

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Blake R913

f25SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

7/30/10: rev'd 9/3/18

[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 2]

State of Indiana Monroe County} On the 17th day of October in the year of our Lord 1832 personally appeared before me (the undersigned) Stephen P. Seall one of the Associate Judges of the Circuit Court of said County in said State being a Court of record composed of a Circuit or President Judge and two Associate Judges John Blake a resident of Martin County in the same judicial Circuit with our said Monroe County and in our said State aged seventy-one 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 was born on the Wateree River in Fairfield County in the State of South Carolina in the year 1761 or two or thereabout. He can neither write nor read. He has a record of his age but it is not now in possession it being at his residence in Martin County and he being in Monroe & not knowing it was necessary.

He states that although at this time he is able to ride he is frequently unable to walk or ride owing to a decay in his kidney, on account of which he has not been able heretofore since the passage of said act to attend Court at its term time, and there being no Court holden until next spring he is under an apprehension that it is extremely uncertain (if not improbable) whether he will be able personally then to appear in Court by reason of his said bodily infirmity. And his witnesses being in Monroe County where he is now staying and they part of them being also unable to appear in Court, he is advised to submit to an examination before said judge of said Court in vacation. He states his age by having it read to him by other persons -- not being able to read. He volunteered in the service of the United States in the Militia of the State of South Carolina about the year 1777 or 8 his memory of the year very uncertain nor can he recollect the day or month, and his memory confused and uncertain as to the season of the year in the Company (of the) commanded by Captain Thomas Starks [Thomas Starke]. He knows that some part of his services were under said Thomas Starks, his best impression is the above. He entered the service whilst living in said Fairfield County South Carolina and was there rendezvoused and mustered into the service. He was marched to a place he thinks called Orangeburg and Stationed there about two months and 10 days the period or rather the expedition for which he volunteered. He cannot state the names of any other officers. He was very young and as well as ignorant and inattentive. At the end of said two months and 10 days he received a written discharge from his said Captain which he has lost long ago and was dismissed at said place, and immediately at said place hired as a substitute for and in the place of a man by the name of Yarbry or Yarberry, his first name he cannot recollect. Said Yarberry alias Yarbry had been marched to said place in new

troops in the South Carolina Militia. He hired as said substitute and entered the service for something upwards of two months, but did serve as much, but not more than two months. His services as such substitute were performed in the Company of foot commanded by Captain ___ Lewis [perhaps Charles Lewis of the Fairfield Regiment]. He thinks the Colonel commanding the Regiment was ___ Taylor [perhaps Col. Thomas Taylor]. He never returned home from the time of his first entering the service but was stationed at said place under said Officers & scouting the Country about until the time of enlisting in the Continental Army as hereinafter stated, and which was by permission and approval of his Officers, having served said two months faithfully and to the acceptance of his Officers. He received no discharge in writing. He was verbally dismissed by his officers. He recollects the names of no officers except those mentioned nor circumstances of consequence.

At the expiration of said two months near said place or Town he enlisted in the Army of the United States as a regular private Soldier for the period of one year in the Company of Infantry commanded by (he thinks) ___ McKenzie, He can not remember the name of the Colonel or number of Regiment. He was first marched either to Cheraw Hills or Monks Corner [sic, Moncks Corner] he best thinks the first, thence to a little village on Pedee River the name of which he has forgotten thence back again to the Catawba [River], and then he thinks to Charlestown or the neighborhood where he was stationed Sometime and then marched again to the Cheraw Hill or neighborhood where his said year's time of service expired and he received a written discharge which is lost long ago and was dismissed, at said place and returned home. But having to lie out as close as a deer he went back in a few days to the Army above & near Cambden [sic, Camden] and enlisted in the regular Continental Army of the United States as a private Soldier in a Company of Foot for the period of seven years or during the War. He cannot recollect the year month or day of this enlistment nor the name of his Captain Colonel Regiment nor any other officers he thinks the Captain in this service was not any of his former Captains. He remembers the battles better than anything else in which he fought, except that he cannot remember the dates nor their order. He was in the Battle of the Hanging Rock [August 6, 1780], the Battle of Camden [either August 15-16, 1780 and the Second Battle of Camden a/k/a Hobkirk Hill, April 25, 1781] and the Battle of the Eutaw Springs [September 8, 1781]. At the Battle of Camden he remembers that Sumpter [Thomas Sumter]¹ retreated across the Wateree [River] and marched up the West side of the River twenty-five miles the night after the battle before he encamped. In the battle of the Eutaw Springs he was near the center of the Army under General Greene [Nathanael Greene] and was much exposed. It was in an old Field with a Bench [sic?] of rising ground across it, as he ascended the rising ground the Battle commenced. The British beat us back and we reinforced and in turn beat them back taking their baggage which we kept. After they the British had gone out of the reach of our small arms our cannon was used and fired into the top of the pine trees above them and the falling of the limbs killed many. After the Battle of the Eutaw Springs he was marched in many directions before he was disbanded. He cannot recollect where he was when dismissed but thinks it was not near any remarkable place and was on the march. He was in the Battle of Moncks Corner near Charlestown which he thinks was long before the Battle of Eutaw Springs. He was in a Skirmish at the Four Hole Bridge. He was during his said service twice at Orangeburg and twice or more at Moncks Corner. He was in the Battle at Orangeburg. In the Battle of the Eutaw Springs he was wounded in his belly with a British Bayonet.

