

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of John Pribble (Prebble) S5951 VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 10 Apr 2015.

[From [Library of Virginia Legislative Petitions Digital Collection](#)/ Campbell County – Prebble, John]

To the Senate and House of Delegates of the State of Virginia.

The Petition of John Prebble, of the County of Campbell, most respectfully represents,

That he was born in the state of Maryland, and, when about the age of seven years, came with his father, to the said County (then Bedford) where he still resides. That in the year 1777 he enlisted, as a soldier, under Capt. Charles Gwatkins [sic: Charles Gwatkin], of Bedford County, and served ten months or there abouts, against the Indians, on the Western frontier. That he obtained an honourable discharge from the said service, which is lost; and all his officers being dead, he cannot obtain any other certificate of his said service and discharge.

That, in the year 1778 he was drafted as a militia man, and served a three months term, under Capt. Robert Adams of Bedford, to protect the Lead Mines, in what is now Montgomery County [near Fort Chiswell in present Wythe County].

That in the early part of the year 1781 he volunteered his services to his county, under Capt. Thomas Helm, of Col. Lynch's [Charles Lynch's] regiment of Rifle men, and was with him in the battle, at Guilford in North Carolina [Guilford Courthouse, 15 Mar 1781].

That he now is, and for many years has been infirm, in body; which infirmity he verily believes proceeded, in a great measure, from his exposure, when a soldier.

That he never received any compensation for the aforesaid services, except for his services under Capt. Gwatkins, and a certificate, which the Tax collector took for the Petitioners taxes.

That he is now about seventy two years of age, and poor, but, he trusts, honest.

He therefore prays that your honourable body will consider him, as they have heretofore considered others, similarly situated, entitled to some compensation, for his aforesaid services, and as in duty bound &c. &c. &c.

John hisXmark Prebble

[Sworn 1 Dec 1830]

Being requested by Mr. John Pribble I do hereby certify that some time between the years of 1775 and 1780 as well as I recollect That Capt Charles Watkins [sic] company came to the western part of Virginia (now Kentucky) where I was then living, and that the aforesaid John Pribble was a private soldier in his company stationed at Boonsborough [sic: Boonesborough] Doshea Callaway
Nov. 19 1830/ Test H. T. Early

Campbell County

Being requested by Mr John Pribble Sen. to state what We know of him as a man We do certify that we have lived as close neighbours to him one of us for the last seventeen years and others for the last seven years, and we have no hesitation in saying that he is a man of truth; a very poor man and a man that needs the assistance of his country given under our hands this 29th day of November 1830

[signed] Craven Horton Rowland Ward

Campbell County

Being requested by Mr John Pribble to state what I know of as a man, I do certify that I have lived by him eighteen or twenty years, and have been acquainted with for thirty years; And I have no hesitation in saying that he is a man of truth a very poor man and a man that stands in need of the assistance of country and I have always understood that at the time of the revolutionary war he was in the state services given under my hand this 29th November 1830 [signed] John Willard

Mr. John Prebble a soldier of the revolution has requested that I would give him a certificate of his character and standing in his neighborhood. I have lived near Mr. Prebble for the last five or six years and have never heard any thing to the contrary but that Mr. Preeble is an honest, industrious, laboring man he is now old and appears to be quite infirm – he has large knots on his body thighs & arms which he says originated from exposure in the army during the revolutionary war. Mr. Preeble is a poor man and from appearances about his person he is not able to do much labor. Joseph W Scott
Campbell Co'y. 30th Novem 1830

Virginia Campbell County To Wit

This day John Murcheson [pension application R7362] of the county and state aforesaid appeared and made oath before me Joseph W Scott one of the commonwealths Justices of the peace for the County aforesaid that John Preeble enlisted as a soldier under Capt. Charles Watkins in the County of Bedford Va. in the year 1777 and marched with the said Capt. Watkins to guard the salt works in Kentucky and returned home to Virginia in the year 1778 and that the said Preeble afterwards marched with Capt. Robert Adams to the Lead mines in Montgomery County Va. serving a three months Tour of duty. Afterwards the said John Preeble march'd with Thos Helm a captain to Guilford No. Carolina and understood he was in the battle at Guilford Court House.

Given under my hand this 30th of November 1830 Joseph W Scott

Auditors Office 11 dec'r 1830

There is no evidence in this office of the services of John Prebble, and his name does not appear to have been ever placed on the pension Roll. Jas E Heath

Dec'r 13th 1830 ref'd to Rev'y Claims/ 12 Ja'y 1831 Rejected

[The following are from the federal pension file.]

