

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of George Turnley S21545

Transcribed by Will Graves

f112NC/VA¹

rev'd 8/3/17

[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.]

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State of Tennessee, County of Jefferson } SS June Sessions 1834

On this 11th day of June 1834 personally appeared in open Court before the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions of Jefferson County and State of Tennessee, George Turnley, a resident citizen of Jefferson County and State aforesaid, aged Seventy-two 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 the Declarant George Turnley, was born on the 30th August 1762 in Bradford County, State of Virginia, of which he has a record in his family Bible. At four years of age he removed with his father to Botetourt [County], Virginia, where he lived until he was 16 years old, when he moved to Henry County, Virginia, where he lived two years and then moved to Washington County, N. C. now East Tennessee, where he lived two years; and then moved back to Botetourt County, Virginia, where he remained three years, when he removed to what was at that time Greene County, North Carolina, now Jefferson County, East Tennessee, where he now lives. At the age of eighteen years this Declarant volunteered under Captain John Fountaine [John Fontaine] in Henry County, Virginia, in the month of June 1780 date not recollected. This body of men was raised to march against the Tories in Rich Hollow, North Carolina, who were said to be embodied at that place. There were about 300 men raised in Henry County and surrounding Sections. Captains Haskins [perhaps Creed Haskins] and Wells [? Perhaps John Wells] were two of the captains. The Majors are not recollected. Colonel Patrick Henry was instrumental in getting up the expedition and giving counsel and advice in regard to our movements and was with the expedition; But he did not command the men; And this declarant believes that Col. Williams was the chief commander of the expedition, though his recollection is not very distinct as to that. The men were so much divided and detached in the Tour that the declarant had not sufficient acquaintance with the Colonel Commandant to impress his name permanently on his memory. The Lieutenant and Ensign are not recollected; nor are any of the noncommissioned officers. The place of Rendezvous was called ___ Mills – name of the owner being forgotten. From there we were marched to the Rich-Hollow in North Carolina – crossing on our route the Marrow Bone Creek and other small Streams – We were marched 8 into North Carolina. Before we reached the place where the Tories embodied, they had dispersed. We compelled Tories to take the oath of allegiance. We took two prisoners, who were after taking the oath promising obedience to the State and Congress, released. We scoured the Country on the waters of the Yadkin River and after having effectually put down and quelled the Tories who had been about to rise in that quarter, we were marched back to Henry County Virginia, where we were discharged at the Old Store on Smith's River in the month of September 1780. And this

¹ The cover sheet indicates that the veteran also served in the Creek War (1813) and the 'Old War' [War of 1812?] .

Declarant at this place received a discharge for a tour of three months from his Captain John Fountain. In the following month, November, the Declarant moved with his father to Washington County North Carolina, now East Tennessee. When we arrived at the River Watauga in Washington County, an expedition was about to march against the Middle Settlements of the Cherokees under General John Sevier. This Declarant immediately volunteered under Captain David McNabb in the month of March 1781 day not recollected. There were three companies on this expedition, about 170 men. Captain Davis commanded one of the companies. The other Captain's name is forgotten. The name of the Lieutenants' name is not recollected. The Ensign's name is not recollected, nor the names of the Sergeants. The place of Rendezvous was at the mouth of Indian Creek opposite the Greasy Cove on Chucky River [sic, Nolichucky River] in Washington County, then North Carolina. General John Sevier had took the command of us. Major John McNabb the Major. The first night we encamped on the other side of the Bald Mountain, on the other side of the Swannanoa [River]. That night we were marched on after resting a few hours to the head waters of the Hiwassee River, to a town of the Indians, which we attacked, and killed 17 Indians and took 28 prisoners. One of our men only was wounded at this place. We destroyed the town. Thence we were marched successively to several towns which we attacked and destroyed. At one of the Towns Captain Davis and Lieutenant Bond were killed. No other men were killed. We were marched back to Washington County from the first town, that we had entered, and we were discharged in the Greasy Cove our Captains. And this Declarant received a verbal discharge from his Captain David McNabb. Captain McNabb gave written discharges for a tour of three months to those men then applied to him afterwards, but this Declarant never obtained one. Though the men engaged in this expedition were paid by the State of North Carolina; But Declarant was not in a situation to attend, when a committee made by the Legislature of North Carolina, to settle with the men. The and served as a the war term of three months. In the month of August 1782 Declarant volunteered under Captain John Clark to go in an expedition against the Cherokee Towns on the Tennessee River. The Chief of which was Chuckamoguh [sic, Chickamauga?]. There were 300 men in this expedition under General John Sevier. Captain Beane was a Captain. The Lieutenants and Ensign of our company are not recollected. The declarant was appointed by General Sevier Sergeant Major and served in that Capacity in this expedition. Captains Crow and Copeland were captains in this expedition. The place of Rendezvous was Jonesborough, the County town of Washington County, from which place we were marched along the war path, which crossed the French Broad River at the War Ford and the Pigeon River at the War Ford. Thence on the Indian war path by what is now called Sevierville, the forks of Pigeon River, to Boyd's Creek, where Deponent recollects that an encampment was made. The preceding encampment not being recollected. Thence we crossed Little River and Pistol Creek, at the place where Maryville now stands. Thence, by Baker's Creek, to Chota old Ford, where we encamped on the other side of the Tennessee River. Thence we marched across Tellico River and Hiwassee River, and the Conesauga [sic, Conasauga] and Shoemaker Creeks on to the Chucka Maguh [sic, Chickamauga] Town on the Tennessee River. We found the town evacuated; we destroyed the town. We marched to Will's town, which we destroyed. Thence we marched against and destroyed several towns. We took a few prisoners and killed two Indians. We lost no man. From Will's town, we were marched back the same route, that we had gone down, and were discharged in Jonesboro in the month of November, day not recollected, in the year 1782, having served out a tour of three months. We were verbally discharged, and this Declarant never received a written discharge for either of his tours, and never applied to his captains for them. The reason for his not applying for his discharges to his captains, was that he was engaged immediately after his second tour and after his third tour in wagoning [sic] to Baltimore and was absent when the men were settled with. The Declarant served three tours of three months each during the Revolutionary War. There were no regulars where he served. He has served several tours since against the Indians for which he makes no

