

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Mathias Bailey R383

PA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

State of Kentucky }
Bracken County } S.S.

On this 8th day of December 1838 personally appeared, before Joseph Schoolfield, one of the Justices of the Court for the county aforesaid (being a Court of record with a seal, authorised to administer oaths &c) Mathias Bailey, a resident of said County aged about eight two 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 1832.

That in the year 1775 he landed at Philadelphia in the State of Pennsylvania, then one of the British provinces in North America, and in the year 1777 enlisted as a private in the service of the State of Pennsylvania for three years, (the particular date of his enlistment he does not recollect) in Easton Pennsylvania, under Capt Lindsey, (who afterwards in consequence of not being promoted went over to the British). He cannot remember the number of the Regiment, but thinks it was under the command of Col. Mercer [see endnote] and that Major Hoops commanded one of the Battallions. He is not positive with respect to the officers who commanded the Regiment at that time, haveing been under the command of several while under this enlistment, towit Gen'l. Wayne [Anthony Wayne of PA], Gen'l. Maxwell [William Maxwell of NJ], Col Hand [Edward Hand of PA] afterwards Gen'l. Hand, Maj'r. Hoops, Col. Mercer, Col. Stewart [Walter Stewart of PA], Capts. Lindsey, Doyle [possibly John Doyle of PA] & Kettary and others, there is a confusion in his recollection with respect to officers at particular dates, but believes at this time Col Mercer & Maj'r. Hoops commanded him & that Gen'l. Maxwell was the Brigadier Gen'l. He was perhaps transferred to Gen'l. Maxwells command some time after his enlistment as he knows Maxwell was not of the Pennsylvania line, but he cant remember. and Armstrong [John Armstrong of PA] the Maj'r. Gen'l. Shortly after his enlistment the corps to which he was attached joined the main body under Gen'l. Washington in New-Jersey at Morristown and that fall was in the battle of Brandywine [11 Sep 1777] – in this action Gen'l. La Fayette [Lafayette] was wounded, and Gen'l. Wayne was very near being killed by some of our own troops who mistook him for a British Officer in disguise. That winter the Troops wintered at Valley forge. He was not in the battle of Germantown [4 Oct 1777] being with a detachment from the main army. The British wintered in Philadelphia and in the spring [18 Jun 1778] evacuated Philadelphia & crossed the Delaware and was followed by Gen'l Washingtons army with which he the declarant was. He was in the battle of Monmouth [28 Jun 1778] and that winter quartered at Middlebrook in New Jersey He cannot recollect, particularly, what took place in 1799 [sic] nor does his recollections serve him under whose command he was immediately, but he was with the army. He recollects Gen'l. Wayne's storming Stony point [16 Jul 1779] about this time but he was not present but was with Gen'l [John] Sullivan in his expedition against the Indians at Newtown [near present Elmira NY, 29 Aug 1779] – about this time he was with some troops sent to the South [see endnote], but cannot say who the officer in command was, while in the South he was under the command of the Baron D'Kalb [Gen. Baron De Kalb until 25 Jul 1780 when Gen. Horatio Gates took command of the Southern Department] and Gen'l [Daniel] Morgan a part of the time, but as to dates and officers commanding at specific dates he cannot state with certainty. He was in the battle of Camden [16 Aug 1780], in which action the Baron De Kalb fell. He was not in the battle of the Cowpens [17 Jan 1781] but was in the army when under Gen'l. [Nathanael] Greene it retreated through North Carolina [February 1781] and was afterwards in the battle of Eutaw Springs [8 Sep 1781] and was finally discharged in 1783 at York in Pennsylvania. He does not know the officers name who signed his dis-charge, not haveing seen it since it was given except once shortly after for when he enlisted and came to the west it was left behind.

That he afterwards enlisted with Capt William Lewis at Hagerstown in Maryland and marched to the west with Gen'l. [Arthur] St. Clair, in whose memorable defeat he was [4 Nov 1791], in which defeat

he was wounded in the leg, the ball was never extracted and the wound never healed, which occasioned him to loose his leg some years after, the wound for many years did not injure him much, nor prevent him from labour, for after he was discharged, he again enlisted at Lexington Kentucky with Capt. Lewis and marched with Gen'l Wayne & was in the battle at the Rapids of the Maumee with the Indians & British in [20 Aug] 1794 and shortly after received the discharge of which the following is a copy. vz.

“These are to certify that the bearer hereof Matthias Bailey hath faithfully served as a private soldier in Capt William Lewis’s Company of the 3^d Sub-Legion for the space of three years the term for which he engaged his enlistment expiring on the 20th day of August 1795 He hath delivered up his arms and accoutrements at Head Quarters for an honorable discharge. He hath received pay up to the 1st day of January 1795, and public cloathing as follows, as appears by the company books. Given at Greenville [OH] August 1795. 3 Hats. 3 Coats. 3 Vests. 13 shirts. 7 linnen & 6 woolen pantaloons. 11 pair of shoes. 1 pair of shoe buckles. 6 pair of socks. 3 stocks & clasps 7 Blankets. 1 Knapsack. 1 Canteen.

John Postumers Lt. 3^d U.S.S.L.

Paid in full to 1st January 1795.

Paid to 1st June 1795.

Sam'l. Vance Pay'r. 3 S.L.

Paid in full

Sam'l. Vance pay'tr. 3^d S.L.”

