

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Hunter S15897

f57VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

5/23/14

[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 Virginia County of Campbell: SS

On this 14th day of October 1833 personally appeared in open Court, before the Court of the County aforesaid now sitting, John Hunter (formerly known as John Hunter Junior) a resident in the County of Campbell and State of Virginia aged Seventy Three 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 under the following named officers and served as herein stated:

That in the month of August 1776, a volunteer company was raised in the County of Bedford including then the present County of Campbell of which company he was a member under the following officers William Leftwich [William Leftwich], Captain, James Dixon Lieutenant and William Hudnall, Ensign, that said company marched by the head of Black water River and across the Allegheny Mountains to the Lead mines on New River (then called Chiswell's Mines) to guard the same and prevent depredations on said mines by Indians and Tories as there were large quantities of lead made [?]¹ then at that time for the use of the United States Army. – Colonel Charles Lynch was stationed at the mines at that time and had command of the Troops sent to that station and the superintendence of the minds. – That the same Company remained there until the latter part of November when the company was discharged having served a full three months tour of duty, that being the time they volunteered to serve. The company including him the said John Hunter was discharged at said mines; but whether they were discharged verbally or received a written discharge he does not now recollect. If he received a written one it is lost.

That in the year 1777 the British Fleet entered the waters of Virginia and was lying in Hampton Roads in and about the mouth of York River. In the month of August in said year there was a call for Troops to march from the County aforesaid to Williamsburg and York town in Virginia, when a Company of volunteers was raised in said County of which company he was a member, and was commanded by Captain John Talbot, Lieutenant Thomas Helm and Ensign Arthur Mosley [Arthur Moseley] and that the said company rendezvoused at the House of Captain John Hunter, Senior, in said County of Bedford in the month of August in said year; but the day he does not recollect, thence marched by the way of Richmond to Williamsburg, where they were stationed several weeks, from thence they marched to Yorktown Virginia at which

place the said company remained for several weeks, he believes five or six, some of the British fleet were then lying in or about the mouth of York River. The said company during this time was under the command of Colonel Mason. From thence the company returned to Williamsburg and then served the remainder of a three months tour. That he marched with said company from the original place of rendezvous and remained with them until discharged at Williamsburg. If his discharge was written it is lost.

That about the last of August or first of September 1780 he joined a troop of Cavalry from the said County of Bedford which troop was commanded by Captain John Caloway [John Callaway or Calloway], William Caloway [William Callaway or Calloway] 1st Lieutenant, Bourne Price [Brown Price] 2nd Lieutenant, and Henry Enniss [Harry Innes] Cornet. – The said Troops rendezvoused at New London in Bedford County aforesaid on the last of August or first of September in said year where they remained for two or three weeks, from thence they marched to Petersburg where they remained until the arrival of General Lawson [Robert Lawson], who had the command of all the troops at that place, the said Troop remained at that place and in the vicinity for five or six weeks to prevent the British from landing at City Point below said Town (in the course of this time the said Troop of Cavalry was inspected by Baron Steuben) and as the British did not land near City Point, the said Troop was marched towards Portsmouth. The British having landed there before the arrival of said Troop, when the British went on board their vessels and sailed towards Charleston South Carolina as was understood. – The said Troop then received orders to return to Petersburg where they remained a few days, there being at that place five or six troops of Cavalry under the command of Colonel Banister [perhaps John Banister of Dinwiddie County?] the Bedford Troop was then discharged after serving nine weeks from the time the said Troop rendezvoused at New London and served seven weeks from the time they marched from New London and that he served with said Troop until they were regularly discharged at Petersburg. If his discharge was a written one, it is lost.

