

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of James Howard S31139

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 19 Sep 2012.

State of Kentucky }

County of Perry } SS

On this 27th day of december 1833. personally appeared before me [Andrew Willson] a Justice of the Peace for said county James Howard a resident of Kentucky in the County of Floyd and State of Kentucky aged eighty one years [see endnote] 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.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. That in the month of June 1777 [more likely 1776] he enlisted for six months in Montgomery County Virginia, under Captain McClanahan at Fort Chiselhill [sic: Fort Chiswell in present Wythe County VA] Lieutenant Edwards to go against the Cherokee [sic: Cherokee] Indians, he was, however amediately placed under the command of Capt Buchanan, Joseph Drake Leut. Col. Bomar [probably Abraham Bowman], Major Bomar [probably Joseph Bowman], Ensign Drake (the Capt. and Leut were Brothers – Gen Christy [sic: William Christian] commanded. We marched to Abingdon and from there to the Long Islands of Holstein [sic: Holston River at present Kingsport TN], from there to the Cherokee cuntry crossing “French broad” at the mouth of a creek called Dumplin. Gen Clark [sic: Elijah Clarke] from the south was endeavoring to form a Junction with the army from Virginia. the Indians here sent the army a flag for peace which was not accepted. the army then destroyed an Indian Town called Ternolily, and another, called Big Island Town and then the army marched back, a part went to Eatons fort [near present Kingsport] and some went to a fort on Clinch river know as Blackamores fort [sic: Fort Blackmore in present Scott County VA] at which place this applicant remained until after the treaty was made with the Cherokees at the Islands [Treaty of Long Island, 20 July 1777] and in January 1778. he rec’d a discharge and left the service –

In the month of June in 1778. he enlisted for three years to go against the Indians in Kentucky and on the Wabash under Col John Mongomery [sic: John Montgomery], Capt. Jesse Evans [pension application S15826]. Lut Crockett [probably John Crockett], the army rendesvuzed at the Long Islands and there we all took boats and decended the river to Tennessee river, from there to the mouth of Ohio river up it to the Mississippi river, up it to the Illinois up this river to an old town settled by the French on the Kaskascia [sic: Kaskaskia] river about three miles up the same. After arving at this point the whole army was commanded by Gen George R Clarke [sic: George Rogers Clark]. after remaining there some time we all marched to Vincennes on the Wabash river. after remaining here for some time, this applicant was marched back to the Illinois river and remained there till April 1779 he was then with army transported in the same way he came to the mouth of Ohio on the Mississippi river, (above 4 miles below) he remained here at a little fort [probably Fort Jefferson] at the Yellow banks [sic: Iron Banks] for some time but in August he ascended the river a part of the way and part he marched to the falls of Ohio [at present Louisville] where Gen Clark had gone with the most of the army, the army had got back from the Illinois, where the Indians had surrendered or yielded to the american forces. he then was marched to the Kentucky to Bonsboro [sic: Boonesborough], and there helpt to guard the fort. this year 1780 the inhabitants were much anoyed by the indians and this year I again was marched back to the falls directly after the french came from Cannidy and the Indians had took Martins and Riddles station [see endnote], in it was in this summer that General Clarke marched against the Indians over the Ohio on the Miamis at Peccays plains, and here we had a battle with them, not far from where the Indians had compelled the Kaskaskians to retreat the year before 1779. After this engage the Shawnees did not venture out much.

he then returned with the army to the falls from there after staying there that winter 1780. in April 1781 two companies marched to the mouth of Licking river and built a block house, after this, he having served out his time 1781. in June he rec'd his discharge; for three years service, he was promised land which he never got – during his service he suffered much both from hunger and cold. he came by the way of Harrodsburg [sic: Harrodsburg KY] and came home to Va they army had several skirmishes during his service, but not to be denominated battles – he has no documentary evidence of his service but believes he can establish his services by one of his brothers [Thomas Howard S45796] who served the last three years with him and in the company and enlisted at the same time and one, Enoch Martin, John Porter and Jas Patrick [James Patrick S1241]. He knew no continental Regts or Officers, that he now remembers. he however knew Gen Christy Col [William] Russell (of Va) he saw Col. [Daniel] Boone directly after he got away from the Indians [at Detroit, Feb-Sep 1778]. Col Todd and Col Trigg. Col Harod [probably Harrod]. Let Holden, and many that this applicant could mention. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares his name is not on the pension roll of the Agency of any state.

– Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid –

[William Coffie, clergyman, and Thomas Howard certified James Howard's age and reputation as a soldier of the Revolution.]

1st

Where and in what year were you born?

