

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Claiborne Howard S8731

f27VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

5/1/14

[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 'indcipherable' 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 Iredell County

On this 17<sup>th</sup> day of February 1834 personally appeared in open Court, held for the County of Iredell, and State aforesaid Claiborne Howard, a resident of North Carolina in the County of Iredell, aged seventy years on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of March 1833, 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 7<sup>th</sup> 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States in June 1779, in his 17<sup>th</sup> year, as a substitute for John Eades, Company commanded by Captain Buck [?] in the State of Virginia, Albemarle County, that the first service was performed in the militia line of that State, in guarding what was then called Burgoyne's prisoners, at the Barracks within a few miles of Charlottesville in the said County of Albemarle, that he was employed in this service for one month, that he was regularly discharged by the Captain. That after I performed the above described tour my father placed me under James Cary to learn the millwright business, who removed into Caroline County in the State of Virginia. At that time the Militia of that state was placed into ten divisions – the division which I fell into was the tenth, that the following October in 1780, there was a call for the Militia to prevent the British from coming to Richmond – that I went out as a drafted man with a company commanded by Captain Joseph Richardson, Major Littleberry Page (not entirely certain of the first name) that we rendezvoused at Bowling Green in the aforesaid County of Caroline, in which County the above named officers both lived from thence we marched to City Point on the North side of James River where we remained until we were relieved by a supply of other Militia this term of service embraced two months. I was regularly discharged by the Captain.

After I was discharged I returned to Caroline County State of Virginia. – In the winter of 1781 the time not particularly recollected, there was a call for the militia, I went as a substitute for George Richardson in a company commanded by Captain Madison Lieutenant Richard Howard, rendezvoused at the Bowling Greene, from thence we marched to Williamsburg, while we were stationed here a considerable part of our duty was performed at James Town to prevent the British from ascending the river – this detachment was principally commanded by Major Armistead, who I understood had been an officer in the Continental line, which service embraced two months. Whilst at Williamsburg there was a slight skirmish took place, and we being over powered by number evacuated the place, when we were relieved by a fresh supply of militia, – I was discharged near that place by the Captain.

In the Spring of 1781 (in the month of March as well as can be recollected) in the

aforesaid County of Caroline & State of Virginia there was a call on the militia. I went as a substitute for John Casey, under Captain Thompkins Regiment commanded by Colonel Thornton, or called by some Thorn, rendezvoused at Bowling Green in County and State aforesaid – marched to Port Royal on the Rappahannock River, State of Virginia we were then joined by other Militia, but I do not recollect that there was any officer above Colonel Thornton or Thorn in command – our duty was principally performed here for the purpose of preventing the British from ascending the river to Fredericksburg, and continued in all two months. About this time information was received that the British would not probably attempt to ascend the river and we were discharged. My discharge was received from Captain Thompkins.

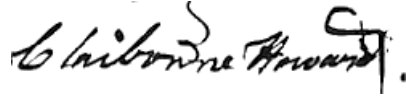
I then returned to Caroline County State of Virginia, when shortly after getting home there was a call on the militia, my period of service by allotment now came round, and I went as such in a Company commanded by Captain John Tyler as a drafted man. Battalion commanded by Major Page, rendezvoused at Bowling Green – marched to a place called the Meadow Bridges, below Richmond within a few miles of James River, where we joined General Muhlenberg's Army – we remained there & near that place two months – the object as I understood was to keep the enemy from crossing the River & getting up to Richmond, when we were relieved by a fresh supply of militia and was discharged by Captain aforesaid.

We then returned to Caroline County State of Virginia in May or the summer of 1781 there was another call for the Militia – I went as a substitute for Henry Terrill – Company commanded by Captain Anthony New, rendezvoused at Bowling Green – from thence we marched in May or June to Richmond – we there joined a Brigade commanded by General Nelson [Thomas Nelson close, and remained there three months at or near that place until we were relieved by a fresh supply of Militia, when I was discharged by the Captain aforesaid – I then returned to Caroline, and from thence I went into Amherst County where my friends resided State of Virginia. In August of that year 1781, there was a call for the Militia, I went as a substitute for William Gooldsby in a Company commanded by Captain John Stewart – subsequently General Stewart in the State of Georgia where he died – rendezvoused at Amherst Court House – marched from there passing through Richmond to York town – here we remained until the capture of Lord Cornwallis in October 1781 – during the time we were there the British took a French Battery & spite the cannon &c – I marched from there after the capture of Cornwallis as a guard to Winchester State of Virginia in Frederick County, here I remained as one of the guard, commanded by Colonel Vance, until a little before Christmas when we were relieved by a fresh supply of Militia – I then returned to Amherst County in the State of Virginia, the following January 1782, which tour I place at 4 months – I was discharged at Winchester by the aforesaid Captain Stewart.

