



DECLARATION

IN ORDER TO OBTAIN THE BENEFIT OF THE ACT OF CONGRESS PASSED JUNE 7, 1832

STATE OF TENNESSEE }  
County of McMinn } SS

"On this 3rd day of June personally appeared in open Court, before the Justices of the County Court of said County, Willism Longley, a resident of said county and state, aged about seventy-two 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 7, 1832.

"That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated. He entered the service as a drafted (man), in the Militia of the State of Virginia, in the month of October, 1780, as well as he now recollects, in Loudon County in said State, where he then resided with his father, - under the command of Major Armstaid, whose christian name is not recollecte - Captain Thomas Humphries, Lieutenant John Bartlett. There were about 700 troops from said County of whom declarant was one, and he thinks they were called light infantry. These ( ) were marched from Loudon County to Williamsburg in Virginia where they were stationed in the barracks for several months, and from ( ) parties of our men were detached to hold the British forces under Arnold, in check. After being stationed here one month, declarant does not recollect the precise time, the British forces landed at Burrell's ferry, at the mouth of the James river, where about 200 of our men, and declarant one of them, were stationed: We stood our ground and fired upon the enemy until our cartridges were exhausted, each man of us having fired near 30 rounds, when we were so far outnumbered that we had to retreat. We returned to Williamsburg, 6 miles from the above named ferry, and on reaching there all our troops retreated from town and the British marched in and occupied our barracks that night. We had retreated only a mile or two into the woods from whence after night set in we marched back to town and attacked the enemy above their pickets, and fired on them until outnumbered and drove from the field. Next morning we were marched for Richmond, and on the same day the enemy left Williamsburg, crossed the James River at Jamestown, and marched up the Country. Near the same time that we got to Richmond the enemy arrived at Manchester on the opposite side of the river, and commenced destroying property and burning the (large?) quantity of tobacco stored there. We were stationed on Chuck's Hill when the British appeared. A part of our men were stationed on the bank of the river to prevent their crossing, and if they had attempted it they would have met with a warm reception as we were very hungry and greatly ( ) at them. We had but one field piece, a six pounder, and it was placed on the hill before mentioned and leveled against the enemy, and its effects ( ) so well amongst them that they were quickly induced to leave off their depra-dation and quit the place. The enemy left Manchester and pursued their course still further up the country, and after some time turned their course and marched to Yorktown: Declarant and his comrades were stationed at Richmond, as he thinks, about six weeks, when they were marched from there and joined the army under Genl. Lafayette at Yorktown on the Gloucester side of the river. About this time or shortly after, the seige was formed, as the army under Washington shortly after arrived. Declarant was at this time constantly engaged in working on entrenchments and other work that was going on. During the seige declarant was in several skirmishes with parties of the enemy. On one occasion after (night?) 500 of the Virginia troops, declarant one of them, with 500 of the French under the command of Lafayette were marched to make a march through the enemy's ( ) on the Gloucester side, another detachment having made an attack on this

side. Declarant recollects getting so near the enemy's works that he put his ( ) upon them, and ( ) up saw the tar barrels placed on the breast works to be ( ) in the event of an attack. The firing having ceased on the York side, we were ( ) the enemy having discovered us, and opened their guns upon us as they thought ( ). Declarant was one of the troops forming the hollow square into which the prisoners ( ). The Prisoners taken on the Gloucester side were marched to Winchester in Maryland, where declarant was discharged in February, as well as ( ) he will set it down at fifteen months, as he is confident he served that long. ( ) by his parents - has no record of his age, nor has he ever seen one as well ( ) then in Rockbridge, then in Washington all in Virginia, whence he removed to the county of McMinn, Tennessee, where he now resides. He received a discharge but it is lost, and he knows not where it is. James Sewell, a clergyman; and John Grisham, who can testify as to his O nasty (honesty?), and their belief of his service.

"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 the Agency of any state.

Sworn and subscribed the 3rd day of June 1833

A. R. Turk, Clerk  
Signature

WILLIAM LONGLEY  
Signature

"We James Sewell, a clergyman residing in the county and state aforesaid, and John Grisham residing as aforesaid, hereby certify that we are well acquainted with William Longley who has subscribed and sworn to the above declaration; and we believe him to be 72 years of age; that he is reputed and believed in the neighborhood where he resides, to have been a soldier of the Revolution, and that we concur in that opinion.

Sworn and subscribed the 3rd day of June 1833

A. R. Turk, Clerk

James D. Sewell, Signature  
John Grisham, Signature

"And the Court do hereby declare their opinion, after investigating the matter, and putting the interrogatories prescribed by the War Department, that the above applicant was a revolutionary soldier, and served as he states. And the Court further certifies, that it appears to them that James Sewell, who has signed the preceding certificate, is a Clergyman, that he and John Grisham, who has also signed it, are resident as they therein state, and that their statement is entitled to credit. Signed: Amos Bran, John Mullen and James D. Henkey, Justices of the Peace"

Note: In the beginning portions of the above declaration the ( ) are words we are unable to decipher. In the latter part the right side of the copy was cut off and the words missing.

The following additional statement was attached to the original declaration. The left side is cut off so each line is as it was written with the first portion missing:

June, 1833

"...but their balls went far above our heads. ....prisoners were marched when Cornwallis surrendered. ....Virginia, declarant being one of their guard. ....they were marched to Frederickstown in ....he recollect, 1782. Declarant cannot recollect the precise time he served. ....declarant was born in the State of New Jersey in the year 1761, as he was informed ....He resided in Loudon County a short time after the war, then in Shenandoah ....to Sevier County Tennessee in 1800, where he resided until he came to ....written discharge from the service at Sheppherdstown, Va. from Col. Niswonger ....Grisham, George Long & Jonathan Smith, are some of his present neighbors ....soldier of the Revolution.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal at office, this 4th day of June, 1833  
A. R. Turk, Signature"