

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Charles Turner S21546

f15VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

1/2/12

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

[Note: The handwriting of the scribe of the following application is very challenging: use the transcript with more than the normal caution.]

State of Tennessee Rutherford County: November Term of the County Court 1832

On this 21st day of November 1832 personally appeared before Henry [illegible] Henry D. [illegible] and [illegible] Justices &c Charles Turner a resident of said County and State aforesaid aged 68 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 provision made by Act of Congress passed 7th June 1832 – He states that he was born 28th of December 1764 in the County of New Kent State of Virginia; and in the year 1780 declarant thinks in the month of February or March he entered the service of the United States as a substitute for one David Crump under Captain Bacon [perhaps either Burwell Bacon or John Bacon, both Captains in the New Kent militia] and rendezvoused at New Kent Court House; and declarant thinks that Colonel Frank Foster assumed the command of the Corps at New Kent Court House; and marched it to Williamsburg. At Williamsburg volunteers were called for to march to Hampton the British fleet having just arrived off our coast and he thinks under Lord Cochrane – Declarant offered his services as a volunteer, and was accepted and attached to the company commanded by Captain John Quarles and Lieutenant Nathan Fox [?]. And declarant states that one Major Kirkpatrick or Kilpatrick took command of the Corps – the command left Williamsburg and marched to Little York, and from there to the halfway house, and then to Hampton Town – in the march and while on duty declarant became detached from the [several indecipherable words] long declarant was in service in this Campaign, he cannot speak with certainty, but believes two months or upwards. He was discharged at Hampton and returned home. He recollects that on his return at the Magazine in Williamsburg he deposited his musket. About the first of January 1781 in the County of New Kent declarant was drafted, and again joined the company commanded by Captain John Bacon, and rendezvoused at Holt's Forge or New Kent Court house, he cannot say which, under Colonel \_\_Dabney [probably Lieutenant Colonel Charles Dabney]. The corps was marched and counter marched up and down the Chickahominy River from Sones Bridge [Jones Bridge?] – and the long Bridges – while there the enemy surprised the American Troops stationed at Charles City Court house; and the Corps under the command of Colonel Dabney was marched to Williamsburg, and from there to York, and from York to Elizabeth County and near the Hampton roads & went into winter quarters – There were two other companies of militia encamped there at the same time, one under the command of Captain Waldegrave Clopton and the other commanded by Captain Robert Turner – he recollects an occurrence here that made a lasting impression on his memory relative to Captain Clopton – Clopton refused to serve stating that he had served his full time and deserted the encampment, taking with him the greater part or all his

company – and fled up the Country – when the severity of the winter had subsided, the encampments was broken up and the Corps returned to York at which place declarant was discharged by his Captain Bacon – in this campaign he thinks he served a full Tour of ~~three months~~ duty –

In the month of April or May 1781, declarant joined the service as a substitute; He cannot recollect his name; but he well recollects that the man for whom he became a substitute was from Southampton County – he rendezvoused at the long Bridges under the command of Major Ragsdale as well as he recollects, and was then marched to the Morbin Hills [Malvern Hills] Charles City County – declarant thinks that General Wayne had a command of regulars there at that time. At the Morbin Hills declarant was present and saw a soldier belonging to the regular Troops hung for some crime alleged to him, and declarant thinks it was rape, from the Morbin Hills the Corps was marched to Wilton ten miles below Richmond; and while encamped there the enemy had possession of Petersburg; at which time they were attacked by General Arnold [Benedict Arnold]. When news reached the commanding officers of the battle at Petersburg [April 25 1781], he with the command crossed James River into Chesterfield County, and advanced own Petersburg; when news arrived of Arnold's retreat, and the Corps retrograded; recrossed the River and marched to Richmond. Whilst encamped at Richmond a storm of great volume passed over the City, penetrating houses and one man was killed by the falling of timbers. At this place declarant was discharged, after a service of three or four weeks, but as to what length of time he will not purport to speak positively. In Richmond a short time after his discharge in the month of May or June 1781 declarant as a substitute again entered the service; he does not now recollect the name of the person for whom he substituted but he believes his name was Bryant, though he knows that he was from Henrico County – and declarant joined the Corps commanded by Major Ragsdale; but he cannot with certainty recollect what Colonel commanded – the declarant knows it must have been either Dabney, Ennis, Nelson [ink blot obliterates several words] for declarant had in some parts of his service been under the command of all the Gentlemen above named. The Corps retreated from the place of rendezvous before the enemy to Henrico County, Ground Squirrel meeting house – and at this point declarant was discharged after a Tour of two or three months as well as he can recollect, and returned home to New Kent. In June 1781 after Cornwallis had passed through New Kent, declarant was drafted, and joined the company of Captain Bacon – and rendezvoused at new Kent Court House. From New Kent the command was under Colonel John Taylor, and Ennis and Major Park Goodall and marched into James City County near the Hickory Neck Church; and while encamped there the battle was fought at Hot water [June 26, 1781] by the troops under the command of General Wayne. Declarant was in hearing of the battle while encamped at Hickory Neck Church. The sick and wounded passed by Taylor's encampment to Dorchester Old [several indecipherable words] up as a Hospital. After the battle at Hot Water the Court of which declarant was attached was ordered across York River at the Brick House or Dudley's ferry and marched into Gloucester County, and camped near Whitney's Mills. At this point the command was divided into two detachments, and the Court of which declarant was attached marched to Gloucester Court house; and from there to Abingdon Church, and then to Sowels to the lower part of Gloucester County, and from this point the Corps returned to Whitney's Mills and declarant was there discharged in Gloucester County In the last of September or first of October 1781 – in this campaign declarant was on constant duty from the month of June until discharged as above stated – And although from the length of time since he performed the services above set forth, and from having no documents in his possession to assist his memory, declarant well recollects that he performed full

Tours of duty, and he is persuaded that the [indecipherable word] duty he has here related; and that too without the aid of history will demonstrate to the war Department having charge of this subject, that what declarant has stated will be found corroborated by the history of those times. Declarant will here state a matter which occurred at Wilton while he was encamped there, which he has omitted to state in its proper place – A soldier belonging to the regular Army was auctioning off some Negroes, which it was said had been taken from the British, and ordered to be sold – The auctioneer from some remark gave offense to Colonel Daniel Duvall who was present, and he drew his sword and struck the soldier down and it was thought had killed him. After declarant was discharged, him and five others set out to join the Army under the immediate command of General Washington, and on declarant's arrival at head quarters Lord Cornwallis had been captured and declarant returned home – while in service declarant recollects of seeing General Lafayette, and Colonel Duvall of the regular Troop; but he does not know the names or description of Corps or regiments which they commanded – when declarant first joined the service he thinks General Nelson commanded the Militia in that section of Virginia, and that the Marquis Lafayette commanded the regulars – Declarant [ink blot obliterates some text] recollects that he never received a written discharge except in one instance; if he did he has lost them, and he has no documents in his possession which will prove any of the service he has rendered – nor does he know of no person now living by whom he can prove his said services. Declarant would state that he has no record of his age in this State, but there is a record of his age in the State of Virginia if not destroyed – Declarant would state that when he first entered the service it was Lord Cochrane that commanded the British – he thinks –

[He] Hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension except the present, and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any State.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

S/ J. R. Laughlin, Clk

S/ Chs Turner



[John Bradley<sup>1</sup> gave testimony that he was a soldier at Morbin Hills in 1781 and so the soldiers there as stated by Turner.]

[David Clark, a clergyman, Thomas P. Blankenship gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$26.66 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for eight months in the Virginia militia.]

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<sup>1</sup> [John Bradley S1792](#)