

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Ansel Fields (Field) W10021

Martha Fields

f55NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

12/22/08 rev'd 2/6/15

[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.]

[p 13]

State of Indiana County of Shelby

On this third day of March 1834 personally appeared in open Court before the Shelby Circuit Court of Shelby County Indiana now sitting Ansel Fields a (resident of Sugar Creek Township in said County) aged eighty-five years who being first duly sworn according to law, thus his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th, 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated: To wit, Sometime in the month of July 1780, (he does not remember the day of the month) he entered said service, as a volunteer of the militia and was Sergeant during all his service, of the company to which he belonged. He resided then in Guilford County, North Carolina. The officer of this company was Captain John Leek [John Leak] Lieutenant George Peay Ensign James Leek. Claimant himself was Sergeant of the same (to which office he was elected immediately after he volunteered & before the company marched). He does not remember the number of his Company, nor of the regiment to which it was attached. The latter was called the Guilford Regiment, and was commanded by Colonel James Martin & Major Robin Ralston. He was under the command of General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford]. After his company was formed & their officers elected they assembled at Spring Garden in Guilford County North Carolina from which place they marched to Guilford Court House, on their way to which place they met with another company, which joined them, & they marched together to the Court. There they met the army of the militia consisting he thinks of three thousand men. He thinks there were among them no Regulars. From Guilford Court they marched Southward against the Indians who had been committing depredations on the whites. The first important point at which they arrived on their march was Salisbury in North Carolina, about ninety miles from Claimant's residence at that time, thence they marched to Camlen [sic, Camden] in South Carolina at least one hundred miles further, thence they marched about two hundred miles to an Indian town lying on the Tennessee River, he thinks in the State of Tennessee. He does not know the name of this town, but thinks it belonged to the Cherokee nation. This town they destroyed and burned the houses. They then marched thirty miles further along the Kewee nation, and took a white man called Scott who had married an Indian woman. They were then out of provisions, and returned home where they arrived sometime in the month of October 1780. He there received a written discharge from his Colonel which he has lost. He served during this engagement just three months. He was during the time in no battle except at the destruction of

the Indian Town and a skirmish at the taking of Scott. He was with none of the Regular forces, and thinks they were stationed at Cross Creek, now called Fayetteville North Carolina. He does not recollect the names of any of the Regular Officers except Lieutenant Barns, with whom he was acquainted at home. While crossing a stream on their march, an officer of the Rowan Troops took up a soldier on his horse behind him, and there being a greater number of reeds growing about the edge of the stream the lock or trigger of the private's gun caught among the reeds and was fired off. The load passed through the body of the officer & produced his immediate death. He received no commission as Sergeant, and is now under the impression that the Sergeant was at that time a noncommissioned officer.

About the last of November 1780 he again volunteered in the militia. The company elected the same officers as before, he being reelected Sergeant in which capacity he served during the whole of this his second engagement, of course under the same officers as in his first engagement. He at this time resided at the same place as when he first entered. He does not remember the number of his Company nor that of the regiment to which you belonged. The officers of the regiment were the same as before. His General was the same also. As before his Company assembled at Spring Garden in Guilford County North Carolina & marched to Guilford Court House where they joined the main army. They then marched one hundred & twenty miles to Cross Creek or Fayetteville, under the expectation that the Enemy would invade that place. Here are some of the Regular army was stationed. Here they remained about a week during which time the regular army marched to Sunbury [sic, Sunbury, Georgia]. After remaining at Cross Creek a week Claimant's Company & the rest of the army consisting he thinks of three thousand were stationed there one month, & then marched to Camden in South Carolina where they stayed one week guarding Tories in the prison and awaiting the approach of the Enemy. They then upon the enemy's arriving within three miles, retreated for the purpose (as claimant thinks) of leading them further into the interior of the Country. The British pursued them at various distances on their return to Guilford Court House. Shortly after their return to that place the enemy came up, and a battle was fought, in which there was considerable loss on both sides. The Americans fought in an old field, and the British in a wood. Claimant thinks both parties were beaten, as both retreated, the Americans having spent their ammunition. This battle took place sometime in March 1781 [March 15, 1781]. After this battle the Army was scattered Claimant's Company scouted round in a circuit of fifty miles after the Tories. At length they returned to Salisbury, where they were stationed about a month, at the end of which time claimant received from the Colonel a written discharge which he has lost. This discharge was about the last of August 1781. He does not remember the precise date of the month on which he entered or left the service either in this or the previous engagement. In this engagement he served just nine months and in the former three months making in all twelve months as a Sergeant of the volunteers of North Carolina. He received no commission as Sergeant. When they retreated from Camden they took the Tories from the jail with them and lodged them in the jail in Guilford County North Carolina. He does not know the names of any other officers either of the militia volunteers or Regular army, during this or the latter engagement, except those mentioned and Lieutenant Barns, with whom as before stated he was acquainted at home. During this engagement he was in no battle except at Guilford Court House.

