

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of William Cleaver S30331

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 6 Aug 2012.

State of Kentucky

Grayson County S.S.

On this 24<sup>th</sup> day of September 1832 personally appeared in Open Court before Joseph Boone, Benedict Carrico & Charles H Stutevil the court of Grayson County in the State of Kentucky now sitting William Cleaver aged seventy one 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 7<sup>th</sup> 1832. That in the year 1776 he lived in Tigers Valey in Virginia on the Monongahala River [sic: Tygart Valley in present West Virginia on a branch of Monongahela River now named Tygart Valley River] and the Indians being very troublesome the people were forced consequently the government had to keep a guard for the forts and fronteer Settlement of Tigers valey. That he volunteered under Capt Smith who was sent out by the Government to guard the forts and fronteers of Tigers valey, that he served under Capt. Smith for the purpose aforesaid upwards of three months and during the years 1777 and 1778 he was during the summer seasons almost constantly in service under orders from the government in guarding the forts and fronteer settlements of Tigers valey at one time he thinks in 1778 he was detailed out to go out on a scout against the Indians under Captain Wilson, at this time he was gone 15 days. that he is confident he served during the years 1776, 1777 & 1778 at least nine months in guarding the Forts and Fronteers of Tigers Valey

That in the year 1779 he moved to the settlement of Kentucky and in 1781 he was ordered by Gen'l. [George Rogers] Clark to assist in guarding forts at the falls of the Ohio River [present Louisville KY] at which time he was in service 15 days. And in 1782 he volunteered and went on a Campaign against the northern Indians he was in Capt Davis's Company, this expedition was Commanded by Gen'l. Clark. They went to the Shawnee Towns and had several skirmishes with the indians, burnt their towns [Piqua, Standing Stone, etc., 10 Nov] took 14 prisoners and returned, they mached out towards Detroit. On this Campaign he was in service 3 months – a few days after he returned from the Campaign himself and his brother had a rencounter with a body of Indians in which he wounded an Indian his brother got wounded and they were both taken prisoners and remained with the Indians 6 months, he suffered very much with cold & hunger, frequently had to eat dogmeat without salt

Questions propounded to the applicant by the Court

Question 1<sup>st</sup>. Where & in what year were you born

Answer I was born in the State of ~~Maryland~~ Pennsylvania in the year 1761

2<sup>nd</sup> Question, have you any record of your age

Answer. my age was recorded in my fathers bible and it was burnt in his house.

3<sup>rd</sup> Question where were you living when called into service, where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live.

Answer. When called into service I lived in Tigers valey virginia, and before the close of the war I moved to kentucky and lived there ever since and now live in Grayson County State of Kentucky

4<sup>th</sup> Question State the names of some of the Regular Officers who were with the troops where you served such continental and militia Regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstance of your service – answer I have already stated the names of such officers as I recollect and the general Circumstance of my service is the same as stated in this Declaration

Question 5<sup>th</sup>. did you ever receive a discharge from the service – Answer not that I recollect of.

Question 6<sup>th</sup>. State the names of some of the persons to whom you are acquainted in your neighbourhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief of your services as a soldier of the

Revolution

Answer Charles Wortham, William Ewing, John Jamison, John Peebles, William Brunk, Thomas Doran, Edmund Philips, Martin Utterback, Frederick Keller Jacob Keller, William C Wortham

That he has no Documentary evidence and that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his services except the evidence of Benjamin Cleaver [pension application R2039] whose affidavit is here filed in Court

He hereby 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 day and year aforesaid [signed] William Cleaver

The Amended Declaration of William Cleaver to his Declaration for a Pension under the act of Congress passed the 7<sup>th</sup> of June 1832

On this 27<sup>th</sup> day of May 1833 personally appeared in open court before the Court of Grayson County State of Kentucky being a court of record, William Cleaver who being first duly sworn according to law doth upon his Oath make the following statement by way of Amendment to his Original Declaration. That in the year 1776 he lived in Tigers Valey on the Monongahala River in the State of Virginia, and the forts and frontiers of Tigers Valey having to be guarded from the indians, that in the year 1776 he volunteered in the militia of the State of Virginia under the command of Captain Smith who was sent out by the government to guard the forts & Fronteers of Tigers Valey that he was in the service aforesaid under the said Captain Smith at least three months, that in the year 1777 he was in service in guarding the forts and Fronteers of Tigers Valey at least three months in the militia of Virginia under orders from the government but he cannot recollect the names of the officers – and that in the summer season of the year 1778 he was also in service at least three months in the militia of Virginia under orders from the government and his service was guarding the forts & Fronteers of Tigers Valey but he does not recollect his Officers names and that in this year he was detailed out on a scout against the Indians under Captain Wilson and was gone 15 days

That in the year 1779 he moved to the settlement of Kentucky and in 1781 he was ordered by Gen'l. Clark to assist in guarding & building forts at the falls of Ohio River and was in service 15 days – And in 1782 he volunteered and went on a campaign against the northern Indians he was in Captain Davis's Company this Campaign was commanded by General Clark and marched to the Shawnee towns on this campaign he was in service three months for which he claims a pension

That he has no documentary evidence except the affidavit of Benjamin Cleaver which is hereto annexed as a part of this amended Declaration [signed] William Cleaver

State of Kentucky

Grayson County Sct

The Affidavit of Benjamin Cleaver Taken at the Town of Leitchfield in Grayson County and State of Kentucky on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of May 1833

This Deponant being in his 82<sup>nd</sup> year of his age and being duly sworn deposeth and saith that he has been personally acquainted with William Cleaver from his birth until this time that they lived neighbours in Tigers Valey on the Monongahala River in the state of Virginia in time of the Revolutionary War

That he knows the said William Cleaver was in the service of the United States in the years 1776 1777 & 1778 in guarding forts in Tigers Valey and also guarding the Frontiers of Tigers Valey from the Indians as they were very troublesome and the government had to keep up a constant guard, that he the said Benjamin was part of his time in service with the said William and that in the year 1779 they both moved to Kentucky together and that he knows the said William Cleaver was ordered by General Clark in the year 1781 to assist in guarding and building forts at the Falls of the Ohio River and he was in

service 15 days. He also knows that in the year 1782 the said William Cleaver volunteered under Captain Davis and went out on General Clarks Campaign against the northern Indians and was in service on this Campaign 3 months that he the said Benjamin Cleaver was in the same service and in the same Company

[signed] Benjamin Cleaver

NOTE: Compare William Cleaver's application with pension application R2039 of Benjamin Cleaver. William Cleaver was pensioned for 10 months service.