

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of John H. Fallin (Fallen) S10642 VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. 26 Jan 2014.

State of Virginia }
County of Northumberland } S.S

On the 8th day of December 1834 personally appeared in open Court, before the Justices of the County Court of Northumberland County, now sitting, John H Fallin a resident in the County of Northumberland, and state of Virginia, aged Eighty 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 at the commencement of the Revolution, or rather the time the militia marched to Williamsburg against Governor Dunmore, (in 1775) he with sixty or seventy men commanded by Peter Thornton, started from this County to Williamsburg, when they got to Richmond Courthouse, they understood that governor Dunmore had left Williamsburg and gone on board a british ship [8 Jun 1775]; they then returned.

During that summer or fall (1775) he enlisted under Capt. Thomas Gaskins as a seargent at Liberty Camp, a Camp established temporarily for recruiting and training recruits; in three or four days he was pressed by Colo. Gaskins (father of Capt. Gaskins) and Capt. Nutt to take a commission in the Militia, he consented on the ground that Colo Gaskins would get him off from his engagement with Capt Gaskins, he did so, (Colo Gaskins commanded the regt of the county) and he was nominated or appointed Lieutenant in Capt Nutt's Company by the Committee of Safety, for the county in the latter part of the year 1775. (For the mode of appointing Officers see Henning's [sic: Hening's] Virginia Statutes Vol 9 page 27 [<http://vagenweb.org/hening/vol09-01.htm>]).

The committee of safety for this County sat at Northumberland Court house at the time he was appointed Lieutenant, it was the first appointment of Militia officers under the Ordinance of Virginia. There were several officers appointed at the time he was, he recollects that, Wm Nutt [William Nutt] Abraham Beaucham and Thomas Downing were appointed captains in the county, and many others that he does not now recollect. He recollects distinctly that at the time the appointments above alluded to were made there was great excitement, growing out of a desire of some leading men to have their friends appointed; the committee sat untill near 12 O'clock at night, there was a personal encounter between Colo Gaskins and Peter Thornton . Thornton was afterwards an officer in the Continental line.

He was frequently called out on militia duty while a Lieutenant by Colo Gaskins to guard against invasions by the enemy, whose vessels of war were frequently, lying in the waters of this county from which they were frequently landing and committing deppredations he was frequently engaged in guarding the boats and canoes to prevent communication between the negroes and the enemy.

He had taken some pains to improve himself in military tactics, and having no family he was allways on duty when there was a necessity for it.

The first service that he was called in, was in 1776 at a place called Asbury's in this County, to guard a vessel with public arms on board, she was chased in Wiccomico river [sic: Wicomico River] by the british, he was engaged on that tour of duty at least fifteen days. In 1776, 1777, 1778 and part of 1779 he was on duty as Lieutenant at Colo Gaskin's House on the waters of Great Wiccomico at least four months, at Bluff Point on the Chesapeake bay at least three months, at Wm. Lee's [William Lee's] or Ditchley on the Dividing creak [sic: Dividing Creek] near the bay at least three months, at Cobb's Hall alias Colo Lee's on the aforesaid creek at least two months at South Wiccomico ware house on Wiccomico river at least two months, on the Potowmac [sic: Potomac] shore at least ten days, in the Summer of 1779 (he thinks) he marched to Colo Fleet's in Lancaster; on this tour he served at least ten days. When he marched to Colo Fleet's the british were in possession of Gwin's Island at the mouth of the Rappahanock [sic: Gwynn Island at the mouth of the Rappahannock River, from late 1775], they were

attacked by a force of regulars and militia under Gen'l. [Andrew] Lewis; the british were driven from the Island [11 Jul 1776].

