

[Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters](#)

Pension Application of Christopher Eaton (Valentine) R3214 Susan Eaton NC
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 20 Dec 2014.

State of North Carolina } Court of pleas and quarter sessions
County of Surry } November Term 1832.

On this the 13th day of November A.D. 1832, personally appeared in open court, before the justices of the County Court of pleas and quarter sessions for the said county of Surry, now setting, Christopher Eaton, formerly called Christopher Valentine, a resident of this (Surry) County in the State of North Carolina, aged seventy-six 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 provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7, 1832.

That he enlisted in the army of the United States in the year 1777, with Joseph Philips [Joseph Phillips], a recruiting officer, at Richmond, then Surry Courthouse [now in Yadkin County] N. Carolina, and served in the [blank] regiment of the N. Carolina line, under the following named officers: viz. Col. John Armstrong, that we got to Richmond Va. in the company commanded by Captain Laban, (or Labourn), Lieut. forgotten – Ensign forgotten. When I enlisted I lived in the county of Surry in the State of North Carolina, with one Gray Bynum to whom I was bound. my name at this time was commonly called Christopher Valentine, and spelled “Valentine”, I expect (as I cannot read or write) – and have since been called Eaton, that being the English name given to my father and family in this country, he having been a German, and called Valentine: after I enlisted we marched towards Richmond in the State of Virginia, where we joined some other troops. I was here put under the Col. Alx’d. Martin [Alexander Martin] we next marched towards Philadelphia. we were stationed some time at a place (name forgotten) and then marched through Philadelphia, and at length we joined the forces under Gen. Washington, at his camp at Brandywine: I, the said Christopher, fought in the Battle of Brandywine with the Americans under gen. Washington, against the British; – this battle took place as I believe some time in September [the 11th], in the year 1777, the Americans lost about 1200 men in this battle.

After the battle of Brandywine we marched in various directions, being often shifted about – we were placed under the command of Gen. [Benedict] Arnold; we were at one time stationed at a place called White plains at which time we were under Gen. Nath. Green [sic: Nathanael Greene] we passed at one time a place called West Point. we were for some time stationed in the State of New Jersey, but I am not certain whether it was before or after the battle of Brandywine. I was in several skirmishes with small parties of the British. When gen. [Horatio] Gates was appointed to head the southern army [spring 1780] I was sent with him and marched southerly to Hillsborough in the State of North Carolina. when we reached this place my time being out I was discharged and received a written discharge from my captain Labourn – which discharge was burned in my house which was burnt several years ago. I served in this service in all three years and about six months, as near as I can ascertain. My discharge was dated as I verily believe in the month of May 1780. I the said Christopher, then came home to Surry County N. Carolina, and in the month of June 1780 I volunteered in the North-Carolina militia, in the company commanded by Captain Absalom Bostick, we marched from Richmond, Surry Court house N.C. to Salisbury in North-Carolina near which place we joined head quarters under Gen. [Griffith] Rutherford – we then marched to a place called Cheraw Hills in South Carolina, where we joined the army under gen. Gates. we then marched towards Camden till we met the British near Camden S. C. about the 15th of August 1780, where the Battle of Camden ensued [16 Aug 1780]. I fought in said battle, with the Americans under gen. Gates, against the British under Cornwallis: we were defeated, and got home the best way we could (the army being scattered): In this tour I served about three months. Joseph Darnel [Joseph Darnall, pension application S2515], who is now living in the county of Stokes, served in this tour with me and will testify to that effect.

I the said Christopher Eaton was born in the County of Surry in the state of North Carolina in the

year 1756: a record of my age was made in a Bible which then belonged to my father and which is now in the possession of my son. I took the oath of allegiance before Joseph Winston on the 1st day of November in the year 1776 a certificate of which I have now in my possession: ever since the Revolutionary war I lived in the same neighbourhood in which I now live in the said county of Surry in the state of North Carolina.

He, the said Christopher, hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present, and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any State, Territory or District.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid Christopher hisXmark Eaton

State of North Carolina } Court of please
County of Stokes } and quarter Sessions
September Term 1832.

Joseph Darnall personally appeared in open court and made oath in due form of law to the following certificate viz.