That in the latter part of the month of January 1781, when the British commanded by Lord Cornwallis were marching through North Carolina towards Virginia and General Green [Nathanael Greene] and his Army retreating before them – That he the said John Hunter joined a volunteer company in Bedford County aforesaid which company was commanded by James Dixon Captain, Hugh McElroy [Hugh McElroy] Lieutenant and himself (the said John Hunter) Ensign in the said company, marched forthwith to join the United States Army under General Green which they met with at Halifax courthouse Virginia when they received orders from General Green to march and joined a detachment of his Army commanded by Colonel Williams [Otho Williams] from Maryland, a regular officer who had the command of what was called the Light Infantry. – Colonel Washington [William Washington] and Lee [Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee] were also with Williams with their respective commands of Cavalry which were kept near the British line for the purpose of harassing and keeping them in check, that the said volunteer company kept with said Light Infantry and Cavalry which was now advanced into the edge of North Carolina and that on or about the 6th or 7th of March 1781 the Troops under Colonel Williams had an engagement with the British Army under Cornwallis at a place called Whitsal's Mills [Whitesell's, Wetzell's, Weitzel, Wetzall's Mill, March 6, 1781] on the Reedy fork River a branch of Haw River and the next day after said battle Captain Dixon's company was sent to General Green's Army to carry some British prisoners that were taken by surprise after the engagement by Colonel Lee's cavalry². Captain Dixon and Lieutenant McElroy having returned home after the battle of Reedy fork the command of said volunteer company involved

² This may be a reference to the action on February 25, 1781 known as Pyle's Defeat or Holt's Race Paths.

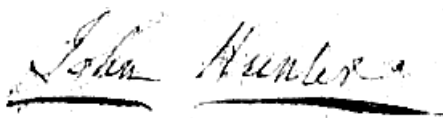
upon him the said John Hunter as Ensign to said company who delivered said prisoners to General Green and on joining General Green's Army was attached to General Robert Lawson's Brigade at which time General Lawson gave him the said John Hunter a Brevet Commission of Captain, of said volunteer company, which then formed a part of Colonel Charles Lynch's Regiment of Militia, in which Regiment and Brigade the said company remained until after the Battle of Guilford Courthouse in North Carolina in which battle [March 15, 1781] our Regiment and company were engaged and that about the 20th of March he a written discharge from General Lawson for himself and Company which discharge is now lost. He having served in this tour one and a half months as Ensign and fourteen days as Captain to said Company.

And that on or about the first of June 1781, there was a Regiment of Militia marched from Bedford County under the command of Colonel William Callaway to a place on James River opposite the Point of Fork to which Regiment he the said John Hunter was appointed Commissary by Colonel Calloway. – The said Regiment then joined the Troops under the command of Baron Steuben, composed of Militia and Regulars who were stationed on the South side of James River opposite the Point of Fork which is at the mouth of Rivanna River. – There were deposited at said Point of Fork a considerable quantity of Arms, Ammunition &c belonging to the United States, and before the Troops could cross James River a detachment of the British Army came to Point of Fork and took possession of all of the public stores that were on the North side of said River at that place, after a considerable firing across the River by both armies and that he the said John Hunter belonging to the Staff had no gun but borrowed a sick man's Rifle and went in the lines as a common soldier and shot several rounds at the Enemy and before the British got possession of Point of Fork a large portion of the public stores, arms &c were sent over to the South side of said river.

The Baron then retreated with his command through the counties of Cumberland, Buckingham, Prince Edward and Charlotte to Halifax County on the South side of Staunton River; but Colonel Callaway's Regiment left them in Prince Edward County and marched eastwardly in the direction of Richmond passing through the counties of Cumberland and Powhatan and countermarching through those counties to watch the Enemy on the opposite side of James River, and that about the last of July he having continued as Commissary to said Colonel Callaway's Regiment to the time he was discharged by Colonel Callaway, after serving at least seven weeks. His discharge was a written one but it is also lost. –

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and he declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of any Agency in any State.
Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

S/ John Hunter

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Hunter". The signature is written in dark ink and is underlined with a thick, dark horizontal line.

Interrogatories propounded by the Court

1. Where and in what year were you born?

Answer. I was born on the 10th day of July 1760, in Bedford County, State of Virginia, in that part of Bedford which is now Campbell County, and within 6 miles of my present residence.

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

Answer. I have no record of my age; but my Father had, in his Bible, which I have often seen, in his own handwriting where it is now, I know not.

3. Where were you living when called into service; where have you lived since the

Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Answer. I was living with my Father, when called into service, within 3 miles of where I was born; since the Revolutionary War, I have lived in the States of North Carolina, Tennessee and Kentucky, until about three years since; from which time I have resided in the County of Campbell aforesaid within six miles of where I was born and where I now live.

4. How were you called into service; were you drafted, did you volunteer, or were you a Substitute? And if a Substitute, for whom?

Answer. I volunteered in every instance.

