

Jefferson County, TN

John Day, Sr.

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of John Day S3252 VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 21 Aug 2013.

State of Tennessee } On this 9th Day of July 1833 personally appeared before me Thomas Snoddy one Jefferson County } of the acting justices of the peace in and for the said County of Jefferson in State aforesaid John Day Sen'r. a resident of the said County of Jefferson in the said State of Tennessee Aged Ninety one years, who being first sworn according to Law, doth on his oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed the 7th Day of June 1832.

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 the Agency of the State.

Quest 1. Where and in what year were you born?

Ans'r. I was born the 30th Day of June 1742 as I believe and in Bucks County in Pennsylvania

Quest 2. Have you any record of your age, and if so, where is it?

Ans'r. My age is recorded in a Big bible and here present.

Quest. 3. Where were you living when you entered the service; Where have you lived since the revolutionary war, and where do you now live

Ans'r. I lived in Botetout County in Virginia on the Waters of Greenbrier River when I volunteered into the service, under Captain Paxton, And I lived in siad County when I was appointed an Indian Spie under Captain Cock, and I lived still in that part during the Revolutionary War, and after that I moved to Jefferson County Tennessee about four years after Cornwallis was taken [19 Oct 1781] and have lived here ever since it was first Green County [sic: Greene County formed in 1783] and I now live in Jefferson County in the State of Tennessee and have lived in this County for more then Forty years, or in what is now Jefferson County.

Quest 4. How were you called into service; Were you drafted, did you volenteer, or were you a substitute and if a substitute for whom?

Ans'r. I volenteered and went under Captain Paxton and went to the point [Point Pleasant] against the Indians. The Shawnee Indians

Quest 5. State the names of some of the Regular officers, who were with the troops where you served, such continental and militia Regiments as you can recollect, and the general circumstances of your service

Ans'r. The Shawnee Indians had come into Botetout County in the said State of Virginia and killed my brother David Day and taken my mother and Two Sisters, Sally Day and Martha Day prisoners, and nalso took some other property and made for their Towns, the first night the Indians camped on a mountain, between Cape Capen River and Ceder Creek [sic: Cacapon River in present Hardy County WV and Cedar Creek in Shenandoah County VA], and at that Camp killed my mother Susan Day, (formerly Susan Wyley [Susan Wiley] Daughter of James Wyley [James Wiley] as I understood) And Capt. Fry Raised Twenty men, of which I was one, We followed said Indians, and when we came to the Indian Camp aforesaid, there lay my mother dead, and striped naked her head skined; and we lifted her and laid her between Two Rocks and laid some rocks over her; And We followed on after the Indians, and the second day came in sight of them at their Camp, and I raised my gun to shoot one of them, and just as I was about to draw Trigger, I saw one of my sisters rise up right before the muzzle of my gun between me and the Indian; And I was so alarmed at seeing my sister Rise before my gun that I involently hallowed, which so alarmed the Indians that they broke and run, leaving the prisoners, and what they had at the Camp, and run with all their might; and we got the prisoners, and what property the Indians left at

the camp, and brought all safe to the fort. After this I volunteered as stated above, under Capt. Paxton, and marched to the Point at the mouth of New river [mouth of Kanawha River], I went as Ensign under Capt Paxton, and in Company with Captain Hall [possibly James Hall], Col. Dickson, and other officers not recollected. There was a large supply of Beeves took along for Rations perhaps 150, and a number of pack horses, We marched slowly untill we came to the Point; Here we met with Gen'l. Hann, Major McDonel, Capt. [Mathew]

Arbuckle, and other officers not remembered. While at the Point one White man was killed and Four Indians. [See endnote.]

I cannot exactly Tell when we left home on this Campaign as I have to papers to help my memory, but it was in warm weather and suppose it to be the latter part of the Summer, or fall of 1776 and returned home Towards the next Spring, and cannot Tell the exact time we were on this expedition, but consider that it must at least be three months, and think it likely it might be more then three months. If I got any discharge I have losgt it in moving from one part to another, and cannot tell what became of it. And I do not recollect that ever I Received any pay for said services. While at the Point I recollect there was Capt. Kenon and Captain Alexander Hamilton, and I served a part of the time under Capt. Hamilton before I left the station at the Point.