In the latter part of the year 1779 or early in 1780 he was appointed Captain Lieutenant to serve Twelve months, (aggragate duty) his commission was signed by Colo Gaskins; Robt. Edwards [Robert Edwards] was Lieutenant, & John George Ensign in the company; the reg'nt was clased [divided into classes] the different classes were called out agreeable to their no for two months at a tour. From the time of his appointment as Capt Lt in 1779 or early in 1780 to August or September 1781, he served in the command of his company at Indian Ware House three months Colo Gaskins' on the waters of the Wiccomico river at least two months, at Wm Lee's otherwise Ditchley at least Four months, at Cobb's Hall otherwise Colo Lee's at least one month, at Heaths store at least one month and fifteen days, at Boyd's Mill at least fifteen days.

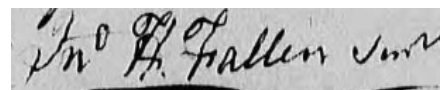
He served sometime after the time for which he had taken his Commission expired before arrangements were made to release him, being on duty at the time.

From the laps of time & having no memorandum to refresh his memory he finds it impossible to fix his service at particular dates, the foregoing is as near it as he can come. The service & places has made an impression in his reccollection that can not be erased.

His service was allways with an embodied force either with his own Company, or a larger force, his service was in camp, and field; while on duty his service was exclusively military, and in no way connected with civil persuits. He knew Major Parker of the Continental line who was killed in the Souther Campaign [Col. Richard Parker, mortally wounded at Siege of Charleston SC, spring 1780]; allso Capt Tho Gaskins, & Capt Leroy Edwards of the Continental line they were both of this county, (Northumberland)

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.

Jno. H. Fallen Sen'r



Interrogatories propounded by the Court

Inter 1st Where and in what year were you born.

Ans In Northumberland County Virginia, the 25th of March 1753

Inter 2nd Have you any record of your age, and if so where is it.

Ans Yes, I have it in my possession, taken from a memorandum in my father's family bible written in his hand writing.

Inter 3rd Where were you living when called into service, where have you lived since the revolutionary war and where do you now live.

Ans I was living in the County of Northumberland Virginia, when called into service and have allways lived in the said County and state.

Inter 4th How were you called into service; were you drafted, did you volunteer, or were you a substitute, and if a substitute for whom.

Ans I was called into service by the orders of Colo Gaskins (the commadant in the County) while Lieutenant, and Captain Lieutenant. I was never drafted, or a substitute.

Interrogatory 5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served; such continental, and militia Regiments, as you reccollect, and the general circumstances of your services.

Ans. Gen'l. Lewis commanded regular troops and came to this county soon after his attack of the british at Gwin's island, near the mouth of the Rappahanock; he remained with his troops a short time at Barren point on the Potowmac River in this County. I was not stationed with him, the enemy at the time threatening to land at different points; I was ordered to Indian ware house.

Gen'l Lewis was the only regular officer that I reccollect rendering any service in this County during the Revolution.

I was well acquainted with the Reg't of Lancaster County Virginia commanded by Col James Ball; the Reg't of Richmond County Virginia I was acquainted with but do not recollect who commanded it; I knew no continental regiments; the service in this country (Northern Neck) with the exception of Gen'l Lewis' was rendered by the Militia and the armed Galleys of Virginia which were frequently in our waters. I know of no particular circumstance that would have a bearing on the case; except the geographical situation of this county, lying in the Chesapeake bay for twenty miles and on the Potowmac river from its mouth twenty miles with many large & navigable waters making in from both the bay and river; it was necessary to keep in check the pillaging parties of the British and piratical craft which were under the protection of the British, to guard against the escape of slaves, to keep almost constantly when the enemy was in the Chesapeake a part of the militia on duty.

Being a young man, & without family, and having taken some pains to qualify myself for command, I was generally ordered out whenever any of the Militia were on duty.

Interrogatory 6th Did you ever receive a Commission; and if so, by whom was it signed and what has become of it.

Answer I was nominated a Lieutenant by the committee of safety for the County I do not recollect who signed it, but suppose it was signed by the Committee of safety for the state.

