## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Matthew Cook R2268
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Kentucky }

On this 10<sup>th</sup> day of October 1835 personally appeared before me Samuel County of Campbell \} SS. Baker a Justice of the peace in and for the aforesaid County, Matthew Cook a resident of the County of Campbell and State of Kentucky aged seventy-five years, who being first duly sworn doth on his oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress, passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832. That he entered the service, as an enlisted soldier in the 19th year of his age, to the best of his recollection, on the first day of March 1779, for the term of two years, in the capacity of a Cabbin-boy, in the ship Fair American Liberty [the boat Liberty], and continued to the first day of March 1781, and, he then volunteered for six months longer, and still continued on boad till after Cornwallis surrendered to Washington [19 Oct 1781], under the following named officers, (to wit), Capt. Michael James [pension application R47] John Ewing [R3415] first mate, Elcany Shellcutt second mate, the first year he states he was Cabbin boy and the second year he went before the mast as a sailor, Commodore Jas. Baron [sic: James Barron, then Captain] Commanded the Patriot and Fair American liberty, both privateer vessels. he further states that when he enlisted he lived in the state of Virginia, in the County of Northampton, and the reason of his enlisting was that he was engaged to be married to a girl, that his father was opposed to the marriage and sent him fifty mile from home to go to school, and he went to the ship as above stated, and enlisted and did not return home for the space of seven years, and when he returned home he took a wife with him, and he married he in the army, but not, while on sea. he state that he was enlisted four times in his life, first on ship board then under Wayne, then in Lexington Kentucky, with to troops that went to Canada was in the battle a the River Raisin on the 18<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> January 1813, and made prisoner at that time. After this declarant enlisted he state that the first time they went to sea, and the second time they made no discoveries of much importance, but the third time, we had an engagement with the Ship George, on the Chesapeake bay near Cape Charles, near the mouth of James River, and the battle lasted about on hour, and he the above named declarant managed the helm during the battle, and we took the ship George, and we had one man wounded by the name of William Cook, but he was no connexion of mine, and they one man wounded and one killed, and Capt. James when in the act of boarding the ship, fell between the two vessels and lost his pistole cutlass and hat, and was in danger of being drowned as the sea was somewhat rough at the time, and he had to call for assistance, and was taken up by the long boat, and the ship George was taken to Norfolk and sold as a prise vessel, and the Capt. & mate were both put in Irons and taken to Norfolk and I do not know what was done with them he states that he was with the fleet of Layfayette [sic: Lafayette] blocked up the mouth of York river when Cornwallis surrendered to Washington, and the next day he went on shore with Capt. James. he states that he has no documentary evidence of his age, and that knows of no person that he can prove his services by, and that he has had two discharges and that they were both lost by fire, and in the house of my son in Fayette

He hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension or annuity whatever except the present, and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any Agency in any state or territory in the United state Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid Matthew hisXmark Cook [Certified by William Hume, pastor of the church of which Cook was a member.]

Questions by the Court. Where and in what year were you born. Ans. I was born in the state of Virginia in Northampton County and on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of April, as my Fathers statement to me was. – Have you any record of your age and if so where is it? Ans. I have no record of my age nor never had nor neither could I ever read or write. – Where were you living when called into service - Where have you

lived since the revolutionary war & where do you now live? Ans. I lived in the state of Virginia when called into service, and went from there to North carolina, and from there I moved to the state of Kentucky Fayette County and from there I came to Campbell County where I now live and have lived for the term of about ten years, and I never was at the court house of this county in my life, nor at the Town of Newport only when on my way to Canada with the troops in 1812. Did you ever received a discharge and if so by whom was it signed. I did receive a discharge from Capt James for my services on sea, and one from Wayne, and the discharge that I got from Capt. James was signed by himself, and the discharge from Wayne I do not know by whom it was signed, but I never cared anything about them, and they were both burned in the house of my son in Fayette Co. Ky, about 15 years ago. – I am acquainted with Zebulon Alphin William B. Northcutt Esq. Capt William Sayer who represented this county in the state Legislature two years ago, and James Rout & a small acquaintance with Colo. R. M. Johnson our Representative in Congress.

Matthew hisXmark Cook

NOTE: Mathew Cook is listed as a Boy on a 1784 payroll of the *Liberty* in the pension application of Michael James.