

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Isaac Lane ¹ R6137
Transcribed by Will Graves

Sarah Lane f83NC[VA]
rev'd 4/1/10 & 10/30/15

[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.]

[p 7]

State of Tennessee County of McMinn: SS

On this 6th day of September personally appeared in open Court, before the Justices of the County Court of said County, Isaac Lane, a resident of said County and state, aged about 72 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 7, 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated.

He entered the service of the State troops of Virginia, as he believes, sometime in the month of June, as well as he recollects, in the year 1776, in Pittsylvania County, Virginia, under Captain Peter Perkins, Lieutenant Jesse Heard [could be Jesse Beard], Ensign forgotten. It was declarant's understanding that he entered this Service by enlistment for six months, but as to the month of entering the Service, he may have been mistaken, as he was only 16 years old the 14th of February preceding his engagement. The Company assembled at Captain Perkins', and remained there several days; thence they were marched through Petersburg, crossed James River at James Town [sic, Jamestown]; thence to Williamsburg, where they were when Independence was declared; thence to Yorktown; thence they were taken across a large River, and marched down that River to where the British lay in Gwinn's Island [Gwynn Island], situate nearby or quite in sight of the place where the said River empties into Chesapeake Bay. At this place they were stationed to prevent the landing of the British troops, and to prevent communication between the British and Negroes, these latter flocking to the former in multitudes whenever they could. The British vessels lay in the Bay several weeks in sight of the position occupied by Captain Perkins, who at last procured several pieces of cannon, when a cannonade between our forces and the vessels ensued and was continued about 12 hours in all, during which two of the British vessels were burnt in our sight, and the rest made their escape. The British were commanded by Lord Dunmore [John Murray, Lord Dunmore, the last Royal Governor of the Colony of Virginia]. The company remained in this place for several weeks, until it appeared that the enemy had entirely abandoned the country, when it was ordered against the Cherokees in the expedition commanded by Colonel Christie [William Christian]. The company, after receiving this order, was marched to the place where Washington City now stands, & lay there a few days recruiting [recovering]; thence through Richmond & Manchester to Pittsylvania, where the men were permitted to rest a few days at home, and recruit [sic, repair or augment] their clothing. Here declarant sickened, and was confined till the next Spring, but the rest of the company under Jesse Heard – Perkins remaining at home followed Christie to the West.

Declarant, with his father, now moved from Pittsylvania, to Washington County North

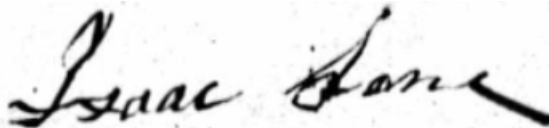
¹ BLWt34621-160-55

Carolina, and settled in the mouth of Watauga [River], about 9 miles from where Jonesboro Tennessee now stands. While here, declarant served two tours of 10 days each as a volunteer under Captain William Bean, against the Tories, under a Captain Isham Irby, of Nolichucky, who had been commissioned by the British to raise the Tories in these parts, but was prevented from doing it by these little expeditions. A Captain Grimes[?] of the Tories had raised a company, and had killed Milliken [? Millican] & had done a great deal more mischief, against whom this company the second of the above expedition of Bean's was directed and succeeded so far as to kill Grimes[?] & disperse his Company, who fled & joined the Tories lower down in North Carolina. Grimes was killed by James Roddy, afterward Colonel Roddy. About the first of September being as declarant believes, 1780, he was drafted as a soldier to go on the expedition against the British which ended in the Battle at Kings Mountain [October 7, 1780],² for three months as well as he recollects, under Captain George Russell. Declarant himself was commissioned by Colonel Sevier [John Sevier] as Lieutenant of the company. The company was assembled upon Buffalo Creek near the Watauga; thence they were marched in the direction of Kings Mountain, but declarant does not recollect any noted places where they were before the Battle except the Cowpens, where the Company lay one night. Declarant ought to have mentioned that a Washington [County] troop under Sevier [John Sevier], a Sullivan [County] Troop under Shelby [Isaac Shelby], and the Holston troops under Campbell [William Campbell] was [sic] all concentrated at Buffalo Creek mentioned above, and marched as aforesaid. Of these men there were 500 on foot, the rest were cavalry. These 500 men were led towards Kings Mountain by Major Winston [Joseph Winston], to this corps declarant belonged; but was not in the battle, because the foot corps could not reach the mountain till the cavalry had already met Ferguson [Patrick Ferguson] and fought the battle. Winston was met by an express informing him that the battle had been fought. Winston's corps was not more than 10 or 12 miles from the field of battle when met by the express, and reached the Mountain the same evening. The prisoners were marched to little Broad River to a Captain Walker's as well as declarant recollects, where a court martial was held over some of the prisoners who were condemned to the number perhaps of 50 or 60 to be hung as Tories and as having broken parole. Among the condemned was a cousin of declarant's. We were proceeding to execute the condemned & had hung 9 prisoners and among them Colonel Mills [Ambrose Mills] who had broken his parole, when news came that the whole forces of the enemy was within 12 miles of us, when we suddenly decamped with our prisoners, about 700 in number whom we brought into North Carolina, some by the upper country where declarant's company had leave of absence & to return home, but was not discharged.

