

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Turner Lane S1916

f26VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

8/23/13

[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. 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 fails 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 errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Tennessee White County: August Session of the Circuit Court 1832

On this 21st day of August personally appeared in open court, before the Honorable Nathaniel W Williams, Judge of the third Judicial Circuit of the State of Tennessee now sitting Turner Lane Senior a resident of said County of White and State aforesaid, aged seventy 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 1832.

But before he enters in a detailed account of the facts and circumstances of his services in the Revolutionary war, he begs leave to remark and say that he has now grown old, and that consequently, his recollection of these facts and circumstances at so remote a period of time, has greatly abated; and as he has for these last 45 years and upwards, had no reason to believe, that the time ever would arrive when it might become necessary for him to present these early transactions of his life, he has not been in habit of ruminating on them in his mind: – his employment at the same time being of a sedentary nature, and such as to engross, and almost abort his mind, in the pursuit of an object of quite a different character; – He is compelled to acknowledge that in many of the facts and circumstances which it might seem, he ought to relate clearly, and distinctly, he seems to have lost almost all recollection and can by no means come to such conclusions, as will fully satisfy his own mind.

He now declares and says, "That he entered the service of the United States Army the following named Officers and served as herein stated as clearly as he is now able, from his best recollection, to relate these facts.

His first tour of duty in the Militia of Hanover County in the State of Virginia was served in the Company of Captain James Doswell, Lieutenant Thomas Dowsell, and in the Regiment of Colonel William Dandridge, all of Hanover County, the name of the Major not recollected; he took the ranks of his country as a private, and in obedience to a call in the Hanover [indecipherable word perhaps intended to be "Militia"] for the Number in which he stood on the Class Roll of his Company, it being the 5th Class. The rendezvous for that tour, as this applicant thinks, was at a Cross roads in Hanover County, then known by the name of Negro Foot; thence took up the line of march to James River, crossed at Westham, above the City of Richmond; marched some distance down on the South side, recrossed said River, and on the North side marched down to Williamsburg, where we drew our arms from the Magazine, and were there stationed until discharged. The year in which this service was rendered, this applicant cannot state; he can only say, that Patrick Henry was then Governor of Virginia, the seat of Government then being at Williamsburg, and that not long thereafter it was moved to Richmond. Concerning regular troops this applicant says, that General Scott [Charles Scott], commanding what was called the Maryland line, with a handsome troop of Light dragoons occupied the Barracks at Williamsburg; he was said to be on his march to the Southern States. The most material circumstance which is here recollected, was a Sham battle fought between the Militia, and

General Scott's regulars, near the Barracks; the General and his Field Officers took command of the Militia, leaving the command of his line to the management of his company officers.

Blank Cartridges were fired on both sides.

The second tour which this applicant served was under a call of the same class of Hanover Militia, under the command of Captain Isaac Winston of the same County, the name of the Colonel of the Regiment, now entirely forgotten: – the place of rendezvous for this term, was at Edmund Taylor's Ordinary, near the Fork Church in Hanover County as is now believed; the line of march was from thence taken up, aiming for the lower parts of Virginia; – that the Army first approached James River, as this applicant now thinks, at a landing called "Shirley Hundred;" but as he thinks, they did not cross there, but marched to another landing called "Sandy Point," and crossed there; were marched to Cabbin Point [Cabin Point] on the South side of the River, where they lay for a few days whilst at Cabbin Point, the line was marshaled out in an open field, performed a variety of tasks and evolution, and in the immediate imposition [sic] of Baron Steuben, the Inspector General of the United States. From thence they recrossed James River, and marched to Williamsburg, and were stationed there until discharged; – a relief being sent, as he thinks, to supply their place in the ranks of the Militia. The seat of Government was now moved to Richmond, and the militia were Quartered in the Capital. This applicant cannot now say confidently whether there were any regular troops then in Williamsburg or not; – he can only say this: – he fought in a second Sham battle at Williamsburg, which was not fought at the Barracks, nor on the plains of Williamsburg, but they were marched from the town, on to in open field, and there they had their battle. – This applicant thinks that this battle was fought against regular soldier; but whether they fought twice with General Scott's men, at his first tour, or whether this last battle was now, in his 2nd tour, he cannot determine; but he feels assured that it was in one of them.

