

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

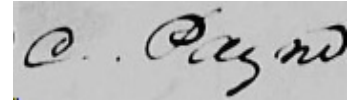
Pension Application of Richard Lane R6136

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 13 Sep 2013.

[The following application and some of the supporting affidavits are in the handwriting of the agent, Coleman Payne. See endnote.]

Declaration taken before three magistrates – their certificates – and that of the minister & neighbor duly authenticated/ C. Payne



Virginia/ Spotsylvania County to wit:

On this 26th day of November 1845 personally appeared before us Richard Lane a citizen of said County aged eighty six years next 20th day of January 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 act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated amounting altogether to nine months in the Virginia militia – being three tours of three months each. That his first tour in the militia was in a company raised by a captain from the neighborhood in which he then resided and was named Captain John Bias [sic: John Byars of Louisa County] who after the said tour died, on his return Home. That from the best of his memory said first tour commenced about the first of January 1781 and his company was marched to the country in and about Williamsburg and old James Town that during said first tour his company suffered a great deal with cold and hunger. That in going down his company passed through Louisa, Hanover and New Kent Counties and he remembers at one time during said tour his company was marched to the C. House of New Kent County and remained there a short time – according to memory about 2 weeks. That of that company there was a Lieutenant whose name he thinks was one James Welsh but of that he is not positive, he does not recollect the names of his Lieutenants as well as he does his Captains and Colonels. But of that tour his company was under command of one Colonel Pettis [probably William Pettus of Louisa County], whom he distinctly remembers but has not heard from him for many years and supposes him to be dead That from the last account he had of him which was 30 or 40 years ago he resided in Louisa County adjoining this County Spotsylvania. That after remaining near Williamsburg and the counties below there for some time his company was marched toward home and was discharged he thinks at New Kent C. H. and he came home to his father Mr. Daniel Lanes in Orange County from wherein he went into the servis. That during said first tour his company was stationed at various places in the Lower Counties the names of which he has [illegible word] forgotten and cannot say. Of his associates in said company whom he yet retains a distinct recollection are Michael Daniel, Henry Heslin, James Heslin, and a Mr. Lucuss – and afterward him and the two Mr. Heslin served two tours in the militia in the same companies. That as well as he can remember he returned home the first of April 1781 about corn planting time.

That he did not however remain at home more than a week or such a matter before another call for men was made by Captain White of Orange County [sic: probably John White of Louisa County] and he together with his neighbors and former associates in arms the two Heslins joined the said White's company under a draft and went on duty & served a tour of three months in the lower Country over as near as he can say pretty much the same grounds. That about the middle of April '81 said White's company marched through Louisa, Hanover, new Kent, King & Queen Counties and again went to Williamsburg where the remained a period of about 4 weeks. That at onetime during said tour his company marched down toward Norfolk but to the best of his memory does not think they reached that place. That during said second tour under Captain White some prisoners were taken and conveyed

towards the Barracks near Charlottesville [Albemarle Barracks] and that he was a guard several nights during their march to the barracks That according to his memory there were some 30 or 40 prisoners; and were caught by his men. They had left the water and gone on land near Williamsburg on a pillaging expedition and in that way were caught. But whilst on their way to the Barracks and whilst in the County of Louisa said prisoners were rescued by the enemy and several of the guard were taken prisoners and carried off. That he himself was one of the guard and would also have been taken but ran out of their way. That said Heslin was taken but not retained long before an exchange was made and whilst with the enemy had been inoculated for the small pox then raging in the army. But after the war said two associates went to the State of S. Carolina to live and he has not heard from them since. That during said second tour under Captain White his company was at Richmond where they were stationed for a short time and he thinks his company was stationed in Westmoreland County a few weeks – and at a place called [illegible] Hills he thinks below Richmond [possibly Malvern Hill 15 mi SE of Richmond]. That of said company he forgets the name of his Lieutenant but that his Colonel was named Tillman. That he is not positive whether White's name was John or James but that he is very positive it was either the one or the other. That during said second tour nothing of a remarkable character occurred and at no time during his before or after tours was his company attached to the regulars that he is aware of. There were militia companies which his, and at YorkTown he saw the regulars. That served out his full tour he came to his Home in the said County of Orange & he did not get a written discharge because he did not think it necessary to ask for one – and does not remember ever to have seen any of his associates with one – verbal discharges were given however at the last of each tour and that was thought sufficient.

That on his return home he again stood another draft in the militia under the same captain White then living above his father's near the Albemarle line and went on duty and served another tour of three months in the militia in the lower County. That his company marched he thinks from said Captains neighborhood to the lower Country through Spotsylvania – Louisa, Caroline and other counties & from there marched to the [illegible word] near old James Town and Williamsburg. That his Company remained at various places during said tour the names of which he has forgotten. That he remembers to have gone over a portion of King and Queen County and Henrico also.

