

Seeking a military pension

by Steve Sisley

During the War of 1812, Revolutionary War veterans were then in their 50's and 60's. As soldiers, they had been poorly paid for their war service. What Continental paper money they did receive was next to worthless. Some veterans were forced to sell to land speculators the promissory land certificates they received at the end of the war receiving just pennies compared to what they were worth. The rigors and fatigue of military service had left many in poor health, unable to work to support their families. The young United States faced a burgeoning crisis of poverty among its first generation of war veterans.

Starting in 1818, the first of four Revolutionary War veteran pension acts were passed, at first for veterans, and later their widows, to collect a pension from the federal government paid out every six months.

Pension Application Filed November 19, 1836

The Federal pension act of June 7, 1832, allowed for Regular Troops, State Troops, Militia, and Volunteer eligibility, if they had served over six months of service. This new law allowed a pension for Troops, other than Continental Regulars and lowered the service time from two years to six months. The applicant was required to appear before a Judge; Justice of the Court; or a Justice of the Peace. (The Elected Clerk qualified as a Justice of the Court). This upgraded and supplemented the original 1818 service pension.

A requirement was a Trust of Statement for a Clergyman certify to the character along with the Justice Court.

In Spencer County, on November 19, 1836 Samuel Findley personally appeared before John W. Graham and John M. Barnett, Associate Judges of the Spencer Circuit Court. Findley was 74 years old at the time and a resident of Spencer County.

He made the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of this Act of Congress.

This applicant states that he was born in Guilford County, North Carolina in the month of April 1762 and as well as he now recollects early in the month of February 1781 an officer then called Col. Lee who commanded a Legion came into the vicinity of his mother then a widow living on a Creek called Alamance in the County of Guilford, and being much in want of a person to pilot him through that Section of Country, and

this applicant being well acquainted with the adjacent county by the permission of his mother joined Lee's Troops and piloted said Lee to a place then called Holts race paths, where in a lane they surprised and cut to pieces a party of Loyalists Commanded by Col. Pyle. This applicant was with Lee in the Memorable Battle of Guilford Courthouse and also accompanied him To Ramsey's Mills, and when the Army under Green accompanied by Lee's Troops in the month of April marched to South Carolina, this applicant was discharged and returned home to Guilford having served two months under Lee.

"In a few weeks after my discharge from Lee I was drafted as a Militia Man in the aforesaid county of Guilford for the term of six months, and was rendezvoused in the county of Randolph and as well as now recollected at Elisha Mendenhall's Mill on Deep River. The Captain under whom I served was George Steward, the Major was John Gillispie, and our Col. James Martin at this place we met the troops from Stokes, Randolph, and Surry Counties, and the whole was commanded by General Rutherford from the place the Army marched through a town then called Cross Creek, now called Fayette and went in pursuit of a Col. Farmer who had Torres embedded and passed through a town then called Elizabeth, passed the Cape Fear River, and marched on to Wilmington, where we remained until our tour of six months was completed, and this applicant was honorably discharged in the latter end of the year 1781. The precise time not recollected, and this applicant here states that the discharge which he received has been lost and he knows of no living witness to prove his said service, here closes my Revolutionary Services.

"This applicant is advised that a narrative of my subsequent life exhibits claims on my beloved Country, and therefore proceeds to state that in a few years after the Revolution he removed to the West and settled in the vicinity of the Cumberland River and lived in the family of Major Edward Douglas about 18 miles from Nashville for three years during my sojourn there I went on many tours or scouts against the Indians, one was under Col. Robertson who drove the Indians from a town called "Cold Waters" on the Tennessee River and I resided at Major Edward Douglas's, I became acquainted with our present patriotic President Andrew Jackson, who I hope when this narrative is presented will remember the person name of this applicant who is now old and infirm and needy, but who stood

by the flag of his beloved Country on many trying occasions.

I was at the Battle of Tippecanoe on the Wabash River in the Company of Captain Spencer when every Commissioned Officer and upwards of twenty of the privates were killed or wounded.

"I was in Barbours Regiment in Canada under Command of Governor Shelby. I was also in the Memorable Battles at Orleans under Captain Allen of the Regular Service. I here again saw General Jackson who then recognized me and I hope and trust when this comes to his sight that he will again remember the worn out soldier who now asks in the evening of life from his Country a small pittance to supply the wants of his few remaining days.

"This applicant has resided in Kentucky for upwards of Thirty Years but now resides in Spencer County, Indiana, he has lost all his Revolutionary discharges and knows no living person who can prove his said Services, he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any state. This applicant states that from infirmity he is confined to his room unable to attend in person before the Court of his County to execute this writing, and therefore swears to and subscribes the same at his residence in the house of Eleazer Young on the Ohio River in Spencer County before the honorable Judges of the Spencer County Circuit Court witness by my hand his 19th day of November, 1836."

Samuel Findley

Signed & Sworn to in our presences John M. Barnett, John W. Graham; Judges.

We John M. Barnett, Clergyman residing in Spencer County and Eleazer Young & William Burrows residing in same county do hereby certify that we are well acquainted with Samuel Findley who has subscribed and sworn to the above declaration and that we believe him to be 74 years of age and that he is reputed and believed in the neighborhood where he lives to have been a soldier of the Revolution and we . . .

Taken from the hand written application

*John W. Graham's family had been associated with Daniel Boone's family in Kentucky, Judge Graham's pride possession was a flintlock rifle Daniel Boone had given him.

John M. Barnett was an Associate Judge,

a Justice of the Peace, and also Ministered in Spencer County's first Methodist Church, just outside of Rockport.

Eleazer Young lived on property between the Rockport American Legion curve and the Ohio River.

Dale Parade

Dale is hosting a Fourth of July Parade Saturday, July 4 to celebrate America's 250th anniversary. This event is being planned by a committee of volunteers from the community. The parade will begin at 1 p.m. and the route will be as follows: Begins at Washington Street from Buffaloville Road North on Washington to Medcalf (at four-way stop) turn right (East) on Medcalf two blocks to Wallace Street, turn right on Wallace; Parade ends at Locust near the Dale Park for a community celebration. There will be parking available at the end of the parade route.

The original idea came from Richard Lamb. He was excited about our nation's birthday and felt like the community needed to celebrate so he began organizing the event for other's to enjoy. His idea was to have a parade that ended at the city park for the community to enjoy and as the committee met, it grew to include food trucks and a band.

The food trucks begin serving by 11 a.m. for lunch and will continue after the parade. A live band will perform from 2-5 p.m. Krossroads Band will play at the day park.

For more information, or to register an entry in the parade, check out their facebook page, *Dale's Celebration of America's 250th Anniversary*, or call Richard Lamb at 812-686-1767.

Church bells

HEAR YE, HEAR-YE

To All Church Clergy Men

Request for ALL Dubois and Spencer County Churches to ring their Church Bells on July 4th at 2 p.m. EDT and 1 p.m. CDT.

Please chime 13 Tolls representing the original 13 Colonies.

Join in this patriotic celebration of our 250 years of freedom!