

# Hancock County Civil War Documents

**Forgotten Pathways, Vol. VII, No. 2, Fall 1990, Quarterly of the  
Genealogical Society of Hancock County, Hawesville, KY, pp.30-34:**

## Soldier's Application For Pension

In sorting and filing old papers in the Hancock County Archives a few Civil War Applications for Pensions were found. Some were for soldiers' pensions, while others were for widow's pension.

Other information that may be found in these pension papers are: dates of marriage, number of children, if wife is deceased, if wounded, where captured, and much more. When a soldier was captured he was often paroled or exchanged for a Union soldier. At this time they were required to take an oath of allegiance to the United States Government.

JOHN M. ARNOLD: Born Oct. 5, 1844 in Alabama. Enlisted in Co. "B", 14th. Tennessee Reg., April 1861. Came to Ky. in 1867. Mustered out June 1873. CONFEDERATE (3pages)

G. C. P. BAKER: Born Aug. 6, 1841 Hancock Co., Ky. Enlisted in Co. "C", 10th. Kentucky Cavalry, Aug. 1862. Paroled Spring of 1865. CONFEDERATE (3 pages) Others who served with him were Dave Beauchamp & W. H Pence.

JOHN A. BOARD: Born Dec. 12, 1838 Breckinridge County, Ky. Enlisted in Co. "G", 8th. & 12th. Kentucky Cavalry, in late summer or early fall of 1864. Paroled May 16, 1866. CONFEDERATE (5 pages) Mentions James W. Patterson was in same company.

MARY M. (HOLLAND) BOUTCHER, wife of SAMUEL WOOLFOLK BOUTCHER: He born April 7, 1838, Hancock County, Ky. Enlisted in 9th. Kentucky Inf. Died about 1891. CONFEDERATE (3 pages)

ELIZA ANN (DARRELL) BOWLDS, wife of JAMES P. BOWLDS: Born Daviess County, Ky. Enlisted in 1st. Ky. Cav., in 1861. Died in 1888, at Knottsville, Ky. CONFEDERATE (3 pages) Mentions James H. Bozarth & W. T. Ellis in same company.m

WILEY COLBERT (enrolled as soldier by mistake as WILEY COLVERT: Born Sept, 1843, Hancock County, Ky. . Enlisted fall of 1862, in Co, "H", 10th Ky. . Cav. Under John H. Morgan, and also with the 45th Ohio. Paroled 1865. CONFEDERATE (4 pages) Mentions W. H. Pence, Patrick Lawson & Mike Stephens in same company.

JAKE COFFEY: Born May 22, 1839, Grainger Co., Tennessee. Enlisted June 1862, in Co. "I", 59th. h Tenn. Inf. Paroled July 4, 1863. Came to Daviess Co., Ky. in 1866, and to Hancock Co. about 1876. CONFEDERATE (6 pages)

B. F. DEJARNETT, (BENJAMIN FRANKLIN DEJARNETTE) : Born Hancock County, Ky. Enlisted in Co. "D", Oct. 3, 1861 was also in Co. "G", 1st., Ky. Regiment of Cavalry. Paroled. CONFEDERATE (3 pages)

FRANCES B. (RICKEY) DEJARNETTE, wife of BENJAMIN FRANKLIN DEJARNETTE: He born Aug. 26, 1841 , Hancock County, Ky. Enlisted Oct. 3, 1861 Co. "D", at Russellville, Ky. Died Nov. 25, 1925 in Hancock County, Ky. . CONFEDERATE (3 pages)

FRANKIE ( NEWBURRY ) DOYAL , wife of WILLIAM RILEY DOYAL: He born Nov. 25, 1844, Hawesville, Ky. Enlisted Co. "H", 8th. Ky. Regt. Died in Hawesville on Feb. 5, 1908. CONFEDERATE (3 pages) Mentions George W. Black & Frank Reid as serving with him.

ADELIA (HENNEN ) DUNCAN , wife of ROBERT E. DUNCAN: He born 1844 in Daviess County, Ky. Enlisted in Co. "A", 12th Ky. Cav. Died in Confederate Home in Pewee Valley, July 1905. CONFEDERATE (5 pages) Mentions R. W. Mason & Frank Reid serving with him.