I received a commission as Captain Lieutenant, it was signed by Colo Gaskins the Colo of this County, it was for twelve months active service, any where that I might be called in the state, and whenever my services might be wanted in the County; the Commission I thought I could find until lately, I suppose it was mislaid when I moved to the place where I now live.

I was commissioned Capt of Militia in 1782, I rendered no active service under that commission, there being little or no use for the active service of the militia after the defeat of Cornwallis in the fall of 1781.

Inter. 7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighbourhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity, and their belief of your services as an officer of the revolution.

Ans John Booth and Matthew Lamkin are the oldest men in my neighbourhood they can testify as to my character &c Griffin Edwards Esqr who moved to Norfolk some time since was I suppose fourteen or fifteen years old when I commanded at Ditchly & Colo Lee's as Capt-Lt he was frequently in camp at those places; his deposition has been obtained and forwarded to the pension office at Washington.

Thomas Self [pension application S19461], and Edward Sorrel [W26493] are the only persons who are now living that served in the revolution from this county that I know of. Self was an obscure man and lived in a distant part of the County and was not likely to know any thing of my service. Sorrel served in the state line to the South

A pay Roll of Capt. Jno. H. Fallin's Company of Legion Rais'd in Northumb'd County for the months of June, July, & Aug't. 1781

[The original is a table showing only the name "Jno. H. Fallin Capt." and Pay per Day of "40 Ct Tob'o" – apparently 40 cents worth of tobacco. Beneath the table is the following:]

Dear Sir, I waited this morning till between [illegible] 11 o'clock for you but your not coming by that time I concluded that you had gone by & had no intentions of calling on me. I had some business with Capt. Denney & intended to call'd on you as I return'd but meeting with one of your Negro fellows between y'r house & y'r Brothers heard from one you had not return'd home which caus'd me to keep on. The above [illegible word] form for your Pay Roll as Capts. pay pr day is 40 cts Tob'o. Lieut: 30 Ct. Ensign 20 Ct Serjt 10 Cts Private 7½ Ct Tob'o pr Day. You must observe to set each mans name Down & the Number of days in each month & the Total of days in the Collum of N. of Days I shall be glad you'd come down tomorrow & I will assist you & go to the Race the next day together. I remain with respect D'r S'r./ Yrs Respectfully/ William Nutt

Monday Evening 27th Aug't 1781

Northumberland County Court 14th October 1782

John Hobson Fallin Gent. produced in court a commission from his excellency the Governor appointing him Captain in the Melitea company whereof William Nutt Gent. who was Captain who thereupon took the several oaths prescribed by law

Copy Teste/ M. B. Cralle CC

Northumberland County Virginia S.S.

I John Booth aged sixty five years do certify that I knew Capt John H Fallin during the revolutionary war he was a Captain in the militia and frequently commanded as such, the militias duty here was arduous I recollect distinctly that the regiment was classed from No 1 to 10 & each class was called out for some months at a time.

I recollect Lewis Lumkin gave a brother of mine George Booth, three hogs heads of Tobacco (which was then the currency of this state) to take his place on duty, I think he then served under Capt Fallin

Given under my hand this 8th of Dec 1834

John Booth

NOTES:

Fallen was pensioned for 12 months service as a Lieutenant. In 1851 his heirs petitioned for an increase in pension based on two years service.

The file includes a copy of the last will and testament of John H. Fallen dated 18 Jan 1839 by which he devised to his son, John H. Fallen, Jr., his plantation, adjoining lands, land on Hulls Creek, sawmill, two grist mills, his Negroes, and his livestock, as well as his plantation on Hacks Neck with 25 Negroes. He barred his daughter, Nancy D. Betts, from inheriting any property beyond what she had already received when she married Willis W. Hudnall. He also ratified a previous gift of a "Negro Salley" to his grandson, John J. Hudnall.

The file includes the following extract from the family record in his Bible: "John H. Fallin departed this life 31st Jan. 1839. Thursday morning about 11 oClock; in the 87th year of his age."