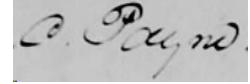
That during said tour he remembers his Captain White called to obtained quarters for the night at the residence of a man said to have been a shoemaker. The man cursed the Captain and he thereupon ordered a file of men from the company had him taken and on the following day was publicly whipped – and that very severely. That he never learned the name of the individual, that during said tour his company was marched to the Siege of York Town and remained there till the surrender of Cornwallis [19 Oct 1781] and his tour having expired all [two illegible words] home. That said tour was begun in July 1781 probably about the middle of the month. That he did not ask for or obtain a discharge from his said tour. That he has forgotten the name of his Lieutenant but that his Colonel he thinks was one Anthony Huoshul[?] in that tour The two Heslins, several of the Lucas' and Freemans were also in service from the said County of Orange and under the said Captain White. That nothing of a remarkable character occurred during said tour worthy of remark here and owing to lapse of time has no doubt forgotten many circumstances which he now could repeat. That he never expected to apply for a Pension because he understood it required six months service at one time under the same Captain to entitle one to pay and his services being under various captains and in tours of three months never rendered it worth the effort to try. That he resides in a neighborhood where no one lives who was well informed on the subject of Pensions who he would have applied before in all probability, because till now he was [one or two illegible words] his claim was [illegible word].

[Not a true signature. See endnote.]

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard Lane". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

Sworn to before us and we do certify to the War Department that said Richard Lane is personally known to us and is a man of high standing, of unquestionable veracity and an exemplary citizen. That owing to present debility and having had several strokes of paralysis, he cannot with any degree of safety attend the Court House of this County

Interrogatories propounded to R Lane/ C. Payne/ No 3.



Interrogatories propounded to Richard Lane an applicant for a Pension under Act of 1832 made in compliance with the rules laid down by the War Department.

Question./ Where and in what year were you born?

Answer. / I was born in the County of Hanover on the 20th day of January in the year 1760.

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

Answer./ Yes I have a record of my age, and it is herewith enclosed attached to my affidavit. [See endnotes.] The same being in the handwriting of my father Daniel Lane – the small book in which my age is recorded once belonged to my father and he gave it to me about 50 years ago and it has been in my possession ever since. My age being enclosed at the bottom of the leaf the words “20th January” from long use has become defaced. The year 1760 however is very clear and I have no other record of my age. The entries above are some of my brothers and sister.

Question 3./ Where were you living when called into service, where have you lived since the Revolutionary war and where do you now live?

Answer./ At the time of my services in the war I was a resident of Orange County – since the war I moved from that County to Spotsylvania where I have lived ever since – being about 60 years. My father moved from Hanover where I was born to Orange in the year 1780 I think – and my services in the army commenced soon after.

Question 4./ How were you called into service, were you draughted did you volunteer, or were you a substitute and if a substitute for whom?

Answer./ I was a drafted soldier during all my three tours in the militia. I was never a substitute for any one.

Question 5/ State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served, such continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your services?

Answer. According to my memory our companies were not attached to any of the regulars if so I never knew it – and it was for a short time before and at the surrender at Yorktown. There was with ours various militia regiments or companies the names of which I have forgotten I am safe however in saying we never were separated from other companies. The general circumstances of my services I have given in my declaration and think it useless to repeat them here.

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 a written discharge from either my first second or third tour verbal discharges were given by the Captains I think. And I know of no private who received a written one.

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 of your services as a soldier of the Revolution.

Answer./ I have lived for the last 60 years in this county and for the last 40 years have resided in my present neighborhood and all my neighbors can testify to my character for veracity and their belief of my revolutionary services. I refer for my character to Oscar M. Crutchfield

Esqr. of this County and also to Stapleton Crutchfield Esqr. Clerk of the Court of this County both of whom know me – and my neighbors generally all of whom have known me for many years. past.



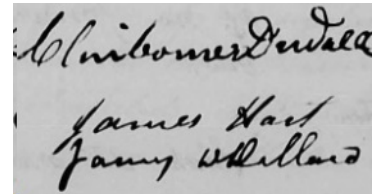
Sworn to and subscribed before us and we do certify that said affiant is known to us, and is a very respectable man and of unquestionable veracity and a highly respectable citizen and a consistent member of the Baptist Church.

Witness our hand and seal this 26th day of November 1845.

