

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of John Charlton S2425

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 20 Dec 2010.

State of Tennessee } SS

Davidson County }

On this 18 day of April A.D. 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of the Court of Pleas and quarter sessions now sitting John Charlton a resident of the County & State aforesaid aged 72 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.

that he was born in the County of Cumberland and State of Virginia on the 12 day of April 1761 and entered into the service of the United States sometime in the year 1781. then twenty years of age, having been drafted as one of the militiamen. the place of rendezvous was at Moore's Old tavern in Prince Edward County. Applicants Captain was Capt. Ballou [sic: Charles Ballow]. St. George Tucker was the Major, & Beverly Randolph Colonel. We marched from the place of rendezvous to meet General Greene in North Carolina, who was fleeing before Lord Cornwallis, the commander of the British Army. We met Gen'l. Greene at High rock ford in North Carolina [present Rockingham County, 3-5 or 11 Mar 1781], and with this re-enforcement Gen'l. Greene was enabled to turn upon his pursuer, and in return compel him to retreat. Cornwallis was overtaken at Guildford Courthouse in North Carolina, and after preparation on both sides, a loud & bloody battle ensued. [See note below.] Gen'l. Greene's army had the better of the fight, and had the militia of North Carolina stood their stations, we should not have been compelled, as we were, to retreat. After progressing some ten or twelve miles from the battle ground to some old iron-works called Troublesome Iron works Gen'l. Greene halted, & after he had collected together all the dispersed parties, he returned, and pursued Cornwallis several days, to Ramseys mill on Deep river, where Applicant together with the whole Brigade commanded by Gen'l [Robert] Lawson was discharged. He, applicant enlisted for two months and served a few days longer than that time. He received from Captain Ballou a discharge, but this with all his other discharges, were afterwards, when he was about to remove to this County, burnt by himself, believing they would never benefit him any by preserving them. The second time of his enlistment was in a short time from the time when he was disbanded as has been related. He was drafted again convened at Prince Edward Courthouse, was placed under Capt. Gutrey [probably Alexander Guttery], Major Overstreet, Col. Randolph & Gen'l. Lawson - marched from thence to meet Gen'l. Lafayette, but was delayed from doing so for sometime in consequence of Gen'l. Tarlton's [sic: Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton's] being situated between Lawsons troops (in which applicant was) and those of Lafayette. We however accomplished our purpose at last and joined Gen'l. Lafayette at Pruith's[?] tavern near Fredericksburgh [sic: Fredericksburg; about 21 Apr 1781], and from thence crossed over Rappadan [sic: Rapidan] river at the Raccoon ford, and thence marched down through the neighborhood of Williamsburg to Old Jamestown, where our Regiment under Col Randolph was discharged. Applicant enlisted for two months & served something over that time by a few days. He received a written discharge from his Captain and it was burnt as already stated. Upon receiving his discharge, which was in the month of June, as well as his recollection serves him, he had not been at home not more than a month when he was drafted a third time. He went to Cumberland Courthouse where the militia were directed to assemble, and after they had assembled marched off to Little York under Capt. Rich'd. Allen. After he got there & had joined the Regular Continental Army under Gen'l. Washington, they were employed for several days in the works which afterwards compelled the British General, Cornwallis, to surrender himself a prisoner [19 Oct 1781]. Here he join Gen'l. Washington, Gen'l. Lafayette &c. He also saw the English General after he became a prisoner in our hands. He particularly remembers a little Frenchman, (who by the legs was much of a gentleman) who acted as major over us

after we got to the Regular Army at Little York – his name was Looman (in English) [sic: Christian Charles de Klauman, Danish] he used frequently to declare that his soldiers did not care anything about him, but always said that he loved them – but he was mistaken, for his soldiers were sincerely attached to him. He had many oddities in his conduct & language – such for instance as in attempting to say battalion, he would with much difficulty get out battalia. all of which were sources of amusement to his soldiers. He enlisted this tour for two months, & served the whole of the time, & received a discharge from Capt. Allen. After Cornwallis surrendered, his applicant's Company under Capt. Allen was dispatched with the prisoners to Winchester in Virginia – here we were dismissed. He served in the whole something like seven months.

Applicant is unable to procure any evidence of his service. He knows of but one person living who can testify to his service, and he is unable to procure his aid by reason of the uncertainty of his residence. he went to Rutherford County where he understood that person was living, but he had removed to Bedford County. He (the witness) is now living in Bedford County, and applicant, old & infirm as he is, will exert himself to procure his statement, and if he is so fortunate will forward it to the proper Officers. He, applicant, is known to the Hon'ble Felix Gumby, the Hon'ble Jon. Bell to William Lytle, Esq'r. Robert C. Foster, Esquire, & many others. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, & declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of any State Agency.

[signed] John Charlton

NOTE: Events leading up to the Battle of Guilford Courthouse NC on 15 Mar 1781 are not correctly represented. Gen. Nathanael Greene escaped Cornwallis by crossing the Dan River just ahead of him on 14 Feb. For the next month the two armies maneuvered and skirmished until Greene arrived at Guilford Courthouse and waited for Cornwallis to attack.