

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Venables (Venable) W18220 Mary Venables 68NC[SC]
Transcribed by Will Graves rev'd 2/24/17

[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.]

[p 22]

State of North Carolina, Stokes County: SS

On this 10th day of September 1833 personally appeared in open court before us he Justices of the County Court of Stokes aforesaid now sitting John Venable Esq. a resident of said County in North Carolina aged Seventy one years the first day of September Instant who being 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 the 7th June 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein after stated according to the best of his recollection (to wit).

That he entered service of the United States as a substitute for a certain John Jordan in York District in South Carolina as a private militia soldier some time in the latter end of August or first of September in the year 1778 in a company commanded by Lt. Malcolm Henry in a Regiment commanded by Col. Thomas Neal [Thomas Neel] & Rendezvoused at a Major Ross's [Francis Ross'] in York district and marched from there & crossed Broad River at Talbot's Ferry, passing through several places in said State of South Carolina which he cannot particularly name at present, but that he was marched across Fair Forest [Fairforest], Tiger [sic, Tyger] & enore [Enoree] rivers & through a small village called Ninety Six, thence crossing Saluda River to a place called Fort White Hall at which place a General Williamson [Andrew Williamson] resided where a military store was kept, at this place orders was given by the Commanding Officers that two companies (to wit) Captain Sadler's [Richard Sadler's] & Lt. Henry's companies should be detached from Col. Neal's regiment, when this applicant marched some miles under Lt. Henry's command up the Country not far from the Savannah River to guard the Country against the Hostile Indians and marched by a Fort called Independence several miles through a Wilderness Country & were stationed in an encampment near Savannah River at a large Canebrake on the North side of said river, at which place he was discharged from his Term of Service of three month as he entered for a Substitute aforesaid But he does not recollect whether he got a written discharge or not, & if he did he has lost it, and further he states that he knows of no living witness that he can prove the foregoing Service by as he was at the time of entering into said Service as aforesaid a Student to School under the Tuition of a Mr. Jesse Burgin in York District aforesaid, in S. Carolina & was Sixteen years of age the first of September, 1798, agreeable to his Father's record of his age as stated to him; and at the same time of his entering into the Service aforesaid, he was then living about 100 & 50 miles from his Father William Venables

who resided in Surry County N. C. and from the Division of said County is now a part called Stokes County.

