

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of John Laurence S31805

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Georgia }

Putnam County }

On this the thirtieth day of October 1832 personally appeared before me Irby Hudson a Justice of the Inferior Court of Putnam County the same being a Court of record. John Lawrence born 28 December 1762 having a record of his age in his possession who first being duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of an act of Congress passed 7 June 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers & served as herein stated

The first tour of duty was served under William Chambers as Captain Sharp [sic: Joseph Sharpe] as Major, & he thinks the Colonel was named [John] Collier. he believes that the time of entering the service was in the month of June 1780 & his discharge was dated 2<sup>nd</sup> of December thereafter, & was signed by Joseph Johnson at Salisbury, who was a regular officer. between the time of entering the service & quitting it he was transferred from a militia's to regular officer's command This discharge is now lost. He resided in Wake County North Carolina at the time of entering the service. He entered it as a substitute for his brother Abraham Laurence who was drafted. From Wake county Court House, where the county troops were assembled, they marched to Hillsborough. then they met several other county regiments, when Genl [John] Butler took command of the troops from North Carolina. From Hillsborough they marched crossing Haw river at Butler's ford - & Deep river at Buffaloe's ford [Buffalo Ford in Randolph County] - to Rudley's mills [sic: Rugeley's Mill] in So. Carolina remained there several days, until the battle [Battle of Camden, 16 Aug 1780] took place near the gum swamp, six miles below the mills. Genl [Horatio] Gates was then in command, & was there defeated General De Kalb was there killed. After this defeat the troops were scattered, the company to which he was attached, collected at Salisbury & remained there until their discharge

In the second tour, he was drafted upon his return home, after reaching it, he remained a few days to recruit himself & overtook the company to which he was attached at Salisbury sometime in the month of January 1781 — Dead[?] Jones was the Captain commanding the company. he does not recollect the major's or Colonel's name. from Salisbury they marched to Catawba river in Mecklenburg county & were at a small garrison at the time when Genl Davidson was killed [William Lee Davidson, Skirmish at Cowan's Ford, 1 Feb 1781], three miles above the battle ground. after the battle the troops retreated to the widow Torrance's 7 miles [Torrance's Tavern in present Iredell County, same day] the British pursued & dispersed them completely, some returned home, others were collected in a small body below Yadkin river; the troops were so completely routed that some followed on after the British to the river. The petitioner with two or three others, attempted to join their company, but were prevented by the British who marched in their front, & in the rear of their company. Gen' [Nathanael] Greene had by this time obtained the command of some of the forces. The company was reassembled at Wake Court House & marched to High rock ford on Haw river [present Rockingham County] & were there discharged. Colo Thos Farmer signing the discharge. The time of service was three months.

In the third tour, He was again assembled to Wake Court House - from thence he marched to the Eutaw Springs [SC] & was in that battle [8 Sep 1781]. They marched from the Court House in June, was drafted, & commanded by Martin Lane Capt, Jno Humphries Major, & Thos Farmer Colonel. The first General officer who commanded him, as he now recollects was Green. He recollects to have seen Colonel De Malmeday [sic: Marquis Francis de Malmedy] there; from thence they marched to Camden, thence to Waxaw [sic: Waxhaws Settlement in present Lancaster County SC] where they delivered the prisoners, more than 300, to Genl [Francis] Locke. from thence he marched down to the High Hills of Santee, Our Major was authorized to march us from thence to Hillsborough & then discharge us, but through his kindness I received my discharge at the Yadkin River at the old trading foard [Trading Ford]. It was dated some time in November. All of his discharges are lost—

He has no acquaintance with any clergy man who could furnish the necessary testimony, being diseased & unable to go about - & having recently moved to this State — He has no documentary evidence by which he can prove his services. he furnishes the affidavit of James Laurence, to prove all that he believes he can prove by any living witness. 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 the agency of any State. [signed] John Laurence