CATHERINE (McADAMS ) GREGORY, wife of LEROY LOGAN GREGORY: He born in Jefferson Co., Ky. Enlisted 1862 at Bedford, Trimble Co., Ky. in Co. "A", 4th. Ky. Cav. Died July 19, 1888 at Hawesville. CONFEDERATE (5 pages)

WILLIAM HENRY HALL: Born Jan. 28, 1843 in Breckinridge County, Kentucky. Enlisted 1861, Co. "D", 1st. Ky. Cav. Paroled. CONFEDERATE (3 pages)

WILLIAM JACKSON: Born 1846 in Mecklenburg Co., North Carolina. Enlisted Feb. 1863 in Co. "F", 11th Tenn. Cav. CONFEDERATE (3 pages)

SARH E. (WILES) LONG, wife of Wm. A. LONG: She did not know when he enlisted, or what company. He died at the Confederates Home in Pewee Valley on Oct. 18th, 1907. CONFEDERATE (3 pages)

WILLIAM H. PENCE: Born Nov. 18, 1842, Shelby Co., Ky. Enlisted Sept. 1862, Co. "H", 10th. Ky. Cav. Paroled. CONFEDERATE (3 pages)

FRANK REID: Born Jan. 10, 1839 in Greenup Co., Ky. Enlisted Oct. 5, 1861, Co. "G", 1st. Ky. Cav. Paroled. CONFEDERATE: (3 pages) Mentions serving under Capt. Murray Brown.

MARTHA (CHILDS) SAUNDERS, wife of DANIEL J. SAUNDERS: born Meade County, Sept. 1845. Enlisted Co. "F", 1st. Ky. Regt . He died March 5, 1904 in Daviess County, Ky. CONFEDERATE (5 pages)

JOHN W. STARK: He born July 12, 1834 in Casey County, Ky. Enlisted Oct. 5, 1861, Co. "G", 1st. Ky. Cav. Paroled. CONFEDERATE (3 pages) Mentions Capt. Murray Brown & Frank Reid had served with him.

ELIA McADAMS STERETT, wife of CHARLES JEFFERSON STERETT: He born at Hardinsburg, Ky. Enlisted early 1861; Co. "G", 1st. Regt. Died Aug. 6, 1893 at Hawesville, Ky. CONFEDERATE (3 pages) Mentions D. T. BEAUCHAMP serving with him under Morgan.

ELIZABETH (ROWE) STEWART, wife of GEORGE WASHINGTON STEWART. He born in Daviess County, Ky. Enlisted in 1862, Co. "H", 10th. Ky. Cav. Died Nov. 1863 Hancock County, Ky. CONFEDERATE (3 pages) Mentions Wiley Colbert and W. H. Pence being with him when he was wounded.

SARAH (IRELAND) THURSBY, wife of JAMES A. THURSBY: He born in Georgia. Enlisted in the Orphan Brigade, 9th Ky. Inf. in 1861. He died May 21, 1911. CONFEDERATE (3 pages)

RACHEL ELIZABETH (CAMPBELL) TONGATE, wife of JASPER NEWTON TONGATE: He born Nov. 29, 1844 in Trimble Co., Ky. Enlisted in 1862 at Bedford, Trimble Co., Ky. Died in Hancock Co. in 1899. CONFEDERATE (3 pages)



#### MISCELLANEOUS CIVIL WAR PAPERS

Hancock County Court: May 3, 1867. Your petitioner GEORGE HECKLER, states that he is a native of Hesse Darmstadt Prussia, that he is 27 years of age, that he has resided in the United States more than 10 years last past that he enlisted in the Volunteer Army of the United States as a soldier & was afterwards on the 4th Dec. 1864 honorable discharged from the service of the United States service. He prays to be admitted to a citizen of the United States without a previous declaration to become a citizen. Signed: George Heckler