Claimant was born in Hanover Virginia on the 5<sup>th</sup> of January 1749 or 1750 O. S. or on what he generally calls old Christmas eve at the age of 12 he removed to Guilford County North Carolina where he lived till three years ago when he removed to Sugar Creek Township Shelby County Indiana where he now lives. He has no record of his age in his possession; it is however

recorded in a Bible in the possession of his brother in North Carolina. He has no documentary evidence of his services, and he knows of no living witness whose testimony he can procure, who can testify as to his service. During his above mentioned terms of engagement he was employed in no civil pursuit. He refers to William Smith, Jeremiah Odell, Joseph Odell & Harding Carter persons to whom he is known in his present neighborhood, and who can testify as to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution. He claims a pension for twelve months service, as a Sergeant of the volunteers of North Carolina, in defense of the United States in the war of the Revolution, 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. That he knows no clergyman, in his neighborhood or elsewhere who has any traditionary or other knowledge of his service. Sworn & subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ H. F. Robison,

S/ Ansel Fields, X his mark

[William Smith and the Harden Carter gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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Amendment to the declaration of Ansel Fields to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th, 1832

State of Indiana Shelby County

On the 12th day of May 1834 personally appeared in the open Court for the Probate Court of Shelby County Indiana now sitting Ansel Fields who being duly sworn sayeth that he is the identical person who makes application for a pension in the declaration hereto annexed to which this is an amendment. That in his said declaration he neglected to state but now on his oath states that the term of nine months service therein mentioned was performed in two tours or engagements, That the circumstances were as follows To wit: The second engagement in said declaration mentioned was for three months which are the first three months of the nine months therein mentioned, That these three months expired shortly after he returned to Guilford Court House therein mentioned -- that is about the last of February or first of March 1781, that his Captain requested all who are willing to engage again & that he with a number of others engaged for six months and served that period being the latter part of the nine months in said declaration mentioned. That the period between these two engagements was but a few days perhaps less than a week, and the shortness of the period was the reason why he did not in his first declaration state that the last nine months service was performed in two engagements. Considering the whole as not differing materially from the continued engagement on account of the shortness of the interval. That Chesley Barnes,<sup>1</sup> Nicholas McCubbins,<sup>2</sup> George Nicks, Samuel Gan,<sup>3</sup> Thomas Carter, Senior, James Delay, (besides the officers in his declaration mentioned) are persons who served with him and who when living had some knowledge that he served in the capacity & in the manner stated in his declaration. That he is not certain whether any of them is at this time living, but he has taken steps to procure the affidavits of such of them as are living and can be found, if any such there be which when procured will be sent to the war Department.

Sworn to and subscribe the day & year aforesaid.

S/ H. F. Robison

S/ Ansel Fields, X his mark

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<sup>1</sup> [Chesley Barnes W4877](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Nicholas McCubbin W3574](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Samuel Gann S9664](#)

[p 4]

