

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of William Cockrum S30962

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Kentucky

Hickman County Sct.

On this 10<sup>th</sup> day of August 1833 personally appeared before the worshipful the County Court of said County William Cockrum or William Cochrun a resident of said County and State aforesaid aged about seventy years old 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 the 7<sup>th</sup> 1832 that he enlisted in the army of the United States in the year 1778 or that he was with said army in the employ of Capt Clannan or McClannon which this Decarant does not no. he positively states that he served in the 8<sup>th</sup> Rigmnt under Collo. Hammond he states he does not know wheather he enlisted or was employed by his said Captain he was quite young and having lost his parrents and was destitute of a home was advised to go in the army and having early learned to beat the drum while in said servis he performd drumers duties he states he enterd the servis in the State of Virginia South hamton [sic: Southampton] has no recollection of receiving a bounty but was furnished with cloathing and frequently received pocket money from his officers in the following year after he joind the Army he was marched to the South to wit thru the states of North Carolina South Carolina and Georgia never Reachd Savannah was Turnd back &c in the year 1780 joined General [Horatio] Gates before the battle of Camden [16 Aug 1780] we was or so many of us as survived that defeat rendevoused at Charlotte and retreated to Sailsbury and from Sailsbury to Hillsborough we then marchd back to Sailsbury [sic: Salisbury NC] and then to Charlotte Some time after that General Green took the command of our Army this decarant was at Guilford Court house in the State of North Carolina. he was also at Speedwells Iron works [on Troublesome Creek in present Rockingham County NC] he was then marched to the Siege of York. through the whole of this decarants servis he acted as a Drummer whether his name is on the Muster Roll or not he does not know was cloathed and fed was in Drummers uniform and as he has before stated frequently rec'd money from his officers but never drew no regular pay from the goverment

And he hereby Relinquishes every claim to a pention or annuity except the present and declars his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any State or Territory what ever

Sworn to &c.

William Cockrum [not a true signature]

Clinton Hickman County Kentucky/ September 6<sup>th</sup> 1836

Hon. Lew Cass/ Sec. of War

Sir. I have had the misfortune to loose or mislay my pension Certificate, I would therefore thank you to forward me a copy, I was placed on the pension list from Hickman County Kentucky, please forward me a copy as early as practable, as I cannot draw my pension untill it is rec'd.

Yours Respectfully/ William Cockrum

[The signature on this letter was not considered genuine, and the pension was therefore suspended. A new application for a new certificate dated 15 Oct 1836 was sworn before a Justice of the Peace and signed similarly. A note dated 7 Nov 1836 and initialed R. B. states that, "The signature to the original papers was evidently written by the person who drew them up – not, however, because Cockrum could not write; on the Contrary, he seems now to write too good a hand for a man of 83 years old Perhaps from the appearance of the papers, the case migte be deemed to be of a doubtful character. Respectfully referred to the Com'r. of Pensions." Below this, initialed J. L. E. (James L. Edwards, Commissioner of Pensions) is written, "Don't issue a certificate. The signature is not genuine. Let the papers remain on our files."]

State of Kentucky } Ss  
Hickman County }

On this day March the 6<sup>th</sup> one thousand eight hundred and thirty seven William Cockrum a Revolutionary Soldier who is an applicant for a New Pension Certificate this day made his personal appearance before the undersigned and acting Justice of the peace in and for said County and Declares on His oath that he is the Identical person that was placed on the pension Roll list of the Kentucky agency as a Drumer of the Virginia Militia agreeable act of Congress of June 7 1832 and that since that time he has lost his pension Certificate and has made application for a new one and that he is Intirely Illiterate and unable to write his own name that James W. Gibson who made out his Declaration for his original Certificate signed this applicants name by his this applicants Request to said Declaration and that the Honorable Thomas James signed his name to his application for a new certificate Sworn to this date above written

[A new pension certificate was issued 26 April 1837.]