

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of John Garnett S31055

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

[Punctuation edited.]

State of Kentucky } Sct.

Owen County }

On this 1st day of October [1832] personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of the Owen County Court now sitting John Garnett a resident of said County & State towit said County of Owen and State of Kentucky aged Eighty two years on the 17th day of last march 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 after stated towit.

That he entered the service of the United States in the State of Virginia in King & Queen county in the year 1776 in the Summer of that year he thinks, after Harvest (but the particular month he cannot from lapse of time certainly recollect) as a drafted militia man under the Command of John Pollard his Capt. He states that he had but lately removed to that neighborhood from Caroline County in said state was a stranger and does not recollect who acted as Lieutenant of said Company. He states he marched with said Company from his neighborhood to Williamsburg a distance of Thirty five miles from King & Queen Courthouse and above sixty miles from where he lived. His Company was then attached to a Regiment Commanded by Col. Hickman he thinks his name was John [John Hickman]. The Regiment then marched to Little York after having detained several weeks at Williamsburg. We remained at Little York watching the movements of the British and particularly of Lord Dunmore who had been Governor of Virginia but who had fled to the British [8 Jun 1775]. After a period of nearly two months (for which period we had been drafted) we were discharged and those of us who had entered the service in King & Queen County returned with our Capt to said County having as before stated served nearly three months – In 1777 another draft of Militia Men having taken place in King and Queen he was drafted but his wife being in a situation which forbid his leaving home he hired a substitute. This tour was also for three months. In the year that Cornwallis was taken [on 19 Oct 1781] or the year before he does not recollect certainly which being still a resident of King and Queen County another draft of Militia was made & in obedience thereto he again went into the service of the country He was one of a company commanded by Henry Lumpkin (Capt) and with sundry other Companies commanded by col. Thomas Coleman he with his Company marched to Todds Bridge upon the Mattopony River [sic: Mattaponi River, 4 mi N of present Aylett] and there being informed that the British Cavalry commanded by Col Tarlton [sic: Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton, summer 1781] were marching onward towards them they destroyed the Bridige in part so as to render it impossible for Horses. They then a very heavy rain coming on encamped in sundry tobacco warehouses near s'd. Bride and about two hours after night broke up the encampment and marched across the Country by byways to Williamsburg commanded only by our Capts Col Coleman & Col. Lyne who served under him having gone home. From Williamsburg we went on to Little York and From little York having remained there a few days we went on toward Norfolk under the command of Col. Hickman before named with an expectation of meeting with the British troops commanded by Colo Tarlton. about half way (or so) between little York and Norfolk we were paraded and divided into two divisions and directed to occupy the thickets of pine which were very abundant on each side of the road having been informed by a Spy sent ahead that the Cavalry were coming. We were thus stationed and directed to shoot the men as they rode up but not to shoot the horses as we would thereby endanger each other. Having remained there some time ready for action & the Cavalry not approaching we returned to Little York. We understood that the British Cavalry after approaching pretty near us perhaps within half mile returned or retreated. Upon this rout we had no provisions for two days – having remained upon this Tour of Duty for about the period of three months that being the time for which we were drafted we were