The declarant Claiborne Howard further states that some days before the siege of Yorktown commenced he was one of eight that was selected by Captain Stewart's Company with a sufficient number from the American Army to man & manage eighteen Cannon and six mortars, which as well as he recollects amounted to one hundred and thirty-two men, and were denominated Gunners. They were placed immediately under the command of General Knox, and French officer whose name I do not recollect, and was called and Engineer – owing to the particular duty that devolved on me, from the dinge of the guns, carriages or violence of explosion of Gun Powder, I am unable to say which my hearing was then so much affected (now better) but yet very imperfect, that had active service been apprehended to be necessary he was then told that he could have been discharge from military duty; but he was advised in his much as his health was not impaired, he had better keep on with his Company –. The declarant states

that he was in no other respect injured by the service; but your declarant respectfully represents that the laws of that most important organ is of such a nature as to demand the attention of the Department. He hereby relinquishes every claim 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 to his knowledge. Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid. Your declarant would further state that the certificates he received for his service were not of \$5 value to him.

S/ Claiborne Howard



[Thomas Allison and Andrew Carson gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

Your declarant would further represent with much respect that he removed from Amherst County State of Virginia to North Carolina Iredell County in the year 1793, that he resided 5 years in said County and then removed into Surry County said state, where he resided until 1826 when he returned to the aforesaid County of Iredell where he now resides –. Your declarant further states that he has left all his discharges with his Mother in Amherst County, State of Virginia under the impression that they would be of no value to him – now advanced in years, and of course under the influence of that infirmity peculiar to age, if there should be some discrepancy in this declaration & the facts of the case it will be accounted for on that ground. In your declarant would state that he is now so far removed from the land of his Nativity & those that were acquainted with him in early life that he is dependent on acquired acquaintances to support this declaration. Nevertheless, as the mother of this declarant is dead, and there is a man possibly that his brother George Howard resides on the same plantation where his Mother died, may have preserved, he has written to him, to make search for them, and forward them to the Honorable Lewis Cass, which discharges, if they should be forwarded, he asked that they may be appended to this declaration.

North Carolina

Iredell County

Interrogatories

1<sup>st</sup> Where and in what year were you born?

Answer. I was born in the State of Virginia Albemarle County on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of March 1763.

2<sup>nd</sup> Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

Answer. I have a record of my age, transcribed from my Father's Bible in my own.

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

Answer. When I was first called into service I resided in Albemarle County, State of Virginia – this Tour was for one month as a substitute – the 2<sup>nd</sup> tour was for 2 months as a drafted man – the 3<sup>rd</sup> tour was for 2 months as a substitute. The 4<sup>th</sup> tour was for 2 months as a substitute. The 5<sup>th</sup> tour was for 2 months as a drafted man. The 6<sup>th</sup> tour was for 3 months as a substitute, the 5 last tours were all performed when I lived in Caroline County as above described, State of Virginia. The 7<sup>th</sup> tour was from Amherst County State of Virginia as a substitute for 4 months. In all 16 months. Subsequent to the year 1793, I removed to Iredell County North Carolina and resided there 5 years, I then moved into Surry County, and then removed back to Iredell in 1826, where I now reside.

4<sup>th</sup> How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a

substitute, and if a substitute, for whom?

Answer. I was first a substitute for John Eades of Albemarle County State of Virginia – 2<sup>nd</sup> tour of service was a drafted man from Caroline County State of Virginia. 3<sup>rd</sup> tour I was a substitute for George Richardson of Caroline County, state of Virginia. 4<sup>th</sup> tour I went as a drafted man from Caroline State of Virginia. 5<sup>th</sup> tour – I went as a substitute for Henry Terrell Caroline County State of Virginia. 6<sup>th</sup> tour I went as a substitute for Henry Terrill Caroline County State of Virginia. 7<sup>th</sup> tour I went as a substitute for William Gooldsby from Amherst County State of Virginia

5<sup>th</sup> 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. The first Militia officers was Major Page, the several Field Officers Colonel Thornton or Colonel Thornton, Colonel Mathews, General Nelson, General Muhlenberg, I understood Colonel Mathews & General Muhlenberg were Continental Officers and finally at York I was under General Washington, General Lafayette, General Knox &c &c.

6<sup>th</sup> 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 was discharged in all the tours of service aforesaid described by the Captain & served under and left them in my mother's house in Amherst County State of Virginia in 1793.

7<sup>th</sup> State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

Answer. I am personally known to the Reverend James Patterson, Colonel Francis Young, John M Young Esquire, Captain Andrew Carson & Perceval Campbell Esquire &c &c

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$53.33 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831, for service as a private for 16 months in the Virginia service.]