Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Gavin Adams (Addams) R31 Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Kentucky and County of Oldham Sct }

On this 13th day of November 1837 personally appeared in open court, before the County Court of said County now sitting Gavin Adams a resident of Bartholomew County and State of Indiana aged about seventy five 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 7th 1837

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. He entered the service under Elizamen Basey [Eliseman Basey] a captain of the Virginia Militia he thinks in the year 1777 and seved in the company about one month. In the year 1780 as he now thinks, he again entered the service under Captain Broddus of the Virginia Militia - and in this touer served two months – afterwards he entered the service in the Virginia Militia under captain William Green and served under him six months – and afterwards about the close of the war [meaning the surrender of Cornwallis on 19 Oct 1781 rather than the formal conclusion of the war on 15 Apr 1783] he served one month in the Virginia Militia under a waggon master whose name he does not now recollect. He does not recollect the names of any of the field officers under whom he seved except in his said second tower under Capt Broddus his Col's name was Alcock - and the name of a major he thinks Declumen [Charles Deklaman, pension application R13678] who acted as adjutant or muster master. This officer he was under during his six months tower, under Capt. Green. He entered the service in each instance as a drafted militia man, taking his tower in rotation when called on, with the exception of the last months when he entered as a substitute for his brother John Adams. He was in no battles during his service – but was principally employed in guarding points on the navigable waters, that were threatened by the British – and was marched through several counties in the lower part of Virginia - from the service of the six months tower he was discharged at the Mobbin Hills below Richmond [sic: Malvern Hill about 15 mi SE of Richmond]. He received a written discharge from this tower, which has been lost. He resided in Culpeper County Virginia when called into service each time. He does not recollect the days or particular dates of any of the times he entered the service, or was discharged. The last time he served he was discharged at Nolan's ferry [sic: Nolands Ferry] of the potomac river shortly after the defeat of Cornwallis. He states that he has no documentary evidence of his services and he knows of no person in his reach except John Coons by whom he can prove any part of his services.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid [signed] Gavin Adams

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 [signed] Gavin Adams and the court propounded to the applicant the following interrogatories

- 1 Where and in what year were you born?
- 2 Have you any record of your age, and if so where is it?
- 3. Where were you living when called into service, where have you lived since the revolutionary war, and where do you now live?
- 4. How were you called into service, were you drafted, did you volunteer, or were you a substitute and if so for whom?
- 5. 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?

To which he answered – He was born in the year June 7th 1763 – He has a memorandum of the day he was born at his home in Indiana – that he was born in Faqueer [sic: Fauquier] county Virginia and that he removed into Culpepper [sic: Culpeper] county Virginia with his father – and removed to the state of Kentucky and resided into the county of Henry, where and in the county of Oldham in said state he resided for about 30 years and untill the year 1830 when he removed to the place where he now lives.

John Coons Senior also on his oath in said court stated that He knows that the above applicant did actually enter the service of the United States in Capt Greens company as the applicant has in his above application stated but how long the said Gavin Adams did remain in said service this deponent does not know.

Sworn to & subscribed in open court the day and year aforesaid. [signed] John Coons, Sr.

State of Kentucky Oldham County Sct

I William Force a Justice of the peace in and for said county do certify that Gavin Adams, who is personally known to me, personally appeared before me and made oath in due form of law and on said oath states, That he is the same person who, at the November term of the County Court for said County, made a declaration before said court, for the purpose of obtaining a pension under the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832 – and whose declaration, as he is informed is now filed with suspended cases, in the pension office of the war department. Fort the purpose of making further explanation of his declaration said Gavin Adams now states, the reason why an earlier application was not made in his behalf for said pension is, that about four years before this time he made application to [blank space] Switzer Esq'r. a lawyer at that time residing in the town of Columbia ten miles from where this deponent resides. Deponent made his statements to said Switzer, and was informed by him that these statement were sufficient, and this deponent relied on having the pension obtained through the means of said Switzer, for about two years - when deponent called on said Switzer to know the result when he was informed by said Switzer that there was no chance of obtaining the pension. Deponent then dispaired of obtaining a pension, and made no further application, untill he was informed by some of his friends in this county, that if he would make application from this place, where he could have the evidence of John Coons Sen'r. Esq'r. united with the traditionary evidence, that he could procure in this vicinity where he had resided for upwards of thirty years, that his application would be probably successfull. and deponent not having resided but about seven years at his present residence, in Bartholomew County Indiana and none of his old acquaintances residing in this last mentioned neighbourhood. These facts induced him to make his declaration in this county before the Oldham County Court, that he might be enabled to procure the statements of said Coons, and the evidence of some of those who had know him for many years and could with certainty state his reputation of being a soldier of the revolution. This deponent states he has a distinct recollection of serving during the war of the revolution, as a private drafted militia man for at least three weeks under Captain Elizaman Basey. This time Deponent was drafted for a two months tour and was designed to be stationed at Hunters Ford on the Rappahannock about 2 or 3 miles above Falmouth to prevent the British fleet from committing depradations in that quarter – and the reason of his being discharged so soon was that the fleet dissappeared from that quarter. this deponent thinks this was about the [two illegible words] the year 1778. The next tour deponent served was, he thinks, in the year 1779, when he was again drafted as a militia man a private, for a tour he thinks of thirteen months, and served six weeks under Captain Broaddus - and was employed this tour about Williams port and Hobb's hole [near Tappahannock] and other parts of the lower part of Virginia – not being stationary, but marching as ordered to protect places on occasion of alarms – The next tour this deponent served was under Capt. William Green. He was under said Green six months at three different tours according to the best of his present recollection which said tours were performed in the last two years of the war - and was

out of the last tour discharged at a place called the Morbin Hills about 10 or 15 miles below Richmond Virginia. Just 30 days before cornwallis was taken. In these three last mentioned tours deponent was similarly engaged as he was engaged under Capt. Broaddus marching as commanded from place to place, as it became necessary in the lower parts of Virginia. After this deponent was discharged as aforesaid, his brother John Adams having been in the company that relieved him, and his brother being sickly this deponent, after procuring at his house a change of clothing, returned to the army just 32 days after he left - which was 2 days after the surrender of Cornwallis, and took the place of his said brother as a private under said Captain Green - and at three weeks was discharged at Nolins ferry on the Potomac at Leesburg in Virginia. Deponent does not recollect the names of any of the superior officers under whom he served with the exception of Col. Alcock, under whose command he was part of the time he served under Capt. Green - If deponent has stated in his original declaration that he served a six months tour at one time, it is a mistake in the draftsman who drew the declaration. The true state of the case is deponent served six months under the same captain at three different tours of two months each, and at different times within the last two years of the war of the revolution. [signed] Gavin Addams Sworn to before me this 26th January 1838

NOTE: A letter in the file dated 6 May 1854 indicates that William Adams, son of Gavin Adams, had taken steps to see whether his father's pension could be obtained. On 20 Sep 1855 another child, Elizabeth Seely of Bartholomew County, assigned power of attorney for the same purpose. On 19 Dec 1856 another child, Patsy Anderson of Washington County IN, did the same.