The next service that this applicant entered into was as a private militia soldier drafted in Surry County in North Carolina in the month of February or March 1780 and Rendezvoused at the Court house in Richmond in County aforesaid in the company of Capt. James Freeman and Lt. Samuel Dyer. That these troops to which he was attached were called into service for the purpose of joining the army organized for the defense of Charlestown in South Carolina, that in execution of this object that he marched from Richmond aforesaid towards said Charlestown about 150 miles crossing the Yadkin River & through Salisbury in Rowan County & Charlotte in Mecklenburg County North Carolina. That they were in Company with General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford] near Salisbury, and after being marched to a place in or near what is called & known by the name of the Waxhaw Settlements in South Carolina near the Catawba River, & Nation of Indians of the Catawba tribe; so called; and about this time information came to our United States troops that the City of Charlestown had Surrendered to the British [Charleston South Carolina fell to the British on May 12, 1780] that upon the receipt of this information it appeared to discourage our officers to proceed any further, whereupon this Applicant with others were Verbally discharged by his Captain aforesaid after having served one month at least. That sometime in the same year say 1780 in the Spring or summer season he thinks in the month of May or June when living at his Uncle Richard Venables' in Lincoln County North Carolina, he entered the Service as a volunteer in a Company of light horse militia Troopers & found his own horse under the Command of Captain John Barber of said County of Lincoln and marched as one of the Troopers with said Captain about perhaps 15 miles to a place called the Waxhaw Settlements about the Boundary line between North & South Carolina at the encampment of General Sumpter [Thomas Sumter] while at that encampment he said John Venables' horse escaped from him in this Capacity as a light horse militia private Soldier he served one month, and after losing his horse, as aforesaid he was permitted and directed by his Captain John Barber, to go and Join the Army under the Command of General Rutherford a distance of about 30 or more miles, in Anson County, North Carolina near the Pedee River and that soon as he reached the encampment of General Rutherford which did not exceed two days, he immediately Joined as a Volunteer militia Soldier in the Infantry of General Rutherford's forces under the Command of a Captain __ Armstrong [William Armstrong] from Lincoln County North Carolina in Colonel Alexander's Regiment, and near this encampment General Butler [John Butler] & General Caswell [Richard Caswell] of North Carolina with General Gates [Horatio Gates] from the North Joined their forces under General Rutherford as he now thinks, but is not positively certain as to seeing all the Generals aforesaid, then marched from the encampment where those Generals met with their forces, by the place called the Cheraw hills in South Carolina to Rugeley's Mills in said State, at which place he saw a number of Generals he thinks about thirteen in number & that General Gates was the Commander in Chief at this encampment we was ordered to build up our fires & leave them in as silent a manner as possible in the Night of the 15th of August 1780, said to be 12 or 13 miles from Camden in South Carolina & from thence was marched in as a silent a manner as possible some miles from Camden in the night time when & where the advanced Guards began firing on the enemy & the enemy at our Guards occasionally from that until day light when the General engagement took place [Battle of Camden, August 15-16, 1780], in which our American Army under the Command of the aforesaid General Gates, was defeated that he was in the said Battle & that it was said that General Rutherford was taken prisoner during the Battle and after said Battle & defeat of our forces, he this applicant returned home to

Surry County passing through Lincoln County North Carolina where he volunteered his Services & his Uncle Richard Venables resided, in this last Service as one of the Infantry in General Gates' Army and Captain Armstrong's Company he served two months at the least.

The next Service he entered as a volunteer in the same year of 1780, a few days after he arrived home to his Father's in Surry County North Carolina & served as a light horseman private under Captain James Shepperd [James Shepherd] to range the County of Surry aforesaid to keep the Tories in subjection, that he continued in this Service at least two months, that he received no written discharge in this service as a light horse Trooper he found his own horse & at some time of the service, Edmund Kerby [Edmund Kirby] was Lieutenant & Wm. Haghlett [William Haghlett] was his Lieutenant at another time, in Colonel Martin Armstrong's Regiment of Surry County militia.

The next Service he entered Service as a Volunteer private in Surry County aforesaid in the Company of militia commanded by Captain William Bostick which was a short time after the Battle of Kings Mountain [October 7, 1780] in fall of the year 1780 or last of October & Guarded the prisoners (at the Village called the old Town) that were taken at the aforesaid Battle in this Service he continued one month at least & was discharged but not in writing & returned home. And in the next Service sometime in the month of February 1781 he again entered the Service of his Country as a Volunteer private under Captain Edward Lovell of the Surry County Militia in North Carolina and immediately after entering the Service was appointed Ensign in said Company which appointment was made by his Captain aforesaid & continued to the end of this expedition which was not less than one month as a light horseman or trooper marched from Surry County aforesaid to Guilford County North Carolina & Joined the Army commanded by General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] that he continued in said County of Guilford & was in the Battle at what is called Whitsell's [sic, Weitzel's] Mills [March 6, 1781] on Reedy fork which happened a very few days before the Battle of Guilford [March 15, 1781] in this Service he acted as Ensign trooper for the term aforesaid of one month but had no commission & knows of no person that can testify that he acted as an officer Ensign aforesaid, therefore he only claims as a private trooper. The next Service he entered as a volunteer horseman (there being a call for a horse Company) in the month of May 1781 in Surry County North Carolina under the Command of Captain David Humphries [David Humphreys] who was a Captain appointed to command said Company and in this Service of a three months he was employed Mostly in transporting of Lead for the use of the Army of the United States from Chizzel's [sic, Chiswell's] lead Mines near New River in Virginia crossing the rugged Blue Ridge of Mountains to Salisbury in North Carolina a distance of upwards of 100 miles for which he received a discharge from his Captain aforesaid for a Tour of three months which discharge he has lost or mislaid so that he cannot find it. This Service he proves by the Testimony of James Forrester.¹