State of Virginia }

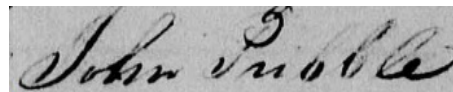
Campbell County }

On this the 14th day of August 1832 personally appeared in open court before the Justices of the court of Campbell county now sitting John Prible aged 73 years 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 the 7th day of June 1832. That he served a tour of duty against the Cherokee Indians of two months That he cannot recollect the year that he was detailed by Waggon master James Talbot from Capt Robert Adams company as waggoner to the Long Island on Holstein River [sic: Holston River at present Kingsport TN] and that he brought a load of Lead from the Lead mines back to the Widow Davis' near the Blue ridge. Then in the month of September 1777 he again was called into service and met near the Peaks of Otter in the county of Bedford and was marched to Kentucky under the command of Capt Charles Watkins, Lieutenant John Milum [probably John Milam], Ensign David Crews and was marched direct to Boonsborough where we remained until some time in April we were then marched home where we arrived some time in May 1778 [see endnote]. I saw while at Boonsborough Colonel Richard Calaway [sic: Richard Callaway] and Colo Daniel Boon [sic: Daniel Boone] and some troops from North Carolina. In this tour I served Ten months from the time I was called from home until my return. In the following September I was drafted and marched to the Lead mines under the command of Capt Robert Adams, Lieutenant Thomas McReynolds and I believe James McReynolds Ensign at which place I served three months, Colonel Charles Lynch commanded the greater part of the time while I was there and sometime in the month of February 1781 I was again called to Long Island on Staunton River where I joined Capt. Thomas Helm's company our Lieutenant was James Dinwiddie, and Andrew Fields Ensign a part of the tour when John Steele took Field's place. We march to the Redhouse in North Carolina [probably the Red House on Dan River in Caswell County] we were at this time commanded by Col Lynch & belonged to his Regiment. we marched with him to the Guilford Battle and was in the same; after the

Battle we marched to Mayers Iron works on Troublesome creek [usually called Speedwell Furnace] from there to Sorry Town [sic: Saura Town] on Dan River from there to Deep River and crossed on the same bridge that the British had made and crossed on before us and up Deep River to Millers Iron works where we were discharged about the first of April. In this tour I served about three months. If he received any written discharges they are lost or destroyed. I can prove by Capt. John Murcheson the tour to Kentucky of Ten months, by the same the tour to the Lead mines of three months and by the same the tour to North Carolina of three months and also last tour by Sampson Evans [S8440]. He has no documentary evidence in relation to his said services.

He 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



Questions by the Court

1st Where and in what year were you born?

Answer I was born in the State of Maryland. I was about seven years old when I moved to Virginia, but don't know the year I was born

2nd. Have you any record of your age Answer

No

3rd Where were you living when called into service, where have you lived since the revolutionary war and where do you now live

Answer. I lived in the County of Bedford, Virginia on Otter River when called into service. I have lived in the County of Campbell then Bedford ever since the revolutionary war and now live in Campbell Co. Virginia

4th. How were you called into service. were you drafted, did you volunteer or were you a substitute

Answer I volunteered for the space of 10 months was afterwards drafted & served 3 months at the lead mines and again was drafted and served 3 months in North Carolina

5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served, such continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service

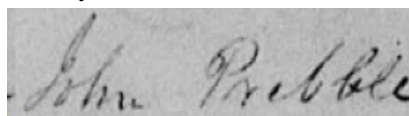
Answer I belonged to a company commanded by Charles Watkins I recollect Colo Boon's & Colo Boones & Colo Calloway's regiments I served 3 months at the lead mines under Capt Robert Adams also a 3 months tour in North Carolina & was at the battle of Guilford C House N Carolina under Capt Thos Helms & Lieutenant James Dinwiddie

6th. Did you ever receive a discharge from the service and if so by whom was it given, and what has become of it

Answer I received a discharge but it is lost

7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighbourhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief of your services as a soldier of the revolution

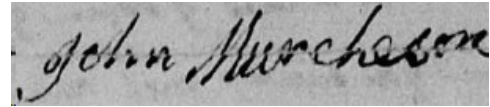
Answer Rev'd Henry Brown [undeciphered word] Abner Earley Jacob Early James Farmer



Virginia Campbell County

I John Murcheson of the County & State aforesaid do hereby certify that I am well acquainted with John Pribble who has signed and subscribed the within declaration that I know the said Pribble went with Capt Cha Gwatkins of Bedford to Kentucky to guard the Salt Works, that he also went with Capt. Ro. Adams of Bedford County to the lead mines in Montgomery County to guard them, and that Charles Lynch was the Colonel then Commanding, and that he went with Thomas Helm to Carolina in the Battle

of Guilford and that he is 73 years of age as I believe and that he is reputed and believed in the neighbourhood where he resides to have been a Revolutionary Soldier and that I concur in that opinion



