Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of James Loden R6406

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Tennessee }
Bledsoe County county Court } S.S.

On this the eleventh day of February 1833 personally appeared before the worshipful justices of the county court of Bledsoe county James Loden a resident of the county of Bledsoe and State of Tennessee aged about sixty eight 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 provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. That he enlisted in the army of the United States in the year [blank] with Colonel Kirkpatrick and Major Eskridge and served in the [blank]th regiment of the Virginia line under the following named officers. [See endnote.] He resided in Powhatan county State of Virginia at a time when Colonel Kirkpatrick and Major Eskridge were stationed with a portion of the regular troops in the lower end of that county. Declarant was then an illiterate boy of about fifteen or sixteen years of age. On one occasion he determined to go to the station to see the troops & how they lived; actuated alone by a boyish curiosity - he had previously learnt to play tolerably well on the fife. He went, and passing about after having viewed the encampment some time he found himself before the door of a tent (or marquee or markee) in which two men were sitting together, who immediately addressed declarant and invited him in. He entered and they inquired of him who he was, where he lived, whither he was going, and much of that sort. And on his answering all their enquiries, and informing them that he was a fifer, they persuaded him to enlist with them as a fifer during the war telling him that if he would do so, they would give him forty dollars, stating at the same time that they had no money then but would pay it afterwards. After some persuasion he agreed to enlist. These two men declarant found to be Col Kirkpatrick & Major Eskridge. After he had agreed to enlist, Major Eskridge told him, he must first take an oath to be true to the state & country to which he assented, and Eskridge administered the oath to him. Eskridge then did some writing which he understood to be in relation to his enlistment which he, Eskridge, kept himself. Declarant then enlisted for during the war as a fifer under Col Kirkpatrick and Major Eskridge and immediately entered into the service at that place, towit the station in Powhattan County state of Virginia. He cannot remember the date nor the number of the regiment. He remained stationed there over one year but how long he cannot recollect. He remembers that shortly after he enlisted Doctor Lynn inoculated 40 or 50 of the troops at the station for the small pox. He cannot remember the names of many of the officers - he recollects Sergeants Coleman, Glass, Corbin, and was well acquainted with Col Kirkpatrick and Major Eskridge, in fact he almost lived with them all the time he was there. After declarant had been at the station in Powhattan over a year Colonel Kirkpatrick marched his regiment across James river through Fluvanna County and to an old fort called Winchester, there he was stationed again for a considerable time. Kirkpatrick had been there but a short time when a considerable number of prisoners [probably captured at Yorktown on 19 Nov 1781 and brought to Winchester in November] were brought to him to guard, which he, or those under his command, did. He was stationed at Winchester, the place above mentioned until he & he believes the whole regiment were discharged. At the time the discharges were given General Muhlenburg [sic: Peter Muhlenberg] was present assisting the officers. Declarant's discharge was written (or filled up, as he thinks may be it was a printed one) and handed to General Muhlenburg who handed to him and also handed him a little money of very inconsiderable sum saying it would be riend him on the road. The officers told the soldiers they had not money to pay them for their services, but that they expected to get it & would contrive some way to call them together and pay them. When the discharge & little money was handed to declarant he was not well pleased & turned off rather abruptly when General Muhlenburg said to him "stop fifer I give all my regulars a piece of land on

Cumberland river." He turned about & waited until he wrote him a certificate which he did & gave him. He then left the station & quit the service. This declarant understands to have been at the conclusion of the war [probably Nov 1783]. Declarant kept his certificate for the land in his pocket until he wore it out, pasted it together on another piece of paper and lost it. He lost his discharge before he did his certificate He never received any more money for his services, nor did he ever get his land, and has always from that time to the present considered the government his debtor.

Declarant states that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service, but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the period of two years as a fifer in the regular service in the Virginia line.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity, except the present, and he declares that his name is not on the Pension roll of any agency in any state.

James hisXmark Loden

Grassey [page damaged] March 14th 1861

Com of Pensions

Washington Cty DC

Dear Sir I avail my self of the present opportunity of writing you a few lines in the way of Enquiry my grate grand mother Requisted of me to write to you and see what or whether or not there is any thing coming to her She thinks that she has bin cut out of her Rights she thinks that the pension has bin draw her name is Lauden her husbens Name wear James Lauden he was in the old ware and served as fifer and after the ware he went blind from Blowing the fife and his widow is in grate need of it if thare is any thing coming to hear She has lived a hard life and Rased a large family and if the amt is due hear she wants to Enjoy it while she lives if it has bin drawn you will pleas let me know who by and if not let me know what proof is nessesary for hear to make you will please Excuse my bad writen leter for I never write one of the kind before Respectfuly yours &c

My address/ Grassey cove/ Tenn

John K. Moore

PS. answer at as Early a day as you can

NOTES:

The two officers first mentioned by Loden were apparently Capt. Abraham Kirkpatrick and Lt. William Eskridge of the 1st Virginia Continental Regiment, which was formed from new recruits and the few Continental soldiers of Virginia who had not been captured at the surrender of Charleston SC on 12 May 1780.

On 11 Feb 1860 Susan Loden of Cumberland County TN assigned power of attorney to obtain benefits as the widow of James Loden. On 29 Mar 1861 in Bledsoe County she assigned power of attorney for the same purpose.