

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Lester R6298

f23VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

9/26/13

[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 Tennessee Wilson County: Circuit Court, March Term 1837

On this 8th day of March 1837 personally appeared in open Court, before the Honorable Samuel Anderson now sitting as presiding Judge of said Court, the same being a Court of record, William Lester a resident citizen of said County of Wilson & State of Tennessee, aged seventy-six on the 3rd day of October next, who being first duly sworn according to law, who does on his oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed July 7, 1832 [June 7, 1832]

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

In July 1779 he volunteered in Bedford County State of Virginia for two months service. James Adams was his Captain – John Magahee [John McGeehee?] was one Lieutenant – Henry Hitson was Ensign, Charles Lynch was Colonel – the other officers not recollected. The object of this tour was to guard the lead mines in Montgomery – Fincastle as they were then called, not far from Fort Chisel [Fort Chiswell] on New River. They had no battle on that tour, but took many of the Tories prisoners. He remained most of the time in the Fort except when they would go out in detachments to scour the Country in which he frequently engaged. Under this engagement he continued in service two months & was regularly discharged.

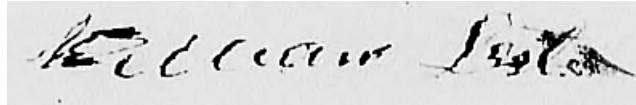
In 1781, as he now thinks, at the time Cornwallis was marauding the Country, a proclamation was issued calling for volunteers for six weeks to arrest his progress, & promising that all who would enter the service should have a credit of two months. Under this invitation he volunteered, under Captain John Buckley – the other officers not now remembered. He then lived in Pittsylvania [County] Virginia. They marched to Hillsboro, where they went under the command of General Stevens [Edward Stevens] as he now thinks. From that they marched on towards Guilford under General Green [Nathanael Greene]. He was not in the Battle of Guilford [March 15, 1781], but was placed with others to guard the Baggage Wagons & continued on that duty till after the battle, when he with the others were discharged. He was in actual service in this tour at least 30 days.

In the same year (1781) he again volunteered under Quarter Master McCraw, into the service of the United States to convey provisions & foraging from one part to another for the Army. In this engagement he drove a wagon of the government, in the transportation of provisions for the Army as before stated from Pittsylvania in Virginia to different points in North Carolina, on the Catawba & other places, for 65 days when he was discharged. So he served in all 6 months & 5 days counting the Guilford tour according to the terms of the

said proclamation. He moved from Bedford County to Pittsylvania then to Halifax – then to Campbell Virginia – then to Wilson County Tennessee where he has ever since resided. He has no documentary evidence or living witnesses by whom he can prove his services. He is not on any pension roll & has never received a pension & also waives all Living Claim for a pension but the present.

Sworn to in open Court.

S/ William Lester

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light background. The signature is written in a cursive style and appears to read "William Lester".

[Benjamin Mabry, a clergyman, and Bird W Smith gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Note: Correspondence in this file indicates that the claim was rejected because the veteran failed to show the requisite 6 months of actual service during the revolution. The Commissioner of Pensions uniformly failed to recognize arrangements whereby veterans were given credit for more service than they actually served in the field. Consequently since the veteran only claimed 30 days service during the Guilford campaign, he did not get credit for 2 months even though that credit had been promised to him by the officers under whom he volunteered for that campaign.]