

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Fentress S3356

f29NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

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[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading skills fail to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Tennessee Montgomery County

On this Day personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of the Court now sitting James Fentress a Resident of the County and State aforesaid Aged Sixty nine years who being 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 into the service of the United States as a volunteer light Horse man under Captain William Jones Major John Lillington and Colonel Davis Commandant in the month [of] April 1779 and was Mustered into service at Wilmington North Carolina the precise day of the month he does not recollect and that he remained at Wilmington on Duty about two months and in a Detachment of light Horsemen of which he was one under Major Lillington was ordered out to guard a Number of Wagons loaded with Arms and Ammunition to Charleston South Carolina by land as two British Frigates was said to be cruising off the coast and had landed at the long Bay in South Carolina and plundered the Inhabitants of that place and that they guarded the wagons across the long Bay and Wackamaw [Waccamaw] and Pedee rivers and then returned to Wilmington the troops he left at that station were all Discharged as their time of service had expired before we returned and he went home with Major Lillington and was Discharged by him from a Tour of three months the precise day he does not recollect but believes it was about the first of August as his time of service had expired long before he got Home.

Again in the month of February in the year 1780 he Volunteered in the foot service for three months and was enrolled at Wilmington North Carolina in Captain William Hubbard's Company and marched to the Cross Creek now Fayetteville where they joined the Army commanded by General William Caswell and was attached to Colonel Sowel's [Benjamin Seawell's] Regiment and marched on crossing Pedee at Hayley's Ferry [Hailey's Ferry] and through Camden in South Carolina and over the High Hills of Santee down to Leneud's Ferry where we joined Colonel Buford [Abraham Buford] with his Regiment of Virginia Regular Troops and about this time we got the Intelligence that General Huger [Isaac Huger] had been surprised and Defeated at or near Moncks Corner [April 14, 1780] and that it was Impossible for us to get into Charleston to aid in the Defense of the Town and we Remained at Leneud's and Nelson's Ferries on Santee where we were visited by that Brave officer Colonel Washington [William Washington] with a Troop of Horse until about the last of April when the guns ceased Firing at Charleston and we soon Received the Intelligence of the capitulation [May 12, 1780] and that a strong force was on their way to attack us and we retreated over the same grounds that we had passed over until we passed through Camden and Encamped near the Forks of the road,


the Next Morning a very animated Dispute took place between General Caswell [William Caswell] and Colonel Buford, Caswell would take the road to Fayetteville to Meet his Father old General Caswell [Richard Caswell, Senior] with the North Carolina Militia who we understood was on their way to relieve us as our Times was about to Expire and Colonel Buford would take the Road through Salisbury to Meet Regular Troops that he understood was Moving to the South and here we separated the Enemy close in our Rear, they pursued Buford and Brought him to action at or near a place called the Hanging Rock [May 29, 1780] where he was Defeated with great loss of men and all his Baggage the Enemy then pursued us and when we arrived at Hailey's Ferry on Pedee we understood that an advanced part of the Enemy was pushing forward to Bring us to action while Crossing the River but they failed to do it, we encamped on the North East side of the River almost worn down with Fatigue but no rest here, for about 11 o'clock the spies came in and Informed us that the Enemy was crossing below of us at or near the Cheraw hills, and in about ten Minutes we were on the Road and marched hard that night and the next day to Coles Bridge on Drowning Creek the Enemy 19 miles in our Rear, here we halted and got some provisions the first we had since we left Pedee for our Baggage Wagons was left wherever the Horses faild [failed or fell] We then marched on to Fayetteville and crossed Cape Fear River and joined old General Caswell with his Army, our term of 3 months having Expired long before we were Discharged and Received our pay under the Inspections of our General and that gallant young officer Major James Rutherford aid to Caswell having performed a severe tour of near four months the Date of his Discharge he does not Recollect

