

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension application of John Rockett (Rocket) S7412

fn44SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

11/30/09

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. Folks are free to make non-commercial use this transcript in any manner they may see fit, but please extend the courtesy of acknowledging the transcriber—besides, if it turns out the transcript contains mistakes, the resulting embarrassment will fall on the transcriber.]

State of North Carolina Lincoln County

On this 12th day of June __ personally appeared John Rockett a resident in the County & state aforesaid aged 78 years before me Abel Shuford one of the justices of the County Court of pleas and quarter sessions and after him 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 the 7th of June 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated} when he Entered the United States service he was a resident with his father in South Carolina Edgefield County and that in the year 1778 there was a call for men the captains were ordered to call out their men and draft or volunteer -- our Captain turned out and called for as many as were willing to follow him and almost every man followed him and I myself among the rest, then all the late volunteers met and rendezvoused at General Williamson's headquarters and was there mustered into service about the middle of February 1778 for twelve months Captain Carter commanded our company -- there were very little operations in the section of country where we lay that year, the British General prevost [sic, Augustine Prevost] & Colonel Campbell [Archibald Campbell] about this time took possession of Savannah and that gave considerable rumor has Georgia was with almost without protection -- when our period or tour of 1778 expired the General made proclamation that he wanted all the volunteers that he could get to fit out a Regiment to send to Georgia -- our Captain turned out and nearly all his man followed the example as did other captains and men and after some preparation we were marched under the command of Colonel purvice [sic, Purvis] and crossed the Savannah River into Georgia and we went down between Savannah and Ogeechee River there we were stationed at a place called the Cupboard and so soon as we could prepare ourselves with fixing to be comfortable and safe we were sent out a company at a time to scour the country between the 2 rivers and to examine down a large leading[?] road on which our Regiment was stationed to see whether the British were penetrating up the country or not, as it was thought that Prevost would aim to set up the Royal standard in that State -- this method of sending out companies was followed by rotation in succession -- throughout that term of service, but there came no British in that section while we stayed -- we heard of some being low down on the Ogeechee River it was thought that Prevost would have attempted to approach the interior of the State had not the Count d'Estaing and General Lincoln undertaken to reduce him in Savannah in the month of September -- we continued and served out his second tour of twelve months which included the year 1779 then our Colonel told us while on [indecipherable word or words] in the hearing of the whole Regiment that General Williamson wanted so many as would volunteer for 12 months to serve in

South Carolina and every Captain and most of their men turned out all most unanimous we moved back to South Carolina and were stationed at a place called by some the [indecipherable word, looks like "kiths"] and by others the rige [sic, ridge?] near the head of Edisto River at this place we served our third period or tour of twelve months for 1780 and his as soon as we could fix ourselves to make our Regiment comfortable and safe our Captain Carter and men was selected to and called mounted men we were furnished with horses and armed with guns and swords and pistols and our business was to range and scour that country down the Edisto river and through that Swamps and another where we were informed that there were groups of British and loyalists collected committing outrages robbing and stealing murdering some and taking some as they called prisoners and would convey them to the British we found them near Orangeburg and about other small villages and large farms some we would take and their horses and baggage and armor with them, and some we would run into the swamps and by close chasing we would get their guns and horses and their plunder and when we would get either men or property we would send it into headquarters, in this period May 1780 Charleston was taken by Clinton, the loyalists then became more more animated, but we kept them quiet met about Orangeburg and upon Edisto &c Morgan reducing a British Regiment called the Prince of Wales moderated the British [indecipherable word or words] in the country that he done in July in the same year 1780 such were the progress of Captain Carter through the period or tour 1780 which was my third tour of twelve months each under him, now in February 1781 which is the time every term expired agreeable to the time of my commencement, the Colonel = Purvis again proclaimed that he wanted volunteers to meet and reinforce General Pickens this new call did not fit so well, our Captain Carter did not turn out our Lieutenant and a number of our men turned out having no Captain Lieutenant gindraw [sic, Henry Gindrat?] commanded and I was appointed first Sergeant we then spent some time in preparing for our move after getting ready we were sent on to Congaree where after some time we were mustered into the field under General Pickens and then our company was put under the command of Captain Maxfield we then after our General making some arrangements for his men he went to the high hills of Santee and there he and General Greene blended their arms and after making the necessary preparations they then shaped their course for the Eutaw Springs where the British were lying and on the 7th of September their plan was to march that night and approach the Enemy Early on the morning of the 8th without there being apprised of us but by the unpardonable act of some one of our men who fled from us in the night and gave the Enemy word and they were prepared and met us in the morning some distance from their camps and gave us a fire and the action soon became general we fought hard on both sides and made violent charges on each other the slaughter was great and the scene bloody -- victory did not seem to smile on nary Side we fought until late in the British withdrew some distance behind a large brick building which formed a kind of defense for them we stayed on the ground that night, and it was stated that the British would give us battle again the next morning but in the morning they had aired made their Escape for Charleston this battle was fought the 8th September 1781 our loss was said to be 550 and killed a wounded and missing and it was reported to us that the British loss was considerably more than 1000, in a short time after this not longer than the 21st of September and to the best of my recollection at that time, Captain Maxwell discharged his man and I do not know how many other companies were discharged I then went home and was called out no more, here terminated my services as a revolutionary Soldier -- and I went my time from the middle of February 1778 to the 21st September 1781 agreeable to my different periods or tours to be 3 years and 7 months for which I claim a pension if I have made any mistake in counting my time the department can with convenience corrected

