

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of John Boisseau: S3040

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Kentucky} January County Court 1834
Simpson County Sct}

On this 20th day of January 1834 personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of the County Court of Simpson County, State of Kentucky now sitting, John Boisseau, a resident of the aforesaid County & State aged sixty Nine years of age, on the 14th day of last March who being 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 on the 7th of June 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated.

That in the year of 1780, he was a resident of the County of Dinwiddie State of Virginia, in which County & State he was born and raised, that in the said County & State on the first of June 1789 according to the best of his recollection, he enlisted as a substitute in the place of Peter Epps, under Captain George Pigram [or Pegram], who was Captain of the militia Company of the aforesaid County of Dinwiddie Va. and that after he had enlisted, as aforesaid under Captain Pigram, he the said Pigram, marched his Troops from Dinwiddie Court House Va. on the said first of June 1780 to Hillsborough in North Carolina, and at that place Captain Pigram joined the Regiment Commanded by Col. [Ralph] Faulkner, and the Brigade was Commanded by General [Edward] Stevens.

And from Hillsborough N. Carolina the Troops were marched under the command of the said General Stevens to South Carolina and in which State General Stevens overtook and joined General [Horatio] Gates at Rudgeley's [sic: Rugeley's] Mill in the fore part of the day, and in the evening of the same day, this Declarant was attached to the Infantry which was commanded by Lieutenant Col [Charles] Porterfield, the Infantry were then that night [15 Aug 1780], about 10 O'clock ordered to march toward Camden where Lords Cornwallis and [Francis] Rawdon were posted with their well disciplined veteran Troops, and the Infantry in marching that night met the Brittish Troops about five miles from Camden or about half way between Rudgeley's Mill and Camden, and a considerable contest insued between the advanced Corps of the two contending armies, and some of the Armies and Troops were thrown into a complete confusion and consequently were driven back, which produced considerable disorder as it was dark and neither party could not tell exactly where to take a proper stand nor see objects around them sufficiently to carry on the battle in a war like manner, to advantage. L. C. Porterfield's flanking corps and [Maj. John] Armstrong who commanded with him if this Declarants memory serves him correctly as to him, invincibly confronted and opposed the progress of the enemy's van and within a short time some prisoners were taken on both sides, and presently both armies came to a general halt as it was extremely dangerous to carry on the battle in the dark shades of the night. After the halt was made the american Troops was engaged in making all the preparation they could for the appearance of the dawn of day light which was thought not to be far distant. So soon as day dawned in the morning the Battle commenced heavily on both sides, and our cannon opened upon the British with a destructive fire from our centre, and General Stevens Virginia militia as might have been expected from bad management and misguided judgement among the commanding officers in some way, after one fire, were greatly disordered and some of them, if not the greater part, threw down their arms and took to their heels through the dismal swamps in that Country, like wild fellows. This engagement between the American General Gates, and the Brittish Lords and Generals Cornwallis & Rawdon lasted about one hours. The heroick Baron De Kalb at the head of the Marylanders fell with wounds and was numbered among the slain. L. C. Porterfield was also badly [mortally] wounded in the Leg during the brave stand he took and maintained in the Battle. This battle was fought about the middle of August 1780, & finally terminated in an entire route of the American General & his Troops & they were pursued by their enemy, from the battle ground say fifteen or twenty miles. Consequently the American Troops were driven and retreated back from the ground of battle until after they had crossed the Adkins [sic: Yadkin] River which is the main Prong of Pedee [sic: Pee Dee] River in N.

Carolina, not far distant from the South Carolina line. After the militia had crossed Pedee River, they were marched on to Hillsborough again in N. Carolina, Major [Henry] Conway was along with the Troops in the just described march. From Hillsborough the militia were marched under Col Faulkner to the new Gardens a quaker settlement in Guilford County N. Carolina & at this place on the last of November 1780 this Declarant with the other militia were discharged by the Captain. In this campaign this Declarant served six months

The next campaign this Declarant served in, was when General [Benedict] Arnold had the British Troops under his command and invested Norfolk, Richmond and Williamsburg Va. In this campaign, this Declarant enlisted as a substitute in the place of his uncle Benjamin Boisseau & under the command of Captn. Baker Pigram, & Jack Willis command the whole Regiment that this Declarant was attached to and Robert Lawson was Brigadier General of the whole Brigade and Declarant and the other militia were discharged by Captn Pigram near Suffolk Va. on the 1st of April 1781 and this Declarant enlisted in this campaign on the 1st of January 1781 making this campaign three months and one day this Declarant served.

