

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of William Blevins R945

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Illinois SS } On this 13th day of July 1836 personally appeared in Open Court, the
Hamilton County } said Court, being a Probate Court in and for said County, now setting
William Blevins, resident in said County, aged seventy six years, who being 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 he entered the service of the United States and served as herein stated under
the following named Officer, Towit under Captain [Flour] Swift, a Volunteer, and a private in
Montgomery County Virginia, in the month of March, 1776 [see endnote], were stationed at the Lead
mines on, New River in said County, where there was a Fort [Fort Chiswell now in Wythe County VA]
for the purpose of protecting the frontier settlements from the Ravages of the Tories and Indians there
Stationed often making excursions up and down New River and its tributaries for the purpose of spying
and watching the movements of the Indians and Tories, was wounded while in the aforesaid Service, this
declarant being in pursuit of the Tories, overtook them at a house on New River aforesaid, we rushed into
the House and we was so crowded [crowded?] in the house that we had no chance of shooting – while this
declarant was in the said house one of the Tories in attempting to strike this declarant with his gun missed
his this declarant head at which he struck, and struck this declarant on the shoulder and broke his collar
bone, declarant was commanded by no Colonel the he knows of, there were no regular officers nor troops
with this declarant he rec'd a discharge but not his pay – after being discharged in the Fall of 1778 this
declarant returned to said fort for the purpose of getting his pay For Capt Swift had promised him that he
the Captain would returns of the length of time that this declarant had served and have his pay drew and
pay him but when he this declarant came to see his said Capt he had died and he this declarant never
rec'd his pay

This declarant served with no regular troops the militia officers that declarant served with was
Capt Swift & Capt [Enoch] Osborn – had no Colonel that he knows of, That he has no documentary
evidence, and that he knows of [no] person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his
services

He hereby relinquishes every claim 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 William hisXmark Blevins

Interrogatories propounded by the Court

Qus 1st Born in Pittsylvania Co Virginia 1760

Qus 2 no Record of his age

Qus 3 [when he entered serviced lived] in Montgomery Co virginia

Lived since, in North Carolina in Kentucky Indiana and now reside in Vermillion [sic: Vermilion] Co
Illinois

Qus 5 (Militia) Capt Swift and Capt Osborn

Qus 6) rec'd a discharge but lost

Qus (7) Bartlett Herring James Ruckman Calven Stern Enoch Oxley [neighbors who can testify to his
veracity and the reputation of his services] William hisXmark Blevins

[Punctuation partly corrected.]

State of Illinois }

Vermilion County } SS

On this 4th day of June A.D. 1838 personally appeared in Open Court the commissioners Court
of said County, the same being a Court of Record, William Blevins, 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 1838 Towit he declared that he can not recollect his age but he perfectly recollects, that at the period of time when the battle of Kings mountain was fought [7 Oct 1780] he this declarant was sixteen years old and subject to perform militia duty. And that he entered the service of the United States, as follows Towit He volunteered or engaged in the said service, during the war of the Revolution as an Indian Spy to guard the fornteers of Virginia, against the incursions of the Indians and torries by whom the fronteers were then greatly harrassed, At the house of Captain Swifts on New River in the County of Montgomery or Wythe [formed from Montgomery in 1789], in the Company commanded by Captain Swift, Lieutenant Ewing, Ensign M'Coy in the month of March in the year that the Celebrated battle of Kings mountain was fought and the militia of the State of Virginia was generally called out marched from said Captain Swifts to the block houses at the lead mines under the Command of officers on New River aforesaid there stationed except when employed in Ranging and Spying against the Indians and torries, for the space of two years, except when on furlow for the purpose of going home to get Clothing &c, employed in Ranging and Spying as aforesaid on the waters of New River the Cautauber [sic: Catawba] Elk and Adkin [sic: Yadkin] rivers in Virginia and North Carolina against the Indians and torries as aforesaid while engaged in the said Two Years of Service during the War of the Revolution served occassionally when chance or concert brought us together with the trops commanded by Colonel [William] Campbell Colonel Shelby [Isaac Shelby or Evan Shelby] Colonel Crockett [probably Walter Crockett], Colonel McGavock Major [Thomas] Quirk and Captain Osborn. On expedition against the said Indians and torries Near Roaring River Gap in North Carolina in a skirmish with the Torries said declarrant had his shoulder broken by a stroke with a gun while engaged in said skirmish. He this said declarrent was engaged as aforesaid during the space of Two Years except upon furlow as aforesaid from the month of march in the year the battle of Kings mountain aforesaid was fought were discharged by Captain Swift verbally with a promise that he should have my ["his" interlined] pay which were due and that he has no documentary evidence and that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service and that he hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension or annuity except the present.