Ans. I was born in Georgia in the year 1752 in the section of cuntry where Wilkes County now stands, as he was informed by his father. I was born in the month of September the 13th day thereof–

2^d

Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

An I have none and only know my name by tradition, and the age of the rest of the children and what my mother told me–

3rd

Where were you living when called into service; where have you lived since the Revolutionary war, and where do you now live?

Ans. In Montgomery County Virginia, Then lived there about thirty years. since the Revolution, I lived about seven years on Cumberland River in Knox County Kentucky and then moved to Floyd County until 1821 when Perry County was constituted, and the place where I now live (Perry County, Kentucky) was cut off in it–

4.

How were you called into service were you drafted, did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if a substitute for whom

Ans I was enlisted or drafted as it was termed, two times one for six months, the second time for 3 years to go to Kentucky which then belonged to our State Virginia

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State the names of the of some of the Regular Officers who were with the troops where yo served such Continental and Millitia Regiments as you can recollect, and the general circumstances of your service?

Ans. I cannot state who were regular officers precisely. many were called Col Maijers &c who never had a commission in their lives. Col. [Joseph] Crockett was a Regular officer in Ranks and so was Bomar, and Gen Clarke, in the Va State troops but not belonging to the continentall line as he knows of. he saw Col. Logun [sic: Benjamin Logan], Col Boone, Col Trig, Capt Hardin, and Capt Ashton men at Harrodsburg and a Gen Cannaday, Col Montgomery was a millitia Col in the Va service, and as to Continental Regiments he has no recolection of the names or whether in fact any served with the troops. time has defaced many things from my recolection, and having lost in a great degree my hearing and being very

old and infirm, and fact is that the intercourse between a soldier and Officers was such that no great information were to be derived from them. it frequently was the case that the soldiers were altogether unacquainted one day what was to be done the next— The general circumstances of my services during the Revolution was these, I first enlisted against the Cherokees for six months and went and served out my time under Buchanan and Drake, marched to the Cherokee cuntry to French broad, and destroyed Ternilily and Big Island Town in the Cherokee nation down the Tennessee. he rec'd his discharge. after coming back to blackamores fort, and was discharged – After this I enlisted for three years and marched under Col Montgomery and Captain Evins to go to the Western country. we rendesvuzed at the Islands of Holstein, and descended that river to Tennessee river. from there to the Mississippi [illegible word] it to Illinois and to Kaskascia from there to Vincennes next year he was sent down to the mouth of Ohio and remained there for a few months and went up to head quarters at the Falls of Ohio. from this place after staying there for some time, he went to Bonsboro and then returned. he was in the battle at Peccaway with Indians, then marched back to the Falls and then some time afterwards went up to Licking and built a blockhouse, and rec'd his discharge, and returned to Virginia just before Cornwallius surrenderd at York, during the year 1780 many murders were commited by the Indians in Kentucky by the Shawnees and delawares—

6.

Did you ever receive a discharge from the service and if so by whom was it given and what has become of it

Ans I rec'd two. one from Buchanan for six months. I have no recollection of what I done with this. I rec'd a discharge from Col Bomar under whose command I was in Kentucky I never could read and therefore am not certain who wrote it. I sent this discharge to Col Sayers of Virginia by Hugh McGarick [probably Hugh McGavock] to get my land for me in 1791. I never saw it since. I never got my land.

7

State the names of persons to whom you are known in your neighborhood who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief of your services as a soldier of the Revolution

Ans. to Alexander Patrick, to Andrew Willson Jr. to Rev'd William Caffie Daniel Higgins Col. Combs, and Maijer John A Duff, Henry Duff

[The following letter is in the file of Bazle (Boswell) Castle S15369.]

Floyd county Prestonsburg Ky [13 June, year not stated but probably 1834 or 1835]

Sir [Secretary of War] it is thought thare is sume gross frauds practised on your department by granting pentions to severell people in this county and the county of lawrenc and margin [sic: Morgan] in this state under the late act of Congress granting pentions to revolutionarry Soldiers it would be desireable to know what ware the claimes presented of service by Baswell Castle, Edward Darton [sic: Edward Darten (Dorton), pension application S30983], Thomas [Thomas Howard S45796] and James Howard, Joseph, Davice [sic: Joseph Davis S15399] &c as sume of those men I have knew near thirty years and from thare age it is not posable they ware ever in the war of the revolution I have Been requested repeatedly to write for information on this subject By our citizans and believing it a duty that we all owe to our country to detect frauds on our government it is desireable you would forward a short list of the names of those Drawing pentions under the late act the date of thare servic, proven and the name of the agents employed[?] in obtaining thare pentions in the three countys named in doing so you will much gratify the wishes of maney respectable cetizans Yours/ D. K. Harris
or any other information that would be nesserry to detect fraud as thare is certinly gross errer in [the rest missing]

[From the pension file of Joseph Davis S15399.]

