

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Abner Lee¹ R6257 Sally Lee

f70VA

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 8^h of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[p12]

State of Tennessee, Jackson County: February term of Jackson County Court 1846

On this second day of February 1846 personally appeared in open Court before the Court of Jackson County now sitting Abner Lee a resident of the fourth [?] Civil District in Jackson County and State of Tennessee aged 86 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 7th, 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States as a private under the following named officers and served as herein after stated. That he was drafted in 1780 and entered the service in September of that year under Colonel Campbell [William Campbell], Cleveland [Benjamin Cleveland] and Sevier [John Sevier] and Major Edmonson [sic, William Edmondson or Edmiston], and Captain Culluck [sic, Lieutenant Thomas McCulloch?]. That he was in the battle of King's Mount [sic, King's Mountain, October 7, 1780]] under Colonel Campbell, and Captain Culluck. That he was at the side of Captain Culluck when he was accidentally shot while ascending the King's Mountain to fight the royalist under General Ferguson [sic, Major Patrick Ferguson]. That he marched through Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and East Tennessee under Colonel Campbell and Captain Culluck and was honorably discharged in April 1783. That he has no documentary evidence and that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service.

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 day and year aforesaid.

S/ Abner Lee, X his mark

[John B Sanders a clergyman, and that Francis A. Stone gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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Where and in what year were you born

Answer: I was born in North Carolina in the year 1760.

Have you any record of you age and if so

Answer: I have none.

Where were you living when called into service

¹ BLReg.225536-1855

Answer: In Washington County in Virginia.

Where have you lived since the Revolutionary War

Answer: In Virginia most of the time and in Tennessee the balance of the time except one year in Illinois [?]².

Where do you now live

Answer: In Jackson County Tennessee

How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer, or were you a substitute

Answer: I was drafted.

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 service.

Answer: Cols. William Campbell, Cleveland and Sevier. I cannot recollect the names of the regiments. I marched from Virginia to Watauga River and there joined the troops under Colonel Sevier and marched from there across the mountain and joined Colonel Cleveland and proceeded to South Carolina as fast as we could and from there we went to Virginia.

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 received a discharge in 1783 and left it with my brother in Virginia who is now dead and my discharge is lost. I cannot remember from whom I received my discharge but I know that I did get one.

State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood, and who can testify to your character for veracity and good behavior and your services as a Soldier of the Revolution

Answer: I name A. Stone, John B. Sanders, Samuel DeWhit, John Dixon, David Griffey.

[p 67]

State of Tennessee County of Jackson: Be it remembered That on this the sixth day of January 1851 Personally appeared before the County Court of Jackson County State of Tennessee in open court at the January session thereof Abner Lee aged about 95 years a Resident of Jackson County Tennessee civil District No. 4 thereof who being first duly sworn according to law on his oath doth make the following Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of an act of Congress passed June 7th A.D. 1832:

He declares that he the said Abner Lee entered the service of the United States in the War of the Revolution under the following named officers and served as herein after stated & set forth.

I the said Abner Lee was drafted to serve for six months against the British and hired a substitute who went and served a tour in my place for six months. He was at Saint Clairs defeat [presumably a reference to St. Clair's defeat, November 4, 1791] from my best recollection and was Honorably discharged as I believe I paid him to serve this tour.

I Abner Lee was also Drafted in the County of Washington and State of Virginia to serve for the term of six months I went myself & served for eight months and fifteen or twenty days. The Captain who commanded the Company was named McCullough to the best of my recollection. I was a Private in his Company and marched from Washington County Virginia

