

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Hancock (Hancock) <sup>1</sup> W10086      Hannah Hancock      f46NC  
Transcribed by Will Graves      4/23/09 rev'd 12/11/15

[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 '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.]

[Note: In both the Fold3.com and HeritageQuest.com versions of this file, documents relating to another man by the name of "John Hancock" are filed erroneously. Those documents relate to the [John Hancock R4551](#) of Montgomery County, NC. Transcripts of documents relating to R4551 are included in the transcripts of the documents in the file relating to him posted in this database.]

[p 29]

State of North Carolina Carteret County: SS

On this 26th day of February A.D. 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the Honorable John R. Donnell one of the Judges of the Superior Court of Law and Equity in and for the State of North Carolina, in Carteret Superior Court now sitting John Hancock a resident of Carteret County NC aged on the 14th of October 1833 Seventy years, who being first duly sworn upon the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, 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 entered the service on the 10th day of February 1781, and was one of the thirteen who were left in the company of Capt. Will. Dunn [William Dunn] of Craven County, after various drafts from the same, and marched to New Bern NC under said Capt. Dunn at which place, a company rendezvoused over which Col. Richard Nixon took the command & to which this declarant was attached; under Col. Nixon we marched to Kinston NC which place was appointed as a general rendezvous where we were supplied with arms & ammunition & reviewed by General Caswell [Richard Caswell]. -- Under the command of Col. Nixon, we marched from Kinston to join General Greene [Nathanael Greene], who was much in want of men, and was understood in consequence thereof to be retreating before Lord Cornwallis; our Regiment consisted of Seven Hundred and fifty Men. We encamped after marching many days at the Fish dam Ford about 220 miles from New Bern, which distance I ascertained from my brother at the time, who kept a Journal of our marches. -- When we reached this place Cornwallis had overtaken General Greene in Guilford and brought on an engagement [Battle of Guilford Court House, March 15, 1781], the Cannonading of which we distinctly heard at our encampment. But were not enabled to join General Greene in time to assist him in the battle. -- After the battle General Greene ordered Col. Nixon, to send a detachment of seventy-five men to remove a magazine, on the Pedee River, which lay in the route of march, taken by Lord Cornwallis to

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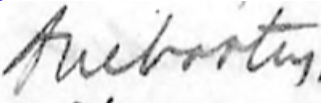
<sup>1</sup> BLWt87014-160-55

Wilmington NC. -- Before we reached the magazine, one detachment was attacked<sup>2</sup> by a company of Tories consisting of 400 men, under one Hector McNeil [Hector McNeill] and completely defeated, which we mainly attributed to the fact that one Capt. Godfrey Stansil [Godfrey Stancil], had the chest of ammunition removed from the wagon where it usually stayed into his tent -- as soon as we encamped (previous to the engagement) many of the neighbors professing to be friends came to visit our encampment, spy out all our means of defense and gave information thereof to the Tories. -- Lieut. Abraham Hardy [Abraham Hardee], wished the Capt. to confine them assuring him that they were spies but the Capt. would not accede to it and by these means the Tories secured our ammunition & we were defeated. -- we were there dispersed & this affiant with 12 or 13 more made the best of their way to Cross Creek & the next morning after our arrival Lord Cornwallis arrived there, on his way to Wilmington -- we continued our retreat until we reached New Bern where this affiant received permission from Col. John Tillman [John Tilman] to go home & recruit himself, as he had lost all his clothes &c -- this affiant remained at home but a few days, when he again repaired to New Bern to guard the jail where prisoners were confined, under John Council Bryan, here this affiant remained performing this duty, until news arrived that Major Craig [James Craig] was on his way from Wilmington to New Bern, upon the receipt of which information, Gov. Nash [Abner Nash], who resided at Pembroke on Trent River near New Bern ordered Capt. John Blanks, to raise a horse company, to intercept Major Craig. -- This declarant volunteered in that company, and held themselves in readiness to march at a minute's warning; but were unable to attack Major Craig on the account of the paucity of our number, being only 35 in the company. -- we hung on Major Craig doing such damage [as] we could, until he reached Cape Fear River on his return to Wilmington; In these tours of duty this affiant served about seven months. -- We never received any formal discharge, as Gov. Nash promised us if we engaged in this latter service, we should be exempt from military duty during the remainder of the War. In March after the surrender of Cornwallis [Yorktown, October 19, 1781], a schooner, ship & some other vessels, with marauders; & [indecipherable word]<sup>3</sup> under the British flag on board entered Beaufort & this affiant with many others were ordered from Craven County under Capt. Christopher Neale of Craven County to march to Beaufort, to assist the people against this desperate gang. [Beaufort, April 4-17, 1782]<sup>4</sup> -- We accordingly marched to Beaufort and found the enemy anchored in the channel of the harbor of Beaufort; we fired upon them from the Fort in the town & they cannonaded the town with 9 pounds shot. The Americans fired with much effect, and so shattered one of vessels which had been taken by them, as to cause them to fire it & thus [?] destroy; After remaining in Beaufort upon this Service about 3 weeks this affiant, was discharged by Capt. Neale, but no written discharge was given to this applicant. This applicant has neglected to remark, that upon his first tour of duty, after Capt. Dunn left the Company to which this applicant belonged the command was given to Capt. William Windham and that Capt. Godfrey Stansil, who commanded the detachment, which was ordered to remove the magazine on Pedee River was at heart a miserable Tory. -- This applicant does not recollect the number of the Regiment to which he belonged, and never applied for a written discharge as he did not think that it ever would be of any service to him. He has no

