

ABRAHAM SEVIER INDIAN FIGHTER AND REVOLUTIONARY WAR PATRIOT

Born February 14, 1760; Died June 18, 1841

[Brother of Col. John Sevier]

Abraham Sevier was granted a Revolutionary pension, File S1589, of \$58.88 per annum, based on 17 months, 20 days service. His pension declaration follows:

State of Tennessee

Overton County Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions

October 1832 Term

This 31st day of October 1832 personally appeared in open court before the worshipful Justices of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for the County of Overton in the State of Tennessee, the same being a court of record and now in session -- Abraham Sevier, a citizen of said county of Overton, aged seventy years past, who being first duly sworn according to the laws of the land doth on his oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June the 7th, 1832. He entered the service of the United States as a private soldier, under the following named officers and served as hereafter stated.

In the summer or fall of 1778, he states he went out as a spy under ensign Robert Sevier against the Indians, was out about fifteen days, then lived in the County of Washington, North Carolina [now Tennessee]

In the spring of 1779 in the same County of Washington, he volunteered and joined a company under command of Captain Valentine Sevier and marched to the Cherokee Nation of Indians. They descended the Holston River in boats and canoes. The term of service was three months. They killed a few Indians and took some prisoners, but they did not have any battles or engagements. They returned home after the expiration of three months. The officers were Captain Valentine Sevier, Major Charles Robertson and Colonel Evan Shelby.

In the summer of 1780, he was hired as a substitute for one James Eden and again entered the service and joined the company commanded by Captain Valentine Sevier in the same County of Washington and marched from that place to South Carolina. The term of service was three months. The officers in command were Major Charles Robertson and Valentine Sevier, Capt, as he now recollects. When they reached South Carolina, they joined the regiment of Col. Charles McDowell on Broad River and there met with the British at a place called Moffetts Iron Works, and there had a small engagement. He states that he was in no other battle during this said term of service, and when it was expired, he returned home.

About the last of September 1780, as he recollects, he was hired as a substitute by Meshac Hale for a term of service of three months and joined a company commanded by Captain Valentine Sevier for a term of service of three months. The company to which he belonged joined the regiment commanded by Col. John Sevier. They then joined the regiments commanded by Col. Campbell, Col. Cleveland and Col. Shelby and marched to Kings Mountain, and he states he was there in what is called the Battle of Kings Mountain. General Campbell

commanded. After this he returned home, did not receive any written discharge. They did not serve out the full term of their service. As he recollects they served but about five weeks.

Immediately after his return home to said County of Washington, he volunteered and marched against the Cherokee Indians under the command of Col. John Sevier. His captain was by the name of Landon Carter. They went into the Cherokee Nation and had a battle with the Indians on a creek called Boyds Creek, killed about twenty-seven Indians, took no prisoners. They then retreated to a large island in the French Broad River, and there awaited the arrival of Colonel Campbell, then marched against the Indians, crossed the Tennessee River and burned several Indian towns. The names of the towns as far as he recollects were Chota town, Toker town, Tellico town. After this marched down the Hiwassee and burned some more towns: lay there some time and ranged through the country and took some prisoners. They then returned home. The time for which he volunteered was three months, but they did not quite continue in service till the end of the time. As he now recollects, they were out about two months.

In the last of September or first of October 1781, as he now recollects, he was hired as a substitute for three months in said County of Washington. He cannot recollect the name of the man by whom he was hired. He joined a company commanded by Captain Valentine Sevier, and their company joined the regiment commanded by Col. John Sevier. They marched to the high hills of the *St. Tea* (Santee) in South Carolina. On their way they joined a regiment commanded by Colonel Shelby. At the high hills of the *St. Tea* (Santee) they joined a regiment of light horse commanded by Col. Mayhem (Maham). They were then placed under the command of General Marion. A part of the army marched against a British fort, took it with about ninety-five prisoners, no battle fought. The enemy surrendered. At this time he was sick. After this a part of the army marched to take another fort, but the enemy left, and burned it. Soon after this he was discharged. This tour he was out about four months.