² 

across the head waters of Holston River into North Carolina. We also crossed Broad River and in the line of march we fell in or was placed under Command of Colonel Campbell and marched on to the Battle of Kings Mountain: when we arrived at Kings Mountain our Captain was shot while going up the hill and died and we were Commanded by another officer whose name I cannot remember: We fought this Battle and then turned our course sometime afterwards for home. I was drafted about the first days of September previous to the Battle of Kings Mountain and was in the month of May afterwards Honorably Discharged near Home in Washington County Virginia. The following are some of the officers who fought in said Battle and who was Commanding at the time I served as above stated. Colonel Campbell, Colonel Sevier and Colonel Lincoln. There was also a Major by the name of Edmonson. The three Colonels he understood cast lots for the command of the Battle and Campbell held the chief Command in the Battle = The Company in which I served was of the Virginia Militia: We were footman and was armed with Rifles mostly but had muskets & shotguns generally as we owned them before we started. I Abner Lee further state that from extreme old age and from bodily infirmity and loss of memory I cannot recollect all the officers' names and detailed every circumstance of the Campaign through which I served. I lived on the frontier and marched through and crossed Holston River and the Blue Ridge in the frontier Country at what places I cannot remember neither can I remember dates or names: I have not any documentary evidence to establish my claim neither do I know of any living witness who can testify to my claim. I served in the same Company and at the same time that Crabtree³ served: but he is now dead and I know of no other person who served with me that his living. If there was any regular Officer in the Army when I served I do not know it. I'm moved from Virginia to this State and County about or upwards of sixty years ago and have not heard of my messmates for many years except Crabtree who also came here and received his pension: Again when the Cherokee Indians became hostile in the frontiers of Georgia & North Carolina I was drafted in Washington County I think in the year A.D. 1781 to serve for three months and did serve for three months in the Company commanded by Captain Henry. We marched along the frontiers to the Cherokee Nation and guarded the frontier of Georgia & North Carolina for some time at Fort Henry on said River the name of which I forget. I was called to serve only three months and had to serve five months from the time I was drafted until I got my discharge. We had no battle in this tour but remain[ed] on the frontier until we returned home if I was commanded by any superior officer I do not recollect his name. The Fort took its name after our Captain: And the whole time of my service in the Revolutionary war was upwards of twelve months besides the tour that I hired a substitute to serve in my place loss of memory I cannot state all the Circumstances attending my services: but refer to my neighbors where I have lived for 60 years to state my former assertions and the belief of the Community in which I reside relative to my services as a Revolutionary soldier. I further state that when able to work I was a man of means sufficient to subsist on plentifully and thought I would never apply for a pension – but old age has disabled me so I now asked the favor of a Pension for my services which is now needful to my support. I served as a private in both the tours I served and never received any pay from the Government for either of the tours. 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 or Territory. Sworn to and subscribed before me in open court the day and year aforesaid
S/ David Griffith, JP
S/ Abner Lee, X his mark

³ Presumably a reference to [Jacob Crabtree R2420](#) who also claimed to have been at the battle of Kings Mountain under Colonel William Campbell

[Isaiah Vanzant, a clergyman, and Allen W. D. Whitt [Allen W. Dewhitt is how he signed his name] and William P. Witcher gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 3: On November 17, 1855 in Jackson County Tennessee, Sally Lee, aged about 60 years based on her best information, filed for a widow's pension as the widow of Abner Lee who died in Jackson County in the month of October 1852; that she married him in the month of October about 20 years ago; that they were married by Thomas Hutchinson a magistrate; that her name prior to her marriage was Sally Miller. She signed her application with her mark.]

[p 7: On November 17, 1855 in Jackson County Tennessee, the widow made a supplemental declaration or affidavit in which she states that she has no record of her marriage; that her husband had been a widower a few years previous to her marriage to him – his youngest child was then grown – after their marriage they had 2 children: Granville Lee who is now about 18 years old in May last on the 4th day of that month and Greenwood to the now 15 years old since the first of October last; that her first husband, John Miller was a soldier in the War of 1812 in the Tennessee militia; that there never has been a guardian appointed for her 2 minor children; that she files this document in order to obtain the bounty land which may be due you to her children.]

[p 9: Ailey Vanzant of Jackson County Tennessee gave testimony that she is about 49 years old and the daughter of Abner Lee by his first wife; John G Vanzant, aged about 27, also gave a supporting affidavit.]