“By his Excellency Anthony Wayne Esq'r. Maj'r. Gen'l. and commander in chief of the Legion of the United States.

These are to certify that the bearer hereof Mathias Bailey a private soldier in the 3^d Sub Legion has served in the above said Legion and in Capt William Lewis’s company for the space of three years and is for the reason below mentioned discharged from the said Legion he haveing received his pay up to the 1st day of January 1795 and cloathing of all sorts; and all other just demand from the time of his enlistment in said Legion to this day of his discharge, as appears by the following receipt. He is dis-charged, having faithfully and honorably performed the term of service for which he was enlisted. And to prevent any ill use that may be made of his discharge, by its falling into the hands of any other person whatsoever, here follows a description of the above said Mathias Bailey

He is aged thirty (the date illegible being worn out) years, five feet eight inches high, fair complexion, dark hair (worn off for three or four inches) of August 1795. Ant'y Wayne

I Mathias Bailey do acknowledge to have received all the pay up to the 1st day of January 1795 and cloathing of all sorts and all other just demands from the day of my enlistment in said Legion to this day of my discharge

Mathias Bailey

Witness present/ Sam'l Vance Lt./ Paym'r 3 SL.”

That for some time after he was discharged he resided in Cincinnati and since then for about forty years, has resided in Augusta in Bracken County or the County – that he is well known to the Hon'ble John Chambers our Representative in Congress, Gen'l John Payne, Capt. William Buckner, Mr John Schoolfield, and Joseph Schoolfield Esq'r. as well as every citizen of Augusta, and to them he confidently appeals for his character as an honest man and a man of integrity. That there is no person now living within his knowledge by whom he can prove his services, during the Revolutionary war, having been in the Country but a short time before he enlisted, he made but few acquaintances, and was almost constantly in the army after until he came to the west; nor has he any documentary evidence by which to prove his service.

Being interrogated as the regulations of the War Office require, he states in answer, To the 1st Inty. He was born in Ireland, and he Believes in the year 1756.

To the 2^d. He has no record of his age

To the 3^d. He was living in Easton Pennsylvania. The residue is answered in the body of his declaration.

To the 4th. His enlistments have all been voluntary. It is vaguely impressed on his mind that after the first enlistment expired in 1780, that he enlisted again, but how it was he does not recollect he does not think he ever received any discharge until he was finally discharged after the war, or his first enlistment may have been “for three years or during the War,” but his memory does not serve – he recollects will the year he inlisted, the place and with whom, that he served until after the war &

was discharged in 1782 at Lancaster he recollects also the engagements he was in and many incidents connected with those engagement. His enlistments were always on his own account. To the 5th. He has stated the names of several officers with and under whom he served, also the general circumstances of the service in which he was engaged. He will also state that he knew Col. Butler Col. Bonner (he was killed) Col. Ross, all of the Pennsylvania line also Col. Cadwalader he was under his command at one time.

To the 6th He never received any discharge except as before stated. The discharge for his services given at York town he gave to a woman by the name of Kate McNight to keep and has never sen or heard of the discharge or her since he came to the Western Country. The discharge given by Gen'l. Wayne he only presents to shew that he is no deserter; for had he not been honorably discharged from his former inlistments the old Gen'l. would have known it.

To the 7th. He has answered & given several names, to whom he has been known for thirty or forty years – they are respectfully asked to say.

He further states that from defect of memory consequent upon old age, he cannot be positive what the name of the Col was who commanded the Regiment when he enlisted, but thinks it was Col. Mercer, it may have been Col. Hand.

He hereby releases and 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 date above. Mathias hisXmark Bailey

I John Payne residing in the Town of Augusta, County aforesaid do hereby certify, that I have been well acquainted with Mathias Bayley, who has, in my presence, subscribed and sworn to the foregoing declaration, for the last thirty years in the Town and County aforesaid, that from his appearance I believe him to be of the age stated by him in his declaration towit eighty two years, that ever since I have known him he has been reputed and believed in said neighbourhood, to have been a Soldier of the Revolution, and that I concur in that opinion. That he was for many years while he could work, my gardener, and I have very frequently, before the last war and since, heard him “fight his battles o’er again” and speak of the Battles of Brandywine, Monmouth, Camden and Eutaw Springs particularly, as haveing been present and participated in them, and describe them in a manner, and with an animation which carried conviction to my mind that he must have been present, for uninformed as he ever has been generally, and uneducated as he is I am satisfied his knowledge of those transactions was never obtained by reading. He has ever since I have known him had the air and manner of a well trained, well disciplined, “Old Soldier and never passed a gentleman without giving the soldiers salute. He has ever borne the character of being a man of strict veracity, and I would from my knowledge of him implicitly believe, not only his oath but his word. His leg was amputated I think about 17 or 18 years ago. I have for some years had his discharge above copied in my possession and from its appearance have no hesitation in believing it to be an authentic document and the present applicant, Mathias Bailey I have known, when he answered the description therein given.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid [signed] John Payne

NOTES:

The only Col. Mercer in the Continental Army was Hugh Mercer of Virginia who died on 12 Jan 1777. I could not identify several of the officers mentioned by Bailey.

Pennsylvania forces did not serve in the Carolinas until 1782. It may be that Mathias Bailey enlisted with the Maryland or Delaware Continental army.

The pension claim of Mathias Bailey was rejected because his name could not be found on the rosters of the Pennsylvania Continental Army, and he could not obtain testimony of two eyewitnesses to his service.