

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Vachel Metcalf R7148

f18VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

5/27/13

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading fails to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Pennsylvania Washington County: SS

On this 18th day of October A.D. 1836, personally appeared before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas now sitting Vachel Metcalf a resident of Cross Creek Township in Washington County Pennsylvania aged seventy-six years past, 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 1836. That he entered the Army of the United States in the year 1780 and served as herein stated. I belonged to Captain Josiah Swearingen's Company of Colonel Van Swearingen's Regiment of militia of Berkley [Berkeley] County Virginia about the last of September 1780 a draft was made from the said Company and Regiment and I was among the drafted men. We met in Martinsburgh [Martinsburg] where we were organized and informed of the Service for which we were drafted, to march a distance of near seven hundred miles to South Carolina, in order to operate against the Tories and to reinforce the Southern Army in South Carolina under General Green [Nathanael Greene], accordingly we agreed to perform this Service in which we were engaged six months, under the command of Captain Cuthbert Anderson, we were marched from Martinsburgh first of October 1780 to Winchester, and from there we crossed the Shenandoah River through Culpeper County to Albemarle barracks, and from thence to Hillsboro in North Carolina, where we remained a few days until our Regiment joined us under the command of Colonel Glenn, with other troops all under the command [of] General Stevens [Edward Stevens]. We were marched from Hillsboro through North Carolina into South Carolina and home to the Cheraw Hills in South Carolina, there we joined the main Army under General Green and we remained stationed at the Cheraw Hills for about eight weeks when we were ordered to march under General Stevens and take charge of and guard the Prisoners taken by General Morgan [Daniel Morgan] at the battle of the Cowpens [January 17, 1781]: and on our march to perform this duty we were pursued by the British Army, under Lord Cornwallis, and with whom we had a skirmish on our crossing the Yadkin River, we continued our retreat through North Carolina when we were marched to Albemarle, and from thence to Winchester and from Winchester to Martinsburgh, where our Company under Captain Anderson was discharged sometime in the month of March 1781, being as I have stated six months in the Services of the United States as a drafted Militia man and volunteer under Captain Anderson. I received no written discharge. I know of no person living who has a personal knowledge of my services except James Curtis [?] of Ohio County Virginia whose affidavit is hereto attached. I have no documentary evidence to prove my service and can prove none. I was born in Berkley County Virginia on the 22nd of September 1760, a record of my age I have now in my possession copied from my father's family Bible fifty years ago. I was living in Berkley County Virginia in 1780 when I entered into the service of the United States,

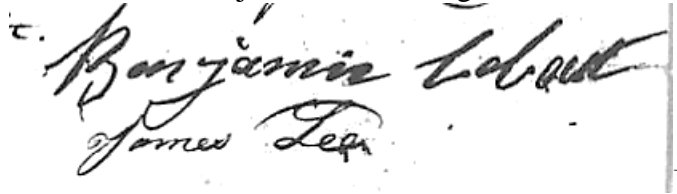
and where I have continued to reside until 1784, when I moved to Washington County Pennsylvania where I have resided ever since. I refer to the following named persons who are well acquainted with me who can testify to my character for veracity and belief of my services as a Soldier of the Revolution viz. James Lee & Benjamin Bebart [?]

I do hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the Pension Roll of any agency in any State.

S/ Vachel Metcalf



[James E and Benjamin Bebart [?]] gave the standard supporting affidavit.



State of Pennsylvania Washington County: SS

On this 10th day of December 1836 personally appeared before the undersigned a Justice of the peace in and for said County Vachel Metcalf a resident of Cross Creek Township in the County and State aforesaid who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following amended declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

