

American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of Josiah Brandon W335

Transcribed by Will Graves

State of Tennessee, County of Lincoln

On this the 16th day of October in the year of our Lord 1832 personally appeared in open Court before Abram Steed, William Edminson and Samuel Buchanan, the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions now sitting, Josiah Brandon, a resident citizen of the County of Lincoln and State of Tennessee aged about 72 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 the 7th, 1832.

I entered the service of the United States in the fall of the year 1776 or 1777, the precise time not recollected, as a volunteer under Captain Samuel Davidson of Burke County North Carolina for a three months tour of service. We were marched to the frontiers and built a Fort for the protection of that part of North Carolina. The Fort is in the limits of what is now Burke County North Carolina. We then called the place Fort Royal, now known in North Carolina by the name Old Fort at which place there is now a post office called Old Fort Post Office. At the expiration of my term of service I was discharged by Captain Davidson which has been mislaid or lost but have no recollection how or when. I enlisted as a volunteer under Captain Davidson at Davidson's Fort in Burke County North Carolina. I was then a resident of Burke County and so remained until after the close of the war.

A short time after I was discharged by Captain Davidson, I again entered or volunteered but which at this time I am unable to say. This was as well as I now recollect in the spring of 1778 under Captain Samuel Davidson had Old Fort who was still in command of the Fort which was kept garrisoned for the protection of the settlements against the Cherokee Indians. I remained during this engagement in the service of the United States, at this post under the command of Captain Davidson for upwards of twelve months, but how much longer I cannot recollect. I was discharged, if I am not mistaken, in the spring of 1779 by Captain Davidson at Old Fort. At this time I am unable to say whether Captain Davidson was a militia or regular officer. He commanded the Fort from its erection until I received my second discharge date term not less than 15 months. Shortly after this time he was relieved by Captain Cunningham

In the fall of the same year that I was discharged by Captain Davidson (1779), I volunteered as a Ranger under Captain Cunningham for a term of three months. I am certain of that length of time but am inclined to believe it was longer. He succeeded Captain Davidson in command at Old Fort at which place we first rendezvoused. From that place we were immediately marched in pursuit of the Indians. We crossed over the Blue Ridge and down the Swannanoa [River] to French Broad [River] and back to Old Fort. On this expedition we had no general engagement with the Indians. After our return a part of the company was constantly kept on partisan or ranging duty while the balance was at the Fort. Captain Cunningham was the senior officer at this station until I was discharged but now have no recollection whether I received a written discharge or not.

In the winter of 1779, I again joined Captain Boykin's company of light Horse for the purpose of pursuing a certain Captain Cunningham who commanded a company of British and Tories in the edge of South Carolina. We took up the line of march from Brown's station, Burke County for South Carolina where we were joined on Tyger River by the command of Captain's Roebuck & Casey's Dragoons. We made immediate march for Cunningham and drove him into the British garrison at 96 where a large British force then lay. We remained in that section of the country until our term of service expired. We were then discharged and returned to our homes in Burke County, North Carolina.

The March following our campaign into South Carolina under Captain Boykin, I joined Major McDowell's Militia Corps from Burke County. He was reinforced by the command of Major Singleton from Rutherford County North Carolina. We took up the line of march for the Cherokee Nation by the way of Old Fort. We burned and destroyed several Indian towns, Stecoa [?] and the names of others

not recollected. After driving the Indians back and quieting the frontiers, we returned home after an absence of some 20 or 30 days for this service I'd never received a written discharge.

Early in the fall of the same year (1780) the Indians made on another attack upon our settlement near Old Fort and among the number who fell victims was John Davidson and his family who were butchered in the most brutal and savage manner; to quell this invasion, I again attached myself to the command of Captain Walker for three months, as a corps of spies or Rangers. During this term of service we were on duty in small detachments while the balance of the company remained at the garrison on duty. About this time or shortly after, if I am not mistaken, Cornwallis surrendered at Little York which in great degree gave peace to our frontiers. I received a discharge from Captain Walker for a three months tour of duty but that with all the other documentary or written evidence has been lost or mislaid so that I cannot use them in this application

From the foregoing declaration it will be perceived that I was in the service upwards of two years at various times. The particular length of each tour and the precise date of my service I cannot pretend to [?] for them correctly. I am now old: 72 years of age with a frail memory and have forgotten many of the pertinent events of those days and very many only remain as a dream. I have no documentary evidence of my service and will rely on this statement of ____ [blank in the original] whose affidavits are hereunto annexed as corroborating what I have set forth in my declaration. This is all the proof I am able to adduce in support of my claim for a pension!!!

I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the pension roll of any agency of any state or territory.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Josiah Brandon