

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of John Cunningham S3250 VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

State of Tennessee }
Warren county }

On this 6th day of April 1833 personally appeared before us two acting justices of the peace for said county John Cunningham sen'r a resident of Warren county and State aforesaid aged about eighty five 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 7th of June 1832; says that he entered the service of the United States and served as herein after stated to wit: that on the [blank] day of March 1776 he entered the Service of the United States as a minute man for twelve month and about the 1st of April same year went into actual service in Capt Robert Dixon company which was organised in Lenenurg county [sic: Lunenburg County] Virginia and united with Capt Thomas Collier's company of Charlotte county Virginia, then marched on toward Raliegh [sic: Raleigh] North Carolina against the tories we were informed the tories were dispersed before we reached Raliegh and our troops received order to return to virginia we marche through Brunswick county virginia Dinwiddie county Petersburg thence trough Prince George to the town of Blanford]possibly Blandford near Petersburg] thence to Little York at which place we were attached to the regiment of Colonel Dangerfield [sic: William Daingerfield] we marched to Williamsburg from thence to Gloucester county Virginia on the Piankatank river where four men of war and some smaller vessels lay. the three of the vessals were called Kingfisher Roebuck and Feay [sic: Fowey] the enemy were fortified on the oppisite side of the river on Gwinn's island [sic: Gwynn Island; forces commanded by Royal Governor Lord Dunmore beginning 9 Dec 1775] Col. Dangerfied dug a ditch and threw up breastworks to secure his troops. after who five hundred of our troops were detached to go below and cross the river and land on Gwinn's Island and dislodge the enimy from thier fortification this applicant was amongst them out troops succeeded in landing on said Island and marched up to the fortification of the enimy but when we got there the enimy had gone aboard of their vessals and sailed off [11 Jul 1776] We then marched to the Potomack [sic: Potomac River] where we again came to the enemies ships of war which lay nearest the Maryland shore and our troops on that side were fortif[edge of page] after Col. Dangerfield's regiment arrived there about two weeks the Maryland troops fired red hot balls into two of their vessals and burnt them up the other ship hoisted sail and left there. There being nothing more for our troops in that quarter and we received information that the Indians were massacring the inhabitance on our frontiers we hastened home to chastise them but before we got there they were defeated and we were dismissed and not called into service any more that years which dismissel took force the last of August after serving five months. This applicant again entered the service as a volunteer on the 15th of Feb 1781 in Capt James Hollaway's company which was organised in Charlotte county Virginia and marched on towards Guilford North Carolina On our way we were attached to Col. Nathaniel Cocke's regiment; the object of these troops was to aid General Green [sic: Nathanael Greene] who was at Halifax cout house in resisting Cornwallace [sic: Cornwallis]. On 15th of March 1781 this applicant was engaged in the battle of Guilford [Guilford Courthouse] This was the order of battle. The enemy was lying about five miles from Guilford and our troops were stationed near Guilford in the morning Gen Green detached the light horse and light infantry to bring on the engagement the enimy pursued them and they retreated until the enimy came near our troops and formed a line of battle at or near the foot of a hill. Green then sent another detachment who fired on the enmy and several rounds and retreated the enimy came on in pursuit of them out malitia were placed in front and the regulars in the rear the battle soon became general and continued for upwards of an hour when we were ordered to retreat. After this we marched to Troublesome iron works remained there several days. Cornwallace

then retreated and General Green followed close at his heels determine to give him battle but Corn wallase crossed deep rever by means of floating bridges the morning before our army got there in the evening Gen Green then gave up the pursuit and discharged the volunteers and we marched home after serving near two months this applicant never entered the service any more he has one discharge which was signed by Capt Hollaway fer the last tour he received a written discharge fer the other tour but it lost mislaid or distroyed does not recollect who signed it he knows of no living witness by whom he can prove his services at least in this section of country he hereby relinquishes all claims to an annuity or pension except the present and declares his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any states

Answers to the interrogateries prescribed by the war department to be put by the court say he was born 10th of Feb 1748 in Lunenburg county Virginia has a record of his age in his family bible. he resided in Lunenberg about 31 years then moved to Charlotte county Virginia where he lived 5 years he then moved to Wilks [sic: Wilkes] county North Carolina where he resided 35 or 36 year he then moved to Warren county Tennessee where he now lives. Always volunteered and seved with General Green, Col [William] Washington Col [Henry] Lee, in his last tour and other officer not recollected he is not able without inconvenience to get to court to file his declaration he has stated the principal places he marched to in his declaration except Jamestown in the first tour where he crossed James river and is acquaid with Jesse Caffee, William Stroud sr, Jas. Wilson Jn'r, David Caulson Jn'r Benjamin Wootton and Asa Cox He has one discharge signed by James Hallaway Capt. his other discharges lost or Distroyed he was in all in actual service 7 months [signed] John Cunningham Sen'r.

Sworn to and subscribed in presants of Kincher Matthews & Elisha Reynolds two of the acting Justices of the peace in & for s'd county

State of Tennessee }
Warren county }

John Cunningham jun this day personally appeared before me Francis Smartt an acting justice of the peace for said county and made oath that John Cunningham Sen his grand father gave to him affiant a discharge signed by James Hallaway for a tour of two months as he thinks said discharge was given to him together with the pension papers of his grandfather John Cunningham sen to carry to I B Foreste – but affiant states that he lost said discharge and never has been able to find it though he has made diligent search this 17th of Nov'r 1833. [signed] John Cunningham