After I Returned home the Indians were still Troublesom about Ellis's fort [at Little Levels in present Pocahontas County WV] and Day's fort [also known as Keckley's Fort, at present Mill Point in Pocahontas County] during the remainder of the Brittish War and after it. And Captain Cook appointed me to range, as a Spy in Botetout County around the forts to discover if there was any Indian sign in these parts, and under this appointment I acted during the remainder of the Brittish War and some time after it was over, the Indians were not at War so as to keep the people forted all the time, but I consider that the times that I was acting as Indian Spy, in that time, would amount to about one year and six months but think the time if all added together would be more then one year and six months that I was on duty as an Indian Spy, on the waters of Greenbrier River in Virginia. While I was a Spie John Bridges [John Bridger], and James Bridges [James Bridger] were killed by Indians, scalped and striped within a mile and a half of the Fort, and I was near falling into the hands of the Indians, while helping others to escape from them. And in this time the Indians attacked Donley's fort [sic: Fort Donally at present Frankford, May 1778] 23 Miles from Day's fort, Took five prisoners, and killed one man named Whenny Drenner [probably Winnie Drennan], the Indians got off with the prisoners. The Indians killed several other White persons at Donley's fort, killed a great many of the stock, and destroyed other property The Indians would mostly leave that part in the fall, and the people would then move home out of the forts, and in the Spring the Indians would return and do mischief in the frontiers, and then the people would Fort. This was the common practice of the Indians during the Brittish War; the Indians in them parts were so Troublesom that as I understood the militia were left to guard the forts in them parts and not called to go to fight the Brittish.

Quest. 6th Did you ever receive a commission, and if so by whom was it signed and what has become of it.

Ans'r. I Received an Ensigns Commission From The Committee of Safety for the Colony of virginia dated at Williamsburgh in October the 11th Day in the year 1775, signed by Edm Pendleton, John Page, Thos. Lud. Lee, P. Carrington, Dudley Diggs, J's Mercer [Edmund Pendleton, John Page, Thomas Ludwell Lee, Paul Carrington, Dudley Digges, James Mercer] Which commission is now here present with the following entry on the back of it, "At a Commitee held for Botetourt County the 23d Day of March 1776, I do hereby certify that the within named John Day Took the oath required by Convention
(Signed) David Maye [sic: David May]

And on the 24th Day of June 1778 I took the oath of allegiance and fidelity, as directed by an act of General Assembly, sworn to before Geo. Poage [George Poage] a Justice of the peace at that time in Botetourt County, which certificate is here present

Quest. 7. State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood, and who can Testify of your Caracter for veracity, and good behaviour, your services as a Soldier of the revolution.

Ans'r. The Rev'd. Elihu Millikan and John McFarland Jn'r. are acquainted with me Also the Rev'd.

Ephram Moore [sic: Ephraim Moore]

John Day Jun'r. being introduced to give evidence concerning the service of John Day Sen'r. in time of the revolutionary War being duly Sworn on the holy evangelist of Almighty god Saith on oath saith that when he was a small boy he lived on the waters of greenbrier River untill John Day Sen'r. moved from that Country, which was in the year 1785 on Thousand seven hundred and Eighty five, I recollect of his starting to go to the Point with a quantity of men that I understood was going there as militia volunteers, and my father John Day started to go with them, and I understood he was an Ensign in the Militia at that time; When he started the weather was not cold. – I remember the time he came back, I think it was before the ground had got green in the spring. The weather was cold while he was gone, I do not know exactly how long he was gone but from the best information I have I expect it must be three months, I thought it to be a long time, I think I was in my ninth year of my age when he came home which I consider to be in the fore part of the year 1777. When my father John Day Sen'r. Returned and during the remainder of the Brittish War, the Indians Ware frequently very Troublesome about Ellis's Fort, Day's fort, Donley's fort in Botetourt County virginia, and all the Country Round there, And said John Day Sen'r. frequently went out as a Spy under Captain Cook who was Captain at Ellis's Fort. and he said John Day Sen'r served as a Spy during the Brittish War from the time he came home from the Point. And I have no doubt but his whole service as a Spy would amount to one year and six months or more – During the time he was out as a Spy Donley's fort was attacked by the Shawnee Indians (as I understood) at that fort Two men was killed and one wounded, and killed the stock that was near the fort, I understood there was 350 Indians, and they Rushed up to the fort – I understand there was Nineteen Indians killed near the fort, and by 100 men coming to the assistance of the fort that night the Indians were driven off.