I do hereby certify that I am well acquainted with Christopher Eaton, that I believe him to be about seventy six years of age, that he now resides in the county of Surry in the State of North Carolina, that to my personal knowledge he, the said Christopher Eaton served faithfully as a Revolutionary Soldier in the Militia service in the company commanded by Capt. Absalom Bostick, in the regiment commanded by Col. Armstrong under Gen. Rutherford, that he the said Christopher Eaton entered the said service in the County of Surry State of North Carolina, some time in June 1780, marched to Salisbury N.C. near which place we joined head quarters, then marched to a place called the Cheraw Hills in South Carolina, where we joined the army under gen. Gates – then marched towards Camden, till we fell in with the British when the battle ensued between the Americans under Gen. Gates, and the British under Cornwallis; that he the said Joseph Darnall was not in the battle but the said Christopher Eaton as I verily believe was in the battle: that the American army was routed in the said battle and got home such as could do so the best way they could; and that this toure lasted about three months, and that he the said Joseph Darnall served with the said Christopher Eaton during the said toure, therefore he knows that he the said Christopher Eaton did serve the said tour.

Sworn to and subscribed in open court this 13 day of September 1832.

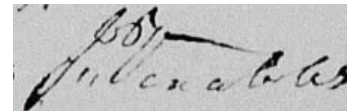
Joseph hisXmark Darnall

I Wm. Merritt [William Merritt S2821] of Stokes county N.C. do hereby certify that I was in the service at the Moravian old town in the year 1780, and that there was one Eaton in the service at that time guarding the prisoners taken at King's mountain [7 Oct 1780] and that I believe the aforementioned Christopher Eaton to be the same man Sworn to and subscribed in open court the 13th day of March 1833.

State of North Carolina } March term 1833
Stokes County }

I John Venables Esqr [pension application W18220] do hereby certify that I was in the United States service at the time of Gates' defeat at Camden S. C. in the year 1780 and that Christopher Eaton who made his Declaration in Surry County N.C. Nov. term 1832, was in the service at that time under Gen. Rutherford, and I think that the said Eaton was in the Regiment commanded by Col. Martin Armstrong. I also saw the said Eaton in another tour of service in North Carolina in the fall of the said year 1780: he was then guarding prisoners at Moravian old town in Surry County [originally Bethabara, now Oldtown in Winston Salem].

Sworn to and subscribed in open court this the 13th day of March 1833.