Again in the Month of January 1781 as well as he recollects the British landed in Wilmington North Carolina and as soon as he got the Intelligence himself and two of his neighbors pushed on down to the long Bridge called Buford's Bridge where Troop were collecting from the surrounding Country where he Enrolled himself in Captain Duvaun's [James DeVane's] Company under Colonel James Kinnian [James Kenan], who commanded at that place where they remained but a short time before the Enemy sent out a Detachment from Wilmington (10 miles Distant) and drove in our outpost and some out horse men that had been reconnoitering We had a strong guard at the foot of the Bridge entrenched and part of the Bridge taken up, our troops from the Sand Hill moved Down to the Bridge and commenced opening Entrenchments and at daylight the two armies though small was within 300 yards of each other the Enemy on an eminence on one side of the River and we in the Swamp on the other, about this time General Lillington [John Alexander Lillington] with his Troops had fallen into our rear at the distance of two miles where he encamped and joined us in person about the time that day light appeared, New arrangements were made and an Artillery Company was organized and the affiant made Captain of said Company with three pieces of ordinance this day passed off quietly with the exception of some firing from the Windows of a large two-story Brick House on the Hill occupied by the Enemy, by which some of our men were Wounded but the General thought it was a pity to spoil so find a House if it could be avoided the Next Day a Detachment of 500 Infantry under the Command of Colonel Brown [Thomas Brown] and 80 light horse under Colonel Young [Henry Young] crossed the River above and attacked [Heron's Bridge, January 30, 1781] the Enemy in their rear but Colonel Brown was Wounded at the commencement and Fled and his men Broke like wild cattle through ponds and pine Woods the Enemy's horse pursuing, at the commencement of the action the enemy ran down one cannon into the road to rake the Bridge but a few fires from our long Brass piece carried away one of her carriage wheels and rendered her useless but before we could lay down the planks of the Bridge and make the Necessary arrangements for crossing the enemy was returning from the action and Bid defiance

by loud Hazas [huzzas], they renewed their fire from the Brick House with their yagur [Jaeger?] rifles and then the General gave orders to open a fire on the House, that the first fire they seemed [? were seen?] ¹ tumbling down stairs out at Doors and Windows helter-skelter in every Direction and in five Minutes the house was riddled and the Enemy at a respectful Distance the next day the Enemy seemed to threaten us with an attack across the Bridge with great [indecipherable word looks like "Busle"] and uncommon parade but suddenly Dispersed, We Remained there a Month or more and then moved up to Rutherford's Mills where we planted our cannon opened large entrenchments under the Direction of an old French officer Colonel Malmedy [Francis de Malmedy, Marquis of Bretagne] Where we lay about two weeks expecting the Enemy every day but they disdained [?] the attack at that Narrow pass We then moved up to Limestone Bridge where we remained about one week and moved up to Kingston [Kinston] on Nuse [Neuse] River where we were discharged -- By order of the General he thinks Colonel James Kenan was appointed to sign the Discharges the precise date he does not Recollect but believes it was in the first week in April having performed a tour of three months and having served nearly the whole time as the Captain of the Artillery Company under the appointment of General Lillington, who was a near neighbor of said applicant in the County of New Hanover in the State of North Carolina, where they at that time resided but had no commission, that he received discharges for each of the tours by him & kept them until the time of his removal from the State of North Carolina, when, supposing them to be of no value, they were destroyed -- that he has no written evidence whereby his Services can be proven -- that he knows of no witness living by whom his services can be proven -- that he was born in the County of New Hanover North Carolina & resided there until after the War & until he removed from there in the year 1798 to the County of Montgomery in the State of Tennessee where he has ever since resided -- that he hereby relinquishes all & every Claim to any pension or annuity from the United States except the present one and he also declares that he is not on the pension roll of the United States or of any State in

Sworn to & subscribed in open Court the day and year aforesaid.

S/ James Fentress



Test: S/ Andrew Vance, Clerk

[John H. Marable, late member of Congress, & Peter Givan gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

State of Tennessee Montgomery County April Term 1833 being the 20th day of April

This day again came James Fentress into open Court, & further makes oath, that his length of service as stated in his declaration, that, the time of his service that he engaged for at the different times stated amounted to nine months but his actual service was about eleven months; It so happened by his term of service that the time expired for which he engaged, when they were some distance from home, and the time required to return home makes it eleven



months And further that he cannot prove by any living witness his service as Captain –

And now at this Court being the 20th day of April 1833 personally appeared James Fentress and makes oath in due form that the contents of the additional affidavit affixed hereto is true, And the Court hereby certify that it is their opinion that the said James Fentress was a soldier of the revolution and that he served as he states in his declaration

S/ James Reasons

S/ N. T. Trice

S/ F. M. Huling

[Facts in file: The veteran died sometime prior to January 20, 1844; there is no family data in this file.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$30 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 9 months in the North Carolina militia.]