5. 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. During my first tour, at the Lead Mines, there were no Regular Officers there. – In my second tour, which was to Williamsburg and York town, I was under the command of Colonel Mason, but I do not know whether he was a Regular or Militia officer: there were some Regular troops both at Williamsburg and Yorktown. – In my third tour, soon after arriving at Petersburg, I saw Baron Steuben, who inspected us. – In my fourth tour, which was towards the South, I sold General Nathanael Greene, Colonel Williams and Major Howard [John Eager Howard] of the Maryland line, Colonels William Washington and H. Lee of the Cavalry: I also recollect to have seen Colonel Williams Regiment, and the Corps of Colonels Lee and Washington: During said tour I was in the Battle at Whitsal's Mills, at the Reedy fork, in North Carolina, where we had in encounter the whole of Cornwallis Army, and had to retreat. I was also in the Battle at Guilford Courthouse. – And in my fifth tour, I sold Baron Steuben at the Point of Fork, where there was a few Regulars and Militia, besides the Regiment to which I belonged. I was also in a skirmish with the British, across James River, near that place, – being at that time a staff officer and having no gun, I borrowed a sick man's Rifle, and discharged it several times, at the enemy.

6. Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given, and what has become of it?

Answer. When in service, as a Soldier, I never quit the service without a discharge; but I do not now recollect who gave them, or what has become of them. When in service, as an Officer, General Lawson, who commanded the Brigade to which I belonged, gave me a written discharge for myself and my company, a few days after the Battle of Guilford Courthouse; this discharge is lost, when in service as Commissary, Colonel William Callaway gave me a written discharge which is also lost.

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

Answer. I never received a Commission, except from General Lawson. I was elected and Ensign of a company of Volunteers, by the volunteers, in Captain Dixon's company, and acted as such. During this tour, being my fourth, and by Captain and Lieutenant having returned home, General Lawson gave me the Brevet Commission of Captain said volunteer company; which Commission is lost.

7. State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood, and who can testify as to your character for veracity, and their belief of your services as a soldier of the Revolution?

Answer. William Rosser, William Carson, Major Thomas Franklin, Captain Thomas Harvey, Zacobus E. Cheatham & Richard Harvey

[William Brown, a clergyman, Thomas Harvey and Alexander Austin gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

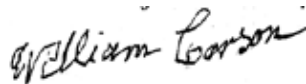
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Virginia Campbell County SS

This day William Carson aged about eighty-five years of the County of Campbell aforesaid (but formerly of Bedford County) after first being sworn before me Richard Harvey a Justice of the Peace for the said County of Campbell, he the said William Carson deposeth and saith that in the year 1781 when the British Army commanded by Cornwallis was marching on through North Carolina towards Virginia there was a Company of volunteers raised in Bedford County aforesaid now Campbell County which Company was commanded by James Dickson as Captain, Hugh McElroy Lieutenant and John Hunter Junior In some, which Company marched immediately in the course of day or two to join the United States Army commanded by General Greene and that this Affiant was one of said Company and that he thinks & believes that said Company marched sometimes tour was the last of January or first of February but the exact time he does not exactly remember because he is very old and forgetful, He further saith that said Company marched on and joined a detachment of General Greene's Army that was commanded by Colonel Williams from Maryland a Regular Officer who had the Command of what was called the light Infantry and Colonels Washington and Lee was with him with their Corps of Cavalry and that the said Infantry and Cavalry kept continually near the British lines for the purpose of Harassing them, and that our said Company kept with the said infantry and Cavalry, this was in North Carolina. And that on or about the 7th of March 1781 we had a battle with the British [note, pages out of order: p 50]

Army at a place called Whitesals Mills on the Reedy fork River a branch of Haw River and that the next day after said Battle our said Company was sent to General Greene's Army to guard and take some British Prisoners that Colonel Williams delivered to us. Captain Dickson our Captain & Hugh McElroy our Lieutenant had now gone home and John Hunter Junior our Ensign had the Command of our company and continued to command it until we were discharged which was after the Battle of Guilford Court House in North Carolina in which Battle our said Company was engaged. We were attached to Colonel Lynch's Regiment when we had delivered the British prisoners to General Greene. Lynch's Regiment was from our own County of Bedford but did not march and joined the United States Army for some time after our company did. The said affiant further saith that he thinks and believes that the said Company to which he belonged served about two months at the time he has mentioned but cannot positively say the exact time.