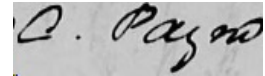
Claibourne Duvall

James Hart

James D Dillard

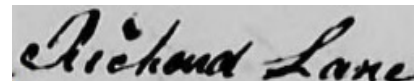


Reasons for delay and certificates of good character from his neighbors.



Virginia – Spotsylvania County towit.

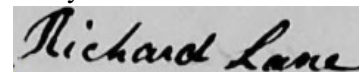
This day personally appeared before us Mr. Richard Lane of said County and made oath to the following facts as his reasons for not having heretofore applied for his Pension. That he has remained till recently under the impression that no one could receive a pension without having served at one time a period of six months at one time under the same officer – and that his services being under his officers of three months each concluded he was not entitled. That if he had known the contrary was the fact he would have applied sooner because although above want and his children provided for, yet he thinks it the duty of all revolutionary soldiers to receive whatever the government may choose to allow them. That the impression above referred to was formed in consequence of what he had been told from time to time by his neighbors and not being in need he felt no peculiar interest in the matter and consequently never applied till now.



Sworn to and subscribed before us this 26th day of November 1845.

[signed] Claiborne Duvall/ James Hart/ James D Dillard

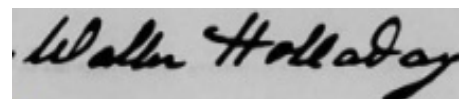
And that for his character and standing he begs leave also to refer to Mr. Waller Holliday an old citizen of the County for many years a member of the Virginia Legislature and was also a member to the Virginia Convention of 29 which adopted the new Constitution He also refers to the delegate elect from this County Mr. Alexander R. Holliday who can certify to his character for veracity.



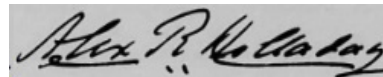
Sworn to before us this 26th day of November 1845.

Witness our hand and seals. [signed] Claiborne Duvall James Hart James D Dillard

I have been acquainted with Mr. Richard Lane, who is now applying for a pension, for about forty years, and have always believed him to be a man of unimpeachable veracity. Given under my hand this 26th day of November 1845. Waller Holladay/ Spotsylvania

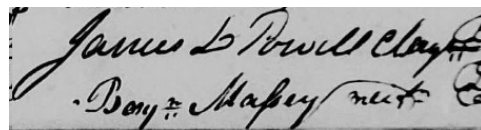


I have known Mr Richard Lane for many years & believe him to be a man of great respectability & truthfulness of character. I should consider a statement coming from him as worthy of the highest credit. Given under my hand on the 27th of November 1845 Alex R. Holladay



We James B. Powell a Clergyman residing in the neighborhood of old Mr. Richard Lane and Benjamin Massie residing in the same neighborhood hereby certify that we are well acquainted with the said Richard Lane who has sworn to and subscribed the foregoing declaration that we believe him to be eighty six years of age next January. That he is reputed and believed in the neighborhood where he resides to have been a soldier of the Revolution and that we concur in that opinion. That he is and has been generally regarded and believed to be an old Revolutionary soldier and we have never heard it doubted in our lives. Witness our hands & seals this 26th day of November 1845.

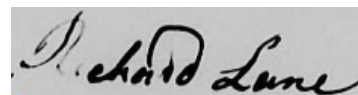
James L Powell Clergyman
Benj'n. Massey neigh'r



Virginia Spotsylvania County towit"

On this 26th day of November 1845 personally appeared before us justices of the peace for said County Richard Lane and made oath in due form of Law that the record of his age on the annexed leaf is correct and it is in the handwriting of his father Daniel Lane that it is the only record of his age he has, being the last entry on the leaf.

Sworn to before us this day and date above as witness our hands and seals.
[signed] Claiborne Duvall/ James Hart/ James D Dillard

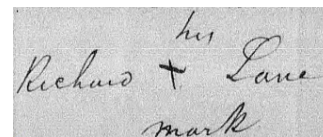


[Note in the margin: "The leaf from the Psalm book referred to in this paper not found. W. B. Evans"]

[The following are from the pension file of Carter B. Chandler S8198. The reason for including them here is explained in the endnote.]

The deposition of Richard Lane Testifies that he was well acquainted with Carter B. Chandler that during the Revolutionary War a certain John Gunter was drafted for the Term of Eighteen months and that Carter B. Chandler then of Louisa County Virginia did substitute himself in the place of him the said John Gunter for the service of the said Tour of Eighteen months and that the said Carter B. Chandler served out said Tour

[Certified 4 March 1835 in Spotsylvania County by James D. Dillard J.P.]



Menassas Gap – Virginia April 19, 1845.