I James Lawrence do hereby Certify that I am well acquainted with John Lawrence who has signed the foregoing declaration. That I knew him during the Revolutionary War, & then heard that he served in the war. I frequently saw him going to & returning from the army as he has stated. I did not see him in the service, being too young to be with the troops. He was always accoutered as a soldier when I saw him, & he was always spoken of as one who served in the war. he has ever since been reputed & believed to be a Revolutionary soldier, & I never heard it doubted for a moment. I lived within six miles of him during the war in Wake county North Carolina he is reputed in the neighbourhood where he has resided to have been a soldier in the war - & I concur in that opinion - & believe him to be about seventy years old. [signed] Jas. Laurence

Georgia Putnam County —

Amendatory affidavit of John Laurence to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress of 7 June 1832

John Laurence being sworn saith that the time he served the first tour of duty in the Revolutionary War, was from 7 July to 2 December 1780 making four months & twenty five days. his Colonel as he has before stated was Collier. When the army marched to Salisbury from Bell's Mills, he remained under the command of Capt Bledsoe, who took care of the sick. In the second tour Thos Farmer was Colonel & Murphy was Major. His time of service was three months In the last tour was three months. Farmer was Colonel & Humphries Major. Time of service three months. He furnishes the affidavits of William & Abraham Laurence to supply the defects of his memory, which is frail & weak. [signed, 23 May 1833] John Laurence

State of North Carolina } SS  
Granville County }

I Abraham Lawrence do swear that before Gates defeat in the south during the Revolutionary War I drawed to go in the Militia which was ordered to the south on a three months Tour and that I hired John Lawrence then he & I lived in the County of Wake in this state but he now lives in the County of Putnam County in the State of Georgia to go in my place & he went accordingly. While he was in the service I visited him at Bells Mill in Randolph County in this state & saw him there in the service under Capt Lewis Bledsoe. After that he went two Tours more but I do not recollect seeing him after he left home but it was never doubted as far as I know but that he served his full time of three months Tour each  
sworn to before us this 12<sup>th</sup> January 1833 [signed] Abraham Laurence

I William Lawrence sen'r. do swear that when John Lawrence now of Putnam County & State of Georgia went as substitute for Abraham Lawrence as stated in the above affidavit which I believe was the 7<sup>th</sup> July just before Gates defeat I went with him to Raleigh where all the drafted militia for the County of Wake (where we all then lived) were ordered to assemble. There we joined the company. I saw him no more till after Gates defeat when he returned home. After that I went with him to Raleigh where the company assembled again as they were all scattered in the defeat. he marched of from there & I saw him no more till he returned home about Christmass after having completed his tour of service. About the time he returned home there was a new draft & he was drafted to go himself. He went in his own place & went as a substitute of Frederick Holden. we march early in the next year & joined the Army at Salisbury & the next day the Army consisting of about 300 militia started to Charlotte but the first night we were ordered to retreat & we went to Beattys Ford [Beattie's Ford]. We remained at Beattys Ford till the British came near us & began to fire across the River at us; we then retreated to Widdow Torrence's where we were

attacked by the British Dragoons & scatterd After that we went home but soon after the militia were ordered to reassemble & said John Lawrence & myself joined our Company again & served out the [one or two illegible words] our times & were discharged at High Rock on Haw River just before the Battle at Guilford old C House came on [15 Mar 1781].

Some time in the following summer s'd. John Lawrence & myself were both drafted to go another three months tour I hired a substitute who went with s'd John Lawrence and they were as I always understood in the Battle at Eutaw Springs. They returned home after the expiration of the Term & I never heard it doubted but that he served out his full time though I cannot say as to my personal knowledge. The said John Lawrence is my brother & so is Abraham Lawrence the foregoing affiant. John moved to the County of Guilford in this state about thirty years ago & from there to Georgia eight or ten years ago & settled in Putnam County where he now lives as I know from his letters & other sources [signed, 12 Jan 1833] William Laurence Ser