War Dept./ Pension Office/ Aug. 6, 1835

Sir [D. K. Harris], Your letter of the 18th ult'o. accompanied by the statements of John Osborn and Reuben Marshall came duly to hand. These statements are herewith returned, in order that they may swear to them. The pensions of Joseph Davis, Bazle Castle, Edward Darton, Thomas Howard and James Howard have been stopped.

So soon as Lists of the Kentucky Pensioners shall have been permitted for circulation, a List embracing all the counties you mention, will be sent to you.

We will be obliged to you for any information respecting fraudulent cases which you may be able to furnish. This Dept. however, can make no compensation for such service. No appropriation by law has been made for such purposes.

[At the bottom of this page is the following anonymous note : "This man retracted his statements about Joseph Davis, see his letter dated Feb. 11, 1842 in claim of Edward Darton, S30983."]

[From the pension file of Edward Darton s30983.]

Prestonsburge Floyd County Ky Fbruary 11th 1842

Dear sir some six or eight years since I wrote to the head of your department on the subject of fraudulent pensions in this section of the government there was two cases that was glairing and certainly fraudulent I mean the casses of Thomas and James Howard. these two casses led to the suspetion of other to that of Edward Darton Boswell Castle & Joseph Daviss which ware all stoped the 6th of august 1835 I suppose from the information the department received from me Sir the three latter casses that of Dorton Castle and Davis the men live about twenty or twenty five miles from whare I do about the last of november last I was in the nighbourhood on the hunt of some work cattle I stoped in at the house of Darton and found him sitting in his chair a cripple not able to get about without help and his wife stone bline I thought of the subject and raised a conversation with the old lady upon the subject of the revolutionarry war she spoke sensibly of the servises of hir husband and of Castle & Davis shee thoughroly convinced me that the suspetion that was against them was rong and sir I do much regrett that it was in and thrugh me they ware cut out of thare rights but sir I am contious that I was guided by no improper motive my father was a member of the revolution and his Blood mingled amongst the marters of that scane and I feel it a duty that I owe to my goverment to detect frauds against it and likewise I feel it a duty that I owe to my fellow man if I have by mistaken notion or otherwise done them a rong to rectify it. sir they do not know to this Day that I was the cause of thair pensions being stoped and sir it would gratefy my feelings verry much for them to be restored againe I mean the three latter casses as I do assure you that I would be the last to do an injury to a War warn patriot in his last days plesse let me hear from you
Respectfully yours/ David K Harris

State of Kentucky
Breathitt County } Sct

On this the 5th day of February 1852 Personally Appeared Before me William Davis an acting Justice of the Peace in annd for the county and state afsd. James Howard, who being duly swon according to law Doth on his oath make the following Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of of the act of Congress passed 7th of June 1832. Towit That he is the identical person who drew a Pension under the act of Congress passed 7th of June 1832, at the rate of \$80.00 per ann. but which Pension was suspended in the year of 183 [sic] he believing that that it was unjustly suspended, hence he most respectfully asks the Hon Commissioner of Pensions to cause it to be reallowed, and that the Certificate of reallowance may be enclosed to his attorney Isaac H Trabue, of Frankfort Ky, He most respectfully asks that a new Certificate of Pension may issue to him as he has not his old one in his possession, nor does not know where it is. He hereby revokes all other authority heretofore given to prosecute his afsd claim excepting that given to the afsd Trabue,

Sworn to & subscribed Before me on the day and year afsd James hisXmark Howard

NOTES:

In the 1840 federal census James Howard of Breathitt County is listed as aged 70-80. In the federal census taken in Breathitt County KY on 17 Aug 1850 James Howard is listed as being 90 years old.

The events described by Howard after "the french came from Cannidy" are as follows: In 1780 an army of mostly Indians and possibly some French Canadians under British Col. Alexander McKee came from Detroit and attacked the Kentucky settlements. In early May of the same year Col. William Byrd, a Loyalist from Virginia, led a force of Wyandotte and Shawnee Indians that captured Martin's and Ruddle's Stations. In response Gen. George Rogers Clark raised an army in Kentucky and destroyed many Indian towns, including Piqua on the Great Miami River in Ohio on 8 Aug 1780.

Compare the application of James Howard's brother, Thomas Howard (S45796).