

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Stephenson S2020

fn21NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

3/11/11

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. Folks are free to make non-commercial use this transcript in any manner they may see fit, but please extend the courtesy of acknowledging the transcriber—besides, if it turns out the transcript contains mistakes, the resulting embarrassment will fall on the transcriber. 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. I welcome and encourage folks to call those and any other errors to my attention.]

State of Tennessee Rutherford County: August term of the County Court

Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed 7th of June 1832

On this 23rd day of August 1832 personally appeared in open Court, before Henry Troth, James C. Mitchell and Varner D. Cowen Esquires Justices of the Quorum now sitting, John Stevenson a resident in the County and State aforesaid, aged seventy-seven years, that he was born 10th of November 1755 in the County of Mecklenburg North Carolina and that in February 1780 he in the Town of Charlotte North Carolina joined the service of the United States as a volunteer under Captain James Osburn [sic, James Osborn]. In a few days thereafter the detachment was marched for Charlestown South Carolina; first to Moncks Corner – where news came of Tarleton [Banastre Tarleton] being in the neighborhood, when the detachment was marched or turned to the left, to avoid pursuit; and arrived at a place called Strawberry, and from thence to Wadboo Cuts [Wappoo Cut ?]—and then took water for Charlestown – and landed at Gadsden's Wharf – At Charlestown he was attached to the company of Captain David Crawford – He was at the siege of Charlestown, by Cornwallis and Clinton, and was taken prisoner – He was detained a prisoner ten days – and then paroled; and returned home. In this campaign he was three months and fifteen or twenty days – His recollection is that he was attached to the third Regiment of Militia, and that it was commanded by Colonel Arrington, or Harrington [probably a reference to Henry William Harrington], and that Thomas Harriss was the Major. As he returned from Charlestown he met the Virginia Troops commanded by Colonel Buford, who was attacked by the British in South Carolina on a Creek called Crooked Creek. And he thinks that a Colonel Woodruff commanded a detachment of regulars at Charlestown – and that they were marched to that City, immediately in advance of the Troops to which he belonged – After his return from Charlestown and remaining at home less than twenty days, he again volunteered his services to March to Wilmington – He joined Captain John Rodgers' Company at Charlotte – he thinks in June 1780 – John Latham was the Lieutenant in Rogers' Company, the Regiment or detachment was commanded by Colonel Robert Anderson<sup>1</sup> [last name not clear, could be "Andrews", "Anrowers" or some such]. The detachment was marched from Charlotte and crossed the Yadkin [River] at the mouth of the River called New Runway [?] and crossed Little River and also little

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<sup>1</sup> There is a note on a tight summary of the services of this veteran that states that the name of his Colonel was omitted as he could not be "verified."

Cape Fear [River] – there received the news of the taking of Cornwallis at York – This detachment of militia was commanded by General Griffith Rutherford, Colonel Anderson [?] And James White. He was at the battle of the siege of Charlestown. He fought the Tories at Rock Fish, at the Raft Swamp, and at White Marsh under Anderson [?] and White – He was in the service under the command of Captain Osburn near four months – and under the command of Captain Rodgers upwards of four months – he never got a discharge, for he was taken prisoner in his first Tour and was paroled, and he received no discharge when discharged from his 2nd Tour under Captain Rodgers.

S/ J. R. Laughlin, Clk

S/ Joh Stephenson



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

On the same day and year aforesaid appeared personally in open court Joseph Knox<sup>2</sup> and made oath that in the year 1780 & afterwards he was acquainted with John Stephenson who resided in the County of Mecklenburg North Carolina, and he recollects that said Stephenson attached himself to Captain Osburn's Company of militia as a volunteer to march to Charlestown, and did march for that place, and he saw the said John Stephenson after the capture of Charleston, and soon after his return from thence; and Stephenson showed him his parole, which the British had given him – Said Stephenson transferred from Osburn's company to that of Captain David Crawford at or near Charlestown – Stephenson was in service after his return from Charlestown under Captain Rodgers about the time that Cornwallis was taken – His first Tour of service to Charlestown was near four months – but what length of time he served under Captain Rodgers affiant does not know; but has heard it said by those who were in the same service, that it was four months or thereabouts.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

S/ J. R. Laughlin, Clk

S/ Joseph Knox, X his mark

[William McKnight and John Witherspoon gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

Interrogatories

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

Answer – I was born in the County of Mecklenburg State North Carolina 10th November 1775

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

Answer – None

Question 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?

Answer – In Mecklenburg County, and since that time I have lived in North Carolina and Tennessee

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

Answer – I volunteered

Question 5<sup>th</sup> State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you

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<sup>2</sup> I think this is very likely the same man as [Joseph Knox S4480](#).

served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Answer – I do not recollect the names of the regular Officers, except Colonel Buford who he thinks commanded the Virginia Troops, and a Colonel Woodruff – I recollect the Virginia Corps before spoken of – and the Corps under Woodruff – I volunteered in Charlotte February 1780 – was marched to Charlestown – to Moncks Corner – to Strawberry, Waboo Cut – landed at Gadsden Wharf – was at the Siege of Charlestown, and there taken prisoner – and afterwards paroled and went home – served this tour 3 months 20 days – He thinks he belonged to the 3rd Militia Regiment – In Charlotte June 1778 I again volunteered, Colonel Robert Anderson [?, this time it looks like "Anown"] commanded the Regiment – and General Rutherford the whole detachment he was marched towards York – and after crossing little Cape Fear, heard of his capture – In this Tour I served 4 months – I was a in battle against the Tories at Rock fish, at Raft Swamps, and at White Marsh under Colonel Anderson [?, this time it looks like "Arnovor"]

Question 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?

Answer – I never got a discharge

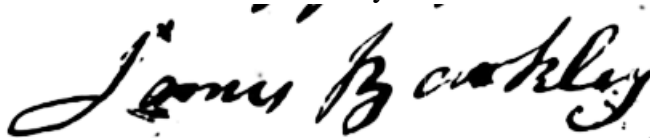
Question 7<sup>th</sup> State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

Answer – Abner Weatherly, William Doran, John L. Selton [?], Ths. S. Rucker, Tho. Powell, Saml Ramsay, James McKee, David McKnight, Morton McKnight, James McKnight, Alexander McKnight, Charles Ready Esqr.

James Barkley<sup>3</sup> makes oath that he knew John Stephenson who, has sworn to and subscribed the within declaration, a revolutionary Soldier, and he states that said Stephenson was in the service of the United States at the time he States, at Wilmington, and other places = and he thinks he saw said Stephenson at Charlotte Mecklenburg County, while in service, but he does not know how long said Stephenson served.

Sworn to and subscribed the 22nd day of August 1832 in open court

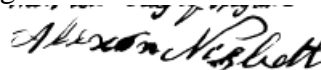
S/ James Barkley



State of Tennessee Rutherford County: County Court August Term 1832

Alexander Nesbitt, aged 70 years, in open court personally appeared, and made oath that he was acquainted with John Stephenson in the year 1780 and afterwards in the State of North Carolina and he knows that said Stephenson was in the siege of Charlestown as a Soldier of the Revolution and that he served that campaign, as he has set forth in his said declaration.

Sworn to and subscribed this 22nd day of August 1832



[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$25 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 7 1/2

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<sup>3</sup> This might be the same man as [James Barkley W44](#)

months service as a private in the North Carolina militia.]