His third tour as he seems to recollect these tours in numerical order, he served under Captain Edward Bullock, and Lieutenant John Wingfield, both of Hanover County; the names of Colonel and Major quite forgot; – the place of rendezvous for this tour, was at New Castle, some 7 or 8 miles below Hanover Courthouse, as this applicant now thinks; – the line of march was now taken up, destined for Williamsburg, Lieutenant John Wingfield performing the duty of Adjutant to the Regiment. Having reached the place of destination, the troops were again Quartered in the Capitol. – Here they lay quietly for some time; at length hasty information arrived, "that a Squadron of British ships were ascending James River, and that the British would probably be in town that night." The troops were immediately called to arms, stood to arms all that night, and until day the next morning; – this applicant at this juncture was, and for about one week before had, then, enrolled in the sick list, he having been attacked with a severe stroke of the Pleurisy. – He, however, with much difficulty, left his lodgings early in the morning, and got to the baggage wagons before the line was put in motion: – the retreat march was taken up about sunrise, the town evacuated, and was taken into possession of the British about 10 or 11 o'clock that day, as applicant understood.

The most material circumstance which took place here, was, an attempt made by Brigade Major Armistead, to take the town in the ensuing night with 100 men, having heard that the British were all drunk, lying scattered over the town, and no guards posted. But before he could arrive in town, open day had broke, on him, and he found a strong guard plaisted [sic] out, and a small field piece ready planted for his reception. A short though brisk skirmishes ensued, our men had to retreat precipitously, having one man dead on the ground and bringing off 3 wounded. – This applicant remained with the Army, as he thinks, another day, at which time a messenger from home arrived, in quest of him, having heard of his situation.

A Furlough was readily granted, getting leave of absence until fit for duty. The tour now

being far spent, this applicant did not recover his health, until the tour ended, his Captain having returned home some 8 or 10 days after his return.

His fourth tour of duty was performed under the command of Captain John Wingfield (promoted) and as he thinks Sir Stephen Pattice Lieutenant, and Thomas Pattice Orderly Sergeant all of Hanover County, none of the field officers in this tour can now be recollected, for this he has to acknowledge and say that the Officers under whom he served in all these tours who did reside in his own County, and of whose families he had some knowledge when at home, these he can easily recollect, but field officers, and others from distant counties, and of whose families he knew but little, or perhaps nothing, these he cannot now recollect. The place of rendezvous for this tour, the place where he was discharged, and all the circumstances of this campaign, have all entirely escaped the recollection of this applicant, one solitary occurrence excepted, the occurrence was viz.: – This applicant was in arms, and in the ranks of his country, and in the lower parts of Virginia; the troops to which he belonged were hastily marched to Charles City Courthouse, where the Militia of that County had very recently held rendezvous, in order to turn out a new levy of men; Colonel Tarleton [Banastre Tarleton], with his light dragoons, had at this stage of the war, made his appearance within the State of Virginia, and was lurking somewhere in these parts, but no danger from him, was apprehended by these men: – but in that very night, Tarleton came on them by surprise, and literally hewed them down, without favor, mercy or quarter being granted: – they at the same time being unarmed; they might have been enrolled and mustered into service, but had not age yet taken up the line of march.

This cold-blooded act of savage barbarity, practiced upon a set of men, upon such very unequal terms, they being in a defenseless state; – the great appearance of carnage, blood and slaughter which was here exhibited, was well calculated to excite in the mind of your observer, that indignation and disgust which even now cannot be forgotten. – But before the troops could arrive there, Tarleton had fled, and the dead were all removed and buried.

This is the only circumstance which applicant is able now to produce which he can certainly attach to this campaign; but this he can say from his best recollection that he is 3 first tours were performed and ended before Colonel Tarleton ever made his appearance in the State of Virginia; and that he did appear there late in the year 1780, or early in the year 1781; and that prior to about this period of time, this applicant is entirely unable to speak of dates.