State of North Carolina }
Stokes County }

On this the 12th day of June 1833, personally appeared before me Charles Banner one of the acting Justices of the peace in and for the county of Stokes aforesaid Christopher Eaton, a resident of the County of Surry in the State of North Carolina, being the same identical person who made his declaration in the County Court of the said County of Surry in November term 1832, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following affidavit as an amendment to his said declaration, viz. that he knows of no person living by whom he can prove the fact that he enlisted, or served in the Regular service, they all being dec'd, but this affiant knows positively and unequivocally that he did enlist under Captain Joseph Philips, at Richmond Surry County N.C. in the month of November 1777 or 1778 (for he cannot positively swear which year of the two it was) that he received the Bounty from the hand of the said Joseph Philips, in presence of Henry Waller who enlisted at the same time, also Richard Philips (called black Dick Philips) who was a Regular soldier, Daniel Scott, who enlisted on the same day and died the next, James Glenn, Jacob Dial (or Dyer) & others some soldiers and others citizens who were present, amongst them this affiant swears he recollects one John Harper, a Regular soldier, – but all these are dead or gone from the Country, and none of them known or believed to be alive now – that while in said Jos. Philip's company he was marched from Richmond Surry County N.C. some distance toward the east and then were marched to Richmond Va. having passed through Salem N.C. Hillsborough, Newbern [sic: New Bern] & Edenton N.C. and several other villages, – at Richmond Va. Capt. Philip's Company of which this affiant positively swears he was a member joined other forces under the command of Col. Alexander Martin under whom he marched on to the Jerseys, this affiant being then in a company commanded by Capt. Laban or Labourn marched through Philadelphia & joined the army under Gen. Washington at his Camp near Brandywine Creek – that he fought in the battle of Brandywine, when Washington lost about twelve hundred men. After this battle we marched to White Plains where we were stationed for a long time, being under Gen. Arnold – this affiant swears that he was in several skirmishes with parties of the British during the time he was under Gen. Arnold – that he continued under the command of said Arnold till the said Arnold ran away after attempting to betray the army under him [sic: 25 Aug 1780], – previous to this as he thinks was the battle of Monmouth [28 Jun 1778] in which this affiant fought – that when Gen. Gates set out for the South this affiant marched under his direction, on to Hillsborough N.C. where this affiant was honourably discharged by his Captain Laban having served three years at least – that the discharge which he received was burned in his house several years ago – that he soon after getting home entered the service as a militia man (volunteer) under Capt. Bostick & Col. John Armstrong, in which tour he served three months, at least, and that in the fall of the year 1780 he served his last tour of service of three months – making in all three years and six months at the least which he served and for which he claims a pension having served as a private soldier the whole time of three years and six months, from the years 1777 to 1780 inclusive – this affiant further swears that in consequence of great age and infirmity and the consequent loss of memory that he cannot recollect the whole of the officers under whom he served, nor the whole of the circumstances connected with his service as a Regular, and that he knows of no means in his favor whereby he can prove the same, or any additional proof to what he has already adduced, but he is very certain that he served three years and six months as above stated: he further swears that he is entirely illiterate, and does not know how to spell his name – that when young he did not understand the English Language properly consequently he expects he may be mistaken as to names of places and persons – That he was sometimes called Valentine, sometimes called Eater, or Eator, and at other times Ettee or Hetty, so that he is not certain by what name he was put on the muster roll – and that sometimes his Christian name was called "Christopher," at other times "Christian" – That he is very infirm and quite destitute of the means of support, and earnestly solicits his country to remunerate him for services rendered in the prime of life.

Sworn to and subscribed before the said Charles Banner on the 12th day of June 1833.

Christopher hisXmark Eaton

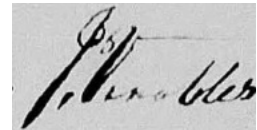
[Because there was no record or eye-witness testimony of Eaton's service in the Continental ("regular") Army, his pension certificate issued on 24 July 1833 was for only \$20 per year for six months service in the militia, which did not require documentary or eye-witness proof. On 13 Aug 1833 Eaton was struck from the pension list for the stated reason that he had not served the minimum of six months, even though in the above declarations he claimed to have served that much in the militia. In his final declaration below, Eaton claimed to have served less than six months in the militia. On 2 June 1846 his widow, Susannah Eaton, stated that she supposed her husband had been dropped from the pension roll because he was "unwilling to Receive the small amount of \$20 per annum for his Revolutionary services."]

State of North Carolina
Stokes County

In amendment to a Declaration heretofore filed in the War Office by Christopher Eaton alias (Eater) for the purpose of obtaining a Pension under the Act of Congress passed June 1832 – This 15 day April AD 1834 said Eaton appeared before me Alexander King one of the Justices of the Peace of said County and made Oath that he is unable to find any proof as to the regular service as stated by him in his Declaration, and instructs the Department once more to cause the rolls of the Army to be examined, in order to ascertain if his name cannot be found – he states that while his name is Eaton, he has gone and been called Eator or Ator, and on a certificate now in his possession given to him when he took the Oath of Allegiance before Joseph Winston he is called Christofer Valentine – he states again that besides his regular service as stated in his Declaration – he served six months in the Militia, to wit a three month tour under Capt. Hill[?] of Surry County North Carolina in which tour he was at Gates defeat, – he then served another three months tour under Capt Bostick or Capt Lewis in which service he assisted in guarding persons taken at the Battle of Kings Mountain – (at the old Town) and in conducting them from old Town to Salisbury – he states that if the service is not properly stated in his previous declarations – it is owing to the loss of recollection by extreme old age or an omission in his Attorney to put it down.
Christopher hisXmark Eaton