S/ William Carson³



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State of Virginia Campbell County: SS

On this 28th day of October 1833 personally appeared William Carson (aged 85 years) of said County of Campbell before me Richard Harvey a Justice of the peace for the County and State aforesaid and made oath according to law that sometime in the present year (He thinks not more than 4 or 5 months since[]) he had given John Hunter of said County of Campbell his affidavit or deposition to prove that he the said John Hunter had served a tour of duty as an Ensign in time of the Revolutionary War in the latter part of the winter 1781 in a company of volunteers from Bedford County Virginia (but now Campbell County Virginia which was then broken from Bedford by a division of said County of Bedford[]) which Company of volunteers was commanded by James Dixon as Captain Hugh McElroy Lieutenant and said John Hunter as

³ [William Carson S17877](#)

Ensign, and that the said Company was attached to a detachment of General Greene's Army which was commanded by Colonel Williams from Maryland a Regular Officer, and that Colonels William Washington and H. Lee were with the said Infantry with their Corps of Cavalry and Near the British Army which was commanded by Cornwallis then in North Carolina to whom the said Infantry and Cavalry were opposed. Now as I understand that the said affidavit or deposition which I gave the said John Hunter calls him John Hunter Junior and he thinks it best to explain the matter as he says he signed his name John Hunter (without adding the Junior) to his declaration which he says is in the Clerk's Office of this County, and now to explain the matter fully, I say that he the said John Hunter was John Hunter Junior at the time of the Revolutionary War, his Father's name was John Hunter & of course Senior and his Father did not die until the Revolutionary War was ended, and my reason for calling him John Hunter Junior in my affidavit was to distinguish him from his Father. I do not know that his Father ever served a tour of duty during the said War and I knew him well, but the said John Hunter whom I have called Junior in my Affidavit & who claims a pension from the United States is the Identical man who performed the Service in the United Army which I have stated in my said Affidavit.

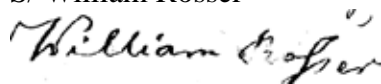
S/ William Carson

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Virginia Campbell County to wit

This day William Rosser⁴ aged between seventy & seventy-one of the County aforesaid (but formerly Bedford) after first being duly sworn deposeth and saith that in the year 1781 when the British Army commanded by Cornwallis was marching through North Carolina towards Virginia, there was a Company of Volunteers raised in Bedford aforesaid now Campbell County, which Company elected their own officers James Dixon was elected Captain Hugh McElroy Lieutenant and John Hunter Junior Ensign which Company marched immediately on to join General Green's Army which was opposed to the British Army and that this Affiant was one of the said Company. The Company marched from said County about the [paper damaged and date indecipherable] day of January and met with General Green at Halifax old Courthouse Virginia where we received orders from General Green to march and joined the infantry who lay on and about the British lines under the command of Colonels Williams and Howard and the Cavalry at the same place commanded by Washington and Lee, that they continued with the said infantry until he thinks about the 6 day of March when they had a Battle with the British Army at Whitesil's Mill on Reedy fork River, we then joined General Greens Army and continued with it until the battle at Guilford in the State of North Carolina. – He further saith that John Hunter Junior Ensign aforesaid took command of said Company as Captain on the day that the battle was fought at Whitesil's Mill on Reedy fork, because Captain Dickson and Lieutenant McElroy went home and continued in Command the Company until it was discharge which was about the 20th day of March, he thinks [papers out of sequence: Page 51] about 2 months from the time they entered the service until they were discharged, That the said John Hunter Junior had the command of said Company as Captain about 14 or 15 days previous to their discharge.