State of Virginia, Campbell County to witt

On this 10th day of November 1845, before me A W Wimbish a Justice of the peace in and for said county, personally appeared Jno Prebble, a respectable resident of said county Aged 85 years – who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration, (in accordance with the requisition of the Com. of pensions of Sep'r. 22 1845) in order to be restored to the enjoyment of his pension, under the act of June 7, 1832 of \$53.33 cts pr An. which has been improperly stopped by the Com. of Pensions – growing out of a misconception of his services in the Revo'y. war, while under the Command of Cap. Chas. Watkins of Virginia. [See endnote]

That he the declarant served 10 months under Cap Chas. Watkins from the County of Bedford Va. out on the Kentucky Frontiers during the Revo'y. war and was stationed at Fort Boon the greater part of his time, while in said service under the command of Col Boon, and Callaway at different times. The company to which declarant belonged was raised by Cap Chas. Watkins mainly or entirely from Bedford Co. and was considered of a volunteer character, not exceeding 12 mo in duration. Jno. Milam was Lieut, and David Crews Ens. to the comp'y. Billy May [William May] was Adj't. Billy Deal [William Deal] Pilot, and Chas. Jones [Charles Jones], Robin Bowles, and Philip Cooper were spies; and Jno. Hally [sic: John Holly, pension application S9588], Bath. Gaddy [sic: Bartholomew Gaddy W7494], Wm. Eubanks [William Eubank], Ach. Eubanks [sic: Achilles Eubank W27743], Wm. Chandler [William Chandler] (Drummer), Thos Overstreet [Thomas Overstreet], Joe Jackson [Joseph Jackson W7884], Wm. Tracy [sic: William Tracey S7751], Ja's. Robinson [James Robinson], Geo Snow [George Snow], Jas Davis [James Davis], Jno. Brown [John Brown S30282], and hopping Jas Calloway [sic: James Callaway W9771], are a part of the privates which belonged to said Watkins comp'y. Joe Jackson and Wm. Tracy were taken prisoners by the Indians while on a tour of duty from the Fort, to the Salt Springs on Licking Creek [at Blue Licks KY, 8 Feb 1778] to bring the salt (on horseback) that was made there for the use of the Troops. Col Boon was also taken prisoner by the Indians while trapping [sic: at Blue Licks on the same day], while declarant was in said Service. Declarant could relate many other circumstances that occurred during said service – which was a real service, and not a fable, or fiction of the brain. Jno. Holley of Bedford and the widow of Bath. Gaddy are both receiving pensions at this time (as he understands) for said Tour of service – and further he is informed that the roll of the said Cap. Chas Watkins was in existence a few years ago, and probably is yet – of which fact he expects to forward proof to the war department.

As he stated in his former declaration in 1832, or 3 he now states, that he served a tour of duty of 3 mo. out at the lead mines under Cap Ro Adams in the Fall and Winter of 1778 – Col Lynch Commandant of the station in comp'y with Jas Wooldridge [James Wooldridge pension application S11884] Thos. Arthur [Thomas Arthur W5636], Joe Hundly [Joseph Hundly S5581], and others – leaving home in aug or Sep'r and returning in dec'r. also a tour of duty at Guilford N.C. in March 1781 in comp'y. with Sampson Evans Jno. Carson [John Carson] &t'c under the command of Cap. Thos. Helm's who was kill'd at said battle &t'c. That he gave an Aff't in Sep'r. last before Thos. Fox Esq as he supposed in regard to a tour of service rendered by Jas. Wooldridge at the Lead Mines in 1778 at which time he distinctly stated to Mr. Fuqua, that he knew nothing of the services of Jno. Wooldridge – and if he has been made to swear to any services rendered by Jno. Wooldridge in the Revo'y. war, of his knowledge – he has been imposed upon, and made to swear (ignorantly) to that which he did not intend to swear to. That in the Tour under Watkins, he left home in July or Aug 1777, and returned in May or June 1778 – was 7 weeks and 3 days going, and 3 weeks returning, and was 500 miles from Bedford – his home – while at Fort Boon his station. He the declarant did not intend to state in his affs. given at the

request of Mr. Sam'l. Fuqua as above that Cap Chas. Watkins belonged to the regular line – but that his was rather a volunteer comp'y raised under the Authority of the State of Va for the special protection of the Western frontier of said state. That declarant is a little deaf, and requires that a person should speak, or read loud to him – that he told Mr. Fuqua, that the aff't was wrong – that it was Jas. and not Jno. Wooldridge that was in the service with him – and that if Fuqua read it over again afterwards he did not hear him.