The next & last Service he rendered he entered in Surry County North Carolina at the Courthouse in Richmond as a private light horseman as a Substitute for a certain Benjamin May of said County of Surry in Captain Minor Smith's Company of troopers under a Colonel Smith [Robert Smith] & Major Grayham [Joseph Graham] and this applicant found his own horse & marched from Richmond aforesaid scouring the Country to subdue the Tories through several Counties in the State of North Carolina above 200 miles to the place called the Raft Swamp & to the Brick house near Wilmington in North Carolina & at the Camp at Shaws in Brunswick County received a written discharge signed by his Captain M. Smith the 17th of November 1781 after serving his tour of three months which discharge accompanies this declaration. The

¹ [James Forrester S6854](#)

following is a brief Recapitulation of the applicant's claim as set forth in the foregoing Declaration (to wit)

In 1778 3 months a private militia man in this Service he saw & knew a Major Pickens [Andrew Pickens] afterwards was General – Colonel Thomas Neal & General Williamson
in 1780 1 month under Captain Freeman he knew General Rutherford & Colonel John Armstrong of the Regulars he was a private infantry
in same 1 month a light horsemen – General Sumter under Captain Barber
in same 2 months in the Infantry under Captain Armstrong in time of Gates defeat
in same 2 months under Captain Shepperd light horseman
in same 1 month under Captain Bostick infantry
in 1781 1 Do. Under Captain Lovell in the light horse
in 1781 3 Do under Captain Humphreys in the light horse
in 1781 3 ditto “ “ M. Smith in the light horse

he can prove by the Testimony of Reverend William Steel² a clergyman as to the most of the Services & part by James Forrester & part by Abm Stow

And 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 State and the several questions being propounded agreeable to the directions prescribed by the secretary of War first this applicant states that from the best information he can get he was born in the County of Frederick & State of Virginia on the first day of September 1762 of which he once had a record but it was burned with his house in 1789 as he believes.

That he first entered the Service in York district in South Carolina – the second in Surry County North Carolina. The third in Lincoln County North Carolina. Fourth at General Sumter's Encampment, and all the other Services in Surry County North Carolina – and served in the capacities as stated in the foregoing declaration the officers is already named that he knew – he only received two written discharges as above mentioned one of which is lost.

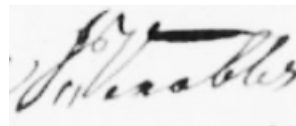
7th & lastly he states that he is well acquainted with a great number of Respectable Citizens in Stokes County who can testify as to his character for veracity & belief of his performing Services as a Soldier of the Revolution and for that purpose and reducing William Steele a Clergyman & Charles Banner Esq.

Sworn and subscribed in open court the day and year first above mentioned.

Sworn to & subscribed in open court 10th of September 1833.

S/ Jno Hill, C. C. C.

S/ Jno Venables



We William Steele a Clergyman residing in the County of Stokes North Carolina & Charles Banner residing in the same County in North Carolina do hereby certify that we are well acquainted with John Venables Esq. who has Subscribed and Sworn to the above declaration that we believe him to be 71 years of age that he is reputed and believed in the neighborhood where he lives to have been a soldier of the Revolution and that we concur in that opinion, Sworn and

² [William Steele S7604](#)

Subscribed in open court the day and year first above written.

S/ Jno Hill, C. C. C.