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 sixth day of September 1832.

S/ Isaac Lane



[William Garrett, a clergyman, and Nathaniel Smith gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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Amendment to the above Declaration

State of Tennessee McMinn County: Personally appeared before me, the undersigned, a justice of the peace for the County and State aforesaid, Isaac Lane, the above declarant, who, being duly sworn, deposeth and saith, that, by reason of old age & the consequent loss of memory, he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service, but according to the best of his recollection he served

not less than the periods mentioned below, and in the following grades. For two months and twenty days I served as a private between the beginning of June and last of August 1776. For fourteen days I served as a private in the year 1777: for at least three months and fifteen days I served as a Lieutenant between September 1780 and January 1781 in the Kings Mountain and Cherokee campaigns under Colonel Sevier; and for such service I claim a pension. I have no documentary evidence of this service and cannot produce any testimony other than my own oath of the above particulars. My discharges mentioned in the above declaration were sent to North Carolina as evidence of his service, primarily to his procuring land under the loss of that state, and have never been returned. My commission as Lieutenant has been lost.

Sworn to & subscribed before me the 18 of July 1833

S/ Isaac Lane

S/ J. H. Fiffle, JP

S/ Archibald K. Turk, Clerk

**³Not long after the battle of Kings Mountain and before declarant had received his discharge for that tour, he volunteered, at the call of Sevier, to go on an expedition against the Cherokees, who had assembled a force of about 400 men, and were advancing into the upper part of what is now East Tennessee. His Captain was Thomas Jarnagin, declarant himself Lieutenant. The men assembled at a place called Lick Creek and a part of the country not then settled according to the appointment of Sevier. The whole force did not exceed 300 men. We marched to Boyd's Creek⁴ in Blount County where we met the Indians, who to the number of 400 were charged by Sevier with not more than 40 men who had volunteered to advance with him, a small distance into the Indian country, under the impression that the Indians had retreated. That they had not left the Main body more than a mile before they were led into an ambush by the Indians. But Sevier extricated the troops, and charged the Indians killing 17 of their number, and putting the rest to flight, without any loss though a few were wounded. Declarant was then discharged. It has been said that Sevier was a coward, but declarant thinks that a coward at the head of 40 men, would not have charged 400 Indians with drawn sword as Sevier did on that occasion. Sevier thought it most prudent to retreat to French Broad, and reinforce which was done, and the troops marched into the Indian Country and reached Chota, a celebrated Cherokee town on little Tennessee on Christmas day after the battle of Kings Mountain. At Chota, the troops were divided into 3 divisions, which scoured the Country, killing the Indians, burning their towns & destroying their property, after which the troops were discharged. Declarant got his discharge from Colonel Sevier at the same time for this last and the Kings Mountain tour. By a mistake of Sevier, declarant who served as a Lieutenant, was discharged as a private declarant removed from Watauga to Grainger County; thence to Claiborne County; thence to McMinn County Tennessee, and he has no acquaintance in McMinn County, though there are a few in some other counties, by whom he could prove some and perhaps all of the foregoing facts.