as the different periods all plainly laid down. Interrogatories Where and in what year were you born? My parents told me I was born in the State of Virginia 16th April 1761. Have you any record of your age and if so where is it? I have in extract from my father's family record. Where were you living when called into service, where have you lived since the Revolutionary war and where do you now live? My parents tell me they moved from Virginia when I was a child into Edgefield County South Carolina and I was living there with him when called into service and after the war was over and peace made I then went into North Carolina in Lincoln County and settled myself and I have lived there ever since. How were you called into Service were you drafted did you volunteer or were you a substitute and if a substitute for whom? I was a volunteer in every instance as you see inserted in the body of my declaration. 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. I saw a great many of officers: but now from or after the lapse of so many years in the actual loss of memory and old age I cannot name them now and their different grades, those with whom I served I am more familiar with their names such as General Williamson General Pickens & General Greene General Lee & Morgan I saw but few times Colonel Purvis I now [sic, know] like one of a family -- and as for general circumstances I don't recollect of any of more importance than what is named in the declaration. Did you ever receive a discharge from the Service and if so by whom was it given and what has become of it? I was regularly discharged through all my services but they are so mislaid or lost that I cannot find them the time I left my father's house I fought no more about my discharges for as peace was made I thought that they would never be wanted again. Did you ever receive a commission and if so by whom was it signed and what has become of it? I never received any commission I done all my services as a private Soldier only what time I served in period of 1781 I was for that time first Sergeant. State the names of such persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief of your services as a revolutionary Soldier. I think that Alexander Abernathy he is a clergyman and I think that Aaron Link & Solomon Warlick will testify for me as acquaintance} and I further state to the department that I have no living witnesses that I can prove my services by all my old comrades are dead or removed away so that I don't know of one. Why did you not made earlier application for a pension? I did call on Mr. Michael Hook three or four years ago and he wrote for me but what became of the proceedings I don't know: he lives a long way off and I was not able to attend to it and it all fell through.

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 only the present of the State of North Carolina. Sworn to and subscribed the date above

S/ Abel H. Shuford, JP

S/ John Rockett

[Alexander Abernathy, a clergyman, Aaron Link & Solomon Warlick gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[fn p. 24]

State of North Carolina Burke County: This day personally appeared Nathan Gordon before me Joseph Smith one of the justices in and for said County and after being duly sworn as the law directs he deposeth and saith that in the autumn of 1778 that he entered into the service of General Williamson in South Carolina in Edgefield County at headquarters -- not a soldier but a butcher for the Army and a collector and driver of cattle for beef and other stock & for the Army,

and that in a short time after him being there he was sent into Georgia to butcher for the Army under Colonel Purvis and that during his stay there he made his home with Captain Carter's company and there he became acquainted with John Rockett who was a soldier in the Army under Captain Carter and after some time staying in Georgia the Army under Colonel Purvis was called back into South Carolina and they were located on the head waters of Edisto River and that place was then designated headquarters -- then Captain Carter's company was mounted on horses and equipped with proper armor and they were called mounted man or Rangers and as he still followed his business of butchering for the Army of Colonel Purvis -- whenever Captain Carter would come into camp with his Rangers he would see John Rockett a mounted soldier with the rest of the company and being an intimate acquaintance while in Georgia and through all the rest of the campaign had personal conference with him and after Carter's term of 12 months expired as a ranger he thinks in 1781 there was a considerable number of Colonel Purvis's men called for to go to Congaree to General Pickens and Captain Carter's company became divided and a part of them was put under Lieutenant Gindraw and John Rockett was appointed Sergeant in they marched a way and I saw Rockett no more.