#### DECLARATION OF MINOR CHILDREN FOR PENSION

NANCY EARLY a resident of near Pellville , Hancock County, Ky., age 36, made oath that she is the guardian of minor children of JAMES A. SINNETT, deceased: William S. Sinnett, James R. Sinnett & John T. Sinnett whose father was a private in Co. "E"; 12th Ky. Cav. Volunteers. He enlisted in August 1862 at Owensboro, was wounded and captured at Philadelphia, Tenn., near Knoxville, and died in the service while a prisoner of war, about the spring of 1864, not known where. She then married Enoch Early on the 6th of Sept. 1866 . He departed this life August 31, 1867. She is the mother of William S. Sinnett born 20th 1859; James R. Sinnett born 20th July 1860; and John T. Sinnett born 1st. March 1862. She was married to JAMES S. SINNETT in Hawesville, Ky. on 4th August 1858.



DECLARATION OATHS TO THE UNION

Those taking the oath were County Officials, Teachers, Doctors, and those who had been of war. Sometimes the oath was taken, when a person's loyalty was in question. Oaths were taken for other reasons also. Some of those taking the oaths are as follows:

Samuel C. Allen	J. R. Gillaspay	Thos. C. Moorman
W. P. Baker	James Gittings	Kinchelow Patterson
Chas. B. Bateman	Mary C. Hale	Josie Pattie
Charles Ed. Bateman	James Hayden	Chas. E. Price
E. H. Brown	Annie E. Hodges	Andrew L. Rice
Eli H. Brown	James Holder	Davis Richey
Charles Bruner	W. H. Hook	Jeff Richey
R. T. Bruner	Thos. Jett	Jefferson Richey
R. Y. Bush	W. Q. Johnson	F. B. Rodgers
James W. Campbell	John G. Keown	Delany Sanders
George W. Chambers	Ben. S. Lamar	Elza Sinclair
Henry V. Chambers	Robert Lamar	Edward Smart
W. J. Cook	W. P. Lamar	Frank W. Stone
Benjamin Crow	Warren C. Lambert	James E. Stone
H. H. Ellis	Joseph H. Lewis	R. G. Tift
R. A. J. Estes	John McBrown	Mrs. M. T. Ward
David Ewan	David C. Miller	George W. Wheatley
Enoch Freels	William W. Miller	Joseph F. Wilson
Adam Fulmer	James A. Mitchell	Martin Young, Sr.
William R. Fuqua	Rev. James Moore	



**Kentucky Confederate Veteran and Widows Pension Index,  
Alicia Simpson & Michael L. Cook, McDowell Publications, Utica, KY, 1979:**

Introduction – pages 1, 2, 3 and 5:

During the American Civil War, sympathies of Kentuckians were divided between the Union and the Confederate causes. Even though Kentucky remained in the Union politically, many of her citizens actively joined in the Confederate war effort. After the war ended, Union veterans were given all benefits normally extended to the United States servicemen. Confederate veterans, having participated on the losing side of the rebellion, were excluded. Many Kentuckians felt that the Commonwealth of Kentucky should provide financial assistance to Confederate veterans who were not able to adequately support themselves. In 1912, the Kentucky General Assembly passed

legislation establishing the means for providing pensions to indigent and disabled Confederate veterans or their widows.

The Confederate Pension Act of March 4, 1912 created a State Pension Board composed of the Governor, Auditor, and Secretary of State, to "prescribe regulations governing the filing, adjudicating and payment of all pension claims." The Adjutant General of Kentucky was charged with supplying the State Pension Board with military records of applicants and with obtaining all necessary evidence to support claims. An Examiner of Pensions assisted the Adjutant General in adjudicating pension claims. The Adjutant General was required to submit a biennial report to the State Pension Board showing names, county, and post office addresses of each pensioner.