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To the Pension Office department Washington City

Isaac Lane, a citizen of the County of McMinn and State of Tennessee, humbly represents that he is a Revolutionary Soldier and has been drawing a pension for several years; That when he filed his Declaration for a pension, he stated therein, that he had served three months as a private and at least one month and fifteen days as a first Lieutenant commissioned, under Captain George Russell in the Tour that terminated in the battle of Kings Mountain. And also served one month and fifteen days in the office of Lieutenant in the company commanded by Captain Thomas Jarnagin, in the Cherokee

³ It isn't clear where this insert was intended to be placed in the amended declaration.

⁴ Skirmishes, 8 Dec 1780, *Col. John Sevier vs. Chicamaugans, 16 Dec 1780, *Col. John Sevier vs. Chicamaugans
<http://gaz.jrshelby.com/boydscreek.htm>

expedition and was in the Battle at the head of Boyd's Creek. Your petitioner further states that his commission as an officer had been laid away amongst other papers, and had been unintentionally destroyed, and the department not having the necessary proof before them of the loss of said commission as Lieutenant, petitioner was only a loud paid of a pension as a private soldier. Your petitioner hereto annexed is the proof as to the wants existence of said Commission, and the loss of it, and petitioner most respectfully prays that his pay from the government as a pensioner be increased from the pay of a common private soldier to that of a Lieutenant in the defense of American liberty in the Revolutionary War, and that he be paid and permitted to draw the difference between the pay of a private soldier and a Lieutenant in the Army of the revolution from the time he filed his original declaration for a pension or from the date he was permitted to draw his pension and this he will ever pray etc.

State of Tennessee McMinn County: This day personally appeared before me the undersigned Elijah Cate one of the acting justices of the peace for said County Isaac Lane the petitioner in the foregoing petition and made oath, that the facts as therein stated are true to the best of his knowledge and belief.

Sworn to & subscribed before me this 9 day of April 1844

Sworn to and subscribed before me

S/ Elijah Cate

S/ Isaac Lane

[p 21: John Neil a citizen of McMinn County Tennessee testified that many years after the revolutionary war, Isaac Lane showed him his commission as a Lieutenant whilst in service during said war; Tidence C. Lane, about 30, testified that among his father's papers was a commissioned commissioning his father Isaac Lane as a Lieutenant in the time of the revolutionary war; the wife of Isaac Lane gave similar testimony -- all dated April 9, 1844.]

[p 9: On August 18, 1852 in McMinn County Tennessee, Sarah Lane, aged about 92 years, filed for a widow's pension as the widow of Isaac Lane, a pensioner at the rate of \$20 per annum for his services in the revolution; that she married him in may 1782: that he died November 9, 1851 in McMinn County Tennessee; that her name before marriage was Sarah Russell.]

[p 12: Mary Jarniagin, widow of Noah Jarnagin, of Grainger County, Tennessee testified that she was well acquainted with Isaac Lane and Sarah Russell before they were married; she remembers the time they were married; that she was then about 15 years old; that the Parsons name who married them was Tidance Lane; that they were married in Washington County Tennessee in the year about 1778.]

[p 5: On April 14, 1855 in McMinn County Tennessee, Sarah Lane, made oath that she is the widow of Isaac Lane deceased, a pensioner of the United States for his services in the revolutionary war; that Isaac Lane and Sarah Russell were married in Washington County Tennessee something over 70 years ago but she is informed that there is no record evidence of her marriage in Washington County; that her husband never did in his lifetime receive any bounty land; she makes this declaration for the purpose of obtaining a pension under the law of February 3rd 1848 and to obtaining the bounty land to which she is entitled under the law of March 3rd 1855; that her husband died November 9 1851; and that she remains his widow. She signed this document with her mark.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$20 per annum for his services in the revolution.]