State of North Carolina
Stokes County}

This 15 day of April 1834 came John Venable before me Alexander one of the justices of the peace of said County and made Oath, that he is acquainted with Christopher Eaton, that he knows nothg of his regular service, that of his militia services he knows this – that to the best of his recollection he saw him at Gates defeat in service – where affiant did service himself – although he did not serve in same company with him – and that he recollects of said Eaton being in the Militia – in guardg prisoners at old Town and it is his impression that they served under one Captain to wit Capt Bostick – Affiant further states that he made an Affidavit [illegible word] to the above facts or [illegible word] said facts [two or three illegible words]



State of North Carolina } SS
County of Stokes }

On this 15th day of June 1836 personally appeared in Open Court before the Justices of peace of the Court of pleas and Quarter Sessions now sitting for the County aforesaid, at the Court house in Germanton Christopher Valentine a resident of the County of Stokes aforesaid aged seventy six years the 7th day of September next who being 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 June 1832, that he entered the Service of the United States under the following named Officers and served as herein after stated, that in the month of November 1778 he entered the Service as a private enlisted solder in the Regular Service under a Captain Joseph Philips at old Richmond in Surry County North Carolina in Coll'o John

Armstrongs Regiment & rec'd. thirty dollars Bounty, in what was then call'd Continental money, he having first taken the Oath of Allegiance before Mager Joseph Winston a Justice of the peace as pr his certificate which accompanys this declaration dated the 1st Novemb. 1778, he being an Apprentice & bound when an infant [i.e. under 21] to a certain Gray Bynum of Surry County aforesaid, from whom he run away & enlisted as above mentioned and after remaining some time about Surry old Court house when his Captain had recruited & made up his company he marched from thence in Virginia to the City of Richmond (and at that Town was put into a Company Commaned by a Capt. Laborn or Labon he does not know how his name was writen) from thence march'd on to Baltimore & there joined a General Arnolds Army & march'd to near White plains & joined to General George Washingtons army and was stationed there a considerable length of time he does not recollect how long meanwhile detachments of Washingtons Army had several scurmishes with the British one of which he (this applicant) was engaged in, at a placed call'd the bridle ford. the water course he dont remember the name, But it was about thirty miles from New yourk, and after remaining about in the Countruy around about & at White plains about 8 or 16 months was march'd under the command of General Gates in a Captain Luffs company various routes through the Eastern States untill we reached Hillsboro in Orange County N Carolina at which place the term of eighteen months (for which this applicant had enlisted) expired & he received a writen discharge he thinks in May 1780. he rec'd his discharge for one year & six months & has since lost the same by being Burn'd. in a house &c. And after having served the aforesaid Eighteen he return'd. to Surry County N Carolina to a certain William Boyles, who lived in the neighborhood of his Brother John Valentine when this applicant was informed that his said Brother had started in the Service a few days before in a Company Commanded by a Capt. William Hulett [William Thrift Hughlett] of Surry County aforesaid and this applicant being desirous to see his brother and becoming so well acquainted and with the manner of living in the Camps he was induced to pursue his Brother & went to Salisbury in Rowan County N. Carolina at which place he overtook his brother in Capt. Huletts Company. he thinks it was in the month of May 1780 then & there this applicant Volenteered himself as a private for three months in said Capt Huletts Company from which Company he was trasfered to Capt. William Bosticks Company in General Rutherfords army and march'd from thence to Charlotte in Mecklenburg N. Carolina, then to the Cheraw Hills in South Carolina then cross'd Santee River & a party of Tories fired on us [see endnote] we immediately return'd the salute, they wounded two of our Company & we kill'd 2 or three of them then they run & forted themselves in a large Church house (we having taken Six British & five tories) the next morning we fired on their fort & they left it & run when we saved but one of them & Burn'd the house, then Gen'l. Rutherford ordered a detachment to march to the River Santee, this applicant being one of the Company. We captured twelve tories & british & two Boats then convey'd the 12 prisoners to the main army at a place call'd. Rugeleys Mills, where we remained there for some weeks [see endnote], during which time a detachment was sent to assist Gen'l Sumpter [sic: Thomas Sumter] against the enemy twards the Cataba [sic: Catawba] River, But before we reach'd said Sumpter we were inform'd that he had been defeated by the enemy [skirmish at Fishing Creek, 18 Aug 1780] – then we march'd back to head quarters of the said Mills and in a few days after march'd under Gen'l. Gates went toward Camden & had an engagement at the notorious Battle of Gates defeat, in which this applicant was taken prisoner by the British and sent off by a guard of British & in the night after said Battle this applicant with fourteen other prisoners, broke & made their escapes & went unmolested untill we met General Greens [sic: Nathanael Greene's] Army at the Yadkin River in Rowan County N Carolina [see endnote] when this applicant & the others went to Gen'l. Green with whom he was well acquainted, when the General ordered rations to be given to this applicant & others & sent him & them home in this expedition this applicant faithfully served three months the next & last service he entered as a volunteer in the Cavelry under the Command of Capt Wm. Shepperd [sic: William Shepherd] mounted his own horse & was march'd from Richmond in Surry Ct'y. N. Carolina to the old Moravian Town in said County of Surry [Oldtown, now in Forsyth County] at which place we met with the prisoners that were taken at the Battle of Kings Mountain when Colo. [Benjamin] Cleveland was the head commander and ordered our Company to take charge of them &

