

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Furgason (Ferguson) S1816

f31NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 1/11/09 & 7/17/15

[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 Tennessee, Rhea County: Circuit Court September Term 1832

On this 25th day of September 1832 personally appeared in open court before the honorable Judge of the Circuit Court of Rhea County and State of Tennessee being a Court of record now sitting James Furgason a resident of Rhea County in State of Tennessee aged 73 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 after stated.

1st : That he entered the Service of the United States as a volunteer in a horse Company in Lincoln County in the State of North Carolina sometime about the first of January 1777 for a three months tour for the purpose of guarding the frontiers against the incursions of the Cherokee Indians; marched to Gilbertown in Rutherford County North Carolina on the waters of Broad River and then ranged along the mountains to the head of Green River and from there returned home sometime in March. His officer was Captain John Barber. He was dismissed by his Captain at the expiration of his time of service but got no discharge.

2nd : Sometime about the first of August 1777 he volunteered in a horse Company in Lincoln County North Carolina. His officer was Captain John Caruthe [John Carruth] for five months for the purpose of suppressing the Cherokees and Tories. We marched to Broad River, from there to Green River and from there to Pacolet River and there ranged the mountains backwards and forwards and made a stand at Cooper's Gap in the Blue Ridge, took several Tories. After serving five months returned home and was dismissed by his Captain without a discharge.

3rd : Sometime in the winter he thinks but a few days after he returned home from the five months tour 1778 he volunteered for a three months tour in a horse Company in Lincoln County North Carolina. His officer was Captain Isaac White. The object of this tour was to suppress the Tories; marched through Lincoln and Rutherford counties. Crossed Broad River into South Carolina then back into North Carolina; took between 20 and 30 prisoners in the edge of North Carolina, was ordered to take them to Salisbury and guard them there which declarant did until his time of service expired when he was dismissed by his Captain without a discharge.

4th : Sometime in October 1778 he entered the service of the United States as a Substitute in the place of Christian Hass [?] who was drafted for the three months in Lincoln County North Carolina under Captain Isaac White and Major Joseph Grayham [sic, Joseph Graham]; joined General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford] in Rowan County North Carolina and marched for

Wilmington but went with the Army to Pee Dee River and there took the fever and ague; continued to march with the Army to Drowning Creek where he got permission of his officer to go home after continuing with the Army about six weeks but got no discharge.

5th : Some time in the summer or fall of 1780, volunteered for three months in a horse Company in Lincoln County North Carolina under Captain Isaac White and Colonel William Grayham [sic, William Graham]: marched to Gilbert town in Rutherford County; there joined the troop from the other side of the mountain and was put under the command of Colonel Williams [James Williams] and marched to Kings Mountain where we overtook Major Ferguson [Patrick Ferguson] and captured his whole Army. The American troops were commanded by Colonel Williams, Shelby [Isaac Shelby], Sevier [John Sevier], Cleveland [Benjamin Cleveland] and Campbell [William Campbell]. The battle lasted about two hours and then the enemy surrendered. Colonel Williams was mortally wounded. From there he returned home and was dismissed by his officer without a discharge after having served his time of service.

6th : In December 1780 he volunteered for three months in a horse Company in Lincoln County North Carolina under Captain John Murray and Colonel Joseph McDowell; joined General Morgan [Daniel Morgan] in South Carolina. Declarant continued with Morgan until two days before the battle of the Cowpens when his horse became unfit for service; when he was sent by his Colonel about 15 miles to get another but could not get one in time to return before the battle; he was prevented from joining the Army by Morgan's precipitant retreat and Cornwallis coming into the Country after him but his company came home shortly after the battle.

Declarant was acquainted with Generals Morgan and Rutherford and Colonel Washington [William Washington].

He has no person by whom he can prove his services except his brother John Furgason who knew he was in this service but never served with him and Robert McCormic [sic, McCormick] who has been acquainted with him ever since the revolutionary war. Declarant was born on the 5th day of April 1757 [could be 1759] in [illegible]¹ County Pennsylvania and moved to Rowan County North Carolina, then to York County South Carolina from there to Lincoln County North Carolina some time before the war and lived there until long after the revolution, from there removed to Rhea County in the State of Tennessee where he has lived for about 12 years.

He has no record of his age but has seen one in his father's Bible.

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.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ James Furason [sic], X his mark

I, Robert McCormic, a resident of Rhea County Tennessee do certify that I have been acquainted with James Forgason who has sworn to and subscribed the above declaration for upwards of 30 years; we were raised in adjoining counties in North Carolina, and was acquainted with all most all the officers he mentions in his declaration and also certify that he is and always has been reputed and believed in the neighborhood where he lives to be a soldier of the revolution.

Sworn and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Robert McCormac [sic]

¹ The War Department summary contains the statement that the veteran was born in Nottingham County, PA, but there is no such county in PA.

[The following document which appears on p. 9 of the Fold3.com version is extremely difficult to discern. Use the following with more than normal skepticism as to its correctness]

*Some time about the first of April in 1777 he volunteered in a horse Company company in [indecipherable name] County North Carolina for 3 months his Officer was John [last name obliterated] Captain to go against the Tories to the brushy Mountains on the head of the South fork of the Catawby [Catawba] River and to hunt Sam Brown the robber and from there marched to Rutherford County and remained there the balance of his tower he was dismissed by his Captain without a discharge.

*Immediately [spelled "Amidiately"] after returning home from Morgan's army volunteered under Captain Hambright as a Spy Company to watch the movements of Cornwallis in Lincoln County North Carolina for six weeks was dismissed by his officer without a discharge.
Subscribed and Sworn to the day and year aforesaid

S/ James Furgason, X his mark

I John Furgason a resident of Rhea County Tennessee do certify that James Furgason my brother who has Sworn and Subscribed the above declaration was in the Service but states that I was about 13 years old when he first went out and that I recollect he was out different towers. Sworn to and Subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ John Ferguson

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Ferguson". The ink is dark and the handwriting is somewhat slanted and stylized.

[John Conley, a clergyman, and James Swan gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$78.33 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 6 months in the North Carolina Dragoons & for 16 months as a private of Infantry.]