

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Westbrook Lee, S7143

f14NC

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.]

[4]

State of North Carolina, Sampson County: SS

On this 18th day of July 1833 personally appeared before us John Benton and John Rainer two of the Acting Justices of the peace for Sampson County Westbrook Lee a resident of North Carolina in the County of Sampson, aged Seventy Four 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 7th 1832. -- That he entered the service of the United States under the following named Officers & served as herein Stated, that is that in the Spring of the year 1775 he believes, he was drafted for a term of three months under Captain Francis Hill & Lieutenant Joab Blackman. That he with the rest of the drafted men, was marched to the town of Wilmington in the State that he was there Stationed under the command of Colonel Rutledge [Thomas Routledge], that some weeks after they were marched & crossed the Cape Fear River at the town of Wilmington & went down the South Side of said River to an old mill near Brunswick that they were there Stationed Some time, & from thence they were marched Back to the town of Wilmington & stayed there a night or two & from thence was marched about a mile below the Town, to a place called the Cool Spring & there encamped until their time of Service expired & were discharged – from thence he came Back to his residence in Sampson County – that, some three or four years afterwards he was Drafted a Second time for a three months tour under the Command of Captain Francis Hill & Lieutenant Joab Blackman-- & that he with the rest of the drafted man was marched to the Big Bridge across the N. E. prong of the Cape Fear River above the town of Wilmington where they encamped on the West Side of the River, where he believes there was about 900 militia man under the Command of General Linnington [John Alexander Lillington], that when they were there three or four Weeks, guarding the Bridge & expecting the British every day, some time between midnight & day the British from the Opposite Side of the River Commenced a heavy fire¹ of artillery upon them & as he believes they aimed at their fire for a Ball Struck the ground close by where he was Sitting by the fire, that he immediately went to where the nearest Centinel stood to the entrenchment on guard, that next day he could see the British very plain across the River, that by some means or other he never understood how, the British got across the River some miles below the Big Bridge, that General Lillington then marched his men to Rutherford's Mill – that they were Stationed there some time & from thence they were marched to Kinston by way of Limestone – that they were there Stationed until their time of Service expired & were discharged, that he then returned to his residence in Sampson County where he has lived ever since – he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension

¹ Probably a reference to the engagement at Heron's Bridge on January 30, 1781. See, http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_herons_bridge.html

or annuity Except the present – and declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of the agency of any State Only on that of the agency of the State of North Carolina.

Sworn to & Subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ John Rainer, JP

S/ Westbrook Lee, X his mark

S/ John Benton, JP

Questions put to the applicant by the Justices of the peace & Justices of the Court of Pleas & quarter Sessions for Sampson County

Question 1st Have you any record of you age and if so, where is it?

Answer I have a record of my age in the Bible

Question 2nd : Where and in what year were you born?

Answer: I was born in Sampson County on the Myrdal Swamp East Signed Big Coharie on the 14th of December 1759

Question 3rd Where were you living when called into service? Where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Answer: I was living on the West Side of Big Coharie within 6 miles of where I was Born & have lived there ever since.

Question 4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer, or were you a substitute and if so for whom did you substitute?

Answer: I was drafted to Different times for three months each

Question 5th State the names of some of the Regular Officers who were with the troops where you served, such Continental and Militia Regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Answer: I have no recollection of any regular Officer Captain James Love Commanded the Troop of Cavalry but whether they belonged to the regular Service or not I am unable to say I was never Stationed with any Regiment of regulars, & I recollect of nothing particular but what I have stated in my Declaration

Question 6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service; and if so by whom was it given; and what has become of it?

Answer: I have no written discharge, neither do I recollect of ever having received one. I believe the practice was, when a person had Served the time for which he was drafted, for the Officers would call them into ranks, & tell them, their time of Service had expired, & tell them they were discharged & might go home

Question 7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood, and who can testify to your character for veracity and good behavior and your services as a Soldier of the Revolution.

Answer: I believe that William Ganey² Served one tour with & I believe that John Fleming served in another Tour but not in the same Company and as to my Character for veracity might call on any of my Neighbors but will mention the names of Alexander Benton & John Fleming as Gentlemen of the first respectability and of Officers of the Seven Mile Baptist Church.

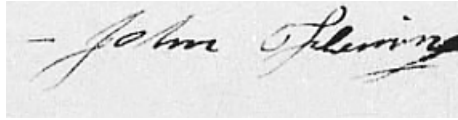
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William Ganey being duly Sworn Saith that he served a tour of three months with the applicant Westbrook Lee & doth hereby certify that he did serve as by him Stated, the first tour mentioned in his declaration.

S/ William Ganey, X his mark

I John Fleming³ do hereby certify that I served three months in the revolutionary war & was at the Big Bridge & believe that the applicant Served as by him Stated in his declaration given under my hand.

S/ John Fleming

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Fleming".

[Alexander Benton and John Fleming gave the standards supporting affidavit.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$20 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 6 months in the North Carolina militia.]

3 No one by this name was awarded a federal pension for services during the Revolution in North Carolina.