

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of John Claspy S30934

fn21Va.

Transcribed by Will Graves

Commonwealth of Kentucky, Warren County

On this 21st day of November 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Judge of the Circuit Court for the County of Warren, now sitting, John Claspy (called during the revolutionary war Gillespie) a resident of said County & State aged 73 years on the 17th of April next 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 & served as herein stated.

That he volunteered into the service as a private in the militia of the State of Virginia from the County of Berkly [sic, Berkeley] & said State, on or about the 24th of April 1776. His Captain was named John Van Meter, his Lieutenant __ [blank in original] McIntire – the Sergeant, Nathanael Linder [or Lender] – there was no major or Colonel at that time out with him, a Colonel Pendleton, who he thinks, was stationed about Pittsburgh occasionally he visited the Post, at which your applicant was stationed. He rendezvoused at Martinsburg in said County of ~~Berkeley~~ and marched thence to Wheeling with a view of defending the fort – then at that place and the settlements about it, from the ravages of the Shawnee Indians. He was engaged here three months, during which time he was wounded in the arm, by a ball from the Indians – and at the same time a comrade – Thomas McClary was killed. He was mainly engaged on this tour as a drummer. At the expiration of the three months he returned home to Berkeley County. He received no written discharge, but the whole company was verbally dismissed or discharged by the Captain.

2ndly In the winter of the same year, he thinks about the first of December 1776, he again volunteered, from the same County & State having rendezvoused at the same place, in the company of Captain Lucas -- & Lieutenant Nathaniel Lender (the same who was Sergeant of his first tour) and Sergeant Duke – Major Scott, was he thinks, the only officer of a grade higher than Captain who was out on this tour. He marched from Martinsburg to a point on the Scioto River, near he thinks, if not the very place, where Chilicothe stands, for the purpose of finishing a fort called Fort Lawrence [sic, Fort Laurens], which had been begun by companies that had been out before him. He aided in completing the fort and occupied it for the purpose of defending the Country from the Shawnee Indians. This was a six months tour and he served the whole time. He does not remember to have received a written discharge.

3rdly Some time after this, but he cannot recollect the year, he joined the Army of General Dark [sic, Darke], who he thinks was the commander of the 10th Regiment of the Regular Army. It was at the time that Darke's Army was lying near the mouth of Bull Run Creek on the Potomac River, a little below Alexandria, while the Army of General Morgan was just above the that town. He was employed for a while say four months by General Darke in the capacity of ostler [sic, hostler], but for that service was promised soldier's pay. Becoming weary of the confinement incident to that station and desiring more active service, he joined the recruiting service and continued in that employment for about three years. He acted as a recruiting Sergeant, but had no other commission than orders from General Darke to act in that capacity. Your applicant had always expressed a disinclination to enlist although he had received many solicitations to do so. He messed however with Captain Meriwether's Company whenever he was with the Main Army – but his business was such that he was but rarely with it. Of the Regulars, he knew General Darke, Colonel Stephens & a Major McIntire of Darke's Army but being so frequently a way & not being in regular service his recollection of them is imperfect. He was finally discharged from this service by General Darke, in consequence of ill health occasioned by his exposure. This discharge he has lost.

4thly He again volunteered just previous to the surrender of Cornwallis from said County &

State under Captain Vestill whose Lieutenant was named Blair – we marched to Yorktown – was present at the surrender of Cornwallis – after the surrender he attended an escort or guard of that part of the prisoners which were sent to Winchester under the command of Colonel Holms – and was detained in this service were more than three months. He also guarded them as far as Shepherds town where they were received by some other escort and your applicant dismissed. His age is set down in his Bible. He was born in Maryland – moved at the age of 12 to Virginia. After the war has moved to Tennessee & thence to Kentucky where he lives. He has no documentary evidence of his services – nor no person in this State that he knows of by whom he can prove his services. He has embodied all the material statements required by the War Office. He hereby relinquishes all claim to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not only Pension Roll of the agency of any State.

S/ Joⁿ Casby [sic]

State of Kentucky, Warren County

Be it known that on this 20th day of April 1833 personally appeared before the undersigned an acting Justice of the war Peace in & for the County & State aforesaid John Claspby and made oath to the following facts as amendatory of his original declaration in order to procure a pension under the act of Congress of the 7th of June 1832 (viz.) That upon examination of his original declaration he observes an error in the statement of the length of time he was engaged as a recruiting Sergeant under General Darke. He was & had supposed he had so stated three years under General Darke. But he was not as he then stated either by the mistake of himself or of the draftsman of his declaration, all that time engaged as a recruiting Sergeant. In that capacity he was engaged to the best of his recollection, only two years & eight months – 4 months of the time that he was under Darke, he was engaged as he stated in his declaration as hostler – which makes the three years as stated. As to the “tours &c” of his recruiting service, concerning which he is required by the We or Department to speak more particularly he can only say that he had no particular “tours” in such service – but one long “Tour” which lasted as he has just stated two years & eight months – Recruiting was his regular duty then, from day to day & from year-to-year – as plowing his farm is now and he states that he was constantly & actively engaged in it for the whole period of two years & eight months. He recruited for no particular company. The man he obtained were delivered by him to General Darke & placed by him where & in what companies he pleased. During the time of his service Darke marched with his Army, from Bull Run to West Point – from thence to Richmond & to Washington to guard the Post on the Chesapeake & the last generally. At one time he believes he marched as far as Trenton (N.J.). But during these several movements, your applicant did not always attend him, but visited him whenever he might be when his recruit was full. His destination always was where there were the largest gathering of the people in their civil capacity. And where whiskey was most likely to induce them to assume a military one. He was always attended by his Fifer named John Roe and his Drummer named John Hart. During his recruiting service your applicant was taken prisoner but was confined but a short time & that latter circumstances prevented him from stating it in his original Declaration. The circumstances were these. He & his comrade had stopped at the house of a Mrs. Boyd who was then churning & who promised to give them the Buttermilk as soon as she was done. While she was still engaged your applicant walked alone down to the spring. And having slept none for two or three nights, threw himself on the ground & fell asleep. He was too soon awakened by the tramp of horses. He arose & attempted to retreat by leaping a fence near him. He was instantly followed by two British Dragoons – who caught him & carried him to the house of a Tory in the neighborhood. At night he was placed in the upper story of a two-storied stone house and a Negro man was designated to guard him. He succeeded in bribing the Negro to assist him by means of the bed cord to make his escape through the window. He directed the Negro for his own exculpation to arouse the family after your applicant should have escaped and when he had got one or 200 yards from the house, he had the pleasure of hearing the noise & bustle which his escape occasion. As a summary of his whole declaration your applicant would state that according to the best of his

recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below in the following grades. For three months he served as a private in the company of Captain Van Meter -- for six months as a private in the company of Captain Lucas. That by reason of old age & the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the time he entered the Army under General Darke, but that he served with him, not less than four months as hostler promised soldiers pay and two years & eight months as a recruiting Sergeant – Henry Howard, Willis Arnold, Westley Richie & Stephen Richie &c are the names of persons to whom your applicant is known in his present neighborhood & who can testify to his character for veracity & their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution.

S/ John Clasby

[Jeremiah A. Crawford, a clergyman, Littleberry Savage & James Hays gave the standard supporting affidavit.]