

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of James Blevins W5221

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

[Much of the three pages of this declaration are so faded that they are almost illegible. The transcription should be used with more than usual caution.]

On this 7th day of December 1833 [several illegible words] and Eighty Two years [several illegible lines]

He states that he entered the Service of the United States between the 1st and 20th of April 1776 under the command of Captain Henry Curbie (or Kirbie) in Henry County State of Virginia – as a militia man [one or two illegible words] of the [two illegible words] for the term of three months that he rendezvoused at Henry Courthouse Virginia between the 1st [and?] 15th of April 1776, was immediately marched to Chisels Lead Mines [sic: lead mines at Fort Chiswell in present Wythe County] on New River where he was stationed as a Spy or Ranger that about four weeks after he reached the Lead mines he while ranging was taken as a prisoner by a party of French (3 in number,) & Tories or British and was removed by them in a force march into the edge of North Carolina where he was attached to several[?] large party of prisoners under Guard and was marched to place they knew by the name of Blue house – where he & the others were released by a party under the command of General [illegible; see endnote] that after his release he returned back to the Lead mines and his Company and served out his Term of Three Months and was discharged and returned home

He states that he again entered the service in May 1777 in Henry County Virginia as a volunteer under the Command of Captain [Brice] Martin [several illegible words] marched against the Cherokees that they had a battle at a place called the Lookout Mountain after which they were marched to the Muscle Shoals [sic: Mussel Shoals] on the Tennessee River where we remained until our Term of service had expired [three illegible words] until he was discharged in the beginning of September 1777. That in May 1779 he volunteered in the company of Captain A Bowen as a Spy or Ranger & was immediately marched to the Lead mines on New River where he was stationed as Spies [several illegible words] after his Term of Two months was discharged

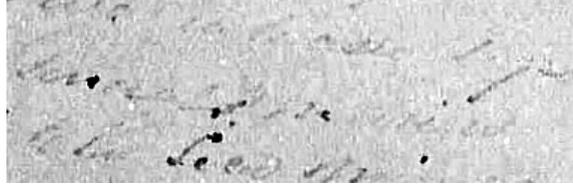
That in August 1780 he volunteered under the command of Capt Abram Trigg [two or three illegible words] Cloyd [Major Joseph Cloyd] and was marched immediately to the shallow ford on the Atkin [sic: Yadkin] River where we had a battle [14 Oct 1780] with a party of Tories he was [several illegible words] months That in May 1781 he volunteered for six months under the command of Capt David Haley [pension application R4451] Col. Martin was immediately marched to the Chickamauga Mountains on the Tennessee River thence to the Hiwassee towns there had an engagement with [two or three illegible words] Indians [several illegible words] & discharged [several illegible words] – That he was born in Northumberland County Virginia in 1751 – he has no record of his age. He Lived in Henry County Virginia when called into service [one or two illegible words] call of the County Colonel that Three months service he volunteered he does not recollect any of the officers who were with the Army except those already mentioned he states that [two illegible words] so far as he can recollect received [several illegible words] during his services [several illegible words] states that he [one or two illegible words] written discharge for his first Tour which is lost for his other Tours he received no written discharge. He states that he is known to Philip Williams [pension application S1269] whose statement is herewith forwarded. That he is known to Joseph Nickell [illegible name] who can testify as to his character for veracity. He hereby relinquishes his 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

James hisXmark Blevins

NOTES:

Blevins's pension certificate for 16 months service indicates that he was living in Morgan County KY.

The name of the general who rescued Blevins has been read as Marion:



No General Marion was present in southwestern Virginia. Gen. Francis Marion did, however, rescue prisoners at a tavern called the Blue House, but that was near Charleston SC and in the fall of 1780 rather than in the spring of 1776. It is scarcely likely that Blevins's captors would have carried him that far and that he could have returned within three months. Possibly the general was Joseph Martin. However, other elements of the story seem unlikely. French generally did not cooperate with their bitter enemies, the British, and houses on the frontier of Virginia were generally made of logs and seldom painted.

On 5 Feb 1851 Hannah O. Blevins, 93, of Lawrence County KY, applied for a pension stating that she married James Blevins on 4 Jan 1793, and he died in Lawrence County on 28 Nov 1843. On 27 March 1856 she applied for bounty land. On 14 May 1855 she applied again for bounty land, when she was said to be 95 years old.