The last & third campaign this Declarant served in was as a Sergeant in the place of his brother Daniel Boisseau now Deed. That he enlisted on the last of April 1781. under the said Baker Pigram and that this Declarant was at the Battle which was fought at Petersburg Va [25 April 1781] between the American Generals Lawson & Stevens and General Philip [sic: William Phillips] on the part of Britain. This Declarant & the other militia were then marched from Petersburg by Chesterfield Courthouse Va. and from thence they crossed James River at the place, then and perhaps now called Manakin Town [in Goochland County], and from thence on the North side of James River to Richmond Va. here the Troops were ordered to halt and lay a day or so, and were then marched down to Bottom's Bridge [on Chickahominy River 10 mi. east of Richmond] & here they lay some time & then returned to Richmond again & then they recrossed over the River into Chesterfield County Va to a place then called Carys Mill and at this place this Declarant was discharged by Captn. B. Pigram on the last of July 1781 by parole order. In this campaign this Declarant served three months.

In all three of the aforesaid campaigns, in which this Declarant served in the Revolutionary War, he was dismissed or discharged in each by parole order and that there were no written ones given him in neither of them.

1st and 2nd [interrogatories prescribed by the War Department] This Declarant was born on the 14th day of March 1764 in Dinwiddie County Va. and that he lived in Lunenburg Va Ten years of his life, and then went back to Dinwiddie County Va again and that he removed with his family from that County & State in the year of 1806. to the State of Kentucky & in which State he has resided ever since. That he has been a resident of the County of Simpson ever since 1819 in the winter of which year the Legislature of Kentucky formed Simpson County or a greater part of it out of the County of Logan, and that he was a resident of Logan County before Simpson was cut out of it as afd. That he has no record of his age at this time, the Book that his name and age are recorded in by his father James Boisseau was sold at this Declarants father's sale and was bought by one James Sweet of Dinwiddie Cty Va. at the said sale.

3rd He was a resident of Dinwiddie Cty. Va. the remainder of this interrogatory is already answered under 1st and 2nd Interrogatories.

4th Is also fully answered in the body of this Declaration

To the 5th and 6th The 5th he has also fully answered in the body of this Declaration He never received any written discharges all were by parole and by the Captains whose names are fully stated in this Declaration nor neither did he ever receive a commission from any officer in the army during his term of service therein

To the 7th He states that Sanford Duncan, Seth Colly, John Alderson, James Williams, and Elijah Solomon, reside near neighbours to him and to whom he is personally known, who can testify to his general Character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolutionary War.

He would here state that all the statements made in the foregoing Declaration are made from best recollection, that altho he is old and infirm and fifty two years have slid away since he performed his Revolutionary services, and those number of years have created may devastations upon him, yet his memory is tolerably distinct as to the facts here stated, for he was only a boy

in his 16th and 17th years when he enlisted as is herein stated, and of course the facts and circumstances of his campaigns made deep impressions upon his mind, and in addition to this, he has always enjoyed good health all his days a contented mind and a peaceful conscience. And as to the time here stated he is pretty certain that it is less than he served, but for greater certainty and for the fear of doing wrong, he has put it down less than he served. He would further state to a great certainty that he never has as yet received one cent from either those persons except Peter Epps in whose places he enlisted as a substitute, nor does he ever expect to do so now, as they have been long laid in the cold and silent graves. Nor has he any documentary evidence of his Revolutionary service whatever, and that he knows of no person by whom he can prove his Revolutionary Services: For was he during any of the time he was engaged in the campaigns herein set out employed in in any civic pursuit This Declarant was advised when his Declaration was sent back to him with objections, for the War Department, that it would be the most prudent to write an entire new declaration as it would be impossible to amend the old one by interlineations to any certainty in connexion the erasures, blots and blurs that must necessarily ensue to remove objections, and make the necessary amendments thereto, compatible with the requisitions of the law, and the rules and constructions of the act by the War Department, and in doing so, he has only set out the facts more at large and stated the time more precisely than he did in the first. He this Declarant hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the Agency of any state Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

[signed] John Boisseau