Altogether he served in the Service of the United States & in the War of the Revolution in

¹ Sumter was not at either the Battle of Camden in August 1780 or Hobkirk Hill in April 1781.

said last engagement two years which services he performed faithfully, cheerfully and to the acceptance of his Officers. From the time he entered the Service which was he thinks (about) in his 15th or 16th year he continued constantly in the Service and was never at home during the War (nor out of said Service) but at one time of about two weeks except when marched through his mother's Lane at another time he stopped a few hours. He received a discharge in writing which he has long ago lost not knowing it would be of any value to him. He received [it], he supposes, from his Captain. During a part of said time he was mounted and was under the command of Colonel ___ Washington [William Washington], his first name he does not know, being no scholar and young, he was always very ignorant of the regulations of the Army as well as things generally of a public nature. He scarcely knows how he came to be mounted in said Colonel Washington's Corps of Light Horse but thinks he was ordered into (& with his own consent he entered) said Light Horse to supply some deficiency of numbers at or after the Battle of the Eutaw Springs. How long or when he marched in said Light Horse he cannot state. Douting [sic, doubting?] somewhat, it seems most probable, & he thinks it is the best impression of his memory upon reflection, that he was mounted in said Troops of cavalry after the heat and during the battle of Eutaw Springs. He thinks he was not long in said Light Horse after said battle.

He well remembers that he was discharged about the time of the Battle of Yorktown [October 19, 1781] & surrender of Cornwallis in Virginia. He thinks afterwards but how long precisely he cannot state. After the war he removed to Broad River the County he cannot recollect. He then married & removed back to Fairfield, and there lived about two years. He then removed to North Carolina he does not certainly recollect the name of the County his best impression is it was Anson, he resided there three years and removed to Chesire & there resided one year. He then removed to Tennessee in Grainger County, where he resided about four years. Then he removed to Cumberland River in Kentucky where he resided three or four years. He then removed to Hardin County Kentucky and there resided 20 years, then he removed to Martin County Indiana where he now resides and has for five years. He never received one cent of pay for any of his services. He has no documentary evidence of any of his services. He received his bounty money at both of the said times of his enlistment but cannot recollect how much. He knows of no person whose evidence or testimony he could procure of his Services or any part thereof except those herewith given. 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. His memory is very much impaired in consequence of old age and especially defective as to dates. He cannot recollect the names of any other officers, nor the first names that are herein omitted. But he expressly served as long as stated. From old age sickness and loss of memory he can state no further.

S/ John Blake, J his mark

[John Sanders and Dicy Sanders, 72, gave supporting affidavit.]

[p 7]

I, Henry Sanders,² a clergyman of Monroe County in the State of Indiana hereby certify that I have been well acquainted with John Blake who has subscribed and sworn to the above declaration upwards of fifty years & up to a period some years back and now recognize him well. They were from their boyhood brought up in the same neighborhood in Fairfield County South Carolina. They were in the service of the United States in the militia of South Carolina together

² [Henry Sanders R9178](#)

in the same Company during all or a part of one tour; commanded as he thinks by Captain Thomas Starks in the Regiment (his best impression) commanded by Colonel __ Taylor. In & during the tour to Orangeburg & when this Deponent was dangerously sick of the Quinsy said John Blake waited upon & nursed him in his sickness. He has known him familiarly ever since the War except not having seen him for some years at a time, & now, and as well as from his infancy to the War & its end. During the time of the War & since he resided with the exception of some years now past a near neighbor to him that he was always in said neighborhood, since the War reputed and believed to have been a Soldier of the Revolution, & this deponent personally knows that he was a soldier of the Revolution not being able from disease and old age & loss of memory to state the precise period; times & manner of service & served as he has stated after entering the service during the whole war with the exception of a few short animals.

