

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Archibald Skaggs S31367

f27VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

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[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading fails to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Kentucky Adair County and Circuit Ct

On this 7th day of September 1832 personally appeared before me Daniel Tralue one of the Commonwealths Justices of the peace and one of the Justices of the County Court of said County being a Court of record Archibald Skaggs a resident of Adair County, Kentucky aged seventy two years last January who being first sworn according to law doth on his own 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 on the 1st of January in the year 1759 in _____ County in South Carolina and my parents moved to Virginia in Hallifax [sic, Halifax] County and then moved to little River near New River then Botetourt County Va., and afterwards Montgomery County and in or about the year 1779 I was ordered out in the militia to do a tower of duty by Col. Preston and John Taylor was our Captain we went down New River forty miles or upwards to Culberson's bottom Fort [sic, Culbertson's Bottom Fort, a/k/a Fort Byrd and Fort Field] to guard the fort against the Indians I served at that fort one Month and was Discharged and I think got a written Discharge but don't remember what went with it & returned home and a while after that I volunteered to go a six Months tower of duty called Mackintosh's Campaign [McIntosh's campaign] we was ordered out by Col. Preston, James Thomson was our Captain, Bailey was our Lieutenant we was marched down New River through Greenbrier County across Galley Mountain and Galley River and near the mouth of the Kenaway [Kanawha River] we was stopped we was now about three hundred miles from home we was then marched toward home & all but perished to death & on Galley River we was Discharged and if I got any written Discharge I have lost it and awhile after that time perhaps in the year 1780 I was ordered out again to go against the Tories for 15 days and Daniel Trig was our Capt. We preformed said tower [sic, tour] of duty we ketched [sic, caught] between 50 & 100 Tories & Deserters & Col. Preston compelled the whole of them to enlist or find a substitute to go into the United States army.

I do further State that I was seven Months & fifteen days in service in the said Revolution war and expect to prove it by Henry Scaggs [Henry Skaggs]¹ of Gracin [sic, Grayson] County, Ky. I hereby relinquish every Claim whatever to a pension or annuity

¹ [Henry Skaggs S30701](#)

except the present I do further State that I have never been on any pension list or Rool [sic, roll] of any State or agency.

I further State I always complied [sic, complied] with all & every engagement I under took in & for said services in said Revolution War.

S/ Archibald Skaggs

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Archibald Skaggs". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and somewhat slanted to the right.

I Daniel Tralue one of the Justices of the peace for the County of Adair State of Kentucky and one of the Justices of the County Court for said County do certify that on the 7th day of September 1832 I went to the house of Archibald Skaggs in said County and at his request wrote his declaration and propounded to him the interrogations prescribed by the war department which I endeavored to embody in his declaration I do certify that having read to him the declaration he subscribed it in my presence and was sworn to its truth by me I further certify that he is & has for a long time been afflicted with the gravel and is confined to his house & generally to his bed and cannot from bodily infirmity attend the courts of his County held in Colombia at the distance of 7 miles. I further certify that I have known Archibald Skaggs for 37 years living where he now does that he has been reputed a man of the most worthy character and a soldier of the revolution in his neighborhood I do further certify that having examined ~~Thomas~~ Henry Skaggs of Grayson County spoken of in the foregoing declaration touching this service I do hereby declare that it is my opinion after the investigation of the matter and after putting the interrogations prescribed by the war department that the above named applicant was a revolutionary soldier and served as he states and he further certifies that it appears to him that Henry Skaggs of Grayson County who proved his services is a credible person and that his statement is entitled to credit. Given under my hand as a justice of the Adair County Court.