put on board sloops or some small craft and taken up York River and landed in King & Queen County thence we marched home. – Some time thereafter another draft took place upon intelligence being received that Cornwallis with a large detachment of the British Army had entered Virginia. He states that he was then drafted for another tour of three months that again under the command of Capt Lumpkin he marched to Port Royal in Company with other militia companies & some of them from the adjoining County of Essex. We crossed the River on which Port Royal stands then [and still] called the Rappahannock and went upon the Northern Side, to Falmouth and encamped a few miles from Falmouth in an old field. I recollect that General [Anthony] Wayne's regular soldiers encamped in the same field with us but shortly left us. We returned to Falmouth crossed the river and marched through part of Spotsylvania and Orange into Culpepper [sic: Culpeper]. In Culpepper we were directed to go home and to be in readiness at a moments warning. In a very few days we were again called out under the Command of Capt Lumpkin and marched on to Gloster [sic: Gloucester] Church old fields. I think Joseph Gatewood was our ensign. We remained in encampment a few days & in Gloster old fields When Col. Sampson Mathews who was a regular officer [sic: Sampson Mathews of the Augusta County Militia] directed Gatewood to take another man with him & to procure a Cart or Waggon & to press or seize any rum or Brandy he could find. Gatewood took me out of our Company to go with him. We went home on foot being about three days travel and Gatewood had a strong cart and I had some good horses. We put three of my horses to his Cart and he collected & seized about one hundred gallons of liquor & moved on towards Gloster. He was on horseback & I drove the cart. We brought a second load. I remained in the Camp attached to the Baggage and with the team that I brought from home and so continued till the siege of York was terminated and Cornwallis surrendered. After the Siege I came, in company with the British prisoners and the baggage to Caroline County & was there discharged. The time in service since I was last drafted I do not recollect but I am of opinion it was about three months – upon this tour up from little York I saw Col. Tarlton the British Col with other British officers under the care of the American officers and among the latter was Capt George Taylor and Major Simon Hancock both of whom are now dead. Taylor died in Fayette County near Lexington Ky and Hancock died in Henry County near New Castle in same state

He states that he has no documentary evidence of his services and that if he ever received any written discharges that he has lost them He does not know of any person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service.

He here relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares his name is not upon the pension roll of the agency of any state

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year afs'd. John Garnett

Questions put by the Court

1 Where and in what year were you born

Ans'r. I was born in the State of Virginia in Essex county on the 17th day of March 1750.

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

Ans'r. I had a record of my age but I have lost it

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

Ans I was living in King & Queen County Va within 15 miles of Rappahannock river when I was called into service. I continued to live in that County & State till the fall of 1784 I then moved to the District of Kentucky & settled in Lincoln County from thence I moved to Fayette thence to Woodford thence to Scott thence to Gallatin County since which time Owen County has been formed including the place I live on all in the State of Kentucky I moved to my present residence about twenty Six years since

4 How were you called into service were you drafted or did you volunteer or were you a substitute and if a substitute for whom

Ans'r. I was drafted into service each time.

5 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. Ans'r. I recollect the Troops under Genl. Wayne as before detailed and it was stated that he was with them but I do not now recollect that I saw him. I recollect Col. John Hickman. I saw him before that time at my fathers. I saw Col. Sampson Matthews and many other American officers in his company whose names I once knew but I have forgotten them. I recollect the march to Todds Bridge and our breaking up the same so as to prevent Tarltons horse from passing on it. I recollect the camping in the Tobacco warehouses and being almost drowned in the rain after we started in the night to go to Williamsburg We struck the road about two miles before we got to town and got there I think about the middle of the day. I recollect the march to Gloster old Church fields and that Col Sampson Matthews sent Gatewood who I think was our lieutenant & myself selected by Gatewood after the rum and Brandy. I had like to have killed my horses on those trips. Col. Matthews was much of a drinking man and a very rude rough man. I understood that he hug [hung] up one John Miles by the neck till he was nearly dead upon suspicion of his having stolen some of the Col's. clothes. That Miles afterward sued him and got a very heavy Judgment against him

6 Did you ever receive a discharge from the service and if so by whom was it given and what has become of it

Ans'r. I do not think I ever received a discharge and if I did it is long since lost.

7 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 of your services as a Soldier of the Revolution.

Ans'r. I am known to Tobias Willhoite, Jos. Jones, John McGivney & Harrison Munday

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year afs'd.