Hugh McKeever was killed near Days fort and his family taken prisoners, which they carried off, and it was about Two years before any of the prisoners got back. John Bridges, and James Bridges was killed within about a mile and a half of Day's fort – and Henry Baker was killed about Twelve mile from there, and several others at different times were shot at.

In the winter time we had peace but when warm weather would come in the Spring the Trouble with the Indians would again begin. They killed Wenny Drennen Wife of Thomas Drinnen [Thomas Drennan]

Botetourt County was Divided [in 1778] and a new County laid off Called Greenbrier County this County after it was laid off, included Ellis's fort and Day's fort.

When John Day S'r. moved from the waters of Greenbrier River he came to what is now Jefferson County in Tennessee, it was then Greene County North Carolina, and he has lived in what is now Jefferson County ever since, and is the same John Day S'r. that has signed and sworn to the foregoing Decleration in order to get the benefit of the act of Congress of the 7th of June 1832.

I myself am about sixty five years of age last January, and I believe John Day S'r. to be Ninety one years of age, and that he served in the united States service as he has stated in his Declaration Sworn and Subscribed this 9th Day of July 1833 before me Thos. Snoddy

THE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY FOR THE COLONY OF VIRGINIA

TO John Day Gent

BY Virtue of the Power and Authority invested in us, by the Delegates and Representatives of the several Counties and Corporations in General Convention assembled, we, reposing especial Trust and Confidence in your Patriotism, Fidelity, Courage, and good Conduct, do, by these Present, constitute and appoint you to be Ensign of a Company of the Militia of the County of Botetourt; and you are therefore carefully and diligently to discharge the Trust reposed in you, by disciplining all Officers and Soldiers under your Command. And we do hereby require them to obey you as their Ensign. and you are to observe and follow all such Orders and Directions as you shall from Time to Time receive from the Convention, the Committee of Safety for the time being, or any superiour Officers, according to the Rules and Regulations established by the Convention.

GIVEN under our Hands, at Williamsburg this 11th

Day of October ANNO DOMINI 1775. }

At a Committee held for Botetourt County the 23rd Day of March 1776 I do hereby Certify That the

within named John Day took the Oaths Required by Convention

I DO hereby certify, that John Day hath taken and subscribed the oath or affirmation of allegiance and fidelity, as directed by an act of General Assembly intituled An act to oblige the free male inhabitants of this state above a certain age to give assurance of allegiance to the same, and for other purposes. Witness my hand and seal, this Twenty fourth day of June 1778

State of Missouri } S.S.

Cass County } [7 Feb 1880]

I William W. Day of the County and State aforesaid Heir and representative of John Day dec'd who was a private in the Revolutionary Army of the United States from Virginia, do declare that one Henry Banks assignee of the said John Day received from the State of Virginia a warrant for 200 acres of land which was issued to said Banks on the 11th day of February 1784 at the Land Office in Richmond Virginia on account of the military Services rendered by said John Day as aforesaid and that the said John Day moved many years ago from Greenbriar Co Va to the State of Tennessee where he died in the year 1832 I further declare that I have never received a warrant for the 100 Acres of land promised to the said John Day on the part of the United States nor do I believe he ever received it or transferred his claim to it in any manner whatsoever: [Power of Attorney to James T. Sutton, Jr. of Richmond VA follows.

State of Missouri } County of Cass } On this 27th day of April 1880 personally appeared before me Clerk of the County Court of Cass County aforesaid William W. Day who being by me duly sworn on his oath states that he is the grandson of John Day deceased late a soldier in the war of the Revolution and from the Virginia troops. That said John Day emigrated from Virginia his native state and at the age of about ninety died a very poor man in Jefferson County East Tennessee in the years of 1832 or 1833, he cannot recollect positively the exact date. That said John Day was a pensioner of the United States and paid at the Pension Agency of Knoxville Tenn. Said John Day left no widow, his wife having died many years previous to John Days death. William W his Xmark Day

NOTES:

“While at the Point one White man was killed and Four Indians” is probably a reference to the killing of Lt. James Gilmore by unknown persons and the retaliatory murder of Chiefs Cornstalk (Hokoleskwa), Ellinipico, Red Hawk, and perhaps one or more others at Fort Randolph in Nov 1777. Some of the incidents related by Day are also noted in *Chronicles of Border Warfare* by A. S. Withers (1831; pp. 210-212). John Day was pensioned at \$90 per year for 21 months of service.