The Confederate Pension Act established specific guidelines which all applicants were required to meet in order to receive benefits. These were as follows:

- (1) The applicant was required to be a Confederate Army or Navy veteran who served a minimum of one year, or from the time of his enlistment until the close of the war. This requirement was waived if he had received an honorable discharge because of injury or illness. Widows of Confederate veterans were eligible if they had married before 1890.
- (2) The applicant was required to have been a Kentucky resident since 1907.
- (3) The veteran could not be able to earn support by manual labor, knowledge, art, or skill, and receive a pension.
- (4) The veteran could not receive a United States pension or aid from a foreign government.
- (5) The applicant could not be absent from Kentucky for more than one year.
- (6) The applicant could not have an annual income of more than \$300.
- (7) The applicant could not have property valued at \$2500 or more.
- (8) The veteran could not receive a pension if his wife was capable of supporting him.

Applications were made in duplicate under oath with the County Clerk on the form prescribed by the State Pension Board. At the regular session of the County Court, the County Judge heard evidence concerning the applicant's citizenship, residence, and means of support. Two witnesses acquainted with the applicant testified to his identity. Also required was an affidavit attesting the disability of the veteran signed by either two physicians, or one physician and two witnesses who had been certified by the County Judge. The County Attorney could present any evidence relative to the claim. The substance of all testimony heard in Court was then sent with the application to the Adjutant General; a duplicate copy remained with the County Clerk. The Adjutant General secured the military record of the veteran from the United States War Department and included it with the application. If he felt that additional evidence was needed to support the claim, he could request more information from the applicant. When the findings were complete, the Adjutant General sent the application with his recommendation to the State Pension Board for

approval. There was no time limit on establishing a pension claim; however, if the State Pension Board objected to the evidence submitted by the applicant, he was only allowed to reapply once.

If the State Pension Board found that a pension was wrongfully granted, or that the pensioner was no longer entitled to a pension, it had the authority to have the claim investigated. As a State Pension Board member, the Governor, in such instances, would order the State Inspector and Examiner to make an investigation and report his findings in writing to the Board. The State Pension Board could stop pension payments after giving the pensioner thirty days notice by registered mail. During this time, the pensioner could present evidence to support his claim.

Payment of pensions was made quarterly in the amount of ten dollars per month. The amount was calculated from the date that the application was filed with the Adjutant General. Vouchers were presented to all pensioners by an officer authorized to administer oaths, were signed, and returned to the Adjutant General. The Adjutant General prepared a pension roll quarterly from all returned vouchers, listing all names and addresses, and filed it with the Auditor. The Auditor issued warrants to the Treasurer, who forwarded a treasury check to each pensioner.

Once a year, every pensioner was required to obtain a certificate from the County Judge showing that there had been no changes in his eligibility. If the pensioner became a resident of the Confederate Home at Pee Wee Valley, Kentucky, the Hone notified the State Pension Board and his name was removed from the pension roll. Pension money was not liable to attachment, levy, or seizure by any legal or equitable process.

In 1913, the State Pension Board was called upon to defend the constitutionality of its program. James M. Harp, a Franklin County resident, applied for a pension. It was approved, and the voucher was presented to the Auditor for payment. The Auditor, H. M. Bosworth, refused to allow payment, feeling that the Confederate Pension Act of 1912 was unconstitutional because it violated the Bill of Rights, Section 3, of the Kentucky Constitution, which states that "no grant of exclusive, separate, public emoluments or privileges shall be made to any man except in consideration of public service." The Auditor felt that Confederate veterans should not be allowed special privileges because they had not given any public service to Kentucky. He stated that in joining Confederate forces they had turned against Kentucky and therefore should not be granted pensions as a special service. Harp brought suit in Franklin Circuit Court to obtain a mandamus compelling the Auditor to issue a warrant for that amount. The Franklin Circuit Court awarded the mandamus as requested, but the Auditor appealed the case to the Kentucky Court of Appeals. On June 3, 1913, Captain W. J. Stone, the Examiner of Confederate Pensions, spoke to the Court of Appeals in defense of the State Pension Board. Stone mentioned, in his defense, that the Confederate veterans had served the Commonwealth considerably in the years prior to the Civil War in the building of Kentucky. He used examples such as normal schools and children's homes, which as state agencies had provided special services for certain citizens. On June 20, 1913, the Court of Appeals upheld the decision of the Franklin Circuit Court. In his majority opinion, Chief Justice J. P. Hobson held that because Kentucky had been neutral during the Civil War, both Union and Confederate veterans should receive pensions. Confederate veterans had been given special provisions because their public service was not recognized by the United States government. The Auditor was ordered to pay Harp the pension due him.

