

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Ferguson Joshua	VA	S16793	f24VA
Transcription by Fred Weyler		01Jul2013	

Edited by Will Graves in italics

[p2] illegible certificate 23.480

With a note;

Order to pay 11Nov1836

[p3]

State of Missouri }

County of Calloway } On this nineteenth day of February in the year of our lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty three personally appeared in open court before Samuel T Moore, Thomas Conger, and James McKinny, judges thereof, it being the County Court of Calloway County aforesaid at the February term thereof- Joshua Ferguson, a resident of Cote Sans Dessein Township in the county aforesaid aged seventy nine 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 provisions of the act of Congress passed seventh of June 1832. That he was born in the County of Fairfax in Virginia on the eighth day of December seventeen hundred and fifty three, that he lived in the same county until the seventeen hundred and eighty four. In the year '76 or '77 we began to be very much disturbed by the inroads of the British who came up the Potomac in vessels for the purpose of foraging, getting provisions, and burning the property of the inhabitants when it became necessary to raise militia for the purpose of repelling these inroads of the enemy. That petitioner accordingly in one of *these* years which he does not recollect became a member of a militia company commanded by the Captain John Ware [*looks more like John Wren to me*] which company was part of a regiment commanded during the whole war by Col Peter Wagoner [*Peter Waggoner, also spelled Peter Wagener*], James Ware [*Wren?*] and Thomas Triplet were also Colonels in the same regiment. In the company of Capt. Ware to which this petitioner belonged was subject to be called out at a moment's warning and accordingly [sic] it happened some times that this petitioner had to leave his family and his home in the need [?] of a harvest. This petitioner cannot recollect the precise times when he and the company to which he belonged were engaged in actual service but well recollects that upon several occasions they marched some times to General Washington's house to protect it from the incursions of the enemy where they would remain for several weeks at a time and sometimes to Alexandria where the petitioner together with the company spent several months at one time in building batteries for cannon for the defense of the town. This species of service continued pretty much from the year '78 until the end of the war, as British spies visited the Potomac during that time frequently for the purpose of plunder or annoyance and succeeded in burning the residence of Col Lyle and Col Messer of Stafford and often succeeded in obtaining plunder. This petitioner never was in any action with the enemy, who were generally near their ships and would retire upon the appearance of the American forces except in some few instances. This petitioner believes that he was absent from home upon this sort of service during at least three summers during the revolutionary war. In addition to performance of that sort of duty this petitioner in common with all the militiamen of Fairfax County were subject to draught for the regular service when every sixteen men had to furnish a soldier for the continental army and as this petitioner was poor and had a wife and children to take care of he was unable to leave home upon such long service and was therefore put too much expense in procuring or

[p5]

assisting to become soldiers to serve for his draft. In the year '84 this petitioner removed from his native county and emigrated to Kentucky where he settled and remained until the year eighteen hundred and sixteen when he came to this country where he has lived ever since. Whilst in Kentucky he was much exposed to danger from the Indians in common with the other settlers and employed a substitute to go in his place on an expedition against the savages. He had a large family and could not leave home himself without great inconvenience. This petitioner has now stated all the material facts related to his revolutionary services as far as his recollection serves him and states that his memory as well as his body has suffered from the inroads of time.
Sworn to and subscribed in open court

Joshua Ferguson

Before me clerk of said
Court this 13th day of
February 1833
Irvine O Hockaday
Clerk

Questions put by the court to the petitioner together with his answers made thereto:

To wit:

Question- How old are you? *Answer:* I am seventy nine years old last December as I have before stated.

Question: What evidence have you of your age? *Answer:* I have none. I know from the information of my father and mother and from the family bible in which it was recorded and which has long since passed from my reach.

Question: Have you a discharge and if so what officer gave it to you? *Answer:* No. My liability to serve was constant. We would march out and return as occasion required until the defeat of Cornwallis after which they were no more called out.

Question: Under what officers did you serve and what officers did you know engaged in the same service? *Answer:* I have already stated all that I recollect in that subject.

Question? To whom are you known as a revolutionary soldier or otherwise? *Answer:* I am not known to any one now living in this county as a revolutionary soldier but old William Hornbuckle of this county who died a few years ago knew me in Virginia and knew perfectly the truth of the facts which I have above stated and am known however to many of the people of this county. I am well known to John Conger and Samuel T Moore two of the judges of this court now on the bench and probably to the others also.

Question: Is your name on the pension roll of the United States or of any state and have you ever rec^d a pension for revolutionary services? *Answer:* My name is not on the pension roll of any state nor of the United States. I have never rec^d a pension for or on account of my services rendered my country during the revolutionary struggle nor at any other time and I do hereby relinquish every claim or annuity except the present.

Question: Where have you resided since the revolution?

Answer: I have given a full answer to the question in my first statement.

s/ Joshua Ferguson

Sworn to and subscribed in open court
Before me clerk of said Court
This 19th day of February 1833
Irvine O. Hockaday, clerk

[routine county supporting statements and certification by:

Josiah Ramsay, neighbor

Henry Brite, neighbor

Jonah Ramsey Jr

Irvine O Hockaday, clerk, signed and sealed

Saml T Moore, judge

John Conger, judge

James McKinney, judge

[p8-p10]

08May1833 A war department form letter indication that the clerk failed to emboss his seal with two pages of rules.

[p12] Fulton Mo, 15Jun1834

I herewith enclose the petition of Joshua Ferguson for a pension under act of 1832 which was rejected with the document containing the causes of the rejection. I also enclose the renewed application & statement of the same claimant which has been delayed on account of the age & sickness of applicant. I request the result of the application may be addressed either to myself or to the clerk who certifies the petition.

Very respectfully,

W. Lucas

[p14-p24]

14May1834 Ink blotched and less legible *version of the application transcribed above* appearing essentially a duplicate *the application* of the 19Feb1833 declaration adding Ferguson's strained duration estimate of segments of his service, witnessed by new neighbors, certified by a new judge, and with the clerk's seal affixed. It contains reference to interrogatories which are not in the file, but I imagine are more precisely the War Department questions redundant with the declaration than the Q & As of over a year prior which were abridged due to redundancy.

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$20 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831 for service as a private for 6 months in the Virginia militia.]