Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Henry Skaggs: S30701 fn41VA
Transcribed by Joe B. O'Connor

State of Kentucky
Grayson County ss

On this 24th day of September 1832 personally appeared in the County Court of said County in open Court being a Court of record now sitting Henry Skaggs resident of the same County Kentucky stated aged 73 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 7th 1832 he states that he was born in the Spring of the year 1759 in some County in South Carolina but of this he is not certain as there never was any register of his age that he has heard of and he now only states it from the statements of his mother to him when he first began to recollect he found himself in the State of Virginia in what is now Montgomery County was then probably Bottetourt [Botetourt County] on Little River a branch of New River he there lived until about 20 years of age as well as he recollects in the year 1779 a call was made for Militia Troops by Colo. Preston [Colonel William Preston] the Commandant of the County to go down New River & guard the frontier inhabitants from the attacks of the Indians he then entered the service of the United States in the Virginia Militia under the Command of Capt John Taylor of the same County they marched down New River & garrisoned a fort built on the bottom of New River called Culbersons bottom fort [Culbertson's Bottom Fort / Fort Byrd / Fort Field] under the Command of the same Capt Taylor at the end of one month their term of service expired & they were discharged by Capt. Taylor but whether in writing or verbally he does not recollect if it was in writing he has lost it long since He then remained at home some some time and a call was again made for troops to go against the western Indians on the Ohio He then volunteered in the Militia of the County under Command of Capt. James Thompson he does not recollect the name of his lieut. or ensign they had their rendezvous at old Wm Thompsons [William Thompson] on Back Creek a branch of New River in the same County as he thinks they were ordered to remain there & take up deserters from the American Camp and to compel them to go the Campaign they caught several and enrolled them to go with them in this service they spent about one month and then marched in a direction down New River to the levels of Green Briar [Greenbrier River] where they expected to meet 2 or 3 other Companies of Militia from other Counties of Virginia but upon reaching there those troops had gone on they then marched from there for the Mouth of the Great Kenhawa [Kanawha River] crossing Gauley River & Mountain the season was far advanced & they had to march through snow & ice in very inclement weather they however reached within three miles of Point Pleasant [now, Point Pleasant, West Virginia] near the Mouth of the Kenhawa on the Ohio they then met an express from Colo McIntosh [General Lachlan McIntosh] who Commanded at Point Pleasant directing them to march back as the Indians had dispersed & they were not needed they accordingly had to retrace their steps through the cold without any provisions & marched three days, without breaking their fast they reached and crossed Gauley River on their return and were there discharged by Capt Thompson but whether in writing or not he does not recollect if it was in writing he has long since lost he then returned home almost famished he does not recollect the length of time spent on this Campaign he however recollects that they were credited on the Militia Rolls by a six months tour their actual

