

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Matthew Varner S7787

f43NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 2/17/17

[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.]

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State of Georgia, Oglethorpe County: SS

On this fifth day of November in the year of our Lord 1832 personally appeared in open Court before us Burwell Pope, Peter W. Hutchison & Robert Freeman the Inferior Court of said County & State now sitting ordinary purposes Matthew Varner a resident of said County & State aged sixty __ years – who 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 June 7th 1832.

That he served altogether Eighteen Months in the revolutionary war –twelve months at one time & three months respectively at two other periods. That when he entered the first mentioned Service it was under Captain Francis Gordon and Major Joel Lewis –After the first three months of this twelve-- he was a mounted man & served the Residue of that time under Captain Robert Gillespie. He then lived in Rowan County & State of North Carolina. He was first marched with some Tory officers (prisoners) to General Greene's [Nathanael Greene's] encampment at Bacon's Bridge South Carolina – where he remained six weeks –Proceeded to Salisbury and from thence to Rocky River where the Cavalry was collected in a considerable body to scour that region – returned and was discharged near Hillsborough at Colonel Benton's Mills on the Eno [River]. He acted all this while as the Substitute of George Varner since deceased.

One three months tour – he performed under Captain William Cole and Colonel Wade [Thomas Wade] and Generals Butler [John Butler] and Caswell [Richard Caswell] – Entered this Service from Rowan as a Substitute but cannot recollect the name of the principal – sent out just before the defeat of General Gates [Horatio Gates] by Cornwallis [Battle of Camden, August 15-16, 1780]. Fought the British at Beatty's [sic, Beatti's] Bridge on Drowning Creek¹ – Thinks the enemy was commanded by Hector McNeil and Fanning [David Fanning].

The other three months tour he acted as the Substitute of one Benjamin Daniel. He was again under the Command of Captain William Cole and General Davidson [William Lee Davidson]. Was on the Banks of the Catawba together with Some three or four hundred men – where an unsuccessful stand was made against the British Army under Lord Cornwallis – General Davidson was killed² and the troops dispersed – we fell lower down and attempted to reach Guilford in time for the engagement but failed to do so – following the enemy to Hickory Hill – where he was discharged – under the idea that he had the Small Pox. This Service – he

1 Skirmish at Beatti's Bridge occurred on August 4, 1781

http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_beattis_bridge.html

2 Claimant is describing the Battle of Cowan's Ford which occurred on February 1, 1781.

http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_cowans_ford.html

thinks, was in 1781 & immediately after the defeat of Colonel Tarleton [Banastre Tarleton] by General Morgan [Daniel Morgan] at the Cow pens [sic, Cowpens, January 17, 1781] – Has no documentary evidence and he knows of no person living and within reach to whose testimony he can procure – to testify to his actual Service – except William Henley of DeKalb County and State of Georgia – whose affidavit he has procured & is the same that is hereunto annexed. That he is upwards of sixty years old – 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.

Sworn to and Subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ William H. Smith , Clk

S/ Mathew Varner, X his mark

[standard certificate of reputation for veracity, age and belief in the service as a soldier given by Miller Bledsoe, a clergyman, and John Ellis, a neighbor.]

The following Interrogatories were answered and subscribed in open Court by the Applicant Mathew Varner

1st: Where and in what year were you born?

Ans: In Maryland about four miles from Baltimore – does not recollect the year.

2nd Have you any record of you age and if so, where is it?

Ans: He has no record of his age.

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

Ans: Lived at the time in the County of Rowan and State of North Carolina – continued to inhabit there for some years after the Revolution – removed thence to the County of Oglethorpe & State of Georgia where he has resided for upwards of 30 years.

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?

Ans: By Substitution every tour. Twelve months for George [illegible]³ who died in this County a few years since. Three months for Benjamin Daniel the other tour – the name of the principal through the length of time is forgotten.

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.

Ans: Applicant would refer to his Declaration made this day in open Court upon Oath as containing a full answer to this question as he can render.

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

Ans: He recollects receiving a discharge from Gordon & Lewis which he has long since disposed of.


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. [no response noted].

