

[Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters](#)

Pension Application of David Cockerham S8240

NC

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 14 Nov 2014.

State of North Carolina }

Surry County }

On this 15<sup>th</sup> day of August 1832 personally appeared in open Court, being a Court of Record and opened and held as such this day for the County and State aforesaid, David Cockerham resident in the County of Surry and State of North Carolina aged sixty nine years on the 25<sup>th</sup> of November next, who being first 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 7<sup>th</sup> of June 1832; that he the said David Cockerham entered the service of the United States for three months in the spring of the year when Charleston in South Carolina was taken [on 12 May 1780]; in the company commanded by Capt James Freeman of the said County of Surry; that he entered as a substitute in the place of his uncle William Cockerham of the County and State aforesaid; that his company commanded by Capt Freeman as aforesaid marched to Richmond then the County Town of Surry County. They remained at this place some weeks and from thence they marched to Salisbury in Rowan County; from thence they marched to Camden in the State of South Carolina; from thence to Nelsons Ferry [at Eutaw Springs] on the Santee River; from thence down this side of the River for the purpose of aiding in the defence of Charleston which was then besieged by the British. At Camden Capt Freeman joined Gen [Richard] Caswell from North Carolina, who with a considerable body of the North Carolina militia was also marching for the relief of Charleston – when Gen Caswell had gone on from [smudge] to Nelsons Ferry and from thence down the River towards Charleston and so near it as to hear the firing of the Cannons, he was informed by some of the American soldiers who had escaped from the siege, that Charleston had fallen, and he thereupon inclined the Troops under his command to march back to Camden; from thence he marched to Fayetteville in North Carolina, and from there on to a place called Dobsons Cross Roads in Surry County, but now Stokes County by a division of the said County of Surry [now Kernersville in Forsythe County]. At Dobsons Cross Roads he the said David Cockerham was discharged but he does not now remember whether he obtained a written discharge; if he did he has lost the same.

And the said David Cockerham further states that again entered the service as a drafted militia soldier in the company commanded by Capt Edward Lovill [Edward Lovell] of Surry County for the period of three months; that they marched to the Town of Salem in the said County of Surry [now Winston Salem] where they joined General Pickins [sic: Andrew Pickens] who commanded the Troops from South Carolina; after joining General Pickins they marched down into Randolph County No Carolina in pursuit of the celebrated Tory officer named Fannin, or Fanning [David Fanning]; from Randolph they marched into Chatham County in pursuit of the same Tory officer and his party, and not being able to overtake the enemy the whole company was discharged at a place called the Widow Deaton's in said County of Chatham; that he does not remember whether or not he obtained a written discharge, but if he did it has been lost – The time he was engaged for having expired.

And the said David Cockerham further states that he again entered the service of the United States as a drafted militia soldier for the period of three months in the said County of Surry in the company commanded by Capt Salathiel Martin of the said County; not long as he now thinks before the Battle of Guilford [Guilford Courthouse NC, 15 Mar 1781]; that the Regiment he thinks was commanded by lieut Joel Lewis, Major Micajah Lewis also of the Regiment, and he thinks Jesse Franklin late Governor of North Carolina was also along in the capacity of a Captain or a Major; that they marched from Surry aforesaid to Hillsborough in the County of Orange in said State; that the British under the command of Lord Cornwallis drove the American Troops out of Hillsborough; that the American Troops then retreated to the upper part of Orange County; and on Alamance Creek they met about four hundred of the British [sic: Loyalist] enemy with whom they had an engagement and killed and crippled about

three hundred of them, and took about thirty prisoners [Pyle's Defeat, 25 Feb 1781] That after this battle they continued the march all night long, and went in pursuit of about a thousand of the British who had left Hillsborough and gone into the upper part of point of Orange County; that this detachment of the enemy finding that they were pursued retreated in great haste back to Hillsborough; that the American Troops continued the pursuit to Hillsborough where the enemy being reinforced by a detachment from Cornwallis main army marched out against them, and compelled them to retreat; that the actions from Hillsborough on the part of the American Troops and the pursuit on the part of the British Forces continued for the distance of twenty or thirty miles, during which there were repeated skirmishes in one of which Major Micajah Lewis was killed [mortally wounded at Dickey's Farm, 26 Feb]; that the American Troops continued the retreat up to Guilford County, and in the progress to this point another skirmish at a place called Whitsells Mill ocured [Wetzel's Mill, 6 March]. At Guilford the company of Captain Martin was discharged but he does not think he the said David Cockerham obtained a written discharge During this period of service Capt Martin joined Gen Green's [sic: Nathanael Greene's] army, but he did not remain long with Green having been ordered to another service for reasons known only to his officers themselves

And the said David Cockerham further states that he again entered the service of the United States as a volunteer militia soldier under the command of Captain Wm T Lewis [William Terrell Lewis] for as long a period as his services might be required; that they marched from Surry as aforesaid into Rowan and Iredell Counties for the purpose of opposing a Tory Leader called Capt Roberts, who at that time was depredating upon the surrounding country; That they continued in this service for about two months as well as he can now recollect. That besides the above stated periods of service he the said David Cockerham was often out upon other excursions for longer or shorter periods amounting altogether he thinks to one year or upwards.

And 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 declared the day and year aforesaid – David hisXmark Cockerham  
 [Certified by Pleasant B. Cockerham, Baptist minister, and John Wright, Clerk of Surry County Court.]

State of North Carolina } SS On this 31 day of March 1855 personally appeared before  
 Surry County } a justice of the Peace within and for the county and State  
 aforesaid David Cockerham aged 92 years a resident of Surry

County and State of No Ca who being duly sworn according to law declares that he is the identical David Cockerham who was a private in the Revolutionary War He does not recollect his Captains name but he thinks it was Capt Freeman Nor does he recollect at what place he entered the service but thinks it was in Halifax County Virginia. He entered the war in 1777 or about that time and continued in actual service in said war for the time of Thirteen months and was honorably discharged He does not recollect exactly at what time But refers you very respectfully to the Muster rolls of said war and to the record of his Pension certificate which he has now in his possession and has exhibited to me of which I certify the following is a true copy War Department Revolutionary Claims. I certify that in conformity with the law of the United States of the 7<sup>th</sup> June 1832. David Cockerham of the State of North Carolina who was a private in the army of the Revolution is entitled to receive Thirty Dollars per Annum during his natural life commencing on the 4<sup>th</sup> of March 1831 and payable semi annually on the 4<sup>th</sup> March and 4<sup>th</sup> of September in every year given at the War office of the United States this 8<sup>th</sup> day of January one Thousand Eight Hundred and Thirty Three

Examined and Countersigned } and numbered 4002 Lewis Cass  
 1. L. Edwards } Secretary of War

He makes this declaration for the purpose of obtaining the bounty land to which he may be entitled under the act approved March 3<sup>d</sup> 1855. He also declares that he has not received any warrant for Bounty land under this or any other act of Congress nor made any other application therefor

David hisXmark Cockerham

NOTE: Cockerham was allowed a pension for only nine months service, following the practice of the Pension Office in allowing only for “the shortest period which has been defined and distinctly proved.”  
On 27 Sep 1852 David Cockerham assigned power of attorney to obtain an increase in his pension, witnessed by S. W. Cockerham and H. C. Hampton.