About the last of June 1782, he again volunteered for a tour of three months and joined a company commanded by Capt. George North, and the company joined the regiment commanded by Col. John Sevier and marched to Hiwassee River in the Cherokee Nation. They were out over two months, during this time they killed some Indians, took some prisoners and burned some Indian towns.

Soon after this in the same year, he again volunteered for three months and joined a company commanded by Captain James Richardson, and their company joined a regiment commanded by General Martin. They marched again into the Cherokee Nation to the Lookout Mountain, and there had a battle with the Cherokee Indians, in which they were successful, killed some Indians. He states that two of their captains were killed, viz: Captain John Hardin and Captain Joseph Buller. They had no other engagements and returned home. They were out about two months and discharged.

All the foregoing tours were tours of three months except the first. He states that in addition he frequently went out as a spy; and indeed he was generally in the service of his country as a soldier for about three years. He has been as definite as he could about dates, but his memory is very defective. He states he has no documentary evidence of his service. He states he believes he can prove part of his service by Walter Greer and part by Abel Pearson of White County. He

expected to prove some of his service by Major Jonathan Tipton, who is now living in Kentucky and promised to give his evidence but has disappointed him.

He hereby relinquishes all claim to any pension or annuity whatever, nor is his name on the pension roll of the agency of any State.

Abraham Sevier

1. I am born on the 14th February 1760 in the County of Shenandoah, Virginia.
2. I have the record of my age in an old Family Bible at home.
3. I was living in Washington County, North Carolina [now Tennessee] when called into the service; moved after the close of the war to this county where I have ever since lived.
4. I was hired twice as a substitute for Meshac Hale; once for James Eden, the other I do not recollect. On all other tours I was a volunteer.
5. I knew General Marion, General Clark, General Lee, General McDowell, Colonel McDowell, Colonel Cleveland, Colonel Brandon, Colonel Sevier, Colonel Campbell, Colonel Selby. In my declaration I have stated what I knew as to regiments and circumstances.
6. I never received any written discharge.
7. I am well known to Joseph Bates, Esq., Col. V. Matlock; Capt. John Kennedy - all of whom with many more can testify to my character for veracity and my reputation as a soldier of the Revolution.

Abraham Sevier

Sworn to in open Court

31st day of October, 1832 William Gore, Clerk

This day James McDonough, Clergyman & Landon Armstrong both citizens of Overton County State of Tennessee, state that they have known Abraham Sevier who has signed and sworn to the foregoing declaration, that they believe him entitled to full credit on his oath, that he is respected a man of veracity, that he is the age he states or at least they can say he is a very old man and they further state that he is respected in the neighborhood where he lives, to have been a soldier of the revolution and they concur on that opinion.

James McDonough

Sworn to in open Court Landon Armstrong

Oct 31st 1832 William Gore, Clerk

This day Walter Greer personally appeared in Court and made oath that he is well acquainted with the applicant, Abraham Sevier, and can say from his own knowledge that he served one three month tour in the service of the United States, as he now recollects in the year 1781, that he marched from where he lived in Washington County, then North Carolina, to the high hills of the *St Tea* (Santee) in South Carolina. He was out on the same campaign under Colonel Shelby
Walter Greer

Sworn to in open Court

Oct 31st 1832 William Gore, Clerk

And the said Court doth hereby declare their opinion after the investigation of this matter and after putting the interrogatories prescribed by the war department, that the above named applicant Abraham Sevier was a soldier of the revolution and served as he states, and the Court

further certify that it appears to them that James McDonough is a clergyman resident of Overton County and that Landon Armstrong who also sworn to the foregoing affidavit is also a citizen of Overton County, both residing near to the said Abraham Sevier, that he said Armstrong is a creditable person and that this statement is entitled to full credit.