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<sup>2</sup> The veteran MIGHT be describing the engagement at Cole's Bridge, March 1, 1781.

[http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution\\_coles\\_bridge.html](http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_coles_bridge.html)

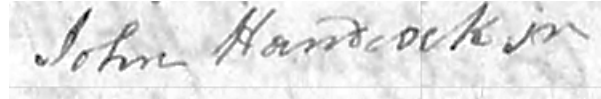
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<sup>4</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution\\_beaufort.html](http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_beaufort.html)

documentary evidence, and he knows of no person, whose testimony he can procure, who can testify to his service; 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 States.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ John Hancock, Jr.



S/ Thos. Marshall, C. S. C.

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

Ans: In Craven County, NC, the 4th of October 1763. --

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

Ans: Yes in my father's Bible, in the possession of my older brother in Wake County NC to whom my father gave it by will.

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?

Ans: When called into service I lived in Craven County I continued to reside there until I removed to Carteret County where I now live, about the year 1787. --

4<sup>th</sup> How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom?

Ans: I was ordered into service being one of the remaining 13 of a company, which company stood very as drafts & I volunteered once. --

5<sup>th</sup> State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Ans: Col. Nixon, Capt. Will. Dunn, General Caswell, Capt. Will. Windham, Capt. Stansil, Capt. Blanks, Capt. Neale, & Capt. John C. Bryan. --

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?

Ans: I never did receive a written discharge. --

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.

Ans: John Weaks, John H. Hill [could be Hite or Hile], Leonard Marion, Cornelius Cannaday In answer to the 4th interrogatory this affiant would remark that he marched to assist General Greene from Kinston to Guilford, went in a detachment to remove a magazine on Pedee River, volunteered to intercept Major Craig on his way to New Bern, guarded the prisoners in the jail at New Bern & went to fight the picasoons [?]<sup>5</sup> at Beaufort. --

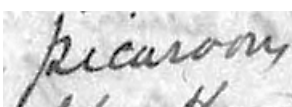
Sworn to in open Court

S/ Thos. Marshall,

S/ John Hancock, Jr

[John H. Hill & John Weaks gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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[p 45]

State of North Carolina Carteret County: Personally appeared before me the undersigned, a justice of the peace for said County, John Handcock [sic] who being duly sworn deposeth & saith, that by reason of old age & these consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service, but according to the best of his recollection, he served not less than the periods mentioned below as a private; and for such service I claim a pension. I was first called into service under Capt. William Dunn & Lieut. Joseph Martin & attached to the Regiment commanded by Col. Richard Nixon all of Craven County & were received at Nash Court house by Col. John Heritage, Capt. Dunn not having a full company we were transferred to Capt. William Windham served under him till we arrived at a place called Harrisburg, we were then transferred to Capt. Stancil's Company & served till we were defeated by the Tories on our march to remove the magazine as before stated. After my return to New Bern I served under Capt. John Council Bryan till I was taken sick and went home on furlough & stayed about 15 days which service was 4 months & a half. I then returned to New Bern & joined the horse company under John Blanks ordered out by Gov. Abner Nash before stated, which [paper torn and text missing] a half. And served 20 days at Beaufort under Christopher Neale who commanded that company, but from authority I do not now know. During the time of said service I followed no civil employment.

Sworn to before me the 18th day of July 1833

S/ Rufus W. Davis, JP

S/ John Handcock, Sr.

[p 37: On Of March 15, 1859 in Craven County North Carolina Hannah Hancock, 74, made application for a widows pension under the 1853 act stating that she is the widow of John Hancock, a private in the Regiment commanded by Col. Nixon in the North Carolina militia; that her husband was pensioned in Carteret County North Carolina; that she married him in Carteret County on October 2, 1803; and that her husband died February 24, 1838; that she has no record public or private of their marriage. She signed her application with her mark.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$23.33 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831, for service as a private for 7 months in the North Carolina militia. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]