service from its commencement until its close was near that time after this time having served one or two tours in spying on New River at Culbersons fort and served as guard at the same place in the following manner a call was made for troops to go to guard the frontiers which they planted corn in Culbersons bottom (this was the spring after McIntoshes Campaign) one Reubin Collins was draughted for one month & hired him for some trifle to go in his place he accordingly went and served one month and at the close of that month he volunteered for one month on his own account and was appointed by Capt Henry Patton (who Commanded at the fort throughout this summer) an Indian spy in Company with Thomas Farbar [?] they first went to the mouth of Cole River [Coal River ?] & ranged the country at various parts of the war road and returned on the 8th day they continued making various short trips always visiting the war road at some point in this war he spent he thinks another month making 2 months and was discharged as he thinks by Capt Patton and returned home where he remained save that Colo Preston having discovered that there was a gang of Tories in the County caused one Cox who was their leader to be arrested and found in his possession a roll in which named numerous Tories who were to join him march to North Carolina & join the British Army Colo. Preston called for Capt Trigg [Captain Daniel Trigg] & his Company of New River Boys who were in good repute for integrity to go & assist in taking & dealing with the Tories & some deserters from the American Army who had crept in amongst them he states that they marched to one Michael Price's on a small creek near the head of Catawba in Bottetourt [County] or Montgomery [County] there they spent some time scouting & taking and trying deserters & Tories by a court martial held there under the direction of Colo Preston having disposed of them they moved to Saml Peppers [Samuel Peppers] on New River & then caught & tried several more from there they crossed New River & went up a small creek called Reedy Creek a branch of New River to Staphal Catrans [?] where they took and tried several others from thence to Jacob Catrans [?] where they closed their labors they took and tried between 50 & 100 deserters & Tories & and compelled them to enlist in the American Army during the war or find a substitute to do it & made them take an oath of allegiance to the State of Virginia they were then discharged by Capt Trigg having served on this tour fifteen days making an entire service of nine months & fifteen days during the first two tours & this last he was in company with Archibald Skaggs of Adair County Kentucky by whom he can prove this service & has taken his affidavit sworn to before F Trahn [?] Esqr. A Justice of the Peace & County Court which he forwards herewith as Archibald is so diseased that he cannot attend any court to make his statement he has lost his discharges & has no documentary evidence nor does he know of any other person by whom he can prove any of his service upon the close of the war he came to Kentucky & after a stay of some months returned to New River & lived there some time he moved to Kentucky about the year 1790 & upon peace being made with the Indians he settled himself upon Russells [?] Creek in Green County lived in Green County & in the year 1809 he moved to & settled in Grayson County where he has ever since resided He herby relinquishes every Claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency of any state

Sworn and Subscribed the day and year aforesaid

S/Henry Skaggs X his mark

We Martin Utterbach Clergyman residing in Grayson County and State of Kentucky & Thomas Doran residing in the same county & state hereby certify that we are well acquainted with Henry

Skaggs who has subscribed and sworn to the above declaration that we believe him to be 73 years of age. that he reputed and believed in the neighborhood where he resides to have been a soldier of the revolution and that we concur in that opinion
sworn and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

S/MartinUtterbach
S/ Thos Doran

And the said Court do hereby declare their opinion after the investigation of the matter and after putting the interrogatories prescribed by the War Department that the above named applicant was a revolutionary soldier and served as he states and the court further certifies that it appears to them that Martin Utterback who has signed the preceding certificate is a Clergyman resident in Grayson County and State of Kentucky and that Thomas Doran who has also signed the same is a resident of the same County & State and is a credible person and their statement is entitled to credit.

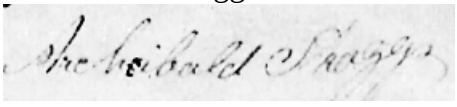
I Jack Thomas Clerk of the Grayson County Court in the State of Kentucky do hereby certify that the foregoing contains the original proceedings of the said Court in the matter of the application of Henry Skaggs for a pension.

In Testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal of office this 24th day of September 1832 at Leitchfield, Grayson County Kentucky

S/Jack Thomas CGC

I Archibald Scaggs[1] of Adair County Ky do on oath state that I have been acquainted with Henry Scaggs Grayson County Ky nearly ever since I can remember and in the time of the Revolutionary war with great Briton [Great Britain] I served three tours of duty with him one in about 1779 on New River at Culbersons bottom fort John Taylor was our Captain we was ordered out by Col Preston this tour was one month one other tour for six months called McIntoshes Campaign ordered out by Col Preston and James Tompson [James Thompson] was our Capt we went 300 miles down New River through Green Brier & across Golley River [Gauley River] near the mouth of the Kenaway one more tour of duty of 15 days we was ordered out by Col Preston and Daniel Trigg was our Capt we ketched between 60 & 100 Torys & Deserters the Torys was compelled to enlist in the United States Army or git a substitute
I do further state that the said Henry Skaggs performed his duty well and further this affiant sayeth not Sept 7 1832

