

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements](#)

Pension application of Abel Lanham W1297

Sarah

fn40NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

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[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. Folks are free to make non-commercial use this transcript in any manner they may see fit, but please extend the courtesy of acknowledging the transcriber—besides, if it turns out the transcript contains mistakes, the resulting embarrassment will fall on the transcriber.]

State of Tennessee, Claiborne County

On this sixth day of February 1837, personally appear before the County Court of said State Abel Lanham aged 75 years, who being first dully sworn, according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the Act of Congress, passed June 7th, 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States the 1st of March 1778, as a volunteer, and as a private, under the command of Captain Kerkendall [sic, Kuykendall?], in Regiment of William Grimes in Rutherford County in the State of North Carolina. We rendezvoused on a creek called Sandy Run. My Captain and company were detached from the Regiment and ordered to go in quest of outlying Tories; we crossed 1st and 2nd Broad Rivers to the frontiers of the State for the purpose of intercepting men who were in the habit of doing mischief and then fleeing to the mountains. We also kept in awe, such men as were inclined to harbor bad men. We marched from place to place as necessity required, and kept the disaffected citizens from collecting together. We took ten Tories in our route, and delivered them over to Col. Grimes, who commanded our Regiment. We were kept in this service scouting about from place to place until the last of May, when we were discharged by Col. Grimes, having been in service three months.

On the first of March 1779, I volunteered my services again as a private in the service of the United States, in Rutherford County State of North Carolina under the command of the said Captain Kuykendall, and Col. Grimes. We met at a place called the Cross roads. I was marched from there to the frontier settlements, to a fort called McFadden's Fort, where we were stationed for three months for the purpose of protecting the citizens engaged in cultivating their farms. We were engaged while there in marching about sometimes across the Blue Ridge [Mountains], and in the mountains, guarding the passes through which it was thought the Indians would attempt to pass into the settlements, and then returned to our fort. We were discharged the first of June 1779, and returned home.

From North Carolina I, the said Abel Lanham, went into South Carolina, on a visit to my sister, and whilst there I volunteered again as a private on the first of September 1781, in Orangeburg District under the command of Captain Young. My Colonel's name I cannot now recollects and joined Col. or General Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter] at Orangeburg Court house. Sumpter lay at Orangeburg Court house three months, during which time we had to subsist chiefly by foraging. Whilst here we did

nothing of importance and during this time Wayne [General Anthony Wayne] came on there on his way to Georgia. I was again discharged the first of February 1782.

I then went into Washington County North Carolina (now Tennessee). The first of September 1782, I volunteered again in said County, under the Command of Captain Samuel Williams, in the Regiment of Col. John Sevier, as a private. This service I performed as a horseman. We were marched against the Cherokee Nation of Indians, We started from the Big Island on French Broad River and marched on to Tennessee River, and crossed the same at an Indian Town called Chota; from there to Hiwassee River, passed Bulls town and crossed Coosa River to an Indian Town called Eastanollee from there to little shoemaker plains and from there to old Hiwassee Town. In this campaign we destroyed the Indian crops and fourteen Towns, and returned home December 1st 1782, where I was discharged. This was my last service as a soldier.

The declarant states that he has no documentary evidence of his services, nor does he know of any person by whom he can prove his said services. He states that in three of his said tours he was in the hurry of business discharged without any writing; that in the tour under General Sumter, he was discharged in writing but said discharge is now lost.

He hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension except the present, and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year above mentioned.

S/ Abel Lanham, X his Mark

Sworn to & subscribed before me the sixth day of July, 1837.

S/John Hunt, Clerk

[Alfred Noel and Solomon Dobkins gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[fn p. 36]

State of Tennessee Claiborne County: County Court August Term 1837

Personally appeared in open Court, before the County Court of said County (the same being a Court of record) Abel Lanham a citizen of said County, and after being sworn upon the holy evangelist of Almighty God, to speak the truth, depose and saith as follows, that when he made his application for a pension he was not apprised that he would be required to give reasons for not applying before this time. That he would have applied sooner, but he was then in independent circumstances, and was, as he thought able to live comfortably without assistance from the government; he further states that he never intended applying for a pension whilst in affluence, but that misfortunes have of late come upon him and he has been forced to part with his property and is now reduced to want. He states that that alone impales him now to apply to his Country for a pension, although he considers it justly his due. If this reason should be satisfactory to the department of War -- He states that he would have made this explanation sooner but that he was informed by his Counsel that it would be proper, if possible to procure testimony as to his services under General Sumter. He states that there was a witness alive a few years ago by whom he could have proven his service but that said witness is now dead or removed to some unknown to him, he therefore wishes a pension for such part as may be thought he is entitled to without said proof. He states that he does not know of any person now living of whose place of residence he is apprised by whom he can prove his services. He states that waiting to ascertain this matter has been the cause of delay on his part which he could not well avoid.

S/ Abel Lanham

[fn p. 13: on March 17, 1853 in Laurel County Kentucky, Sarah Lanham, 66, made application for a widow's pension under the 1853 act stating that she is the widow of Abel Lanham; a revolutionary war pensioner of Claiborne County Tennessee at the rate of \$96 per annum]

[fn p. 6: on March 28, 1855 in Laurel County Kentucky, Sarah Lanham, 68, filed for her bounty land entitlement as the widow of Abel Lanham, a pensioner for his services in the revolution; that she was married to him in Claiborne County Tennessee 36 years ago by one Marcus Cook, JP; that her name prior to her marriage was Sarah Nun [Nunn?];

[Veteran was initially pensioned at the rate of \$20 per annum for 6 months service in the revolution.]