Patrick Pool JP
Dempsey Moore JP
John Mongold JP
State of Tennessee
Overton County

I William Gore, Clerk of the Court of Pleas and Quarter sessions of the County aforesaid, do hereby certify that the foregoing contains the original proceedings of the matter of the application of Abraham Sevier for a pension. In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal of our said Court at office the 15th day of December 1832
William Gore, Clerk

AMENDED DECLARATION of ABRAHAM SEVIER - Aug. 10, 1833

State of Tennessee
Overton County
10th day of August, 1833

This day Abraham Sevier personally appeared before me Alfred C. Robertson, one of the acting justices of the peace and for the County aforesaid and one who by law is authorized to administer oaths and he being first duly qualified according to law under the following statement as an amendment to his former declaration for the purpose of obtaining the benefit of the act of Congress passed June the 7th 1832.

He states that by reason of old age and bodily infirmity and consequent loss of memory he cannot precisely state the length of time he served in the Revolutionary War but is confident that he served at least terms as stated in his first declaration.

That he served one tour of fifteen days as a spy against the Cherokee Indians; that he served one tour of three months against the Cherokee Indians as a private; that he served as a private one tour of three months against the British and Tories in South Carolina on Broad River; that he served one tour as private of five weeks against the British and Tories in what is called the Kings mountain campaign; that he served one tour as a private of two months against the Cherokee Indians; that he served one tour as a private of four months against the British and Tories in South Carolina at the highs hills of Santee; that he served one tour of two months as a private against the Cherokee Indians; that he served one tour of two months as a private against the Cherokee Indians.

As to his other services as a spy, he cannot recollect the time he was in service but as to the tours which he has stated he is confident he served at least as much as he has stated and that he was always called on by a competent authority.

As to any other particulars about his service, he can state no more than in his first declaration. He states that during his said periods of service as above stated he was all the time in the actual services of his country; that during the time he was in no civil pursuit. He states that he is well known to Lewis Steven, a clergyman, and to Capt. John Kennedy, to Mr. William Wray, to Doke H. Capps and to Mr. Landon Armstrong - all whom can testify as to his veracity and his reputation as having been a soldier of the Revolution.

Abraham (his mark) Sevier

Sworn to and subscribed before me this day as before written.

Alfred C. Robertson JP

State of Tennessee }

Overton County } 10th August 1833

We, Lewis Steven, a clergyman and resident of this County and State afore named and John Kennedy, Wm. Wray, Doke H. Capps and Landon Armstrong all residents of the same County and State as hereby certify that we are well acquainted with the applicant Abraham Sevier whereby subscribed and sworn to the above declaration that we believe him to be of the age at least seventy three years, that we believe him to be a man of veracity and thought, that he is respected and believed in the neighborhood where he resides to have been a soldier of the revolution and we concur in that belief; sworn to and subscribed the day and year above written.

Lewis Steven, Clergyman

D. H. Capps

Alfred C. Robertson } John Kennedy

a Justice of the Peace } Landon Armstrong

for Overton County } Wm. Wray

State of Tennessee

Overton County

10th August 1833

I, Alfred C. Robertson one of the acting justice of the peace named for the county afore named and the same justice before whom the foregoing declaration was made do hereby certify that the applicant Abraham Sevier is confined to his bed by bodily indisposition which makes it out of his power to attend court. I do further certify that Lewis Steven who has subscribed and sworn to the foregoing certificate is a clergyman and a man of respectable standing in this county and that Doke H. Capps, John Kennedy, Landon Armstrong and William Wray are all men of respectable standing in this county, given under my hand the day and year above written.

Alfred C. Robertson

a Justice of the Peace for

Overton County, Tennessee

State of Tennessee

Overton County

I, William Gore, Clerk of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions of the county of Overton and state of Tennessee do hereby certify that Alfred C. Robertson whose signature is attached to the foregoing certificate is now and was at the time of signing the same, an acting Justice of the

peace in and for the county and State aforesaid, duly commissioned and qualified as such and that full faith and credit is due and should be given to all his official and that his signature is a genuine act. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal of said Court at office this 10th day of August, 1833 William Gore, Clerk



Born February 4, 1760; Died June 18, 1841
Keisling-Knight Cemetery, Overton County, Tennessee

References:

Sevier Family History with the Letters of Gen. John Sevier
By Cora Bales Sevier, Nancy S. Madden, 1961 - pg 457-459
Fold3 Military website Revolutionary War files