

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of Charles Howel S5561

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Tennessee } September Term 1832
Washington County }

On this [blank] day of September 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Honorable Samuel Towel now sitting as a Court of Law & Equity in & for the County of Washington for the 7th Judicial Circuit within the State of Tennessee. Charles Howel aged seventy two years & resident citizen of said County & State who first 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 the 7th June 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, & served as herein stated.

That being being a resident citizen of Buckingham County State of Virginia & raised therein he in the summer of the year 1776 (as well as now recollected) he was drafted as one of the militia of Buckingham County to go on an expedition to suppress Lord Dunmore the royal Governor of Virginia - that he was enrolled at Buckingham Court House, under Cap'n John Couch for a three months tour of duty (there being three companies raised in s'd County towit Bates's, John's & Couches, declarant being in the latter Company. that they marched from Buckingham C. H. to Richmond & drew arms at the magazine, & from thence to Williamsburgh [sic: Williamsburg], where were assembled the Virginia mellitia from various quarters, and were stationed at said place awaiting the orders which might be given for further operations, but Dunmore finally took his departure [back to England, 7 Aug 1776], & the troops were disbanded, & returned home after being in service for three months, and was discharged by his said Captain (verbally) at the expiration of his term of time

Second tour

In the month of June 1780. he was again drafted in the militia of his native County (Buckingham) to go on a tour of duty to the South, in consequence of the inroads of the British in that quarter, and was placed under the command of Cap'n. Peter Gurarrant [Guerant?], at the County Seat of Buckingham, and was marched under s'd Cap'n to Hillsborough North Carolina, where he was appointed as orderly sergeant in Cap'n Clemens [sic: Isaac Clement's] Company of the Pittsylvania Militia at which place the Virginia & North Carolina militia was desciplined, and was placed under the command of General [Horatio] Gates and marched to Camden (South Carolina) where the American Army consisting of regulars and the Virginia & North Carolina militia, met the British Army under Cornwallis, and upon an engagement of a violent character having ensued [16 Aug 1780], this declarant (whose duty it was as orderly sergeant to keep up the men) was engaged in his duties, the men broke ranks & in despite of every effort which could be made retreated in confusion, which left declarant no other resort than to retreat with them, which he did, but on their retreat near Rugely's [Rugeley's] mill, they were met by the British light horse, & dispersed each man consulting the best mode of escape for himself. & after being removed from the threats of the enemy and knowing not where the American troops would again concentrate the militias from Buckingham returned home, this declarant having lost all his cloaths & equipage except what was on him, and arrived at home, and remained at home but a short time until troops were again required to rejoin Gates, & this declarant again enrolled himself under Cap'n May, and was appointed orderly Sergeant of s'd Mays Company & marched on to Hillsborough again & rejoined the main army under Gates, being both time as well as recollected in 2^d or in the 3^d Regiment of the Virginia militia. but is very confident Col Nicholas was the Col of the Regiment, & Forkner [possibly Col. Ralph Faulkner] & [Henry] Conway Majors at the Battle & defeat of Camden. after declarant had again joined Gates's army at Hillsborough, we were marched to a place near Charlotteville [sic: Charlotte] North Carolina, where General Green [sic: Nathanael Greene, on 2 Dec 1780] came & took charge of Gates's Army & Gates was sent home, from which place the army under Green was marched to Cheraw Hills South Carolina (where the said army arrived on Christmas eve) and there continued untill after the battle of the Cowpens [17 Jan 1781], after which, one hundred

men from the ranks were selected & put under Capn Isaac Webb [see note below] (declarant as orderly Sergeant) to remain at Cheraw to guard the huts at that place, & when a drove of hogs & a quantity of flour should arrive at Cheraw said Company under Webb were ordered to go on to Virginia as a guard therefor. under which circumstances this declarant was left at Cheraw when Greens army marched therefrom shortly after the battle of the Copens in January 1781. and did continue there untill the arrival of a quantity of flour and a drove of 300 hogs reached that place & s'd Company guarded the same through north Carolina crossed the Roan Oak at Taylors Ferry [sic: Roanoke River near Halifax NC], and delivered up the said property to the Commissary of the United States at the old Barracks near Taylors ferry and from thence returned to Boyds ferry [at present South Boston VA] on Dan River, in order to join G'l Green, and there obtain their discharges, and did on the last of February (being barefoot & Naked) Green ordered them to repair to Terrys old store and seperate their arms, & for Capt Webb to discharge his men, where, this declarant as orderly sargeant for Capn Webb (whose hand had been injured by the bursting of his pistol) wrote the whole of the discharges & obtained his own from s'd Capn Webb, & returned home having been in service under the two engagements lastly specified from June 1780. until the last of February 1781. with a short interval after his retreat home from the defeat at Camden, and for the first tour he obtained no discharge in consequence of the whole militia officers & men being dispersed, & each making good his retreat for safety, & under the second after obtaining it as before stated he has in the lapse of time casually lost the same.

That some short time after his discharge & return home, he substituted himself for one John Glover, who had been drafted for a tour of duty in the Virginia Militia, in the aforesaid County of Buckingham under Capn Thomas Miller (atto at Law) and marched from the Court House of the County to the Seige of York Town in Pennsylvania [sic: Yorktown VA, 28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781], & there joined G'l. Washington before the surrender of Cornwallis, & was present at the entrenchment & preparation & continued until after the 19th of October 1781. when the said surrender was made, & there being no further call for his services the company under Capn Miller was discharged (verbally) & returned home not haveing actually served quite the three months tho the call was a three months call, but was within a short time of being three months, including the time going & returning. That in the four several engagements before specified he continued in close and active service for fourteen months & more with the exception of a few days between the time of his second & third tours which probably may have amounted to as much as the fraction of the month over the fourteen months stated. that he was the whole of his servitude a Sargeant in the respective campaigns (except the first against Dunmore) & is thereby entitled to the compensation of twelve instead of eight dollars per month, except the said three months against Dunmore.

That he has no documentary evidence, nor does he know of any person by whom he can prove his said services, nor is there a resident minister of the Gospel by whom he can establish the facts required in the instructions of the secretary of War. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state. [signed] Chas. Howel

NOTE: The company commanded by Capt. Isaac Webb included Virginia militiamen who had been sentenced to eight month's service under Continental discipline for fleeing at the Battle of Camden. See the pension application of James Hopkins (W3553).