S Wm. Steele

S/ C. Banner

[p 33]

North Carolina,

Brunswick County } Captmt [Capt. ?] at Shaws John Vennable [sic] is hereby Dismissed By
Order of Coll. Smith he having Serv'd his tower in my Troop as a good Soldier [illegible word]

S/ Minor Smith, Capt.

November 17th 1781

North Carolina } Captmt at Shaws John
Brunswick County } Vennable is hereby Dismissed
By Order of Coll. Smith he having Serv'd
his tower in my Troop as a good Soldier [illegible word]
Minor Smith, Capt.
November 17th 1781

[p 47]

State of North Carolina, Surry County

Personally appeared before me James Lovell a Justice of the said County Abraham Stowe of said County whose evidence he is entitled to Credit –maketh oath that John Venables of Stokes County performed a three months tour of military duty a light horse soldier or trooper under the command of Captain Minor Smith in the Regiment commanded by Col. Smith and Major Grayham – this tour of service was performed late in the year 1781 known by the name of the Wilmington expedition. These troops belonged to General Rutherford's Brigade and this deponent further saith not.

Sworn to & subscribed before me this 31st day of August 1833.

S/ Abraham Stowe, A his mark

S/ James Lovill, JP

[p 42: In a letter dated Dec. 30th 1833 from John Venables to the War Department, he supplements his declaration (at length—the letter is 3 pages long), giving the following additional information:

he says he was under Lieut. Malcolm Henry during the 3 months service in Col. Neal's Regiment in 1778 in SC.

“ Now Sir it lies upon my mind to make a few remarks concerning the services disallowed; and as to the Tour of two months I served as a trooper ranging the County of Surry under Captain James Shepperd in the year 1780, at that time there was as great a necessity to keep the Tories in subjection as there was to fight the British Army and I was bound to serve in capacity as a soldier much as any other services this was the year of battle was fought at Ramsour's Mill in Lincoln County between the Whigs and Tories, in the month of May, Gates defeat near Camden in August a few days after Sumter's defeat, at fishing Creek, the two last in South Carolina; and again in October the battles of Kings Mountain was at the Shallow Ford near Huntsville where the brave Captain France was killed. I did not see any good reason why I should not be allowed for that service the same as any other; and as to the tour transporting lead I was not employed as a hereling [sic, hireling?], but enlisted as a Soldier and received a written discharge for a three months tour of militia duty, why should I not be allowed for that tour the same as the others – But upon the whole I have said nothing that will prevail anything...”]

[p 45: In September 1833, in Stokes County North Carolina William Steele, a clergyman, gave testimony that he was well acquainted with John Venables an applicant for a pension; that he, Venables, lived with the deponent during the war and the deponent was aware that Venables marched to serve military service several times during the war but the affiant never served with him.



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[p 46]

State of North Carolina Surry County

James Forester a man of good Character whose testimony is entitled to credit maketh oath that in the year 1781 he recollects that John Venables the aforesaid Applicant for a pension performed a three months tour of Militia duty as a Trooper under Captain David Humphreys transporting Lead from Chisels Mines in the State of Virginia to the Laboratory near Salisbury in Roan [Rowan] County State of North Carolina and this deponent further saith not.

Sworn to and subscribed this 16th day of August 1833

S/ James Forester, X his mark

[p 46]

North Carolina Surry County

Personally appeared before me Christopher Eaton³ of said County whose evidence is entitled to belief and maketh oath that in the year 1780 the aforesaid John Venables who claims a pension under the act of Congress of June 7th 1832 did serve as a Militia Soldier in the Army Commanded by General Gates and was in the Battles [sic] when the Army was defeated near Camden in South Carolina. – He also served another tour late in the same year guarding the prisoners taken at Kings Mountain and this deponent further saith not.