His fifth tour was performed in the year 1781; – this was a voluntary service, and happened in this way: This applicant had an older brother who had recently returned from the Continental service, from under an enlistment of three years: he was soon enrolled in the militia, and his class put in requisition for a tour of duty: he had met at the place of rendezvous, was mustered into service, and had taken the line of march. This applicant then being out of service, was easily prevailed on (by his parent) to pursue the Army, take his brother's place and suffer him to return home, there to rest a little, and refresh himself. This applicant acted accordingly, was received as a substitute for his brother, and thus performed the most active tour of duty, which he ever performed, during the Revolutionary war. – The state of things at that juncture was something like this: Lord Cornwallis [Cornwallis] and Colonel Tarleton having made their excursion up into the interior of Virginia as high as Charlottesville had now returned to the lower parts; Wallace lay at Yorktown, as is believed and Tarleton with his thousand mounted men (as was reported) and some few hundred foot troops, were sent across York River, and quartered in Gloucester town, on the North side; this applicant does not now know whether General Washington had yet landed at Jamestown, but he feels assured that the Head Quarters of Lafayette and the ramification [sic] of the troops generally seemed concentrated about the town of Williamsburg. The Regiment in which this applicant had taken rank was not marched down to headquarters, but was with two other regiments detached from the main body, crossed York

River at West Point, were marched down to the North side of that River there to form a barrier against the plundering scouts of Tarleton, who were in habit of pillaging the country in the vicinity of Gloucester. The Regiment to which this applicant belonged was commanded by Colonel John Taylor of Caroline County, who was also Col. Comdt. [colonel commandant] of the detachment; Major Claiborne acted as Brigade Major, and Captain Isaiah Hayden commanded this applicant. The duty here was active, being like that of a flying; almost constantly marching from place to place and that most generally in the night, and but seldom lying two days together at the same place. During this tour several occurrences are recollected, out of which this applicant will state one only which to him seems the most notorious and interesting. – On a certain day, this detachment was put in motion and marched immediately down towards Gloucester town, as if a dissent upon the town was intended: – it was at length halted near a small Creek, said to be not far from town, and within the British line; here the line was formed, as if for battle. A Fatigue was then sent across the creek, where, as it seemed, the British had collected a large number of Beeves and Muttons, and had them in pasture; – these were turned out, drove across the creek, and driven up the road into the country, and rescued from the British. – A retreat was then taken up, and continued that night until cock-crowing at which time, having crossed a Creek at Ware Church, the detachment was halted, ordered to lie down in their ranks, with their arms and accoutrements remaining on them. – They slept of little. – But early the next morning, the British having pursued them on their retreat, came on, and defeated their Rear-Guard; one horseman however, escape them, who came dashing into camp, with the loss of his cap, and his sword brandishing over his head, and crying aloud, Parade, Parade, the British are on you!! The line of battle was quickly formed, stood to arms all that day certainly expecting a charge from the British; – but they came not. About sun setting, we distinctly heard them beat a retreat, and we in like manner, retreated further up the country. This applicant having served the tour for which he had substituted himself, was relieved and returned home.

This applicant had been at home but a very short time when a report reached him that some men were wanted at Richmond, there to serve for some time in the country service, and in taking the care and management of public horses; – the inducement held out was a soldier's wages to be paid in specie and a credit for one tour of duty in the Militia. Into this service this applicant immediately embarked, was received and placed under the command of Captain Charles Russell. The cause which produced these public horses at Richmond was this – Tarleton had taken his route up into the interior of Virginia, with his mounted men: – when any of their horses would fail, they would leave him and score upon any other horse which they could lay hold of and mount him; and in this way they scattered horses all along their trail, the rightful owners being (at the places where they were left) unknown. – These scattered horses were by the authorities of Virginia collected and brought to Richmond as public property; they having been in the possession and service of the British; and were placed in a large pasture on the south side of James River just below the town of Manchester, then known by the name of Black Pasture. The duty here was to attend to and take care of those horses – notice such as seemed to be so recruited as to be fit for service and as they were thought to be in that state and condition to bring them over to the Richmond side and their cause them to be branded with the brand of the United States.

During this service, this applicant, with the assistance of one young man whose name was John Washbourne, was twice ordered down to Williamsburg, each time taking down a drove of these horses, forty in each drove, there to be delivered to the proper Officer; take receipt for the same, and make due returns to the proper Office in Richmond. – The papers, trust and management of both these droves were placed in the hands of this applicant. The purposes for

which these horses were sent down were for the removal of General Washington's cannon and munitions of war from Jamestown to York, there to carry on the siege against Lord Wallis, as this applicant was informed.