convey'd them to Hillsboro N Carolina & there we safely delivered said prisoners & put them into a prison call'd Stockading prisoner, and at that place this applicant with others were discharg'd & return'd home to Mr Boyles's in Surry County in this last service he claims at least forty days all of which Services he claims a pension. that is to say 18 months as a regular enlisted Soldier three months in the Gates defeat Tour & the the last forty days in the Cavelry

he has no Documentary evidence to prove his services & knows of no person who can Testafy the same except indirectly the Testamony of John Venables Esq'r & Hugh Boyles as a part of his services. the Court proceeded to propound the seven questions required to be done by the Department of war – the first he says he was inform'd. that he was born in the State of Pensylvania

2nd he has no record of his age only by information as stated in the foregoing preamble

3^d } he states that he entered all the services in Surry County N Carolina first enlisted the others as a
& } volunteer & has resided in the same neighborhood ever since which from the Division of Surry [in
4th} 1849] is now Stokes County

5th he states that he has forgotten a number of the names of officers that he then knew. But has already named

6th Ans'r. he rec'd one writen discharge from some officer legally & has lost it by being blown into a fire

7th I believe [blank] will certify as to my veracity & belief of my services in the Revolution he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of the Agency of any State. Sworn to and subscribed the year & day first above mentioned in open Court. Christopher hisXmark Valentine

STATE OF NORTH-CAROLINA, }
Surry COUNTY. }

THESE ARE TO CERTIFY, That Christofer [too faint to read] hath taken the Oath of Abjuration and Allegiance to this State, as by Law prescribed, [the rest too faint to read]

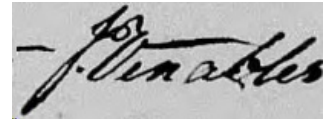
State of North Carolina } SS
Stokes County }

Be it known that on the 14th day of June 1836 before me Charles Banner a Justice of the peace for said County personally appeared Hugh Boyles, aged sixty seven years, a reputable resident of the County aforesaid who being sworn according to Law to declare what he may remember of Christopher Valentines Services in the Revolutionary War as a Soldier, he declares that he remembers when said Christopher lived at his neighbor Capt. Bynums in Surry County as a bound apprentice, and that his play fellows would vex & plague him for being a glutton & give him the name of Eater, and that said apprentice run away from his master and enlisted as I was informed as a Continental Soldier under a Capt Jo. Philips of said County with whom I was acquainted, and said Christopher Valentine was gone for a year & a half at least, when he return'd to my Father Wm Boyles, in said County of Surry; said Christopher gave a history of [illegible word], fateagus & dangers that he had encountered, in his routes to the North; I cannot remember half what he related; But shortly afterwards said Christopher started to go to his Brother who had marched in a Company commanded by a Capt Wm Hughlett towards Salisbury & never return'd for the space of three or four months; when he came back almost Bare naked for clothing; & stated that he had been in more battles one of which he said was gates defeat, and after some time elaps'd he fixed himself & started a horse back into the Service in Capt Shepperd's Company. I cannot remember how long he was gone in this Tour, But he return'd to my fathers with his horse & a parcel of Continental money that he said he had rec'd. for his services & that it was of But little value as it had depreciated &c. Sworn & subscribed the day & year first above mentioned

