

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Samuel Mitchell W3851 Margaret C. Mitchell VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 12 Oct 2014.

State of Virginia }
Bedford County } SS

On this 28th day of January 1833 personally appeared in open court before the Justices of the County Court of Bedford now sitting, Samuel Mitchell a resident of Russell parish in the county and State aforesaid, aged 72 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 June 7 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. He entered the said service under the command of Capt. Jacob Early & Lieut. Uriah Leftwich, who were commanded by Col. William Leftwich and Col. Charles Lynch. He entered the service as a volunteer sometime in the fall of 1779 (the precise day not recollected) in Bedford County Virginia where he then resided. He performed a tour of three months – he was discharged in the winter of 1780. They rendezvoused at Major [John] Ward's in said county, and marched thence thro' the Counties of Charlotte, Prince Edward, Cumberland, Powhatan and Chesterfield Virginia to Petersburg, Dinwiddie County Va. where he was stationed and remained until discharged. He received a written discharge from Capt. Early, he believes, but does not know what has become of it. He joined the army commanded by Gen'l. [Robert] Lawson and Baron Steuben at Petersburg – cannot state the regiment to which he belonged. He recollects no continental regiments or companies with the troops where he served. Gen. Lawson & Baron Steuben were regular officers with the troops where he served. He has no documentary evidence of his services.

Again in April 1781, he was drafted as a militia man from said county of Bedford Va. under the command of Capt. Alexander Cummings [Alexander Cummins]. His field and company officers during this tour were Gen'l. LaFayette, – Capt Cummings. He performed a tour of three months. He rendezvoused at Molly's Creek Church, then in Bedford County (now in Campbell) and from thence marched directly to Point of Fork of North [Rivanna] and James Rivers, thro' the counties of Buckingham, & Cumberland and joined the army at that place commanded by Gen'l. Lawson and Baron Steuben. The day they arrived there [5 Jun 1781], Col Tarleton with a corps of horse made his appearance [see endnote] & fired one cannon at them & they retreated without injury, except the loss of a mare of one of the officers, which was shot through. The Americans cut their boats, and sunk their arms in the river. The main army marched from Point of Forks in the evening for Cowles Ferry on Dan river [sic: Cole's Ferry on Roanoke River 8 mi below Brookneal] – and left Capt. Cumming's company, of which he was one to cover the retreat. Cummings and company followed the army to Charlotte Court house Va., where he met them returning– They rejoined the army and marched thro' Cumberland to Carter's Ferry [now Cartersville] on James river, where they crossed and marched thro' Goochland, Hanover &c and other counties not recollected, and joined the army under La Fayette and [Anthony] Wayne near Williamsburg, and remained there until his capt. (Cummings) was arrested by Gen'l. Lawson, for making application for a discharge. We returned home sometime in July 1781, our time having expired, without a discharge. He has no documentary evidence of his services, but refers to the affidavits of Samuel Wilkes [sic: Samuel Wilks, pension application R11553], Thomas Overstreet [W26604] to establish them. There were continental regiments & companies in the service with him, but he does not recollect their numbers. Gen'ls. La Fayette, Wayne, Muhlenburg [sic: Peter Muhlenberg], Lawson were the regular officers with the troops this tour.

He performed two other short tours in Bedford County Va. in the years preceding the tours above mentioned in all three weeks – in suppressing the tories. He was ordered out at these times by Col. James Calloway [sic: James Callaway]. received no discharge. His officer was Capt. Downings during these tours. He was also engaged at another time in guarding the British that were taken at the Cowpens [in

South Carolina, 17 Jan 1781] by Gen'l. [Daniel] Morgan – and sent to Staunton River, there received and marched to Lynch's Ferry [now Lynchburg] and crossed to Amherst County Va. where they remained one week – received no discharge. He served not less than the periods mentioned below, to wit – the first tour 3 months – the second, three months – the 3^d - 3 weeks, and the last one week – in all 7 months, for which he claims a pension. Has no documentary evidence of his services & knows no person by whom he can prove them except as above stated.

In answer to interrogatories, he states:

1. He was born in Bedford County Virginia on the 5th November 1759
2. He had a record of his age in a family Bible, but it was carried to Kentucky by his brother many years ago.
3. He was living in Bedford County Va. when called into service, lived there during the revolution, and has lived there ever since & now resides there
4. He volunteered the first tour – was drafted as a militia man the other tours
5. The names of the regular officers with the troops where he served are Gens. La Fayette, Lawson, Wayne, Muhlenburg, Baron Steuben, and Col [John] Holcombe. does not recollect the continental and militia regiments – the general circumstances of his service stated in the above declaration
6. He received discharge from Col. Lynch and Col Leftwich, but does not know what has become of them.
7. Capt. Henry Brown [S8098] and James Mitchell are persons to whom he is known in his present neighborhood who can testify as to his character for veracity, and their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state Sam'l. Mitchell

The affidavit of George Asberry Senr. [George Asbury W5644] of Franklin County Virginia taken before me, Samuel Hancock a Justice of the peace for the County of Bedford, in order to prove a tower served by Samuel Mitchell of Bedford County in the revolutionary war. this affiant being duly sworn, deposeth and saith that in seventeen hundred and eighty one, Samuel Mitchell of Bedford aforesaid, served a militia tower with him under the command of Capt. Alexander Cummings from Bedford County, who was attached to Holcomb's regiment (he thinks in Prince Edward Cty) and afterward was attached to Gen'l. Lawson's Brigade, which was commanded by Marquis De Lafayette, sixteen miles west of Williamsburg, untill said Mitchell's time of service had expired and that said Mitchell served a week over his time of service – the whole of which tower comes within the knowledge (of) said Asberry Senr. he being one of the same company – and further this affiant saith not.

NOTES:

Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton's Legion was not present at Point of Fork, being occupied in raids against the state government in Charlottesville. He sent Lt. Col. John G. Simcoe, who bluffed von Steuben into abandoning the major supply depot and munitions laboratory. Von Steuben went as far as the Roanoke (Staunton) River in Charlotte County, possibly intending to continue into the Carolinas to aid Gen. Nathanael Greene. He then circled back and joined Lafayette two weeks later to continue the fight in Virginia.

On 4 May 1839 Margaret C. Mitchell, 66, applied for a pension stating before Samuel P. Mitchell, Justice of the Peace, that she married Samuel Mitchell on 6 Sep 1791, and he died 25 March 1835. A typed summary gives her maiden name as Claytor. On 7 Nov 1848 Margaret C. Mitchell was said to be 74.