

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of John Boone (Boon) R1017 Elizabeth Boon PA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

State of Virginia }
Monroe County }

On this 20th day of August 1833 personally appeared before the County Court of Monroe now setting John Boon a resident in said County of Monroe & state of Virginia aged 78 years of age, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832, that he enlisted in the army of the United States in the year 1777 under Capt. Spangler in the County of York and state of Pennsylvania for five years the names of his other officers and the Regiment to which he belonged he has forgotten, but knows that he served upwards of two years; and then was marched under the Command of Gen'l. [Horatio] Gates, in Company with the Maryland & Delaware troop to Hillsborough in North Carolina, & from that place they proceeded to join the troops under the Command of Baron De Kalb. – He well recollects that the army suffered much fatigue & hardship marching towards where the enemy were encamped [Camden SC]. They had to cut a road for many miles from Santee river toward Camden, Called Gates's Folly [see endnote] – the army whilst on it's march towards Camden at night [about 2 AM, 16 Aug 1780] encounter'd a party of the British, and halted – the next morning the two armys met & fought [Battle of Camden], but the enemy prevailed & Gen'l Gates & his army were defeated & dispersed. He was in this battle & was among the last to retreat. He saved himself from the pursuing enemy by fleeing through an unknown Country as well as his fatigue & previous hardships would allow, at length he arrived at the Washington Ironworks in Henry County [at present Rocky Mount in Franklin County VA], where he remained some years & then came to the County of Monroe which was then Greenbriar [sic: Greenbrier, where he has resided ever since that time and does now reside

After the dreadful defeat the Officers and soldiers with whom he served had all fled in different directions and he knew not where to find them so as to get a discharge. Consequently he did not get a discharge.

He served from the commencement of his service or enlistment untill this defeat the full length & term of three years. This battle took place as well as he now recollects in the month of August 1780. He was born in York County Pennsylvania within about 8 miles of the town of York but in what year, he does not recollect, but this he knows that he was eighteen or nineteen years old when he went with his uncle Daniel Boon [sic: Daniel Boone] to Kentucky, and he knows that he returned the next year to York, which was 1774.

He relinquishes every claim to a Pension or annuity whatever except the present, and he declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of any agency in any State.

John hisXmark Boon

NOTES:

Santee River is south of Camden and not on Gates's route to Camden.

The file contains a certificate signed by 19 of John Boone's neighbors stating that they "never heard any thing of the said Boon but what was honest and just."

On 29 June 1847 Henry Boon (as he signed), age 46 on 10 March 1848, of Greenbrier County, applied on behalf of himself and other children of Elizabeth Boone for a pension that would have been due to their mother if she had applied. He stated that John Boone died on 17 July 1835, and Elizabeth Boone died on 15 Feb 1841, leaving the following children besides himself: John Boone, 57; Sally Humphreys; Frances Myres, 37; and Nancy Burdett, 53. He stated that his mother, whose maiden name was Elizabeth Alford, married John Boon in Augusta County VA about 1788.

On 12 June 1847 Peggy Alford, 76, of Monroe County, stated that John Boone had been a near

neighbor of her father in Rockingham County VA and married Elizabeth Alford about 1787 or 1788. She stated that two years later she moved with them to the part of Greenbrier County that became Monroe County, and that after the death of John Boone his widow lived with her son, Henry Boone. She also stated that Elizabeth Boone became fatally ill while visiting her. On the same day John Alford (as he signed), 75, also made a statement.

The application by the heirs was unsuccessful, because Elizabeth Boone died before the joint resolution of 23 Aug 1842. This resolution reversed a policy of denying pensions to widows whose husbands were still living on 7 June 1832. The Pension Commissioner evidently decided that since Elizabeth Boone died before the passage of the joint resolution, it did not apply to her or her heirs.