S/Archibald Skaggs



I Daniel Trabue a Justice of the Peace and one of the Justices of the County Court for Adair County Kentucky do certify that on the 7th day of September 1832 Archibald Skaggs of Adair

[1] **Archibald Skaggs S31367**

County and state aforesaid made subscribed and sworn to the above statement before me I further certify that said Archibald is and has for some time past been confined to his house and often to his bed by the gravel and is so diseased that by reason of bodily infirmity he is wholly unable to attend Court I further certify that said Archibald Skaggs has been known to me for about 37 years and he is reputed and esteemed by all who know him to have been a soldier of the revolution and is a most worthy man Given under my hand this 8th day of September 1832 I have also known Henry Skaggs for about 35 years & have heard him always reputed a soldier & man of credit

S/Daniel Trabue JPAC

State of Kentucky Adair County ss

I William Caldwell Clerk of the Adair County Court do certify Daniel Trabue whose name is affixed to the above certificate is and was at the time of signing the above certificate a Justice of the Peace for said County and a Justice of the County Court for said County and that the signature annexed is his genuine signature

In Testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand & affixed the seal of the said County Court this 8th day of September 1832 & 41st year of the Commonwealth

S/Wm Caldwell

Amended Declaration

State of Kentucky

Grayson County sct

On this 27th day of May 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the Court of Grayson County being a Court of record Henry Skaggs who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his Oath make the following statement in order to amend his Declaration for a pension under the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832 That in the year 1779 he entered the service of the United States in the Revolutionary war under the Command of Captain John Taylor in the Militia of Virginia and was employed in building and guarding a fort at Culbersons bottom on New River in Virginia and that on this tour he served one month and that in the same year 1779 he volunteered in the Militia of Virginia under the Command of Captain James Thompson for the term of six months in this tour he went on a Campaign against the Northern Indians and marched from the now County of Montgomery in Virginia towards the mouth Kenhaway and when they got within three miles of the mouth of Kenhaway they were informed by an express from Colo. McIntosh who Command the Army that the Indians has dispersed and that they were not needed they then marched back being detained a considerable time in going and returning (a distance of about 300 miles) in catching Tories as that part of the State of Virginia was very much infested with the Tories & Indians that he was in service on this Campaign and reconnoitering after Tories & Indians after his return at least six months That on the next summer in the year 1780 he served one month as a substitute for Reubin Collins under Captain Henry Patton of the Virginia

Militia in guarding Culbersons bottom fort on New River in Virginia and after his service as a substitute had expired he volunteered and served one month for himself in the same year 1780 under the Command of the said Henry Patton who Commanded at the fort throughout the summer 1780 In this service he acted a great part of his time as an Indian spy he states that from old age and consequent loss of memory and being so long ago that he cannot recollect all of the officers and their particular grade under whom he served that he knows Colo McIntosh Commanded on the Campaign to the mouth of Kenhaway against the Indians and his Captain was named James Thompson and that in his service in guarding the forts and spying he was Commanded by Capt John Taylor & Henry Patton all by orders of Colo. Preston He further states that Charles Wortham, Martin Utterback and Frederick Keller, Joseph Mendoth, Abraham Neighbors, Jacob Keller James Higdon and Thomas Doran are my neighbors and can testify as to my character for veracity and their belief of my service as a soldier of the revolution That he has no documentary evidence except the Deposition of Archibald Skaggs which is here to Annexed and made part of this Amended Declaration

S/Henry Skaggs X his mark

I Jack Thomas Clerk of the Grayson County Court in the State of Kentucky do certify that the above and foregoing contains the amended declaration for a pension made and sworn to in the said Court by the said Henry Skaggs who swore to & subscribed the same in said Court

In Testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of office this 27th day of May 1833

S/Jack Thomas

[See: Skaggs, Archibald S31367 cousin of Henry Skaggs as per Pension Application]