[signed] H Boyles

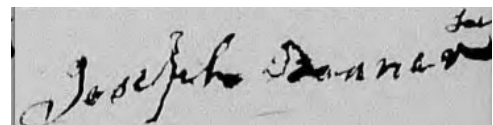
I John Venables of Stokes County in the State of North Carolina, by a request of a revolutionary Soldier that I have been acquainted with ever since the year of 1773 have written & given from under my own hand the following deposition, relative to what I know of the services rendered by the said Soldier in the war of the revolution

And as this man my perhaps fail in obtaining his right to a Pension by a mistake or mistakes which may have been made relative to the name or names by which this man has went by; I think it proper to give an explanation relative thereto, towit This man was first call'd Christian Eater. to call him by this name it seem'd to give him an offense and would state his name to be Christian Eaton, also I have lately seen in his possession a certificate from under the hand of Major Joseph Winston dated 1778 before whom it appears he had taken the oath of allegiance to the State of North Carolina, in this Certificate it appears his name is written Christopher Vallentine. – And now let this man's proper name be what it may, I testify and say under the solemnity of Oath to the best of my recollection I saw this same Identical man in the service of the united States, in the Army of the revolution, commanded by General Gates in the summer of the year of 1780 and which was defeated by the british troops under the command of Lord Corn Wallace on the 16th day of August in the same year I also testify that in the fall or autom of the same year I saw the same man serving as a Soldier gaarding the army of prisoners taken at Fergusons [Major Patrick Ferguson's] defeat on Kings Mountain but as to the length of time that this Soldier served in the revolutionary war I know not – this deposition closed and signed Sworn to & subscribed this 15th day of June 1836



State of North Carolina } SS
Stokes County }

Be it known that on this 16th day of June 1836 before me Charles Banner one of the acting Justices of the peace for said County personally appeared Joseph Banner Sen'r [W9716] a respectable aged old man a Resident of said County & he being sworn according to Law saith on his oath that he has been acquainted with a certain old man called Christopher Valentine some times call'd Eater & Eaton but his right name he believes is Valentine and the other names was only used as nick names when he was young, as this deponant knew him at the time he was an orphan boy Bound to a certain Capt. Gray Bynum in the then Surry County, who was a neighbor of this Deponants & before said Christopher served his time or arive to 21 years of age he run away or absconded from his master and enlisted himself a continental Soldier, under a Captain Joseph Philips which this deponant saw done at Surry old Courthouse or Richmond. and said Christopher was marched in the service of the united states Northwardly & was absent from the neighborhood a year & a half, at least, he does not recollect the exact length of time but thinks he enlisted for Eighteen Months. and later he return'd to a certain Wm Boyles in the neighborhood of this Deponant, he immediately went in the service again, in the militia of the U. States and as he was informed by his Brother in law Charles Mcanally who was in the Service & Battle near Camden call'd Gates' defeat; that said Christopher was in the Battle & he then expected he was kill'd or taken prisoner as he was missing; But some time after he return'd home to Mr. Boyles's and afterwards this deponant saw him in the service at the old Moravian Town under Capt. William Shepperd in the Cavelry a gaarding & conveying the prisoners (that were taken at the Battle of Kings Mountain) towards Hillsbory where this deponant understood they were lodged. as to the particular dates of the above occurances this Deponant cannot exactly say But it appears to him that it happened after the year 1777 during the Revolutionary War. Sworn & subscribed the date first above mentioned
C Banner J.P.



NOTES:

None of the troops under Gates penetrated as far south as Santee River, and I could find no record of the engagement with Tories related by Eaton. Gates's army began arriving at Rugeley's Mills 12 mi N of Camden only a few days before the Battle of Camden.

Gen. Nathanael Greene was first at the Yadkin River on 2 Dec 1780.

On 2 June 1846 Susannah Eaton, 83, applied unsuccessfully for a pension stating that she married Christopher Eaton in Surry County in 1781, and he died 5 July 1839.