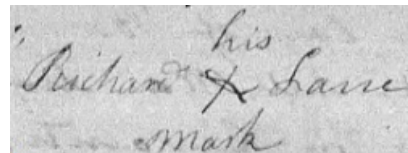
Sir [James L. Edwards, Commissioner of Pension]

Some time past Carter B. Chandlers declaration asking to be allowed a Pension under the act of June 1832 was present for your consideration, the evidence was not satisfactory to yourself as com'r. – although the evidence was not strictly in conformity with the Rules of the department it was thought the claim upon the evidence might be allowed by Congress, accordingly the papers were withdrawn and offered before Congress. The claim was allowed by the H. of Rep's. but reported against by Senate committee. The papers have remained there without further action.

Richard Lane gave a deposition in relation to Chandlers service, which deposition was before you. I have lately been to see Mr. Lane, & thought it adviseable to take a second deposition, and will beg leave to say, that from Mr. Lanes great care and deliberation in giving his evidence, and from his high standing in his neighborhood (he has lived there 85 years) so far as I could learn, I have no hesitation in believing his statements to be true. – Chandler and Lane are not brothers in law, as seemed to be understood by Senate Committee. – Barnett Mitchell and Lane were brothers in law. – Chandler was a substitute for Mitchell not Lane. – I shall endeavor to have the papers in this case presented to you again, and with this second deposition of Mr. Lane and that of Henry Bibb [pension application S6651], which you will find among the papers (I dont think Bibbs deposition was ever before you,) I hope the evidence may be considered satisfactory – I cut Henry Bibbs obituary, from a paper, and enclose it, not as evidence, but to shew that he was at least of good standing with the writer
Yrs With Respect



The deposition of Richard Lane aged about Eighty six years, Testifies, that he was the Brother in law of Barnett Mitchell, that said Barnett Mitchell, was drafted as a Militiaman, to serve in the Revolutionary War, that Carter Chandler then lived with said Mitchell and substituted himself in the place of Mitchell, and performed the service; this was towards the end of the War, this affiant guarded prisoners a short time at Louisa Court House in Virginia, and saw Chandler there; – affiant will here state, that he is positive as to his statement being correct, as given in a former deposition of said Chandlers Service as a substitute for John Gunter, that Gunter gave Chandler a negro girl, to perform the service, and the girl was brought to this affiants House, and continued there some five or six years before Chandler took her away affiant further states, that himself, Barnett Mitchell, Carter Chandler and Henry Bibb and John Gunter all lived in the same Neighborhood, and were entirely familiar as neighbors and acquaintances, this affiant served several short tours, but is not certain whether or not all his service amounted to as much as six months, all chandlers service was towards the end of the War, he being then quite a young man, affiant believes that said chandler was honorably discharged, never heard any thing to the contrary [Certified by Lewis A. Boggs J.P.]



NOTES:

The two affidavits Lane made in behalf of Carter B. Chandler show that the application made by Coleman Payne was fraudulent. Note that Lane signed with an X rather than his full name, and that in April 1845 Lane was not sure he had served a total of six months, but seven months later supposedly swore to three tours of three months each. Coleman Lane of Harrisonburg VA was implicated in other fraudulent pension applications, evidently without the knowledge of the supposed applicants. (See the pension application of John Gibson R3996 and my endnotes there.)

Payne's application for Lane's service was suspended "for further evidence," and no pension certificate was issued.

The file includes the following letter:

"The Commissioner of Pensions will please furnish our agent and attorney, R. Saunders, with a copy of the Declaration of our Father, Richard Lane, filed by Mr. Coleman Paine, some two years ago, together with such evidence as was filed with said declaration, and answer such inquiries as he may make touching the same Respectfully, August 11th 1847

[signed] Rebecca Y Lane

[signed] Martha G Hilman"

On 24 Aug 1850 Fountain H. Lane, executor of Richard Lane, stated that Richard Lane had never received a pension, and he requested the Pension Office to enable him look into the matter. The letter was witnessed by Margaret A. Lane.

About 10 Aug 1877 the Pension Office began attempts to return to Richard Lane's heirs a Psalm or prayer book from which the page with his family record had been taken. A letter from the Pension Office to the Postmaster at Twyman's Store in Spotsylvania County referred to the following possible heirs: "Fountain H. Lane, (Executor on his father's Estate.) Rebecca G Lane. Marg't. A. Lane and Martha G Hilman." A letter from the Postmaster dated 25 Sep 1877 states that only two heirs of Richard Lane had been found: "Miss Rebecca G Lane, & Mr Waller Lane, A grand son of Mr Hilman, whose name is John L Hilman, is also living & resided near us." The book was returned on 28 Sep 1877 to Miss Rebecca Lane in care of the Postmaster.