Test/ Ro H Gray

Jno hisXmark Prebble

State of Virginia, Campbell County to witt

On this 10 day of Novbr 1845, before me A W Wimbish a Justice of the peace in and for said County, personally appeared Geo. E Mason a respectable resident of said County, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath say – That he was present when Jno. Prebble gave his aff't before Cap. Thos Fox, Esq as to the services of Jas. Wooldridge in the Revo'y. war and he recollects distinctly, that he Jno. Prebble stated that he did not know Jno. Wooldridge [John Wooldridge W6582], but that he knew Jas. Wooldridge, and was in service with him at the Lead Mines on New River under Cap. Ro. Adams during the Revo'y. war. That on first being questioned, he could not say whether it was Jas. or Richard Wooldridge but upon reflection he was satisfied that it was James – but that he never knew Jno. Wooldridge. That the said Jno Prebble is a little deaf, and requires that a person should speak loud to him or read loud – and that Mr. Fuqua read the name of Wooldrude to him so low that he could not hear whether he said Jno. or Jas. Wooldridge – but that he the said Prebble always insisted, that he never knew Jno. Wooldridge.

[signed] George E Mason

State of Virginia, Bedford County to witt.

On this [blank] day of [blank] 1845, before me [blank] a Justice of the peace in and for the said County, personally appeared Ro. H Gray, a respectable resident of the County of Campbell, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath say. That he recollects distincy that in the year 1840-41, in the Corporation of Lynchs [now Lynchburg] Mr. Chas. L Cobbs shewed him deponant, the company roll of Cap. Chas. Watkins alias Gwatkins, who, as the roll indicated, was a captain in the Revo'y. war, in the year 1777, and 78 – and among which roll of men, under him were the names of Bartholomew Gaddy, Jno. Hally, and Jno. Prebble – which names, he dep. examined the roll particularly for, as he had but a short time before, obtained a pension for the widow of said Gaddy, in said County, on the evidence of said Hally, and Prebble – they proving that Gaddy served about 10 mo under said Cs Watkins with them, out on the Kentucky Frontiers at Fort boone Station &t'c; which services were allowed by the Com. of pensions in the year 1839, in the pension rec'd by her under the act of July 7, 1838. That said roll refered to of said Cs Watkins, shewed the time, that each man served under him, and for which he was credited &t'c.

[signed] C. L. Cobbs JP.

[signed] Ro H Gray

State of Virginia Bedford County to wit

I Charles L Cobbs a justice of the peace in the County and State aforesaid do hereby certify that I called upon my fathers Executor for all papers which might be useful in establishing the military service of my Father [Robert Cobbs W18929] in the Revolutionary war and as well as my memory serves me they were furnished in the year 1840 and with them was captain Charles Gwatkins' musteroll having the time of service rendered by each man credited on it And I further more distinctly Recollect that I exhibited my father's musteroll with an endorsement in my fathers hand write that he took command of Captain Clements [Adam Clement's] Company on the morning after the engagemt at Ninety six [probably Siege of Ninety Six SC, 22 May - 19 Jun 1781]; together with Gwatkin's Roll, to Mr Robert H. Gray in the town of Lynchburg who Remarked, that by Gwatkins roll Bartholamew Gaddy had rendered more service than had been allowed; and that from the date of s'd. Gwatkins roll and the appearance of * the paper I have no doubt of his having served as a Captain in the Revolutionary war and that he had the reputation of having commanded a company from Bedford in an expedition against the Western Indians. I have

good reason to believe that the above rolls are in the possession of Mr [Thomas] Bedford or Mr. Samuel Fuqua of Charlotte, both pension agents

Given under my hand this 29th of Nov'r. 1845

[signed] Charles L. Cobbs J.P.

* in obtaining Martha Gaddy's pension.

NOTES:

In a deposition with the pension application for the widow of Thomas Arthur [W5636] dated 16 June 1843, Pribble stated that the tour to Kentucky commenced around the first of July 1777 and ended about the first of May 1778.

The file contains no indication of the reason for suspending Pribble's pension, but it appears to have been related to his testimony in the case of John Wooldridge. In addition, the Pension Commissioner, James L. Edwards, often dismissed claims for *voluntary* militia tours longer than three months, because Virginia law limited *drafted* tours in the militia to that time. There is no indication in the file whether Pribble's pension was restored.