1804 Augt. 5 memo of the ages of Ansel Children

Mary Fields Was Born the 14 Day of February AD 1783

Sarah Fields was Born the 7 Day of Augt. AD 1784

Nathaniel Fields was Born the 10 Day of June AD 1786

Allen Fields was Born the 31 Day of October AD 1793

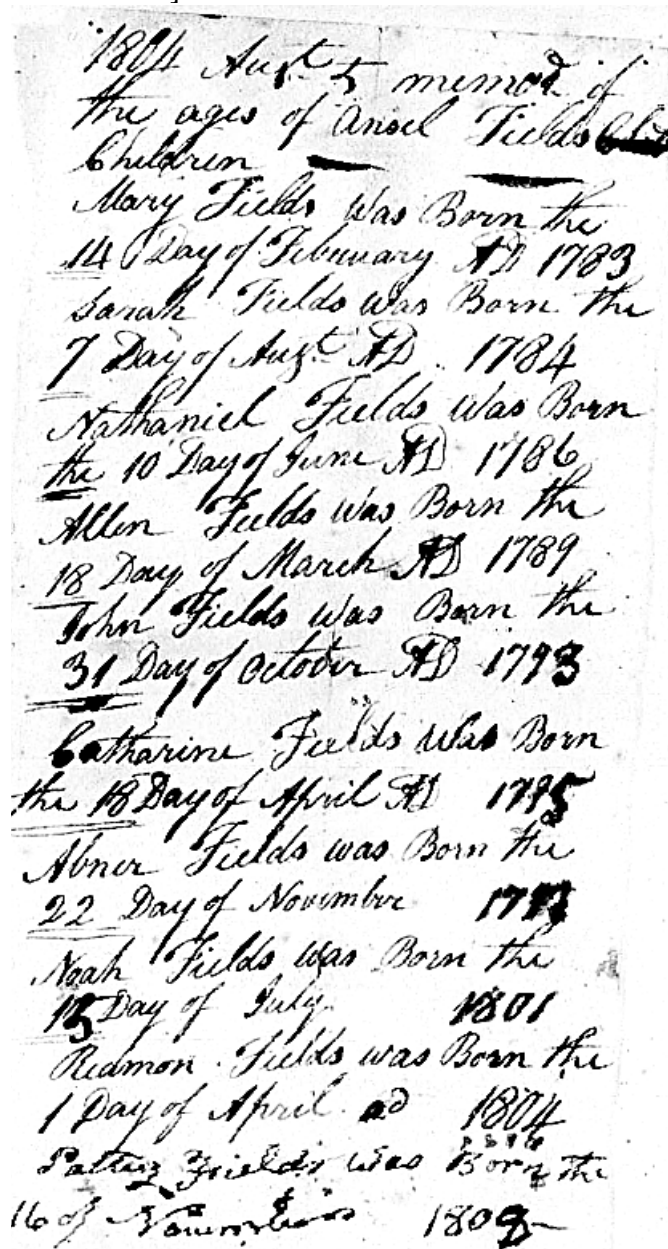
Catharine Fields was Born the 18 Day of April AD 1795

Abner Fields was Born the 22 Day of November 1798

Noah Fields was Born the 15 Day of July 1801

Redmon Fields was Born the 1 Day of April ad 1804

Patney Fields was Born the 16 of November 1808 [this entry is in a different handwriting than the other entries]



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16 of November 1808

[p 10: On November 11, 1839 in Shelby County Indiana, Abner Fields gave testimony that he is the son of Ansel Fields; that his father had no education and could not right his name; that the family record is in the handwriting of the affiant's uncle John Fields (an Elder brother of the affiant's father; and that the said record is a true record of the ages of his parents children.

*Abner Fields* ]

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[Martha Fields, 85, filed on May 15, 1839 in Shelby County, Indiana, for a widow's pension as the widow of Ansel Fields, a pensioner at the rate of \$30/ annum; that she married him in Rockingham County, NC on April 7, 1781; they were married by the Rev. Nathan Thurman a Baptist clergyman; that he died October 1, 1834 in Shelby County, Indiana. She signed her application with her mark.]

[p 23: Catharine Carter testified in Shelby County Indianan that she is the sister of Martha Fields; that Martha's maiden name was Martha Dodd; that she was present at their marriage. She signed her affidavit with her mark.]

[p 6: On March 18, 1852, in Shelby County, Indiana, Sarah Bradley (68), Abner Fields (55) and Redmond Fields (48), all residents of Shelby County stated they were all children of Martha and Ansel Fields, both deceased; that Martha, their mother, died October 13, 1848 in Shelby County, Indiana; and that the following are the only living children of Martha and Ansel Fields: Mary Barnes (69), Sarah Bradley, Allen Fields, Abner Fields & Redmond Fields; that Ansel Fields' older brother, John Fields, made a memorandum of the births of Ansel's children. Sarah and Redmond signed the affidavit with their marks; Abner signed as follows:

*Abner Fields* ]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$30 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831, for service as a private for 9 months in the North Carolina militia. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]