Nunn, Arch Gibson, & Captain M. had 60 odd men in his Company.
6. He received a written discharge, signed by Captain Martin & it was destroyed as aforesaid.

He further states that at the engagement with the Tories at "Lander's" he received an injury to his skull, by the stroke of [a] musket, which caused a small piece of the bone to come out – the mark of which continues to the present.

He states that the reason why he has not sooner made application for a pension is because he lost his discharge – and in addition, he did not like to ask for the relief of the government. He has always, generally, been very strong and healthy, and he determined to get along as long as he could. He is old now and extremely poor, with none to help him, and he now makes application for the benefit of the forgoing act.

Through bodily infirmity, he is unable to reach Jonesboro, & make application before the Court; and makes his claim therefore by the aid of a Notary Public, who, at his request, has made out his application near his own house.

S/ John Jones

[Nimrod Tapp and William Love gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

State of Tennessee, Washington County

Be it remembered that before me C. Longmire one of the Justices of the Peace in & for said County, and a member of the Worshipful County Court of said County, personally appeared John Jones, a resident of said County aged 98 years, who being sworn by me according to law to speak the truth doth state as follows: -- That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated -- He was drafted in Surry County North Carolina for 18 months in the fall of 1779 -- and became a private soldier under Capt. John Martin, commonly called Jack Martin, and served under said Capt. the full term for which he was drafted, and at the conclusion thereof he was honorably discharged either at the usual muster ground of said Company,

or at the Court House near the Big Creek of Davidson in said County -- he does not now recollect at which place.

That the first year of his 18 months service was more particularly confined to keeping down the Tories in the Western part of it about three or four months after he entered service Capt. Martin had an engagement with the Tories at one Lander's [could be Sander's] from close to the Big Creek of Dan -- in which the Tories were defeated. In this conflict he received a wound in his skull bone which he carries with him to this day. This was done by the stroke of a musket in the hands of one of the Tories. The Tories were quite numerous in that part of the State and under his Capt., he was continually engaged in scouring from one post to another to protect the Whigs [indecipherable word] who adhered to the American Cause. In the fall of 1780 Capt. Martin joined Col. Shelby. He was still with him, and that Col. with Colonels Campbell, Sevier & other minor officers brought the British to a stand on King's Mountain York County S. C. He was engaged in the battle. It took place according to his best recollection early in October 1780. He distinctly recollects the officers mentioned -- and served under Shelby in the battle. He recollects the British General or Col. Ferguson who was shot by the American Sharpshooters, and buried by the Americans after the battle near the spot. The Americans remained on the field of battle all night. The prisoners were put in a pen & guarded. When the battle was over we took the prisoners consisting of British and Tories to Camden, where after remaining in actual service until near the time of Capt. Martin's discharge, when the Company was ordered back to Surry & discharged. By this time the British and Tories were in a great measure overcome.

He states that in consequence of his extreme old age, and loss of memory he does not recollect any other officers of the service than those mentioned. He knows that he was once familiar with their names, but they are now beyond his recall. He cannot recollect the amount of his monthly pay. He recollects distinctly that the soldiers who enlisted were furnished £5 bounty, but as he was in the Militia he received no bounty. He received nothing but some pay in Continental money but he cannot recollect the amount. He has no documentary evidence of his service, nor does he now know of any person who can testify to his service now living. He kept with neat care his discharge in a small trunk, but upwards of 25 years ago his sister's house where he left his trunk was burned up and his discharge with it. He hereby relinquishes every claim or annuity whatever, except the present, and that his name is not on the pension list of any of the states or territories. He makes this application under the act 7 June 1832; and the reason why he has not bothered to apply is he did not like to ask for the relief of the government. He has lived an unusually stout & healthy life, and he determined to get along as best he could unaided. He is now extremely old, & poor, and his children have all left him; and his aged wife & himself live together in great poverty assisted pretty much by their neighbors to live. Through bodily infirmity he is unable to reach Jonesboro a distance of 18 miles over a rough mountain road, to make his application in open Court. He therefore makes it out before a Justice of the Peace residing nearest him.

He states further that he was born in old Henry County Virginia on Leatherwood Creek in 1761, in March. He has no record of his age, but he had one which got burnt in the fire mentioned above. He distinctly recollects he was 18 years of age when he entered the service, and recollects that his record stated he was born in March. Was drafted on the Big Creek of Dan [River] in Surry; after his discharge he lived a short time

in Surry; he then removed to Henry County Virginia and there often saw Patrick Henry; next he moved to Surry County N. C. -- thence to Lincoln N. C., thence to Spartanburg District S. C. where he was when "the war of 12" broke out then removed to Carter County Tennessee, and shortly after the last said war, he went to Burke N. C. after which he came to his present residence near the "7 Island" of Chucky river, Washington County Tennessee and has resided there at the foot of the Unaka Mtn. which divides Tennessee from N.C. ever since upwards of 25 years last past. He was drafted as above stated -- his memory being deficient he cannot state any further officers whom he knew while in service. He remembers one Jno Fields the fifer of Capt. Martin's company --Isaiah -- called Zar--Fields--a private--Amos Roxruck, a private, Billy Nunn, Arch. Gibson &c., Capt. Martin had 60 odd men in his Company.

He received a written discharge signed by his Capt. destroyed as aforesaid.

S/ John Jones

[attested September 30, 1852 by C. Longmire.]

[The Footnote.com digital version of this file erroneously includes the file of John Jones S2293 of Penn. See Footnote.com beginning at pp. 66 of the file for John Jones R5719. John Jones S2293 does not claim any service in the Southern Campaign, consequently, his application is not transcribed herein.]