

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of James Feneshher (Fancher, Francher, Fanshar) R3738

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

State of Tennessee } February Circuit Court 1838

Overton County } personally appeared in open Court, before the Judge of said Court now sitting, James Fancher a resident Citizen of Overton County and State of Tennessee, aged about seventy four years, past, last September 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 7 1832

He states, that, to the best of his recollection, in the year 1789, when he resided in the County of Jefferson, in East Tennessee, he entered the service of his country in the militia, as a private soldier under the following circumstances, as nearly as he can possibly state.

Nathaniel Evans, as Captain raised a volunteer Company to go against the Cherokee Indians. His Lieutenant's name was Samuel Henderson. The name of his ensign, he does not remember. Captain Evans's Company, was attached to a Regiment commanded by Col George Doherty. From Jefferson County, the troops to which he belonged, were marched into the Cherokee nation, to a place called "Bear Town," before our arrival at that place, the most of the Warriors had principally fled; the most that remained, except some old and helpless indians, were killed by the whites, and their Town was burnt, and much of the property in the nation was destroyed. He states that the troops to which he belonged during this campaign, burnt and destroyed a number of other Indian Towns, the names of which he does not recollect. This was in the Summer season, and a great mount of Corn was destroyed, which belonged to the indians. This Campaign was for three months But the troops did not serve it out, as there was then no occasion for them to do so; but he can safely say, that upon this occasion, he served as much as two months, for which, in connexion with other services which he will state, he claims a pension. He further states, that after this campaign, he did not serve any more, until (according to his best recollection) the year 1793. In that year, he states, that the Indians came into Jefferson County, near to where he then resided, and killed Margaret Lewis, and her little brother – at the burial of these people, the Indians also killed John Cunningham and wounded George Jenkins. These murders aroused the indignation of the Whites, and a volunteer Company was raised by Stephen Copeland who was long after, well known in the County of Overton and State of Tennessee but who has been dead many years. This declarant Volunteered in the company so raised. His Lieutenants name was Reuben Dobbins. Here again his memory fails him as to his ensign, but he thinks it was James Mcquistion. His Colonel was John Sevier, who gallantly distinguished himself as a brave and skilful officer; the same man who was afterward Governor of Tennessee. The troops to which he belonged, went in pursuit of the Indians into the nation. Burnt and destroyed a number of Towns took a good many prisoners, and destroyed a great amount of corn. Amongst the Towns destroyed was Chillhowie [Chilhowee]. This tour was for three months and he fully served it out.

The next year, the Indians came into the settlement and killed Richardson's family and scalped one Nancy Shell, and committed many other murders of great atrocity. A draft was called for and this declarant was drafted to go against them. He went out again under Captain Stephen Copeland, under the same officers as the preceeding Campaign. On all these occasions, he went from Jefferson County to the Indian nation. He thinks (but is not Certain,) that this was in May 1794. They again penetrated the nation, destroyed all the property they could; and killed a number of Indians. Amongst many other Towns, they destroyed a Town called Will's Town. On crossing the Tennessee River, they encountered the Indians on the opposite. Here a skirmish ensued. Three white men were killed – one of them by the name of Samuel Wallis and seven or eight wounded. a number of indians were killed – how many, never was ascertained. This was a tour of three months, and he served it out – making in all, eight months, for which he claims a pension.

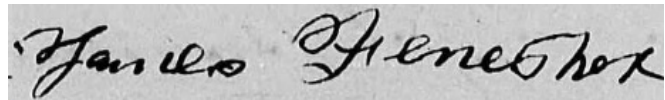
He has no documentary evidence, nor does he know of any living witness by whom his services can be

proved. He relinquishes hereby, every claim 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.

On the next page (5) will be found the answers to the interrogatories prescribed; and which were propounded by the Court.

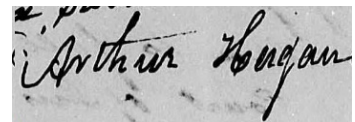
Answers

- 1<sup>st</sup>. He was born in Sussex County in the State of New Jersey – in the year 1763 on the 19 day of september as he believes.
2. He has no Record of his age.
3. When called into Service, he lived in Jefferson County in East Tennessee. From there he removed to the County of Overton in Tennessee where now resides, and has resided for about 38 years except about one year he resided in Illinois in the County of Morgan.
4. When called into service he was once Drafted, and twice volunteered, as stated in the body of his declaration.
5. He cannot state more fully than he has done the names of his officers, or the circumstances of his services
6. He never received any written discharge for his services in the militia – the troops were Verbally dismissed
- 7 He states the names of the following persons to whom he is known in his present neighborhood and who can testify as to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution. towit. Rev. Lewis Stover – John Nelson – John Workman. Dr. Benjamin J. Bledsoe – Col. Hugh C. Armstrong – Beaty Philips and John Goode. Sworn to and subscribed this 7<sup>th</sup> day of March 1838.



[Note that in the above declaration only the first tour occurred during the Revolutionary War, and therefore Feneshor's time fell short of the six months minimum under the 1832 pension act.]

