

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Mebane S9403

f25NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

11/1/13

[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.]

State of North Carolina, Chatham County

On this 30th day of March AD 1833 personally appeared before me Isaac Headen an acting magistrate of said Court, Col. John Mebane of the County and State aforesaid aged 76 years who being first duly sworn according to Law makes the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed 7th June AD 1832 that he entered the service of the United States and served as herein stated Tours.

That sometime in the Year (he thinks 1779 or 1780 he volunteered his services as a private in the County of Orange in the State of North Carolina and joined a company of horse commanded by Captain Douglas [probably William Douglas] and Lieut. James Mebane in the Regiment commanded by Col. Dudley [Guilford Dudley] and marched from Hillsborough into Randolph County and spent this time scanning the country in search of Tories but the principal object of this pursuit was the notorious Col. Fanning [David Fanning] who had lately robbed Col. Dudley when on his way from Charleston they failed in catching him but were fortunate enough on one occasion to capture his horse he thinks he was employed in this service about 3 months and has no distinct recollection how when or where he was discharged but is quite certain that he did not receive any written discharge. Sometime after his discharge as aforesaid he again volunteered his services as a private in Orange County and joined a company of horse commanded by Captain Williams and marched under the command of General Butler [John Butler] to Fayetteville and through the Cape Fear to intercept the Tories in their retreat from the Battle of Moore's bridge (where they had been defeated by General Moore and Col. Caswell) [February 27, 1776] and we succeeded in making a large number of them Prisoner at Smith's Ferry and marched them to Fayetteville — He thinks he was engaged in this service about 2 months. he has no recollection how when or where he was discharged.


Sometime in the Year 1781 he volunteered his services in a company of horse (in Orange County) and was commanded by Genl. Butler and was in the service in Chatham County but went to Hillsborough when that Town was taken by the Tories himself & all the troops and the Governor [Thomas Burke] of North Carolina were made prisoners [Hillsboro, September 12, 1781] — he was marched as a prisoner by the Enemy to Wilmington and thrown into a prison ship where he remained for several weeks when he was paroled to the town where he remained sometime when he was exchanged as he understood for a Lieutenant McClain who had been made Prisoner by his brother Robert Mebane a Continental officer (but of the certainty of this exchange he cannot positively speak his brother Robert having been killed shortly after and he never saw him after his discharge), he returned home after he had served about 2 months but he received no written discharge that he recollects — He further states that in all the above tours he found his own

horse and lost one when he was taken at Hillsborough that he served a number of short tours the particulars of which he cannot recollect.

He further states that sometime in the Year 1782 he thinks in the month of May he was appointed a Captain in a regiment of foot called the State Regiment which was commanded part of the time which he served by Major Crafton [Bennett Crafton] and Colonel Joseph Lewis [sic, Joel Lewis] — Captains Swan Trouten, Sam¹ Jones [Samuel Jones], Capt Tabb and Major Ferigood (a frenchman)¹ were in the same regiment he marched into South Carolina with the regiment to succor General Marion but their services were not needed. They scoured the Raft Swamp in search of Tories, were stationed sometimes in Moore County at Conner Dowd's where they erected a stockade fort, were stationed sometimes at Browns Mills in Chatham sometimes at Cones Mills in Randolph County — he is not certain as to the length of time he was in this service but thinks it was not less than 5 months. He has no recollection by whom his commission was signed or from whom he received it. That he entered the service and took a commission at the request of Major Crafton who at that time commanded the regiment. He thinks he surrendered his commission when his claims were liquidated by the State but of this he is not certain. He has no recollection in what manner he was discharged nor how when or where the Regiment was disbanded and he is unable to provide the commission under which he served the same having been lost by time or accident —

In conclusion he stated that owing to the great lapse of time since the revolutionary war added to a memory impaired by age he is unable to recount his services with any tolerable degree of accuracy but he thinks he can safely say that he served his country faithfully for at least 7 months as a Private and 5 months as a Captain in the Revolutionary war — that he has no documentary evidence to substantiate his services — and 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 or Territory in this Union.

S/ John Mebane



Sworn to and subscribed the day and Year aforesaid

S/ Is Headen, JP

[Andrew Headen, Sr., and Nathaniel M. Alston gave an affidavit in support of applicant's reputation, age and service in the Revolution.]

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State of North Carolina, Orange County

This day personally appeared before me James A. Craig one of the acting Justices of the peace for the County of Orange in the State aforesaid James Turner Senr. a resident of the Hawfields in the County of Orange aforesaid being first duly sworn according to Law doth on his oath State as follows:

¹ This may be a reference to Jorge Farragut (Anglicized George Farragut) (b. 9/29/1755 on Minorca; d. 1817), father of Admiral David G. Farragut (1801-1870). George Farragut is known to have been in North and South Carolina during the Revolutionary War. He served in the SC navy and was captured when Charleston fell on May 12, 1780. Exchanged, paroled or escaped, he is thought by some to have been at the Battle of Cowpens and later at Wilmington during the Revolution. J. D. Lewis notes that Farragut has commissioned a Captain of Infantry in the NC State Regiment under Maj. Bennett Crafton and Maj. Joel Lewis. 5/1/1782, a Major over the units of Light Horse within the State Regiment. (5/5/1783, the NC General Assembly back-dated this promotion.). Thanks to Hershel Parker for making this connection and calling it to my attention.

