

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Francis Walker¹ R11037

Hannah

fn37VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

7/24/11

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading fails to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Virginia – Middlesex County to wit

On this 17th day of January 1835 personally appeared before me Blackburn a justice of the Peace in and for the County and State aforesaid Francis Walker aged Seventy-one 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 7th 1832. That he entered the service of the State of Virginia in the Revolutionary war in the Militia for the terms and under the following named officers as the following statement sheweth

Duration of Service

Period of Service	Years	months	days	Rank	Names and Rank of the field and company officers under whom he served	Age at present and place of Residence	Proof
1779		6		Private	Capt. Wm Davenport	71 years & 11 months Middlesex County Virginia	Moses Walker
1780		7		do	" John Digges		
1781		8	20	do	Col. Thos. Gaskins Major Wm Nutt Major Baytop General Weeden		

I entered the service in 1779 as a private in a company of Militia commanded by Captain William Davenport and served six months during that year, John George was the Lieutenant and Robert Roebuck the Ensign of the company. The field officers whom I can recollect were Colonel Thomas Gaskins, Major William Nutt and Adjutant Busher [?] the Christian names I cannot now positively recollect but I believe it was Abraham. The troops were called out into service by the orders of Colonel Gaskins, but under whose authority he was acting I do not know, but supposed under the orders of the Governor of Virginia. The purposeful which the troops were called into service I believe was to protect the public property from the Great Wicomico river and to defend the country against the ravages and pillage of the British who were during the period of my service in 1779 as well as during the periods of my subsequent service in 1780 &

¹ BLWt478120160-55

1781 infesting the Chesapeake and its tributary waters.

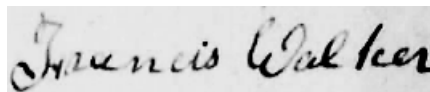
In the year 1780 I was again called into service as a private in the same company of militia under the same authority, and served seven months under the same officers except that during the period of my service this year Captain Davenport died and was succeeded in the command of the company by Captain John Digges.

In the year 1781 I was again called into service as a private in the same company of militia under the same authority and served under the command of Captain Digges for 7 months and 20 days in the County of Northumberland. And afterwards and sometime in September 1781 I became a substitute for Mosely Nutt who was drafted for a tour of two months, and as such substitute I marched to Gloucester Point where I continued until the surrender of Cornwallis thirty days, when the militia was discharged and I returned home. We marched under the command of Ensign Roebuck from Wicomico Church in Northumberland County to Churmings [?] Ferry in Lancaster County where we crossed the Rappahannock River to Urbanna in Middlesex County, thence to Turks ferry on the Piankatank River crossed that River into Gloucester County and marched by the Burnt Mill to Seawells [Sewell's Point?] and Gloucester Point where we arrived during the engagement at that place, but not in time to take any part in the action. Upon arriving there Captain Digges took command. The officers under whom I served at Gloucester Point as far as I can recollect were General Weeden [George Weedon], Major Baytop and Adjutant Jefferson or Jeffries. The detachment to which I belonged [one or more words too faint to discern][fn p. 15] of the guard which escorted the prisoners taken at Gloucester Point to Seawells where the Head Quarters were established.

The troops during the periods of my service in 1779 and 1780 and until September 1781 were stationed in Northumberland County in the State of Virginia at Hudlands Warehouse – Sandy Point – and upon the plantations of John Harris [could be John Harvis], Oney S. Harris, John Champion, Joseph Hurst and Colonel Gaskins but how long at each place or at what precise time during the periods of my service I cannot say, my recollection at this time not enabling me to do so with any certainty. During my service I was in no battle of any consequence, though in 2 or 3 skirmishes. I was in sight of the enemy when they landed from thirteen barges and burnt Hudlands Warehouse. Our force was too small to permit us to attack them. After they had retired we went down and rolled out the Tobacco from the warehouse and saved about fifty [?] hogsheads of it. Although after my several tours of service [several words obscured by a cut in the paper and indecipherable] I was relieved and permitted to go home and attend to my private affairs [words too faint to discern] during the continuance of my terms of service I was not engaged or employed in any civil pursuit, and was throughout the whole year 1779 & 1780 and until September 1781 constantly under orders and liable to be called into service at a minutes warning. I never received any written discharge. I know of no person now living except Moses Walker who has any knowledge of my Revolutionary services. I hereby relinquish all claim whatever to any pension or annuity but the present and I declare that my name is not on the Pension Roll of any Agency in any State.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/Francis Walker

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Francis Walker". The ink is dark and the handwriting is somewhat slanted to the right.

[George Northam, a clergyman, and Moses Walker gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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Question 1st Where and in what year were you born?

Answer. In Northumberland County State of Virginia in the year 1763 1st Where and in what year were you born?

Question 2nd Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

Answer I have not. There was one in my father's family Bible. It is now destroyed

Question 3rd Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Answer I was living in Wicomico Parish Northumberland County and State of Virginia when called into service. After the close of the revolutionary War I moved to Lancaster County Virginia where I lived 4 or 5 years. I then returned to Northumberland County and lived there until 1797 when I moved to the County of Middlesex Virginia where I have lived ever since and am still living.

Question 4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom?

Answer In the first, 2nd and 3rd tours I was ordered into service as a militia man with the company to which I belonged, and in the 4th tour I was a substitute for Mosely Nutt

Question 5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Answer I recollect the names of General Weeden, Major Baytop and adjutant Jeffries or Jefferson but whether they were regular or militia officers I do not recollect. They were officers at Gloucester Point. Colonel Gaskins, Major Nutt, Adjutant Bucher, Captain Davenport and Digges were officers in the militia Regiment to which I belonged. I do not recollect the number of any of the Regiments. The general circumstances of my service if I understood what is required I have detailed in my foregoing declaration.

Question 6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

Answer I never received any written discharge.

Question 7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

Answer Mr. Moses Walker, the Reverend George Northam, Robert Henly and Carter Brayton, Esqr.

...

State of Virginia Middlesex County to wit:

Personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the Peace in and for the County and State aforesaid Moses Walker, who being duly sworn deposes and saith that he is nearly sixty-nine years old, that he remembers very well that his brother Francis Walker who has subscribed the foregoing declaration served in the militia in Northumberland County in this State during the Revolutionary war during several years, but how long each year all under what officers he cannot recollect. He also knows that he went as a soldier with the drafted militia to Gloucester Point in 1781 and he fully believes that he served as he has stated. Given under my hand and seal this 17th day of January 1835.

S/ Blackburn, JP

[fn p. 3: On September 21, 1852 in Middlesex County Virginia, Hannah Walker, 79, filed an affidavit stating she is the widow of Francis Walker, deceased; that her husband died July 28,

1839; that he was a soldier of the revolution; she refers to the facts of his service set forth in his declaration made in January 1835; that she files this affidavit to obtain the arrearages in his pension due him at the time of his death under the 1832 act.]

[fn p. 6: On September 21, 1852 , Fanny Taylor, 74, a resident of Middlesex County Virginia gave testimony that Hannah Walker is the widow of Francis Walker, deceased; that they were married June 15th 1813 in Middlesex County Virginia by one James Healy, a Baptist Preacher; that the widows name prior to her marriage was Hannah Reveer [?]; that Francis Walker died in Middlesex County July 28, 1839; and that Hannah remains his widow.]

[fn p. 10: On June 23, 1855, in Middlesex County Virginia, Hannah Walker, 82, filed for her bounty land entitlement as the widow of Francis Walker.]