Sworn and subscribed the day & year aforesaid

S/ Henry Saunders, X his mark

S/ Stephen P. Seall, Judge

[p 9]

State of Indiana Martin County: Deposition or Affidavit of John Blake Amendatory of his Declaration of the 17th day of October 1832

Deposition

On this the eleventh day of August in the year of our Lord 1834 personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the Peace in and for said County in said State John Blake and he being by me duly sworn according to law states upon his oath that he is the same person who made the foregoing Declaration dated the 17th day of October 1832. That he is not yet able to recall to his memory the names of any Officers under whom he served other than those in said declaration mentioned. He cannot from old age and bodily infirmity and consequent loss of memory recall nor state the number of the Regiment or its Officers names in which he served in the regular service as mentioned in said declaration, nor can he designate the Company. It was in the line of South Carolina as he believes & thinks he recollects.

Since making such Declaration he has discovered an old Revolutionary soldier by the name of Reuben Demoss by whom this declarant expects to prove his services as a regular soldier and as set forth in said Declaration. Said Demoss also as this applicant is informed by him knows where there resides another old revolutionary soldier who may probably know something of his (applicant's) services.

With his reflection he still thinks he must have served more, but at least as much as stated in his said Declaration. Said Demoss remembers perhaps more than he does.

S John Blake, X his mark

[p 10]

State of Indiana Martin County} On the eleventh day of August in the year of our Lord 1834, personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the Peace in and for said County in said State Reuben Demoss and being by me duly sworn according to law upon his oath says he is about eighty-four years of age. That he resides in said County of Martin, that he was during the Revolutionary War well acquainted with John Blake who has made the foregoing Declaration for a pension. This Deponent from old age and bodily infirmity and the consequent loss of memory cannot state with accuracy the dates of services or circumstances nor precisely the period in which said John Blake served in the Revolution. But he well recollects and identifies his person

and states that he was with him in the Army; that said John Blake of his the said Reuben Demoss own personal knowledge served several tours or campaigns in the militia service of South Carolina and at least one engagement in the Continental or regular service of the United States or in the State Troops of South Carolina he cannot state certainly which. That said John Blake (in what year the deponent cannot be certain but believes it to have been about that time as mentioned by said John Blake in his Deposition) did as he states at and while living in the County of Fairfield in said State of South Carolina entered the service of the United States in the militia of said State and served about and at least two months. That he was marched to a place called Orangeburg and perhaps other places. That afterwards said Blake served in the same militia as a substitute in another tour or at any rate entered the Army at Orangeburg and after the expiration of his first period of engagement continued in said militia service for some time, the deponent can't state how long but from circumstances of his knowledge unhesitatingly believes that said Blake served as he states, in his declaration at the least two months. He states that he has personal knowledge of the services stated by said Blake in the regular or Continental service (in his said declaration described). This deponent cannot state the periods of engagements nor whether there were more than one or not in said regular or Continental service, but that Blake served in said regular service more probably and at least two years. This deponent believes he served much longer but cannot state more certainly in relation thereto. This Deponent had so far lost the recollection of the events of the war and a portion of them seems much like a dream, but many of the circumstances stated by said Blake are recalled to his mind. He has been intimately acquainted with said John Blake in all as much as forty years and in different neighborhoods and that in all of said neighborhoods said Blake had a good reputation for honesty in dealings & truth and innocence, and the reputation of having been a revolutionary soldier. During the interval in which this deponent has not resided in the same neighborhood as with said Blake [balance of the deposition is blurred and illegible]

S/ Reuben Demoss

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Reuben Demoss". The script is cursive and somewhat stylized, with a long horizontal flourish at the end of the name.

[p 12: there appears another affidavit given by John White, near 90, in which he appears to mirror the testimony of Reuben Demoss, but the image of this affidavit is very blurred and difficult to discern. I could not find an application for a pension filed by a Reuben Demoss or John White for service in the South Carolina line and living in Indiana.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John White". The script is cursive and somewhat stylized, with a long horizontal flourish at the end of the name.

]