

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Francis Steel S7602

f26VA

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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of North Carolina Stokes County: September Sessions 1832

Personally appeared in open Court Francis Steel Senior resident of the County & State aforesaid aged 74 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 7th of June 1832

That he enlisted in the Army of the United States in the year 1777 or 8 with Colonel Joseph Cavile [Joseph Cabell?] and served in the 14th Regiment of the Virginia line under the following named officers marching with Lieutenant Tucker to the middle Brooks [Middlebrook, New Jersey] Camps where I was enrolled under Captain Overton [John Overton] Lieutenant Thomas Burfoot who was the Ensign of the company but was raised to the rank of Lieutenant in the place of Lieutenant William Tucker, the Colonel was by the name of Davies [William Davies], Samuel Cavile [Samuel Jordan Cabell] Brigade Major & Brigadier General Muhlenberg [Peter Muhlenberg] commanded the Brigade Lord Sterling [Genl. William Alexander, Lord Stirling] was also a Commanding General in our Army from the middle Brooke Camps we were marched out of the State of New Jersey to the State of New York to a place called Smith's Cloves where we were stationed a while: from there marched to the Stony Point Fort King Henry where we had a battle [July 16, 1779] with the British beat the enemy & took possession of the place General Wayne [Anthony Wayne] commanded, from there marched to Ramapo at which place we remained stationary for some time, whilst at that place we took Powles Hook [Paulus Hook, August 19, 1779] which was in possession of the British, our troops were commanded by a Colonel Gess<sup>1</sup> in that engagement, though winter season was at this time approaching, we marched to the Bear Skin Ridge to winter quarters, from there we marched to Trenton in New Jersey by order of General Washington, at this place the Army was divided, all the men who had enlisted for during the war were sent to the Carolinas under General Green [Nathanael Greene] & perhaps those who had another campaign were sent also & the balance of the men were put under Captain Overton who marched us on to Philadelphia where we were stationed & remained until our time of service ran out, were then marched by order of General Washington to Alexandria in the State of Virginia where I received my discharge from the service by Colonel Feebaker [Christian Febiger], after getting home I gave my discharge to my <sup>grand</sup>father. I know not what has become of it. My discharge specified my term of service which was for three years.

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<sup>1</sup> Actually, Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee was the commander at Paulus Hook.

Sometime after I had arrived home to my father's, I was drafted for a term of eighteen months but not liking to go into service so soon after getting home, I hired a substitute in my place, his name was Philip Lockard. I gave him a horse & suit of clothes (was living in Amherst County Virginia when I enlisted & also at the time I was drafted) shortly afterwards I was drafted a second time for a term of three months & marched to hoods fort on James River under Captain Richd Balenger [Richard Ballenger], Lt. Thos Jones [Thomas Jones], Ensign Pollard – our Colonel's name as well as I now recollect was Gaultin [?] remained at hoods fort until discharged.

Shortly after I returned home, I was drafted a third time for a term of three months & marched on the siege of Little York under Captain John Stewart [John Stuart], Lieutenant Charles Eck [?] this was the hardest siege I had during the war was [words written over and illegible] Fort near 19 days and nights almost constant fighting after Lord Cornwallis surrendered, I marched with the British prisoners to a place called Chestnut Ridge Barracks about seven miles beyond Winchester in Rockingham County Virginia at which place I was discharged & went home.

Sworn and subscribed to in open Court this 12th day of September 1832.

S/ Francis Steel, Senior, X his mark

S/ Jno. Hill, CCC

Stokes County North Carolina: This day personally appeared before us William A Mitchell, John Vaughn, Justices of the peace in and for said County, Francis Steel the within applicant for a pension & maketh oath in due form of law that he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present, and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any State.

Sworn & subscribed to this 15th day of January 1833

S/ Francis Steel, X his mark

[p 13: James Martin Senior and Henry Carter gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 15]

State of North Carolina Stokes County: SS

On the 29th day of April 1833 personally appeared before me Charles Banner one of the Acting Justices of the Peace for the County aforesaid Francis Steel who has made his declaration as an applicant for a Pension agreeable to the act of Congress passed the 7th of June 1832 & he being duly sworn according to law deposeth & saith that by reason of old age, the length of time, & the consequent loss of memory, he cannot precisely remember the dates of the different periods when he entered the service & returned out of Service & was discharged which discharges he has lost but that he served as a private soldier in every Service to which three years as an enlisted private; & six months in the militia under the officers named in his Declaration of the 12th of September 1832. That he knows of no person that he can prove his Services aforesaid by but his sister Mary Neal who intermarried with Jacob Neal who can testify that she knew of his entering the service & returning with his discharge when they resided in the County of Amherst Virginia. The applicant further states in answer to the 7th Query prescribed by the War Department that he is acquainted with a number of the good Citizens of Stokes County North Carolina (where he has resided for upwards of thirty years past) who can testify to his character etc. etc. and there being no Clergyman convenient to be had without much trouble & inconvenience to procure his certificate therefore offers the certificate of Colonel James Martin

& Henry Carter Esquire his neighbors to prove as to their belief concerning the premises, as respects his character etc. And in answer to the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Queries – 1<sup>st</sup> he says he was born in Amherst County Virginia, that he had a record of his age in a Bible which is torn out & lost but it was 11<sup>th</sup> of March 1759 to the best of his recollection, 3<sup>rd</sup> that he resided in said County of Amherst when called into service that he emigrated from said County & now lives in Stokes County in North Carolina. Sworn & subscribed that he date 1<sup>st</sup> above mentioned before me  
S/ Charles Banner, JP

S/ Francis Steel, X his mark

[p 12: Affidavit dated April 29, 1833 given in Stokes County North Carolina by Mary Neal, 70, that she has a perfect recollection of her brother Frances Steel been living in Amherst County in the Commonwealth of Virginia enlisting in the Army of the United States in the Revolutionary War and was gone a long time; she remembers seeing a paper called a discharge; that after his return he served in the militia 2 tours of 3 months each or more. She signed her affidavit with her mark.]

[Facts in file: veteran died December 18, 1840 leaving children but William is the only child named in the documents in the file.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831, for service as a private for 2 years in the Virginia Continental line.]