That during the war of the revolution he lived near to and was well acquainted with John Mebane Senr. of Chatham County in the State aforesaid. That Said Mebane was in the service of the United States as a militiaman and that he took a firm and active part in achieving the Independence of our country — And that Said Mebane with this affiant and others were made prisoners of war in Hillsboro in the above County of Orange in or about the 6th day of September 1781 when that town was taken by the Tories under Cols Fanning and McNeil, and that presently after being his prisoners they were all for a short time confined in the Hillsboro Jail for safe keeping till the Tory party had plundered [the] Town and were ready to return and he well remembers when the Said John Mebane Senr. was brought into the jail he danced across the floor - and that upon the Tory party's leaving Hillsboro all the prisoners they then and there made, were placed under guard and speedily marched to Wilmington in this State, where they were all confined on board of a British brig and after being there retained for a week or two the Said John Mebane was paroled and returned to Orange, while this affiant and other prisoners were carried to Charleston in South Carolina and retained till some time in the following Year (1782).

Sworn to and subscribed on this the 22nd October 1832.

S/ James Turner²



Test: S/ James A Craig, JP

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State of North Carolina, Orange County

On this the 22nd day of October A.D. 1832 personally appeared at his own residence before me James A. Craig one of the Justices of the peace in and for the County of Orange aforesaid Captain Richard Christmas³ of the Hawfields in the aforesaid County of Orange who being first duly sworn according to Law doth on his oath make the following Statement.

That during the war of the revolution he lived near to and was well acquainted with John Mebane Senr. now a resident of the County of Chatham in the State aforesaid. That Said Mebane was attached to the militia, was a zealous and an active Whig and that when Hillsboro was taken by the Tories under Col. Fanning in September 1781 this affiant was then made prisoner and well remembers and well remembers that Said John Mebane Senr. was one of the prisoners then and there made and with the other prisoners was taken to Wilmington in this State and after they were there kept some ten or fifteen days as prisoners of war on board a British Brig. The Said Mebane as this affiant understood was paroled through the influence of his brother Col. Robert Mebane and returned home — This affiant in conclusion states he does not now recollect how long the Said John Mebane served in the militia nor how long he was prisoner of war and that to a memory somewhat impaired by age he finds it difficult to recount as minutely as he could wish incidents that happened upwards of half a century ago.

S/ Richard Christmas, X his mark

Sworn to and subscribed this day and date above written

S/ James A Craig JP

² [James Turner W11573](#)

³ [Richard Christmas S8196](#)

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North Carolina, Chatham County

This day came Captain William Marsh Senior before me, Isaac Headen one of the acting Justices of the peace for the County aforesaid, and after being duly sworn deposes and saith as follows; that he came acquainted with Colonel John Mebane during the revolutionary war, and that the said Colonel Mebane was a Captain in the State Regiment, the deponent saith that he, now is in his 74th year of age.

S/ Wm Marsh⁴



Sworn and Subscribed to before me this ninth day of February A.D. 1833

S/ Is Headen, JP

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Orange County, North Carolina

This day Samuel Nelson⁵ of said County came before me James Mebane one of the Justices of the peace for said County and being first duly sworn Saith that he lived near John Mebane during the whole of the revolutionary war, that he knows he was an active & zealous Whig, & that he was frequently engaged in the service of his country as a militiaman, that he particularly recollects that he served with this deponent one tour of duty in an expedition called in this country the Scotch Camp from Hillsboro as low down the Country a Fayetteville under Capt John Williams – who commanded a company of horse, that in this expedition we took something like three hundred prisoners near Smiths Ferry. This deponent also recollects that said Mebane was in service in pursuit of Cornwallis when he passed through this country under Capt Thompson as the deponent believes. He also recollects that towards the last years of the war said Mebane was called Captain, but in what department he does not now remember.

S/ Saml Nelson



Sworn to & subscribed this 2nd of November 1832 before me

S/ James Mebane JP^f

David Mebane being sworn declares that sometime towards the last of the revolutionary war there was a regiment of troops raised called the State Regiment & that he very well recollects that John Mebane was an officer in said regiment but of what grade he does not recollect. This regiment was mostly employed in search of & keeping under the Tories commanded by Col. Fanning & others in Randolph & other neighboring counties infested by Tories

S/ David [paper damaged]

⁴ [William Marsh S7186](#)

⁵ [Samuel Nelson S8916](#)



Sworn to & subscribed date as above [written]
S/ James Mebane, JP

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Orange County, North Carolina

This day John Reeves a Citizen of said County now in the eighty fourth year of his age came before me James Mebane one of [the] Justices of the peace for said County at his place of residence and being first duly sworn, declares that he believes the facts set forth in the depositions of Richard Christmas & James Turner accompanying this to be true, for he was well acquainted with said Colonel John Mebane & was frequently engaged in service with him, throughout the whole or greater part of the revolutionary war, that they both served together under General Butler, Colonel John Hogan & Captain William Lytle, especially one tour from Hillsboro to Fayetteville, another guarding prisoners [illegible word, looks like "twice"] to Halifax, another tour near Granville Old Court House & that said Mebane was generally in the service throughout war, that he & this affiant was generally together and attended to little if any other business, for when not in actual service he was always prepared to march on a short notice.

Sworn to & subscribed before me the 14th day of November 1832.

S/ James Mebane, JP

S/ John Reeves⁶



[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$123.33 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private & Captain in the North Carolina service for 12 months.]

⁶ [John Reeves S7381](#)