

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of John Carson S32167

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Indiana } In the Rush Circuit Court at the Term of April A.D. 1833  
Rush County }

On this tenth day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty three personally appeared in open Court before the Honorable Charles H. Lest president Judge of the sixth Judicial Circuit and Montgomery McCall and John Gregg Esquires his associates now sitting in and for the said County of Rush John Carson of Noble Township in said County of Rush aged seventy two 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 on the third day of May in the year 1761 but leaving his father when quite young he neglected to take a copy of the record of his age which his father kept, & therefore has no record of it. Since the revolution he has lived in State of Kentucky until four years since during which time he has lived in the said county of Rush

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated – That he was drafted as a private soldier for three months in the State of Virginia Henry County. The name of his Captain was Masterson. He does not now recollect the names of Lieutenant and Ensign. This was in the year 1780 sometime in the month of July as he thinks. He recollects that it was just after the defeat of General Gates at the South [Battle of Camden SC, 16 Aug 1780]. That he was marched with his company from the said Henry County across the Dan River to Hillsborough North Carolina where they joined the army under General Gates He cannot recollect the name of the Colonel of the Regiment to which he belonged or whether he was attached to any particular Regiment. He lay with the Troops at Hillsborough something more than two months when they were ordered to Guilford Court House and remained there three or four weeks when they were marched back to Henry County Virginia; And at the end of three months was discharged, having served the full Term of three months for which he was drafted and received a written discharge from his Captain, which he has long since lost in consequence of which he has no documentary evidence to prove his services aforesaid and knows of no person whose testimony he can procure, who can Testify to the same

And said John Carson further states that in the fall of the year 1780, the exact day and month he cannot now recollect he with a number of others went from said Henry County to Mecklenburgh [sic: Mecklenburg] Magazine upon Roanoake [sic: Roanoke River] where he volunteered under Colonel Mumford in the Virginia Troops [possibly Robert Munford of the Mecklenburg County Militia]. He remained at Mecklenburgh but a short time, when he was marched under Col Davis [probably William Davies], not yet being attached to any particular company to Chesterfield in the State of Virginia. He remained at Chesterfield in winter quarters under the command of Col Davis and in the Spring about the last of March or first of April in the year 1781 their detachment had a battle or skirmish with the Queen's Rangers on James River in which he was. The American Troops according to the best of his recollection were commanded by a French Colonel. Shortly afterwards he marched with Lieutenant Campbell a son of Colonel Archibald Campbell with a small body of Troops towards Guilford Court House in North Carolina and joined the army under General Green [sic: Nathanael Greene] at the place called Frost's Iron works [probably Troublesome Ironworks] the next day after the battle at Guilford Courthouse between Gen'l. Green & Lord Cornwallis [15 Mar 1781]. He was there placed in a Company under the command of Capt Morgan [possibly Simon Morgan] the above mentioned son of Col Campbell was Lieutenant. The name of the ensign he cannot now recollect Archibald Campbell [sic: probably Richard Campbell] was Col of the Regiment to which he belonged. He was with the army in pursuit of Cornwallis to Cross Creek

[now Fayetteville NC, but pursuit was to Ramsey's Mill on Deep River] where the enemy cut down the bridge so that Green's Army could not get across, Cornwallis retreating to Wilmington. He then went with Gen'l. Green to Camden in South Carolina passing through Salisbury leaving Charlotte to the right through a place called Flatrock [Flat Rock] until we arrived at Camden, where we assailed the enemy under Lord Rawdon some time he thinks in the month of May [sic: Battle of Hobkirk Hill near Camden SC, 25 Apr 1781]. After various skirmishing for something like eight or ten days, we crossed the Catawba and took our position on the south side of the Town and here he was in a skirmish at a redoubt under the command of Capt. Morgan. After remaining a short at this position we were marched back to our old Camp ground. A few days afterwards as the Troops were generally engaged in washing their clothes they were attacked by the army under Rawdon and a general engagement ensued in the whole of which he was engaged. [See endnote.] Our army retreated about six miles to a place at that time called the French Tavern where the army lay four or five days and crossed the Catawba above the Tavern leaving him sick with a fever He lay at this place sick for five months when he got better & not knowing where to find the army and being unable to perform military duty he made his way to his uncle's in the Henry County (Virginia) where he had a relapse of his sickness and remained sick for eight or nine months, peace being declared before he recovered his health. He would further state that while in pursuit of Cornwallis as above stated he was detailed into Lee's Corps [Lt. Col. Henry Lee's Legion] for the purpose of scouting after the Tories in which service he was engaged about a week, and endured great privation & fatigue. He recollects in this Tour the regiment of Delaware blues a regiment of the Delaware line and the first Virginia Regiment in which he served. He also recollects Col. [William] Washington's Light horse as they were called after Lee left the army. He recollects to have seen many officers but length of time has obliterated their names from his recollection. From the time he volunteered until he was taken sick was according to the best of his recollection eight months, but he will put it positively at seven months. From the time he was taken sick until he was able to make his way to his Uncles was five months, which makes twelve months, and added to the first three months for which he was drafted makes the Time of fifteen months. He would state that he served during the whole of this time as a private soldier & he would further state that that after the recovery of his health he called on Col Mumford for a discharge who told him that he need not put himself to any trouble to procure one as the war was over & government had no further demands on him, in consequence of which he has no documentary evidence relating to his discharge and that he knows of no person whose Testimony he can procure to testify to his services & he hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension or annuity whatever except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state or if any only that of the agency of the state of Virginia

Sworn and subscribed to in open Court

[signed] John Carson

NOTE: There are numerous discrepancies in Carson's declaration. I could find no Captain in the Henry County Militia with the name Masterson or a similar name. Carson possibly meant Capt. George Hairston. Rawdon did not attack the Americans after the Battle of Hobkirk Hill. The action described by Carson appears to have occurred at the start of that battle.