Sworn and Subscribed the day and year aforesaid William hisXmark Blevins

Question 1st. Born in Pittsilvania County Virginia were Sixteen Years of Age the year the battle of Kings Mountain were fought in the War of the Revolution.

Question 2nd I have record of my age.

(3) H living on New River in the state of Virginia in Montgomery or With County & I have lived since in Wythe County state aforesaid moved from thence to Rutherford County North Carolina, from thence to Lincoln County Kentucky from thence to Vanderburg [sic: Vanderburgh] County Indiana, from thence to Vermilien County Illinois where I now reside. 4th I volunteered or engaged as an Indian Spy.

5th I know of no Regular officers. The militia officers were Colonel Campbell Colonel McGavock Colonel Shelby, Majer Quirk Colonel Croquette under whom I served in part Captain Orsborn, and Captain Swift

6th I never rec'd a discharge except a verbal one Our Captain discharged us with a promise that we should have our pay &c.

State the names of persons in your present neighborhood who can testify as to your character for veracity, and their belief of your services as a soldier of the Revolution Adam Sullevant Hiram Fuller

William hisXmark Blevins

State of Indiana } On this 23 day of June A.D. 1838 personally appeared before me John Taylor a
Warren County Sct } Justice of the in and for said County George Dixon [pension application S16764]
of said County who after being duly Sworn deposeth and saith that he is a Soldier of the Revolution and

served in Greenbrier County Virginia as an Indian Spy in part and that the declaration of William Blevins of Vermilion County Illinois being read to him He perfectly recolects that fort Chissell or the lead mines was in Montgomery County Va That while he was on an expedition to Kentucky for the purpose of Carrying an (Express) in the year 78 He stopped at Fort Chissell, or the lead mines and stayed three weeks and that he frequently seen Major Quirk and Colonel Crocket who Blevens alledges to have served under and heard of Captain Osborn and Captain Swift we drewed our rations of Swift. When this deponant engaged to serve as and Indian Spy he engaged during the War to turn at any time when called on. He knows that part where Blevens alleges to have served was pointed out to be greatly Harassed with the Indians and tories at the time when this deponant served; it being about sixty miles southwest of where deponant lived in the time of the Revolutionary war and further saith not

[signed] George Dixon

State of Indiana } before me John Taylor a Justice of the peace of said County personally appeared
Warren County SS } John Osborn [pension application S32423] a Revolutionary Pensioner who
deposeth and saith that William Blevens of Vermilion County Illinois came to his this deponants house
and in a conversation with said Blevens he this deponant was informed that said Blevens had served in
the War of the Revolution in Montgomery County Virginia, where this said deponant served – deponant
was raised about ten miles from where said Blevens says he was raised on New River in said state
deponant was acquainted with Blevens father and Brothers But recolects of seeing him the said William
Blevens. We both entering the United States Service when young we were put under different Captains
deponant was under Captain Enoch Orsborn and said Blevens under Captain Swift. We were stationed in
deferent forts in the same Country under the Command of Col Crocket Blevens were with Captain Swift
who was stationed at the lead mines, Captains Swifts Company was always bound to be ready and the
two companies was kept there to guard the frontiers they being in the Country where the Indian and
tories were continually Harrassing the fronteers during the War we were bound always to be ready when
not in service, at a minuets warning and when in service to be continually on the scout or in the
Garrison. deponant well recolects of the Battle that Blevens informs him that he was wounded in the
shoulder. Blevens shewed deponant the wound he received in said Battle It appeared that his Shoulder
had been broken and greatly injured.

and further deponant saith not

[signed 23 June 1838] John Osborn

NOTES:

In his second declaration Blevins stated that he entered the service in 1780. This is more likely to be correct that 1776, as Capt. Flour Swift was not commissioned until 8 Sep 1779.

Blevins's claim was rejected because the Pension Commissioner had decided that service against Indians on the frontier did not constitute military service under competent military authority, in spite of the fact that Captains Enoch Osborn and Flour Swift were duly commissioned in the Montgomery County Militia. For further discussion, see my appendix in the pension application S6111 of David W. Sleeth. Blevins's file includes an appeal from this decisions signed by dozens of his neighbors, including one apparently named Cyrus Blevens.