The agency of the government of the Commonwealth in charge of Confederate pensions changed several times, especially in the early years of the program. In 1914, the General Assembly repealed the 1912 Confederate Pension Act and created the Confederate Pensions Department. The department was administered by the Commissioner of Confederate Pensions, who was appointed by the Governor for a four-year term. The Commissioner made decisions on all claims. He obtained military records of the applicants and could request additional evidence from them. He was also required to prepare the pension roll and make annual reports. Under this new act, the State Pension Board, composed of the Governor, Auditor, and Secretary of State, retained the responsibility of hearing appeals of applicants whose claims were rejected by the Commissioner of Confederate Pensions.

The 1914 Act included provisions for distributing any remaining pension due the pensioner at the time of his death to the court appointed administrator. The time period allowed for vacancy from the state before pension discontinued was changed from one year to three months. The 1914 Act also allowed for pensions to be given to soldiers dishonorably discharged if they had been forced under duress to take the oath of allegiance to the United States government during the last six months of the war.

The Confederate Pension Act of 1914 was amended several times. In 1918, the amount of payment was increased from ten dollars to twelve dollars per month, and a clause was added allowing a veteran to reapply for a pension if he returned to Kentucky after an absence of over three months. In 1928, the amount of payment was increased to twenty dollars per month. New applicants were required to furnish proof of service statement with the application before the pension could be approved. In 1932, the amount of payment was increased to thirty dollars a month, and a provision was made to pay for the pensioners funeral and burial expenses upon receipt of a statement from the undertaker.

The next major change in the Confederate Pensions Department came in 1936 under the Administrative Reorganization Act when the Confederate Pensions Department was abolished. In its place, a Division of Confederate Pensions was created in the Military Department under the Adjutant General. This division was supervised by an executive officer. All functions of the former Confederate Pensions Department in relation to accounting and drawing warrants for payment were transferred to the Department of Finance.

In 1942, further revisions were made in the Confederate Pensions program. Payment was based as follows:

- (1) A veteran who had been a resident since January 1, 1915 received fifty dollars per month.
- (2) Widows who had not remarried since the death of their husbands and who had been residents of Kentucky since January 1, 1915, received:
  - (a) fifty dollars per month if they married before 1875
  - (b) forty dollars per month if they married between 1875 and 1895, and
  - (c) thirty dollars per month if they married between 1895 and 1915.

Under this revision, the Department of Finance was to examine military records and make the final decision concerning applications. It was also required to prepare the pension roll, make special investigations, and publish an annual reports.

No other changes were made in the program until 1952, when the amount of payment was increased to fifty dollars per month for all widows. In 1958, United States, state, or foreign pensions were declared exempt from the \$300 per year income limit. The last application was approved for payment in 1946, and at present, 1978, one widow is receiving payment. The Confederate Pensions Act remains a part of the Kentucky Revised Statutes.

The Confederate pension applications originated in a succession of offices. The first office of origin of the records was the State Pension Board. However, the bulk of the records were created by the Confederate Pension Department. A few of the later applications originated in the Division of Confederate Pensions within the Military Department. The pension applications and supporting documents are described in this inventory as a single series. No other records of the Confederate pension program are known to exist.

The Confederate pension applications were originally maintained in the office which approved payment. From 1912 to 1914, this office was the Adjutant General's office, and from 1914 to 1936 the pension applications were the responsibility of the Confederate Pension Department. After the Confederate Pension Department was abolished in 1936, the pension applications were presumably transferred to the newly created Division of Confederate Pensions in the Military Department. At some later date, the Department of Finance apparently acquired the applications and assumed total responsibility of the Confederate Pension program.

