

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Reuben Howell S2327

f14VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

5/5/14

[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.]

The State of Ohio Columbiana County SS

On this fifteenth day of August in the year of our Lord 1832, personally appeared in open Court before the Judges of the Court of said County of Columbiana now sitting, Reuben Howell a resident of Salem Township County and State aforesaid, aged seventy years the 26th February last past, 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 stated – I was born near Trenton in the State of New Jersey on the 26th day of February 1762; at the age of about 15 months my father moved to Loudoun County State of Virginia. On the latter part of August or the first day of September 1780, I volunteered my services as a soldier for six months. My Captain was Adam Vinsel [Adam Vincell], Lieutenant Thomas Thomas and myself first Sergeant, Colonel Andrew Russell; we rendezvoused at Leesburg; from thence we marched to Fredericksburg, from there to Richmond, from thence to Petersburg; at which place we received intelligence, that the British had landed at Suffolk we immediately took up the line of march for the latter place by Cabbin Points [Cabin Point], Scott's Mills, at which place we remained for 3 or 4 weeks, there we received orders to march back to Petersburg – after having arrived home, we were ordered on parade by Baron Steuben to be reviewed and after having reviewed us, he came to the officers of Loudoun County, and inquired of them how long their men had volunteered, how long the men under them had to serve yet – he (Steuben) was informed by our officers who stated about two months; Steuben observed that it would not quit costs to march us to Hillsborough; (the place the troops were most wanted at that time) inasmuch as our services were pretty well expired. Whereupon he (Steuben) ordered our officers to discharge us – which they accordingly did – We arrived at home one or two days before Christmas in the same year. He was discharged sometime before my term of service had expired, though I received pay for six months, Steuben was our commander.

On the latter part of August 1781, I was classed in the militia and called into immediate service; We rendezvoused at Lucas's Tavern 12 miles below Leesburg – my Captain at this time was John Lucket [John Lockett], Lieutenant __ DeBell [William Debell], Ensign Nicholas Miner [Nicholas Minor?], Major Rucker [perhaps Ephraim Rucker], Colonel __ West [perhaps Major George West]. From the Tavern aforesaid we marched to Fredericksburg, from thence to Hanover Court house, here we received orders to march immediately for Gloucester, here after arriving at Gloucester, we encamped with the French troops as well as some regulars – We remained here until Lord Cornwallis surrendered to General Washington [October 19, 1781] –

Cornwallis was blockaded between York Town and Gloucester – And after Cornwallis having surrendered we took charge of the prisoners; who were commanded by one Colonel __ West – we marched them (Prisoners) to Noland's Ferry on the Potomac [River], at which place we were discharged. I served some little time more than 3 months – General __ Muhlenburgh [Peter Muhlenberg] was our commander when at Gloucester.

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/ Reuben Howell



[John Thompson and William D Lepper gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

Questions by the Court

1st Where and in what year were you born?

Answer. I was born near Trenton New Jersey. I was born on the 26 February 1762.

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

Answer. I had until a few years ago, which I drew off my mother's Bible (which I at this time well remember) but lost it about 18 or 19 years since –

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

Answer. In Loudoun County State of Virginia, I lived in said County until 1810, since that time I have lived in Columbiana County Ohio – and I now live in Salem Township County and State aforesaid –

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. I volunteered my services, the 2nd time I was called or drafted for 3 months –

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. Captains Adam Vinsil, __ Lucket, Colonels __ Russell and Colonel West – Major Rucker – General Muhlenberg and Baron Steuben. I was [sic, have] no recollection of any Continental or Militia Regiments – and the general circumstances of my services are such as detailed in my declaration.

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 received two discharges one from Captain Adam Vinsil & second from Captain Lucket, all of which I have lost.

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 – John Thompson member of Congress, Wm D. Lepper, Nathaniel McCracken, John Crane

State of Ohio Columbiana County: SS

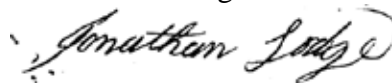
On this 19th day of February A.D. 1833 came personally before me, John Burns and acting Justice of the Peace in and for said County, Jonathan Lodge, with whom I am well

acquainted, and whom I know to be a person worthy of credit, and on oath makes the following statement:

The said Deponent says that during the Revolutionary War, he was well acquainted with Reuben Howell, the aforesaid Applicant, who, as well as himself, then resided in Loudoun County Virginia: and has been acquainted with him since the Revolution in said Loudoun County, Virginia – and that for the last twenty years they have both resided within a few miles of each other in Columbiana County, Ohio, aforesaid; and that from his knowledge of the good character for truth and veracity of the said applicant, the general reputation in the neighborhood that the said applicant was a soldier in the Revolution, as well as from the after named circumstance, of this deponent's actual knowledge of his having gone out as a Soldier he has no doubt of the truth of the said Applicant's statements about his service as they are contained in his Declaration &c. This deponent well remembers that said Applicant left his house as a soldier of the Revolution and went into of the United States either in one or two campaigns: But this deponent from the great lapse of time, old age, and loss of memory, cannot say at what time or times he entered the service, or quit the same: nor can he say whether he was drafted, enlisted or served as a volunteer. – He knows however that the company officers named by said Howell went out into service, and he thinks the said applicant went under them but of this he cannot say positively.

And further this deponent saith not.

S/ Jonathan Lodge

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jonathan Lodge". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.

[Attested February 19, 1833]

With a view to obviate the Brief objections &c made by the War Department to the Pension claim of Reuben Howell he makes the following Supplemental Declaration:

The said Reuben, on oath states that he served in both tours named in his annexed original declaration as second Sergeant and that the statement contained in the original Declaration of his having served as first Sergeant, was put there by mistake of the writer of his declaration; and not observed by him till returned: that he is confident of having served as stated in his declaration, that is during the first tour in which he volunteered for six months, he knows he served at least four months, and until discharged as stated in the declaration; and during the second tour that he served more than three months as stated in said Declaration: but that "by reason of old age, and consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his services; but that according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following grades: for four months, I served as a volunteer second Sergeant and for three other months I served as a drafted second Sergeant; and for such service I claim a pension."

Said applicant states further (in answer to where he 11th & 12th) that he was not and is not intimately acquainted with any Clergyman in his neighborhood, who could testify about the general belief in the neighborhood of his revolutionary services, and that for this reason the clergyman's affidavit was omitted, but the applicant states on oath that they witnesses to traditionary evidence, R and for many years had good opportunity of being informed as to the matters by them in their affidavit set forth; their residence, for many years having been in the same County with the said applicant. One of them however is General John Thompson, now a member of Congress.

The said Applicant knows of no other evidence of a higher nature now in his power, except the testimony of Jonathan Lodge, herewith intended to be remitted.

Said applicant refers the Department of War to the certificate of the court as to the credibility of the witnesses to the original declaration, to answer the objection to Query 14.

S/ Reuben Howell

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$35 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a Sergeant for 7 months in the Virginia militia.]