John Garnett

State of Kentucky } Sct
Owen County }

Be it known that on this 11th day of February 1834 personally appeared before Jacob H. Smith a Justice of the Peace in and for Owen County Kentucky and one of the Justices of the Owen county Court John Garnett a resident of the said County and State aged 83 years and upwards who being first duly sworn according to law doth upon 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; that is to say being a resident of King and Queen County in the State of Virginia he did on the [blank] day of July 1776 as well as he remembers enter the service of the United States as drafted militia man and private soldier upon a tour of three months in the Company of Captain John Pollard – that he rendezvoused with his company at the usual neighbourhood muster ground and was marched with the company by his said Captain to Williamsburg Va. and was there attached to a regiment under the command of Colo. Hickman – that he was kept stationed at Williamsburg for several weeks and was then marched with the regimen to little York where he was kept stationed for the defence of the place & protection of the country during the whole of the residue of his tour and at the termination thereof having fully and faithfully served out the same he was discharged and returned home. He further states and declares that in the month of August in the year 1780 as well as he now remembers he again entered the service of the United States as a drafted militia man and private soldier in the company of Capt Henry Lumpkin – that he was still a resident of King and Queen county Virginia and he rendezvoused with his company at the Courthouse in said County where several other companies at the same time rendezvoused and he there was taken command of by Colo. Thos. Coleman and was marched together with all the companies under the command of the said Colo. to Todds Bridge on the Mattapony river where they remained some days and receiving intelligence that the British Cavalry under Col Tarlton were marching in that direction in superior numbers the Bridge was taken up by the order of the Col and the men retreated to Williamsburg va. – from Williamsburg he was marched to Little York and from thence in the direction of Norfolk Va – he states that the country about this time was much distressed and harrassed by the incursions of the enemy and that the efforts of the militia were directed to its protection. He states

that this tour of duty was also for three months and after having fully and faithfully served out the same he was discharged and returned home.

He further states and declares that in the month of July in the year 1781 as well as he remembers he again entered the service of the United States as a private soldier and drafted militia man upon a tour of three months in the Company of Captain Lumpkin the same Capt who had the command of him upon his last tour. He states that he rendezvoused with his company at the Courthouse in King & Queen County where he still lived and that several other militia companies rendezvoused at the same place at the same time and all came under the command of Colo. [blank] – that he was marched from his said place of Rendezvous to Port Royal on the Rappahannock river and from thence across the river to Falmouth and from thence back again across the river. from thence we were marched through Spottsylvania county and Orange County into Culpepper county Va. He states that he was afterwards marched down to Gloucester old fields and the siege of York and Gloster commenced and continued until the surrender of the British Army under Cornwallis. He states that after the surrender of the British he was marched to Caroline County va and his term of service having expired and he having fully and faithfully served out the same he was discharged and returned home

He states that he has no documentary evidence and that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service

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 & year aforesaid

John hisXmark Garnett

Interrogatories put to the above named applicant by the said Justice

1st Where and in what year were you born?

Answer I was born according to my information in Essex County va. on the 17th March 1850

2^d. Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

Answer I have none at this time having lost it.

3^d. Where were you living when called into service where have you lived since the revolutionary war and where do you now live?

Answer. I lived in King and Queen county Va. when I entered the service upon each of my tours where I continued to live till the fall of 1784 and I then moved to Kentucky and settled in Lincoln County – from thence I moved to Fayette thence to Woodford, thence to Scott thence to Gallatin County since which time Owen County has been formed and includes the place on which I settled when I moved to Gallatin so that my present residence is in Owen County Ky

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 was drafted.

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. I recollect Col. Matthews – Gen'l. Washington, & Lafayette and Gen'l. Wayne. I recollect Cols Hickman & Lyne who were militia officers. Upon my first tour I was at Williamsburg and Little York.

Upon my second tour I was first marched to Todds Bridge which we took up to prevent Tarltons horsemen from crossing and we then went to Williamsburg and little york. Upon my third tour I was marched first marched to Port Royal and finally to Gloucester old filed and assisted in the Capture of the British army under Cornwallis. My tours were for 3 months each all of which I served out fully and faithfully.

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 do not think I ever received a written discharge

7th. State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighbourhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief of your services as a soldier of the Revolution

Answer I will name Sherwood Maddox & Will. Noel

John hisXmark Garnett