The Kentucky Historical Society obtained the Confederate pension applications in 1951, probably from the Department of Finance. The applications were in their possession until 1976, when they were transferred to the Division of Archives and Records Management. The Kentucky Historical Society maintains fifty reels of microfilm of the pension applications. Some of the duplicate applications survive in the various county clerk's offices. Others have been transferred to the Archives. Researchers interested in the Confederate pension program should consult the Old Auditor's office record group housed at the Archives. Also available from the Division of Archives and Records Management is an index as given hereafter in this book.

Arrangement of the Confederate pension applications is by number assigned by the Confederate Pensions office.

### Soldier's Applications for Pensions

The soldier's application includes the veteran's name, address, county of residence, and date and place of birth. A series of questions on the application attempts to establish where the soldier served, who his officers were, and under what circumstances he was discharged. A statement certified by the County Judge gives the income and property holdings of the applicant. Sections of the application contain statements of two witnesses verifying the identity of the applicant. The statements given by the witnesses are notarized as being correct as recorded on the application. Also included is a physician's state-sent concerning the inability of the applicant to



work. The front cover of the application contains the application number, the applicant's name, the date that the application was received in the Adjutant General's office, and the signature of the approving authority (either the Commissioner of Pensions or Adjutant General)

Widows' Indigent Pension Applications

The widow's application gives the name, residence, birthplace, and birth date of the applicant. The maiden name is recorded along with the date and place of marriage, and the name of the person who performed the ceremony. The service record and type of discharge that the husband received is given, and the date and cause of his death. The widow's income and property holdings are stated and certified by the County Judge. Family members are listed as well as the name of a reference that could be contacted concerning the application. There are questions for two witnesses who knew the applicant and her husband to verify the applicant's identity. Their statements are notarized as being correctly recorded on the applications. The front cover contains the widow's name, her veteran husband's name, the date that the application was received in the Adjutant General's office, and the signature of the approving authority (either the Commissioner of Pensions or Adjutant General).

Supporting documents

Each application form contains supporting documents used in establishing a pension claim. In every application is the Confederate veteran's military service record obtained from the United States Adjutant General. Accompanying documents include county court minutes, the County Judge's statement concerning the claim, copies of correspondence between the Confederate Pensions Department and the applicant, and in a few instances, tax assessment lists of property accounts. Supporting documents verifying Confederate service include correspondence with Confederate comrades, muster rolls, proof of service certificates from the Kentucky Confederate Veterans' Association, and payroll receipts from Confederate States of America. Also present are prison releases, hospital releases, parole certificates, and discharge papers used to substantiate the circumstances of the veteran's release from service. Statements showing that the veteran had been admitted or released from the Confederate Home also appear.

The majority of supporting documents accompanying the widow's application verify the widow's marriage and the death of her husband. These consist of marriage certificates, marriage licenses, death certificates, newspaper obituaries, funeral invitations, and mortician's statements. Receipts or vouchers from the Confederate Pensions Department used to prove that the husband received a pension before his death also can be found. Finally, proof of service certificates from the Kentucky Confederate Veterans' Association are enclosed to verify the husband's Confederate service.

Residents of Hancock County, KY:

Name of applicant	Husband's name	Date	Application Number
Baker, G. C. P.		1 Jul 1912	2334
Board, John A.		22 Jul 1912	62

Boutcher, Mary Holland	Samuel W. Boutcher	22 Jul 1912	2350
Bowlds, Eliza Darrell	James P. Bowlds	24 Jul 1912	73
Colbert, Wiley		23 Feb 1915	3199
DeJarnette, Frances Richey	B. F. DeJarnette	30 Dec 1925	4389
Doyal, Frankie Newberry	William Riley Doyal	1 Jul 1912	2093
Gregory, Catherine McAdams	Dr. Leroy Logan Gregory	1 Jul 1912	1323
Long, Sarah Wiles	William A. Wiles	8 Jul 1912	1782
Pence, William H.		1 Jul 1912	1831
Reid, Frank		1 Jul 1912	2779
Scifres, Mary Richardson	Joseph M. Scifres	28 Jan 1914	2796
Sterett, Eliza McAdams	Charles J. Sterett	1 Jul 1912	1018

• • • • •

