

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Ferguson R3504

f11SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

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[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. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. 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 skills fail 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 material errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Louisiana Parish of Ouachita: Seventh Judicial District Court September term 1833

On this 17th day of September 1833 personally appeared in open court John Ferguson a citizen of the above named Parish and State, who being first 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 7th of June 1832. That he will be seventy years of age on the 30th day of the present month -- that he was drafted as a militia man in the Army of the United States in February, the day not remembered, in the year 1782, under Capt. Charles McManus; after being drafted he was sent to serve under and was attached to Capt. ___ Watts Company (as well as declarant can remember his Christian name was John) he was drafted as well as he can now recollect as a minute man for thirty days and was called out to serve under Capt. Watts the first week in April at Orangeburg in South Carolina, where the declarant remained under Watts three weeks, and was then marched under Watts to a place nearer Charlestown called the Four Holes Creek bridge, where he remained until between the 20th and last of May when his relief arrived and he was discharged -- as well as declarant can now recollect, and he believes, that he remained longer in the Army then the time for which he was drafted in consequence of his relief's not arriving or coming in -- he was disbanded without receiving any discharge as well as he can now remember, he did not know such a thing was necessary or of any value, and never called for any -- declarant afterwards received what he calls an indent, for pay, which was for ninety days, and being young and inexperienced he sold at a considerable discount to Joseph Ferguson and never heard anything more of it. Declarant was in no engagement of any kind and as well as he remembers nothing of the kind occurred in South Carolina after he was drafted. Declarant believes the commander of the troops with which he was, was General ___ Henderson [William Henderson] & General Winn, the latter he believes was Brig. General -- he cannot now remember the names of any officers either field or company except those above named. He knows very few revolutionary soldiers in Louisiana or elsewhere, and he knows of no one now living by whom he can prove his services or that he was in the Army -- he knew many of those with whom he served in Carolina but has no knowledge whether they are living or dead. He was born on Roanoke River in Virginia, in the year 1763 -- when called into service he was living with his parents in what was then called Kershaw County and since Kershaw District about thirty-six miles above Camden South Carolina, where he continued to reside until after he was married and had ten children, when he removed to Christian County Kentucky where he remained about two years, and removed from thence to Warren County in the then Mississippi territory -- he lived in Mississippi until he moved to the Parish of Ouachita aforesaid twelve

years ago, where he has constantly resided ever since, in a very retired part of the parish called the pine woods -- he is poor -- had but little education, and has had very little intercourse with the world -- He is well acquainted with many people in the parish where he now lives, and he can confidently refer to all who know him to prove that he has always been a sober, honest, industrious, peaceful and inoffensive citizen -- he can say that he was never a party to a suit and a court of Justice, and never had anything to do with courts except as a juror, except once he was witness in a civil suit. He will refer specifically to the Honorable John H. Overton Judge of the courts -- Dr. William Wethersby Senator, and Stephen W. Maddox Esquire Representative for this parish -- Dr. John M. A. Hamblin Register of the land office at Monroe in this parish and Col. Joseph Friend Receiver of public monies, by all of whom he thinks he can prove further that he has been generally considered a soldier of the revolution. He further declares that by reason of old age and consequent loss of memory he cannot state on oath more positively than above the time or period of his service, but the names of officers or facts and circumstances. Declarant 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 any agency in any State.

Sworn to and subscribed in open Court the 17th day of September 1833

S/ Jno. H. Kellam, Clerk

S/ John Ferguson



[Hayward Alford, a Baptist clergyman, Joseph Friend & Stephen W. Maddox gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

And the court proceeded to propounded the following interrogatories to the said John Ferguson, which together with his answers were set down and taken in open court

1st Where and in what year were you born?

Answer -- I was born on Roanoke River in Virginia a few miles from the state line separating Virginia from North Carolina on the 30th of September 1763

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

Answer -- I have none, and never have had to my knowledge

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 answer, that when called into service, I resided in Kershaw County South Carolina about thirty-six miles above Camden -- since then I have resided part of my time in Christian County Kentucky -- part in Warren County Mississippi -- and now in this parish

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 I was drafted as a minute man.

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 cannot recollect any other officers except General Henderson -- General Winn -- Capt. McManus and Capt. Watts -- I do not remember the names or numbers of any of the Continental or militia regiments. The circumstances of my service worthies -- I was drafted as a minute man, a militia man in July 1782 in Capt. McManus Company -- was called out and served under Capt. Watts at Orangeburg, in the beginning of April of that year -- went thence

with the troops to the bridge on four hole Creek, commonly called the four hole bridge, and was there disbanded. I am now old and have head at the best but a bad memory which is now much destroyed by age, and I cannot state anything further on oath

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 a written discharge

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 -- I will with your permission give your Honor Dr. William Wethersby --S. W. Maddox Esquire -- Col. Joseph Friend, Dr. John M A Hamblin, General John J. Lewis & many others if necessary.

S/ John Ferguson