

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Cochran (Cockran) S16720

f17NC fo

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<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Missouri County of Cape Girardeau: SS

A declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress of the 7th of June 1832

On the 20th day of March in the year of our Lord 1833; Personally appeared before the Justices of the County Court of the County of Cape Girardeau aforesaid in Open Court John Cochran of Byrd Township in the County of Cape Girardeau and State of Missouri aforesaid aged seventy-eight years and two months, who first being duly sworn according to law: Doth on his oath make the following declaration in Order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832; That he was drafted in the County of Mecklenburg North Carolina, as he thinks about the year 1777 or 1778 (under whose command he does not recollect) for the purpose of putting down the Tories then assembled at Fayetteville in the State of North Carolina, that he mustered into the company wherein he served at the meeting-house at Rocky River in said County of Mecklenburg that from thence they marched to Fayetteville aforesaid but before he this affiant with the company had reached the place, the Tories had dispersed, that after remaining there a few days, the companies were marched back to Mecklenburg County aforesaid and discharged, that he thinks he was out on this tour of service about six weeks in all;<sup>1</sup> That afterwards in the month of March 1780 he said affiant volunteered in the County of Mecklenburg aforesaid under the command of one Captain Osborn [probably James Osborn] and was mustered into a Battalion under the command of Major Thomas Harris; that he this affiant marched with the troops under the command of said Major to the town of Charleston State of South Carolina and there after entering the town, entered under the command of General Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln] at that time commanding the American troops in Charleston as aforesaid; That he this affiant remained under the command of said Lincoln in Charleston until about the 12th of May<sup>2</sup> (as he thinks) when the troops under said Lincoln's command with this affiant were surrendered to Sir Henry Clinton the commander of the British forces at said place, that he remained a prisoner for about eight days as he thinks until the 20th of said month of May when he this affiant with the militia were paroled and permitted to return home under promise and they would not take up arms again until exchanged, that from the time he entered the service on this tour, he was out about three months – That afterwards as he thinks in the month of August or September of the year 1781 and before he was exchanged he this

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<sup>1</sup> My guess is that the veteran was describing the marshalling of troops to oppose the Tories who were defeated at the Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge, February 27, 1776.

[https://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution\\_battle\\_of\\_moores\\_creek.html](https://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_moores_creek.html)

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/800401-charleston/>

affiant Volunteered again in the County of Mecklenburg as aforesaid & joined a company of horse for the purposes of going against Lord Corn Wallis [sic, Cornwallis] then at Wilmington in the State of North Carolina that he mustered into the company of Captain Cneth [sic Cruth? Possibly intended to be a reference to someone named "Carruth"?] in said County and with them marched to Wilmington under the command of one Major Joseph Graham; that shortly after the Company under the command of said Major Graham had arrived near Wilmington and were lying nigh to the town, Cornwallis with the British troops under his command decamped and left Wilmington for Yorktown Virginia, that he this affiant with the rest of the horse companies under the command of said Graham reconnoitered the Country putting down the Tories between Cape Fear [River] and the Yadkin rivers until he had served out his three months tour for which he volunteered, he was discharged and returned home that not then nor since believing that his discharges would be of any use or value to him, he did not preserve them, but, that they are lost from his possession and cannot now be found. That he the said John Cochran lived and resided in the County of Mecklenburg and then in the County of Cabarrus (the same being struck off from Mecklenburg) until the year 1829 when he emigrated to the County of Cape Girardeau State of Missouri where he has resided ever since, that he has no documentary testimony in this Country by which he can establish the facts above related: That said John Cochran 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 –

And that to the Interrogatories<sup>3</sup> prescribed by the War Department, and put by the court the said Cochran answers and says as follows

1<sup>st</sup> I was born in the County of dairy in Ireland on the 30th day of January 1755

2<sup>nd</sup> I have my age recorded in my Book kept for a family record at the house of my son where I resided about five miles from this place

3<sup>rd</sup> My age or time of my birth was entered in the handwriting of my father

4<sup>th</sup> I belonged to the Militia in the first time I was out I was drafted for a term of three months, the other two times of three months each I volunteered as stated above, the first time I did not serve the full three months, but both of the last I did –

5<sup>th</sup> I do not recollect the names of the officers under whom I served the first call, having been for several years afflicted with the policy my memory is much impaired – But on the second campaign I knew Captain Osborn as a militia officer, under whom I served, Major Thomas Harris also a militia officer, I knew while in Charleston General Lincoln a regular and commanding Officer. The third time I was out under the command of Captain Cruth, I knew Major Graham a militia officer who commanded the horse as before stated.

6<sup>th</sup> The first time I was dismissed. I do not recollect by whom I was dismissed, the second term I

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<sup>3</sup> The War Department promulgated regulations governing pension application format and requiring the following 7 interrogatories to be put to each applicant for a pension:

1<sup>st</sup> Where and in what year were you born?

2<sup>nd</sup> Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

3<sup>rd</sup> Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

4<sup>th</sup> How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if a substitute, for whom?

5<sup>th</sup> 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.

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

7<sup>th</sup> 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 in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

was paroled as a prisoner of war, the third time I was discharged by Captain Cruth at the County of Mecklenburg but the said discharges have been lost or destroyed.

7<sup>th</sup> I am known to Captain Ebenezer Flinn, Doctor Elam D. Harris, Mitchell Fleming, Oliver Harris, the Reverend John F. Cowan and Robert Caldwell all of whom reside near me who can testify as to my character for veracity and their belief of my services as a soldier of the revolution, among whom I have been living for four years last past and I believe can testify their belief as it respects my veracity and of my services as a Soldier of the revolution – Sworn to and subscribed in open court March 20th 1833

S/ Benjamin Bacon, Deputy clerk

For P. R. Garrell, Clk

S/ John Cochran

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Cochran". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name "S/ John Cochran".

[John F Cowan, a clergyman, and Robert Caldwell gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$27.16 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for four months and 12 days service as a private in the North Carolina militia and three months service as a private in the North Carolina light dragoons.]