claim. During the late war, he served as Sergeant Major in Captain Copeland's company, in the 2nd Regiment of Tennessee Militia – employed against the Creek Indians. In this Service the Declarant was disabled and is now receiving a pension as an invalid soldier of the late war. Declarant has been informed that he is not excluded from the benefit of the act of June 7th 1832 on account of his being an Invalid Pensioner. The Deponent has no documentary evidence of his service and knows of no person living by whom he could prove all his services. Tidence Lane² is now living in Jefferson County and drawing a pension as a Revolutionary Soldier, and could prove one tour. But Declarant does not now recollect any person living by whom the others could be proved. This Declarant makes no claim to any other pension than this – besides his pension as an Invalid Soldier of the late war. If the construction of the Act of June 7th 1832 will not admit this claim, Declarant does not wish to relinquish his pension as an Invalid. Declarant declares that his name is not on the Pension roll, except as an Invalid Pensioner.

S/ Geo Turnley



Sworn to and subscribed in open Court this 11th day of June 1834. S/ Joseph Hamilton, Clerk [Andrew Gess, a clergyman, Henry Ham and James Bradford gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

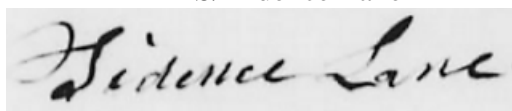
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State of Tennessee, County of Jefferson

On this 30th day of September 1834 personally appeared before Alexander McDonald a Justice of the peace in and for the County of Jefferson and State of Tennessee, Tidence Lane, a resident citizen of Jefferson County and State aforesaid, and made oath in due form of law, That he served as an officer in Captain Thomas Hardiman's company of militia, in an Expedition under General John Sevier, against the Cherokee Indians in the fall of the year 1782, and that he is now a Revolutionary Pensioner of the United States under the Act of June 7th 1832. That he is well acquainted with George Turnley, a resident citizen of Jefferson County and State of Tennessee, who applied at the June Sessions 1834 of the County Court of Jefferson County, for a pension under the Act of June 7th 1832; and who has subscribed and sworn to a declaration for that purpose, now exhibited and read to Affiant, in which the said Turnley as set forth his Service for a tour of three months, as Sergeant Major in the expedition above mentioned under General Sevier and the fall of 1782 against the Cherokee Indians. That the said George Turnley is the Identical George Turnley who volunteered for said Expedition in the month of August 1782 under Captain John Clark; That the said George Turnley was appointed Sergeant Major by General Sevier and he served in that office throughout said Expedition, the same being a tour of three months. The said Turnley being discharged with the other men in the month of November 1782 and the town of Jonesborough.

Sworn to and subscribed the 30th day of September 1834 before me.
S/ Alex. McDonald, JP

S/ Tidence Lane



[Facts in file: pp. 17-23 is Turnley's 1824 application for a pension for service in the War of 1812 as a disabled invalid. Applicant's mother's name was Mary; applicant was born August 30, 1762 in Bedford County, Va.; applicant married at the age of 28; his wife and children (none named) are referred to in this 1824 application; applicant died September 3, 1846 in Jefferson County, Tenn. and his administrator was John C. Turnley (relationship, if any, not stated). The vast majority of the papers in this file relate to the veteran's claim for an invalid's pension for service in the campaign against the Indians in 1812-13, including supporting affidavits from fellow veterans of that campaign.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$30 per annum commencing March 4, 1831, for service as a private for 6 months and as a Sergeant major for 2 months, in the Virginia and North Carolina militia.]