Sworn to and subscribed the 25th day of April 1842 before me

S/ Nathan Gordon

S/ Jos. Smith, JP

[fn p. 6: the above application and related documents were attested by the county clerk on July 18, 1839 and I assume that is the year in which the application was made.]

[fn p. 31]

State of North Carolina Lincoln County May the 28th 1842 Simon Hagar¹ personally appeared before me Robert Abernathy one of the acting justices of the peace in and for the said County and after he being duly sworn he deposed & saith that he was a soldier of the revolutionary Army and was commanded by Captain Samuel Martin under Colonel William Polk and that he was in the battle at the Eutaw Springs on the 8th of September 1781, and that the division or wing of the Army that he fought in was formed on the left and that as they advanced they were joined by the company commanded by Captain Maxwell and he frequently saw Captain Maxwell's Sergeant John Rockett whom he had got acquainted with previous to that time and that he understood by John Rockett that he had previous thereto served under Captain Carter and commanded by Colonel Purvis but was then called to the aid of General Pickens, this deponent further saith not.

Sworn to & subscribed this date above

S/ Robert Abernathy JP

S/Simon Hager, X his mark

North Carolina Lincoln County: Fall Term 1834

Personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of the Court of pleas and quarter Sessions, for the County and State aforesaid John Rockett of the County and state aforesaid him a resident of the same & being in the 71st year of his age and after being duly sworn according to law, maketh the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June the 7th 1832 for the benefit of revolutionary soldiers -- he swears that he entered the service of the United States as a volunteer in the year 1778 in the State of South Carolina and Edgefield County, under Captain Carter and Colonel Purvis and General Williamson -- of the militia service and marched under Colonel Purvis into the State of Georgia crossing the River at

¹ [Simon Hagar S8686](#)

Augusta and was then stationed at a place called the Cupboard from thence he marched to Spirit Creek where they remained some time, from thence they returned to South Carolina, joining General Williamson when Captain Carter was ordered to scout which he did, about Orangeburg, and on the waters of the Edisto River -- about one year -- and was then transferred from Captain Carter to Captain Maxfield for the purpose of joining the Eutaw Army, which he did under General Perkins after joining General Perkins near the head waters of the Edisto River, they marched to near the Congaree River, from thence they marched down to the Santee for the purpose of joining General Greene's Army -- which they failed to effect they thence continued to march south until they joined General Greene's Army at the Eutaw Springs -- General Pickens arriving at Eutaw about half an hour before General Greene arrived and were engaged with the British at the time of the arrival of Greene's regulars the Battle being on the 8th day of September he thinks in the year 1781 -- after the battle General Pickens and Army remained on the ground 2 or 3 days when they were discharged 2 days after the Battle. General Greene marched South towards Moncks Corner -- After leaving Captain Carter, and joining General Pickens he was made Sergeant and remained one, while under Pickens until discharged, he thinks he was about 14 years old when he joined the Army he thinks in the spring of 1778 being young at the time his memory is indistinct -- but is certain that he entered in 1778 and remained in service until after the Eutaw Battle when he was discharged. He hereby relinquishes all claims to any pension whatever except the [one] under the act of June the 7th 1832 -- and that he is on no pension roll whatsoever -- he further swears that he has no documentary evidence to sustain his claim and that he knows of no living witness by which he can sustain or prove his claim. Sworn to and subscribed in open court the 10th day of November 1834

S/ David Crouse, Chairman

S/ John Rockett

[Alexander Abernathy, a clergyman and Daniel Conrad made the standard supporting affidavit.]

[There are several letters in this file which appeared to be in the handwriting of the veteran addressed to JL Edwards, Commissioner of pensions.]