That in the year 1780 I belonged to Captain Josiah Swearingen's Company of Colonel Van Swearingen's Regiment of Militia of Berkeley County Virginia. That a draft was made from the said Company and Regiment and I was among the drafted men which draft was I understood for three months. The Company to which I belonged Captain Anderson's met and organized at Martinsburg and marched from there about the first of October 1780 to our place of destination, prior to our marching from Martinsburg, we were informed that we were to be marched to South Carolina for the purpose of acting against the Tories and reinforcing the Southern Army, which I mentioned in my original declaration to be under General Green, my meaning was, that General Green did command the Southern Army when we arrived and joined them at Cheraw Hills, which was the fact, he having preceded us some days, although we left Martinsburg beginning of October we did not arrive at Cheraw Hills in South Carolina until sometime in December 1780, we were more than two months on the way including a stay of a week at Albemarle barracks and ten days at Hillsborough. We remained stationed at Cheraw Hills for about six weeks, when we were ordered to march for the purpose of Guarding the British prisoners taken by General Morgan at the Cowpens into Virginia. The battle of the Cowpens was fought on the 17th of January 1780 [sic, 1781], so that it must have been pretty well in January before we moved from our encampment in South Carolina, I know that our term, my company's, had expired some time before. We were marched through North Carolina and entered Virginia during the month of February and arrived the beginning of March at Albemarle barracks where we remained five days, in returning we found the roads extremely bad much worse than when we went out. We were marched from Albemarle to Winchester and from Winchester to Martinsburg where we were discharged the last of March, and it was not until we arrived there that we heard of the

battle of Guilford which took place the 15th of March 1781. I was myself as well as most of Captain Anderson's Company from the neighborhood of Shepherdstown, so that our Company had to march further than any other Virginia troops on that occasion.

My reason for not making an application sooner for a pension was that for many years past I had no knowledge of any person living who had any knowledge of my services, unless it was James Curtis [?] of Ohio County Virginia, nor was high sure that he was living or if living that he would recollect me until I went to see him in April 1835, after which I made an application as soon as I could do it conveniently. Soon after I was discharged in Martinsburg in March 1781 I called upon Colonel Scott who was Lieutenant of Berkeley County Virginia and who was authorized and appointed to settle with the Militia of the County for any service rendered to the United States accordingly the said Colonel Scott settled with me for my said Services under Captain Anderson, allowing me pay for 6 months services, for which he granted me a certificate accordingly.

Sworn and subscribed this 10th of December 1836

S/ George Elliott, Justice

S/ Vachel Metcalf

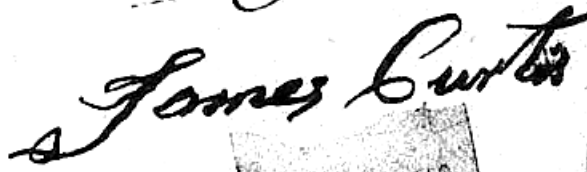
State of Virginia Ohio County: SS

Personally appeared before the undersigned a Justice of the peace in and for the County aforesaid, James Curtis [?]¹ a resident of said County, aged eighty-three years who being duly sworn according to law doth on his oath depose and say that he is acquainted with Vetchel Metcalf who states he is a resident of Cross Creek in Washington County Pennsylvania and an applicant for a pension from the United States. In the year 1780 I served with the said Vetchel Metcalf six months as a soldier in the Army of the United States and in the same Company with him under command of Captain Cuthbert Anderson, our company was organized in Martinsburg Virginia and marched from thence about the beginning of October 1780 and marched through Virginia and North Carolina into South Carolina where we remained stationed some time, Our company was finally marched back to Martinsburg and there discharged about the last of March 1781.

Sworn and subscribed before me this 15th day of September 1836

S/ John Brady, JP

S/ James Curtis

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James Curtis". The ink is dark and the handwriting is somewhat stylized, with a large initial 'J'.

[Note: The veteran's application was rejected for failure to prove the requisite 6 months military service.]

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James Curtis". The ink is dark and the handwriting is somewhat stylized, with a large initial 'J'.

¹ This is the 'clearest' version of this man's name which appears in the documents in this file. It looks more like "Curters" to me and his signature above doesn't help. I looked in the Virginia veterans pension under the federal pension acts and only found one pensioner by the name James Curtis [S39393], but he was living in Lincoln Co. Tenn. when he claimed a pension as a soldier in the VA Continental line.