State of Tennessee }  
Overton County } On the 10<sup>th</sup> day of November 1834 personally appeared before me John F. Sevier an acting Justice of the peace for said County Arther Hagan who being sworn according to law, Deposes and say that on the 25<sup>th</sup> of December 1778, he Enlisted James Francher then a Citizen of Bartlett County [sic: probably Berkeley County] Virginia now a Citizen of Overton County Tennessee for three years in Capt. David Waggoners Company that the said Francher the very self same man now in presence was to have eight dollars per months and three hundred Acres of Land, Affiant was employed by Capt Waggoner to Enlist Soldiers for, which he recv'd, three dollars pr. man he Enlisted said Francher and delivered him to Capt. Waggoner and was recv'd. by him in to the service of the United States and the said Hagan says that he him self is 78 years old. Sworn to and subscribed in the presence of John F Sevier Arthur Hagan



[George Flynn stated that he was present when Feneshor was recruited.]

State of Tennessee }  
Overton County } this day came William Bowen before me John F Sevier one of the Acting Justices of the peace in and for the County aforesaid and maketh oath that in the year 1778 James Fancher did enlist under Captain David Waggoner of Bartley County Virginia and he the s'd William Bowen Further states that he did see the same s'd James Fancher, Receive the Bounty Money, and Mustered into Service, & Two years afterwards he the said James Fancher was attached to Capt. Thomas

Buyer's [Thomas Bowyer's?] Company and I was a messmate with him the said Bowen [sic] and was in Gilford Battle [sic: Battle of Guilford Courthouse NC, 15 Mar 1781] then and there did receive a wound in his left knee Sworn to and subscribed this 28<sup>th</sup> day of September 1835

William hisXmark Bowen

State of Tennessee }  
Overton County }

This day Came personally Richard Shaddick before me John F Sevier one of the Acting Justices of the peace in and for the County aforesaid, and maketh Oath that in the year 1778, and on Christmas day, that James Fanchar, did Enlist under Capt. David Waggoner of Bartley County Virginia, and he the said Richard Shaddick Further Says that he did see the said James Fancher Receive the Bounty Money and Mustered into Service. And the said Richard Shaddick States that he was a Soldier at the same time and under the same Capt, and Served about one year with s'd. Fancher and was taken with a white swelling in the knee, and then had to leave the Army. And Further state that he has Always been Acquainted with the said James Fanchar, and know him to be the very same man Sworn to and subscribed this 28<sup>th</sup> of September 1835

Richard hisXmark Shaddick

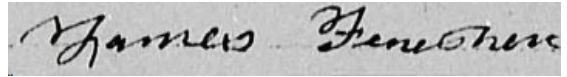
State of Tennessee } SS

Overton County }

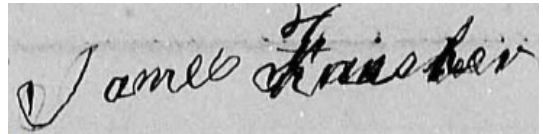
On this 6<sup>th</sup> day of June 1842 before the subscribers Justices of the peace in and for the county aforesaid personally appeared James Fanshar a resident Citizen of said county aged seventy nine and not being able to attend court on account of his bodily infirmity and old age and who being first duly sworn by me according to law on his oath made the following statements by way of amendment and explanation to a former Declaration by made in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June the 7th 1832.

That he enlisted in the service of the US by joining a company Commanded by David Waggoner which enlistment happened on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of December he thinks in the date 1778 and continued to serve under Captain Waggoner for some time and the said David Waggoner was permitted and then applicant was attached to a company commanded by Captain William Morgan and Lieutenant John Jolive and then applicant was sent as a guard to guard the packhorses and went to Fort pitt and continued for a considerable time and then owing to some derangement in the army applicant with some others was attached to Captain Thomas Bowyers Comp to go to the South and Continued to go a scouting about the yadkin River and continued to serve in that way til the spring of 1781 he thinks he was still serving in Captain Bowyers Company and joind General Greens [sic: Nathanael Greene's] army as was marched to Guilfort Courthouse and in that battle applicant was wounded in the left knee and then got the furlow heretofore forwarded [not found in file] from the hand of his said Captain Thomas Bowyer and never was again attached to any other officer but returned home to Bartley County State of Virginia where his Father lived and from where he first started he recollects the names of many of the continental officers and knows the name of many privates but from the reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the the length of his service but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the period mentioned below in the following manner under Captain Waggoner about fifteen days then then under Captain Morgan for Ten months and then under Captain Bowyer for fifteen months and for such service he claims a Pension Ater the service was over he return to Henry County Virginia and from thence to Rockbridge County virgia from thence to the state of Tennessee to Jeferson County thence to Overton County where has remained for forty years and in the year 1834 being informed that he was entitled to a Pension and then he employed an agent and prepared a Declaration but applicant being old frail and not being able to see to the business but did one have the Declaration either amendment but now for many years have not had an oppertunity of employing an agent til now he states that he is old infirm and kneedy and needs his Pension and prays that his case may be reconsidered and that Communication to made to his presant agent L L Kennedy he hereby relenqueshes every Claim to

any Pension or annuity except the present and declare that his name is not on the Pension list roll of any state. sworn to and subscribed the day and year first above mentioned before us  
John T R Goode/ Wm H Harrison

A rectangular image showing a handwritten signature in cursive script. The signature reads "James Fenwick".

NOTE: On a power of attorney signed on 19 June 1851 the signature appears as shown:

A rectangular image showing a handwritten signature in cursive script. The signature reads "James Fenwick".