Of the eighty horses thus delivered to applicant, seventy-nine only were delivered, and receipted for in Williamsburg; the reason was that when taking the second drove, as applicant thinks, one horse tired and became unable to travel; and because our orders, and the good of the service required haste, we were compelled to leave him on the road.

General Washington's head Quarters was then in Williamsburg, the French line, consisting of Grenadiers, Infantry &c also lay there.

The service for which this applicant engaged, several now to be no longer pressing, and having served a tour of time about equivalent to a tour in the Militia, he obtained leave of absence, and returned home, some short time before the surrender of Lord Corn Wallis. This is the last service which he rendered in the Revolutionary war.

To sum up all that has been said in detail, in few words. This applicant thinks, and does believe, that he did enter the service of his country on six different tours of duty, in manner and form as already detailed and according to the laws of Virginia, as he understood them, the rising youth of the country should be enrolled, and held liable to do militia duty at the age of sixteen years; and that a tour of militia duty should be for a term of two months: – but whether this applicant always served just two months at each tour, – whether at his first tour in particular, the troops to which he belonged were not discharged a few days before the tour had terminated; – and whether at his second tour, they were not detained in service some few days longer than a lawful tour, waiting the arrival of Relief, all points to which this applicant cannot now answer; nor can he say anything concerning his actual continuance in service in any of the other tours, more than he has said. But this he begs leave further to say upon his oath, that he never did abandon the ranks of his country, nor his post of duty, contrary to the rules of and wages of war; and yet he was never brought into actual engagement with the Enemy.

And he further says upon his oath, that he has no documentary evidence whereby he can prove any part of his services, and that he knows of no person now living by whom he can prove any part of them; – he now living, and for many years has lived, some five or six hundred miles from the place where these services were rendered.

This applicant hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not, nor was it ever on the pension roll of the agency of any State.

Questions by the Court.

1st Where and in what year were you born?

Answer. I was born in Hanover County in the State of Virginia on the 9th day of January A.D. 1762.

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

Answer. I have a family record of my own making, in which the time of my own birth, and also the births of all my children are recorded – my belief of the time of my own birth is founded on the information derived from my parents, which in early life, was often repeated to me; – this record is now in my possession.

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

Answer. I lived in Hanover County and State of Virginia during all of the tours of duty which I served in the revolutionary war; from Virginia in the fall of the year 1783, I removed to the State of Georgia; resided there until the spring season of the year 1786; at which time traveled westwardly, to the County of Washington, in the State of Virginia; from thence in the fall season

1795, moved with my family to Bourbon County Kentucky; from thence in the fall season 1807 moved with my family to White County Tennessee where I now live.

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

Answer. The 4 first tours of duty which I served were under calls of the Hanover militia, and on that number on the class Roll of my company, in which I stood enrolled: the 5th tour, I served as a substitute for my older brother James Lane; the 6th tour was voluntary, and served at the town of Richmond, Virginia.

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 can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Answer. I can recollect the names of the no regular officers or regiments which were with the troops where I served except the name of General Scott, and Baron Steuben, and when at Williamsburg with the first drove of horses (as is believed) was shown General Washington; saw the French line on evening parade; – and of the facts and circumstances of my services generally, I have already detail all of the most material which I can now recollect.

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

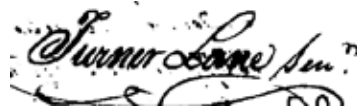
Answer. I never received a written discharge from service; but was uniformly mustered out of service, and discharged by an audible voice – the only writing which I ever received giving leave of absence was a Furlough.

7th 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.

Answer. I could name John White Senior, John Dale, George Ailsworth, and Thomas Eastland, I also could name the Honorable Jacob C Isacks

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid in open court 21st of August 1832

S/ Turner Lane Senior

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Turner Lane Sen^r". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

[John Green, a clergyman, and John Bryan gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$40 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 12 months in the Virginia service.]

[Note: a special 'thanks' to Leon Harris who deciphered a number of the words in this application which had me buffaloed.]