

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of John Blalock W1807

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Tennessee }

Carter County }

Circuit Court September Term 1832

On this 18th day of September 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Honorable Samuel Powell Judge &c now holding the Circuit Court in and for said county, John Blalock a resident of the County of Carter and State of Tennessee aged seventy years 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 7th 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

That on the 10th day of January in the year 1778 (as affiant thinks) he volunteered in the company commanded by Captain Turner Bynam [sic: Turner Bynum], in the County of Brunswick in the State of Virginia, where he then lived and served as a Lieutenant That immediately after he volunteered, he marched under Captain Bynam to Petersburg, where his company joined Col Dowlmans [sic: Rawleigh Downman's] regiment. That at Petersburg he knew Col [Alexander] Dick and after remaining there seven days, they marched down James River to Smithfield, where they remained four days, and then proceeded to Suffolk where they joined Gen'l [Robert] Lawson, who now had ten regiments under his command. He remained at Suffolk and in the neighborhood until the time for which he volunteered (six months) had expired when he was discharged by General Lawson & went home. This discharge is lost.

That on the 25th day of July 1778 he again volunteered in Brunswick County Virginia and served as a lieutenant for six weeks, in Captain Bynam's company, which went down, under Col. Dowlman, and Major Duggy Wilkind [sic: Douglas Wilkins], within a few miles of Portsmouth expecting to take Arnold the Traitor [see endnote] who it was said had landed at Norfolk, But they failed in this – tho' they succeeded in preventing him from ravaging the country. While affiant was on this expedition he had a small engagement in the night time, with a number of Tories who had collected in a house near the Long Crossway, beyond the Dismal Swamp, and within nine and one half miles of Portsmouth. On this occasion twenty of the Tories were killed and affiant was the commander of the scouting party which engaged with them. He was discharged & returned home – but has lost his discharge.

That on the 7th day of June 1781 he volunteered again as a Lieutenant, under the same officers & in the same county. That for several weeks they were marching over the State of Virginia, with the view of joining LaFayette but was prevented by the British under Tarleton from joining him until about the 27th day of August [sic] when they joined LaFayette & [Gen. Anthony] Wayne at Point a Fork on James River [sic: Point of Fork at the confluence with Rivanna River]. That soon after they joined La Fayette, the army under him went down the river in pursuit of the British and overtook them at James Town where an engagement of about half an hour took place [Battle of Green Springs Plantation, 6 Jul 1781], but the British getting assistance from their vessels drove the Americans back. That they remained near James Town fourteen or fifteen days, until they joined the army under General Washington. That after remaining a day or two near James Town [more likely Williamsburg], General Washington proceeded down to Little York & began the siege of that place [28 Sep]. Affiant was present, serving as a lieutenant during the whole of that time. After the siege was over [19 Oct] he served as Captain of one of the companies that guarded the British prisoners to Albemarle Barracks [sic: Winchester Barracks]. He was then discharged by General Winchester [sic], or some person whose name is similar to that, but which he does not positively remember.

Affiant thinks that he served altogether a period of twelve months or more. His discharges are all lost.

Affiant was born on the 4th Sept 1762 in Brunswick County Virginia, and has a record of his age at home in his bible. He lived in Brunswick, until he was 36 years of age, when he emigrated to Burke County North Carolina (which joined Carter County in Tennessee) where he lived until about 15 months since when he came to Carter County in Tennessee & has resided here ever since. He has no documentary evidence by which to establish the truth of his statements and knows of no person whose testimony he can procure, who can testify to his service. He hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the Agency of any state to his knowledge.

[signed] John Blalock

[Commissions in the militia were normally recommended by county officials and approved by the Governor. In some instances, however, the Governor signed blank commissions that were then issued by field officers. Commissioned officers were not discharged, but held rank until they resigned. The following statement is evidently an attempt to clarify Blalock's statements.]

State of Tennessee }
Carter County } This day personally came before me David Nelson an acting Justice of the Peace for the County aforesaid, John Blalock, who makes oath that he served six months as stated in his original declaration in the capacity of a Lieutenant, under Captain Bynam. He received his commission as Lieutenant from Captain Bynam to whom it was given by Col Dowlman. To the commission the Seal of the State of Virginia, as well as affiant recollects, was appended. Blank commissions, as he understood, were furnished to Col Dowlman, who filled one up, with this affiant's name, at the request of Captain Bynam. Under this commission he served the first, second and third tours mentioned in his declaration

He served six weeks on his second tour. He served on the third tour from the 7th day of June 1781, to the 23rd day of October 1781, when he was discharged as stated in his declaration – his term of service being four months and sixteen days.

On all of these occasions he served as a Lieutenant, and would further state that he was in the first instance, elected a Lieutenant by the company and then commissioned as above stated.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 7th day of April 1833. [signed] John Blalock

NOTES:

Gen. Benedict Arnold did not arrive in Virginia until the last days of 1780. In May 1779, however, Commodore George Collier and Gen Edward Mathew plundered and burned Norfolk and Gosport before leaving on the 24th.

On 17 Mar 1838 John Blalock applied to have his pension transferred to North Carolina, having moved to Burke County in order to be "near his Children where he desired to pass the few remaining years of his life."

On 17 April 1849 Polly Blalock, 67, of Yancey County NC, applied for a pension stating that she married John Blalock in Orange County NC on 8 Jan 1797, and he died on 10 Mar 1846. The file includes a copy of a bond signed on 6 Jan 1797 by John Blalock and John Dormant for the marriage of Blalock to Polly Dormant. On an application for bounty land dated 7 Apr 1855 Polly Blalock's age was given as 74, the date of marriage as 8 Jan 1798, and her maiden name as Polly Dorman. On an application for bounty land dated 23 Apr 1856 her age was said to be "about eighty years."