

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Comer S17899

f20VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

11/21/07 rev'd 11/17/14

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

State of Virginia, Grayson County

On this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of October in the year of our Lord 1832 personally appeared in open Court, before the Justices of the County Court of Grayson now sitting, John Comer a resident of Grayson County in the State of Virginia, aged 79 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 7<sup>th</sup> 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under a Capt. Lewis Jones of Amelia County in the State of Virginia, as a Militia man, who were called minute men, and marched under the command of the aforesaid Capt. Lewis Jones to Norfolk, in Virginia, and arrived there on New Year's day in the evening, the same night the town was set on fire by the British, but this declarant does not now recollect the year [1776]; James Foster and Robert Foster were his first and second Lieutenants, after the British had fired Norfolk this declarant was marched about 10 miles from that place, to a point at or near Kemp's landing<sup>1</sup>, then so called, where he remained until the month of May following, having been in the Service under the aforesaid Capt. Jones about 6 months.

This declarant then went unto the Marine Service under a Capt. Hanway or Hanby and was sent to a place on James River called Sandy Point where he remained waiting for a galley some short time and so soon as it arrived he went on board and sailed to old James town. The galley was commanded by Capt. John Colvert [sic, probably Capt. John Calvert]<sup>2</sup>. This declarant was in the Marine Service about 3 months as well as he now remembers under the said Hanway & Calvert. He was afterwards in the same Service under Capt. Pollard and Lieutenant Stratton in a galley called the *Hero*, commanded by a Capt. Mooter [sic, Capt.. John Muter]<sup>3</sup>. This declarant was a midshipman on board of this galley for about 6 months, having Served in it 12 months altogether. He left the aforesaid galley in September 1777 and in the year following he went as a seaman on board a New vessel built at Gasport & commanded by a Capt. Wren and Lieutenant Stratton but just before she sailed he was taken sick and did not accompany the vessel. After this he was 3 months in the Service of a merchant Mill, making flour for the army. This mill was in Amelia County Virginia & belonged to two Gentlemen by name of Coke. After he left the aforesaid Mill he again entered the United States Service under a Capt. Fulks and served 4 months the whole company were discharged Shortly after the surrender [October 19, 1781] of Cornwallis, this declarant having served 2 years & 4 months, in the whole as a Soldier in the war of the Revolution. This declarant was born in Caroline County Virginia in July 1753. He has now no record of his age. He resided in Amelia County Virginia when he entered the service, and continued to reside in that County until he removed to Grayson County Virginia about 40 years ago, where he now lives. He was drafted as a militia man, except when he was in the marine service, & then he was a volunteer. He was acquainted with several of the regular officers, but has now forgotten their names.

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1 <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/kempslanding.htm>.

2 <http://www.scuttlebuttsmallchow.com/virgnavy.html>.

3 ditto

He never received a written discharge, and knows of no surviving witness who can testify to his service in the war of the revolution, but he is known to Stephen Hail and James Brewer in his present neighbourhood, who can testify as to his character for veracity and their belief of his service in the war of the revolution. He hereby relinquishes every claim 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.

Sworn to, and subscribed, the day and year aforesaid.

S/ John Comer

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Comer". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and somewhat slanted to the right.

We Stephen Hail Clergyman residing in the County of Grayson & James Brewer residing in the same County, hereby certify that we are well acquainted with John Comer who has sworn to and subscribed to the above declaration: that we believe him to be 79 years of age, that he is reputed and believed in the neighborhood where he resides to have been a soldier of the revolution & that we concur with that opinion.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Stephen Hail Jr.

S/ James Brewer

[Another application dated June 24, 1833, also filed in Grayson County, Va., is in this file. The content is almost identical to the above except he adds: "The name of the Col. who commanded the regiment in which this declarant was, in his first tour of 6 months, was Eppes, as well as he remembers....This declarant during the time he served in the Galleys was mostly Stationed at Hampton Road, tho' sometimes he was in Hampton Creek & Chesapeake bay."]

Virginia, Grayson County, to wit:

Personally appeared before me, the undersigned, a Justice of the Peace in & for the County of Grayson aforesaid, John Comer, who, being duly sworn, deposed & saith, that by reason of old age, and the consequent loss of memory, he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below, and in the following grades; For nine months I served as a drafted militia man; for one year and five months I served as a volunteer in the Marine Service; and for such Service by claim a pension.

S/ John Comer

Sworn to & subscribed before me this 24<sup>th</sup> day of June 1833.

S/ William Vaughn, JP

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$20 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831, for service as a private for 6 months in the Virginia militia.]