S/ Daniel Trabue JPAC

~~Charles~~ Henry Skaggs of Grayson County Kentucky ~~makes oath~~ aged seventy three years makes oath that ever since he remembers anything he remembers his cousin Archibald Skaggs who has applied for a pension they have been acquainted throughout their lives in the New River country in what is now Montgomery County Virginia they were raised from childhood at about the age of 20 years Col. Preston called for troops to guard the frontier on New River and he & Archibald both were enrolled he does not recollect whether it was their tour according to the division numbers they had drawn or whether they volunteered they both however served on their own account & not as substitutes he states that they were commanded by Capt. John Taylor of the same County perhaps then Bottetourt [sic, Botetourt County] they marched down New River about forty miles to a fort erected in Culbertson's bottom called Culbertson's bottom fort there they remained one month guarding the frontier they were then relieved by another guard they were Discharged by Capt. Taylor but whether verbally or in writing he does not recollect during all this time Archibald was his messmate & he states that he knows well that Archibald served one Month on this tour he states they returned home & after some time

there was a call for men (to go against the Indians on the Ohio at the mouth of the Great Kanawha [River]) by Col. Preston & Archibald & himself again volunteered their Captain was James Thompson he does not recollect the names of his Lieut. & ensign their rendezvous was held at old Wm. Thompson's in Montgomery County, Va. -- from thence they marched down New River and to the levels of Green briar and from there thence down New River crossing Ganly Mountain & River and in a direction to Point Pleasant at the mouth of the Kanawha & when they had reached within three miles of the last named place they were met by an express from Col. McIntosh directing them to return as winter had set in & the Indians dispersed & their services not wanted they marched back on the same rout being now wholly without provisions & suffering greatly with cold & hunger and on the bank of of Ganley River they were Discharged by Capt. Thompson but whether in writing or not he does not know he reached home in the dead of winter he cannot recollect the length of time they were gone he remembers they were credited for a 6 Months tour during this time Archibald & himself were messmates & he knows well that he performed this tour he cannot recollect the year in which this campaign was made in the year 1780 as he thinks a call was made to pursue & take Tories & deserters in their own County Colo. Preston having discovered that one Cox of ____ County Virginia was raising a troop of Tories ordered him to be taken & found with him a list of Tories who were to embody themselves under Cox & march to N Carolina & join the British Col Preston then called for troops to assist in taking those Tories & Archibald & himself voluntarily turned out under Capt. Danl. Trigg, they marched to Michael Brin's & having seized divers Tories in that neighborhood & there tried them by Court Martial and thence to Samuel Pepper's on the bank of New River & there took & tried many more from thence they crossed New River & held another Court martial at Stoptiel Catrans Reedy Creek & thence up the same creek to Jacob Catrans & tried others they took from 50 to 100 Tories & compelled them to swear allegiance to Virginia State & enlist in the regular army by themselves or substitute during the war on this service they spent 15 days & were Discharged at Jacob Catrans but does not recollect whether in writing or verbally they were messmates on this campaign & he has a full knowledge of the services of Archibald during the time above spoken of that Archibald moved from the New River country upwards of forty years ago & shortly after afterwards he moved he has known Archibald ever since being upwards of forty years in the neighborhood where he now lives in Kentucky.

S/ Henry Skaggs, X his mark

State of Kentucky Adair County

On this third day of December 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the worshipful County Court of Adair County State of Kentucky now sitting Barbara Skaggs a resident citizen of the County of Adair aforesaid and State of Kentucky aged 60 years who being first duly sworn deposes and saith that she is the widow of Archibald Skaggs deceased who departed this life in the County aforesaid on the Twenty first day of April 1833 and who made his declaration for a pension under act of congress passed June 7th 1832 before Daniel Trabue Esquire a Justice of the peace in and for the County afd on the 7th day of Sept. 1832 to which declaration she offers this as an amendment she states that she verily believes that her said Husband served as a private soldier in the army of the revolution as he has stated in his declaration she has often heard him speak of his services

long before he made his declaration she states that she does not know of any witnesses who can prove the service of her deceased husband other than the Evidence already taken and hereto annexed she further states that at the time her said husband made his declaration there was no clergyman residing in the vicinity of her said husband and that he had for a long time been laboring under a severe malady of which he since died. In answer to the several interrogatories prescribed by the war department she states she cannot respond not having sufficient information upon that subject but would presume her said husband from the country in which he served was not with regular troops or militia regiments other than those stated in his declaration in answer to the 7th interrogatory she states that her said husband was acquainted with Col. Daniel Trabue who has certified for him and many others who would have certified as to his good character subscribed and sworn to before and in open Court the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Barbara Skaggs, X her mark

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$25 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private in the Virginia militia.]