

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Peter Lesley S4540

f22NC

Transcribed and annotated by Will Graves

4/13/10: rev'd 7/31/23

[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' or 'undeciphered' 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. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

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Declaration in order to obtain the Benefit of the act of Congress Passed June the 7th Day 1832 – State of Tennessee Davidson County on the 25 day of October 1832 Personally appeared in open Court -- Before William Williams, Jesse Whorton, & Enoch P. Connell Esquire Justices of the Court of Pleas and quarter Sessions for the said County of Davidson at Nashville now sitting Peter Lastley [sic] a resident of Davidson County State of Tennessee 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 the 7th day of 1832 that he was born in the State of New Jersey the 13 Day of January 1761 agreeable to my Father's Record given me and moved to Guilford County North Carolina where I was raised and in the month of March 1780 I was drafted in Guilford County North Carolina & mustered into service at Guilford Court House for three months under the command of Captain William Bethel Richard Vernon Lieutenant & Robert Nelson Ensign we stayed in Guilford about eight days we then set out for Charlestown [Charleston] in South Carolina by the way of Salisbury then to Camden then to Munks Corner [sic, Moncks Corner] there we stayed a few days when Colonel Washington [William Washington] and his horse were routed with PilasKe [Gen. Kazimierz Pulaski] and White [Anthony Walton White] by the British under Colonel Talton [sic, Banastre Tarleton]: then Captain Bethel's Company marched the next day about thirty miles crossing the Santee at Nelson's ferry we there met General Caswell [William Caswell of North Carolina] with one thousand Militia where we joined him on the Santee River and guarded them Nelson's ferry and Dupree's Ferry until we heard that Charlestown had surrendered to the British [Charleston South Carolina fell to the British on May 12, 1780]¹ then we marched to Camden and on our way we met General Buford [Abraham Buford's] with 300 regulars and one Field piece we all marched to Camden then Buford marched to Salisbury and we went Caswell marched to Pedee River at the Cheraw Hills then we marched to Fayetteville in North Carolina where we staid a few days Colonel McDowell [probably Charles McDowell] & part of his Regiment were sent to guard several wagons loaded with salt for the Army to Mecklenburg & Rowan Counties & when Captain Bethel's Company reached Guilford County Colonel McDowell discharged us for we had served on little over three months -- I was at home about one month and my stepfather John Willey [John Wiley?] of Guilford County North Carolina was drafted to serve three months

¹ Battle of Charleston <http://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/800401-charleston/> & <https://allthingsliberty.com/2020/10/britains-last-throw-of-the-dice-begins-the-charlestown-campaign-of-1780/>

tower [tour] for which I went & served in his place under the command of Captain Forbas [probably, Arthur Forbis] and William Gilmore Lieutenant & Alexander Ellison Ensign & was marched into service in Guilford County North Carolina on the 25 Day of August 1780 and marched to Salisbury then to brushy Camp [?]² where we Joined Genl. Davidson [William Lee Davidson] then we marched to New Providence there Colonel Pasley's [sic, John Paisley's] Regiment Joined us & we continued there in Roan [sic, Rowan] and Mecklenburg Counties until our time of service had expired and a part of the time Colonel Morgan's [Daniel Morgan's] Regiment were stationed there also Colonel Washington's and his horse a part of the time I was discharged at New Providence by Genl. Davidson I think about the last of November 1780. I returned home and I think in January 1781 Captain Forbas [sic] called on his old company again to take the field with him as the British were in our neighborhood & I am several of his Company Joined him as volunteers with Lieutenant Gilmore & Ensign Ellison we then marched down to General Green's [sic, Nathanael Greene's] Army on Dan River & were attached to Colonel Paisley's Regiment we stayed about one month with the Army & I was furloughed by Colonel Paisley to go home & to join the Army again when called. I stayed at home about one month & was notified to join the Army again & about two weeks before the Battle at Guilford I entered the service under command of Capt. Forbas in Guilford County & marched up to Guilford Court House & on the 15 day of March 1781 I was in the Battle at Guilford³ in which our Captain Forbas was mortally wounded and went home & died & William Pasley [sic, William Paisley] of our Company a private was slightly wounded. I was on the battleground in about three days after Battle was fought the British had buried their dead and marched off our dead men was not all buried. I then went home & stayed some time & again entered the service in the same company as before except Captain Forbas who was killed & Captain George Stuart [George Stewart] commanded in his place we then went down the Country crossed Deep River & crossed Cape Fear River below Fayetteville below Deep River we joined Colonel James Martin's Regiment under General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford] which were some over 1000 strong all militia while on this Expedition on Raft Swamp in the Tory settlement we were scouring the swamps in search of Tories he Militia on foot & Captain Gillaspe [Gillespie] of the Horse about five of the horse came to a house where the Tories fired on the Horsemen & killed John Mackado [sic, John McAdoo] a Cornet belonging to the horse a short time after this there appeared in sight of our camp a number of women & General Rutherford sent a guard to conduct them into camp & after they stayed under guard all night General Rutherford ordered that they be drummed out of the camp with our Camp Kittles & two sticks, we staid there about two months in the Tory settlement & five of our company were discharged before the drafted militia by Captain Stuart because we were volunteers & the Rest Militia I think I served a little over three months as a volunteer under the last engagement and was discharged below Fayetteville North Carolina after that I served about ten days in Randolph County after the Tories & caught several at a wedding and held them under guard until they agreed to Join our side & help us to fight again I was called on to help thrash of the Quakers wheat so much as would pay their part of the expense of the war as they would not fight & they agreed they would not say noe [sic, no?]. I was ten days on this task -- in all I think I served nearly ten months but I have lost my discharges I can prove by Lieutenant Richard Vernon⁴ a part of my service and by William Gamble also a part I know of no

² *brushy Camp*
Crushy Camp?