S/ Mathew Varner, V his mark

S/ P. W. Hutchison, JJ

S/ Burl Pope, JJC

S/ Robert Freeman, JJC

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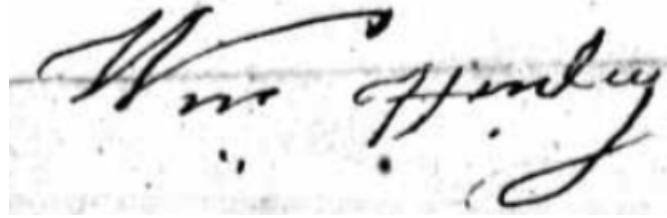
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Georgia, DeKalb County

Personally appeared before me James Henley One of the acting Justices of the Peace for said County William Henley after being duly Sworn Deposeth & saith on oath that Matthew Varner served twelve months or more in the State troops of North Carolina against Great Britain in the Revolutionary war & served a part of his time in Captain Coals [sic, Cole's] Company in General Davidson's Regiment a part of his time in Colonel Wade's Regiment & that the time said Varner Commenced his service was about the year 1780 off and on until the Close of the war & this Deponent further Saith that he was well acquainted with the family of the Varners & knowed them to be friendly to their Country that is to America in the time of the Revolutionary war against Great Britain. Sworn & subscribed to before me this 18th of October 1832.

S/ James Henley, JP

S/ Wm Henley

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Wm Henley". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

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Georgia, Oglethorpe County

The petition of Matthew Varner Show with that, on the fifth day of November 1832 he made a declaration before the Honorable the Inferior Court of said County & State, to enable him to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. In which declaration he was made to say he was upwards of sixty years of age, without Stating how much over sixty he really believed himself to be. And being destitute of education (the war of the revolution coming on shortly after he commenced going to school) he was not able to read the act of Congress, neither was the apprised of the fact that it was necessary for him to prove himself of a certain age, but that it was only necessary to prove his services to enable him to obtain a pension. And for that purpose he sent his youngest son who was then small to DeKalb County in this State, to his old friend and neighbor during the war to obtain his affidavit in proof of his services. His son being young and small, and not apprised of what should be the character of such an instrument obtained the one which accompanied his declaration, and which was very imperfect in its execution, and also was not properly authenticated – and his application for a pension was accordingly rejected. William Henley died shortly afterwards and it is out of his power to correct the error which was so unfortunately made. He has however obtained the affidavit of Mrs. Sarah Walker, who lived a short distance from the residence of his Father during the war, and who has lived within 2 miles of his own residence in this State during a period of near 48 years, as proof of his services and age and he prays the department to receive it as such.

He has further obtained from the Comptroller's office of the State of North Carolina, under the hand and seal of the present incumbent, a certificate of the amount paid him for military services by the State of N. C. and he also prays the department to admit that in support of his claim.

He has not been able to obtain any further testimony in relation to his claim since he first made his declaration other than what he now Submits to the department for its Consideration.

At that time he was unable, and is still unable to say precisely how old he was from the loss of memory, and the record of his age being lost – He believed himself to be between 67 and eight, and from the best information he can gather he believes himself to be 80 years old at this time. He is now very old and infirm, and hopes that the testimony which he now submits to the department will be satisfactory, and that he will yet have the gratification of receiving some

compensation for the services which he rendered in the cause of his Country's freedom, and by which he contributed in some degree in obtaining that liberty we so much prize, and which is enjoyed by so many happy millions.

S/ Matthew Varner, X his mark

Sworn to and Subscribed before made this 26th of August 1845.

S/ John F. Zuber, JP

Raleigh N. C. Comptroller Office

I William F. Collins Comptroller or of Public Accounts in and for the State of North Carolina do hereby certify that the name of Matthew Varner appears of record in this office as having had the following specie certificates issued in his name for Military Service, Viz. One Certificate for Eighty Two Pounds Two Shillings and Six Pence (£82.2.6) See, Book L., No. 2 page 12 also one other Certificate for Thirteen Pounds Fourteen Shillings and Six Pence see Book No. 27 page 3 given under my hand and Seal this the 3rd day of July A. D. 1845.

S/ Wm F. Collins, Comptr.

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$50 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 15 months in the North Carolina militia.]