S/ William Rosser



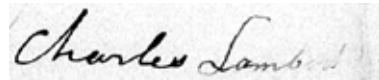
⁴ [William Rosser W29945](#)

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State of Virginia Bedford County

I Charles Lambert of Bedford County Virginia a Soldier of the Revolution aged 79 years do hereby certify that about the last of August or first of September in the year of our Lord 1780 in the time of the revolutionary war there was a Company of Cavalry raised in the County of Bedford aforesaid who furnished their own horses for the purpose of resisting the incursions of the British on the lower parts of Virginia which company were volunteers & elected their own officers. John Callaway was elected Captain, William Callaway first Lieutenant, Bourn Price 2nd Lieutenant & Harry Innes Cornet. The said Company rendezvoused at New London in the County of Bedford aforesaid and after staying at that place several weeks marched on to Petersburg in Virginia under the command of the above named officers where they joined the Army under the command of General Lawson. This affiant states that he himself was a volunteer in the above named Company & served the above referred to tower [tour of military duty & that John Hunter Junior then of Bedford, now of Campbell County Virginia was also a volunteer in said Company & served the same tower but as to the length of time which they were in service he has no distinct recollection but continued in the service until they were regularly discharged

S/ Charles Lambert⁵



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State of Tennessee Anderson County: County Court April Term 1833

Personally appeared in open court Thomas Butler⁶ aged about seventy years a resident of said County of Anderson who deposeth and saith that he was well acquainted with John Hunter Junior of Campbell County Virginia which was formerly Bedford County – who he is informed is about to apply for a pension under the late act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. And that he served a tour of duty with said John Hunter in Captain John Calloway's company of Cavalry – William Calloway was first Lieutenant and Bowen Price second Lieutenant and Harry Innes our Ensign. We rendezvoused at New London where we remained for several weeks from there we were marched to Petersburg where we waited until the arrival of General Lawson after his arrival we were marched toward Portsmouth where the British had landed previous to that time before we reached Portsmouth the British left that place and went around to Charleston. This deponent further saith that they were volunteers and found their own horses but what length of time they served in that campaign he does not distinctly remember.

S/ Thomas Butler



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Campbell County Virginia, to wit

This day Major Thomas Franklin aged seventy-five years of the County aforesaid (But formerly Bedford) after being first duly sworn deposeth and saith, that in the year 1777 the British fleet entered the Waters of Virginia and were lying in Hampton Roads and about the mouth of York River, there was a call for troops to march to the lower part of Virginia from the

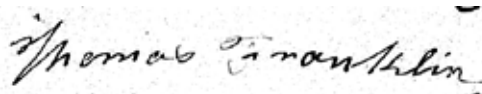
⁵ [Charles Lambert W8021](#)

⁶ [Thomas Butler S3098](#)

upper Country and that there was a Company of Volunteers raised in Bedford aforesaid and commanded by Captain John Talbot, Lieutenant Thomas Helm and Ensign Arthur Mosley, that John Hunter Junior was a private in said Company which Company rendezvoused at the house of Captain John Hunter Senior in the said County of Bedford in the month of August in said year from thence marched by the way of Richmond Virginia to Williamsburg where we were stationed some time, from thence we marched to York town Virginia where the Company was stationed again, he thinks under the command of Colonel Mason and remained there some length of time [Note: Pages out of sequence: Page 39]

the exact time not remembered, from thence the Company returned to Williamsburg and there served the remainder of the tour which was three months, – and further this affiant says he was in service all the time, above stated, as well as said John Hunter Junior that they were discharged together, with the rest of the Company

S/ Thomas Franklin⁷



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Campbell County Virginia to wit

This day Major Thomas Franklin aged seventy-five years of the County of Campbell aforesaid (formerly Bedford) after being duly sworn deposeth and saith that in the year 1776 there was some troops called on to go and guard the lead mines and Wythe County Virginia to prevent the depredations of the Tories and Indians, as there was large quantities of lead made their for the use of the American Army – that there was a Company of volunteers raised in said County of Bedford now Campbell, and marched under the command of Captain James Dixon who on this Occasion acted as Lieutenant and the said Company was commanded by Captain William Leftwich and William Hudnel [William Hudnall] Ensign whom they joined at the lead mines, that they marched by the way of the head of Black Water River and over the Allegheny and other mountains through the wilderness to the said lead mines and that affiant further saith that John Hunter Junior was one of the said Company as a private, that the Company marched from the County of Bedford aforesaid in the month of August of said year and that they served a tour of three months in the said John Hunter Junior served until the 3 months expired at which time they affiant, John Hunter & the rest of the company were discharged, – and further that Colonel Charles Lynch had the command of the troops stationed at the lead mines aforesaid

S/ Thomas Franklin

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$60.40 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 9 months and 22 days and as an Ensign for one month and 29 days in the Virginia service.]

⁷ [Thomas Franklin W1590](#)