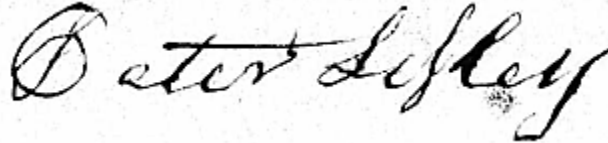
³ https://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_guilford_courthouse.html

⁴ [Richard Vernon S1883](#)

person by whom I can prove the last of my service I moved from Guilford County North Carolina in the year 1801 to Tennessee State & first lived a while in Williamson County & then in Davidson County where I now live. I hereby Relinquish all Claims whatever to a Pension or annuity except the Present & further declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of the Agency of any state.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and date above

S/ Peter Lesley

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Peter Lesley". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid, with some ink bleed-through visible from the reverse side of the paper.

in open court Test S/ Henry Ewing Clerk

[William Hume, a clergyman, and Benajah Gray gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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Christian County Sct

This day came William Gambell before me a Justice of the peace for the County aforesaid and made oath that Peter Lasley did serve a tour of six months in the Army in the Revolution War in the North Carolina Militia under General Davidson Colonel John Paisley and James Rutherford Captain Arthur Forbes Lieutenant William Gilmore Ensign Alexander Allison under his these officers the said Lasley served one three months tour, and also one three months tour under General Griffith Rutherford & Captain George Stewart and I William Gambell have been acquainted with said Peter Lasley ever since and know him to be the very same man. Sworn to this 7th day of June 1831.

S/ John Spurlin, JP

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State of Tennessee Davidson County} Personally appeared Richard Vernon aged between Seventy four & five before me William H. Nance an acting Justice of the peace for said County and made oath that he was acquainted with Peter Lesley in two towers of duty in the Revolution War that in March 1780 we rendezvoused at Guilford Courthouse State of North Carolina he the said Lasley was a soldier under Captain William Bethel and I was Lieutenant in said company and Robert Nelson Ensign we then took the line of march to South Carolina by way of Salisbury where we met with General Rutherford who ordered us to march to Charlestown by way of Camden to Moncks Corner where we understood that the British had surrounded Charlestown so that we could not get in there where we lay a few days and was raughted [sic, routed] by the enemy under Colonel Taulton [sic, Banastre Tarleton]⁵ -- from thence we retreated to the North side of the Santee River where we lay till the arrival of Brigadier General William Caswell from North Carolina we then formed a Regiment called the third Regiment of North Carolina militia Colonel James Branon [James Brandon] our field officer where we continued as guards for the ferries on said River until we heard that Charlestown had surrendered to the British we then retreated to North Carolina by way of Camden from thence to the Cheraw Hills on the Pedee River [Pee Dee River] from thence to Fayette [sic, Fayetteville] in North Carolina where we were detached under the command of Colonel McDowell to guard some wagons loaded with

⁵ April 14, 1780 Moncks Corner

https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_moncks_corner.html

public salt to the County of Mecklenburg North Carolina our time of service being out when we was disbanded and returned home -- where I remained until about the 25th day of August 1780 and then was called on another tower of duty for three months which tower I served as Lieutenant in a Regiment of Militia commanded by Colonel John Paisley of Guilford County North Carolina and under General Brigadier Davidson and this tower we served in the Counties of Roan and Macklenburge [sic, Rowan and Mecklenburg] and says that he is satisfied that said Peter Leasley was in service at that time from several events which took place which we both recollect the man John Brawley getting shot through and fell dead accidentally and said Regiment was discharged about the 25th of November 1780 and further this deponent saith not. Sworn to and subscribed before me this 28th day of August 1832.

S/ William H. Nance, JP

S/ Richard Vernon

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Richard Vernon". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the printed name "S/ Richard Vernon".

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State of Tennessee Davidson County

Personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the Peace for said County Peter Lastley who being duly sworn deposed and saith that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positive as to the precise length of his service but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following grades first I served three Months as a drafted Militia man from the month of March 1780 as a private in Capt. Bethel's Company -- and a second Tower from the 25 of August 1780 I served three months as a private in Capt. Forbes militia Company and a third Tower I served as a volunteer from January 1781 three months under Captain Forbes and Stuart as an orderly Sergeant and the same year I served ten days in Randolph County after the Tories under the command of Captain Gillaspee of about 75 men we whipped several Tories and Cut John Dickey very bad with a sword again I served Ten Days in ~~Roane~~^{Randolph} County under the command of Captain Whitsell [probably Henry Whitesell of the Guilford County Regiment] after the Tories about 75 of us Caught several Tories at a wedding as Per Declaration and last of all I served Ten days thrashing the Quakers' wheat as per Declaration in all I think I served at least ten months seven of them as a private soldier and three months as an orderly Sergeant -- the above is offered as a supplement to my declaration and which is not named the first ten days I served in Randolph County after Tories and for which I claim a Pension.

Sworn to in open court October 24th 1833

Test: S/ Henry Ewing, Clerk

S/ Peter Lesley

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$31.10 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 9 months and 10 days service in the revolution.]