Sworn to and subscribed the 17th day of August 1833

³ [Christopher Eaton \(Valentine\) R3214](#)

S/ Christopher Eaton, X his mark

[p 15: On July 30, 1839 in Stokes County North Carolina Mary Venable, 77 years of age as of June 25, 1839 and the widow of the veteran filed for her own pension. In her application, she gives the births dates of her 9 children. Her maiden name was Mary Curry. She married John in Surry County, NC a few days before Christmas 1783. Her husband died June 1, 1839. She signed her application with her mark.]

[p 16: On August 4, 1839 in Stokes County North Carolina, the Reverend William Steele, a Baptist minister, gave testimony that he was well acquainted with John Venables and his widow Mary Venables; that the deponent married Rebecca, the sister of John Venables; that the deponent went with John Venables to the clerk of Surry County North Carolina a week or 2 before Christmas of 1783 and stood bond for the marriage of John Venables to Mary Curry.



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[pp 6-12: Family Record]

J. Venables Family Register that is to say, his own Age and the age of his wife the time of their Marriage the ages of their Children &c. Also the time of the departure of his Father and Mother John Venables was Born September the 1st in the Year of our Lord 1762

Mary Curry was born June 25th in the year of our Lord 1762

The above named John and Mary was Married December the 22nd 1783

Here follows the Ages of their Children &c

Richard Venables was born February 14th in the year of our Lord 1785

Jesse Venables was Born May the 14th in the year of our Lord 1787

Betsey Venables was born November the 21st in the Year of our Lord 1789

William Venables was born the 24th day of June in the year of our Lord 1792

Salley Venables was born March 12 in the year of our Lord 1795

Mary Venables born November 30th in the year of our Lord 1797

Rebecca Venables was born June 2nd in the Year of our Lord 1800

John Venables was born April the 25th in the year of our Lord 1803

Malcolm Venables was born July 29th in the year of our Lord 1805

Margaret Venables wife of William Venables and Mother of William, Rebecca and John Venables Departed this Life November 23rd in the year of our Lord 1774

William Venables Husband of Margaret Venables and Father of William, Rebecca and John Venables Departed this Life November the 22nd in the Year of our Lord 1815

William Venables brother of John Venables Departed this life June the 7th in the year of our Lord 1823 is age was 62 years 8 months and 23 days

Ursuly Venables wife of the above named William Venables Departed this Life December 2nd, 1830

Rebecca Steele departed this life June 10th 1829 her age was 69 years 8 months and 27 days

[p 12]

State of North Carolina County of Stokes

Be it known that on this 30th day of July 1839 Mary Venables now the widow of John Venables Deceased personally appears before the Subscriber a Justice of the peace for said County and

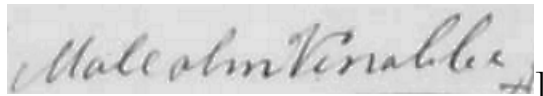
made oath in due form of Law that the foregoing is the true family Record of her & her husband's marriage and Ages of their children as named therein and she further declares that the same records were written by her said Husband & has been kept by her in safety ever since his death which happened on the first day of June 1839, the latter part of said Record is the Father & Mother of the Decedent & others. Sworn to & subscribed the date first above written the truth of which I am fully satisfied as I am well acquainted with the handwriting of the aforesaid John Venables Deceased also my personal Acquaintance with him.

Sworn to before me & subscribed

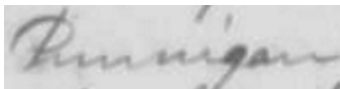
S/ C. Banner, JP

S/ Mary Venables, X her mark

[p 19: On December 9, 1845 in Stokes County North Carolina, Malcolm Venables a resident of said County and state made application on behalf of himself and the other Ayers at law of John and Mary Venables for such pension payments as may be do Mary Venables at the time of her death; that he is the son of John and Mary Venables; that his father died June 1, 1839 leaving Mary his widow; that Mary died September 9, 1842 survived by the following 9 children: Richard Venables; Jesse Venables; Elizabeth Venables; William Venables; Sarah Venables; Mary Venables; Rebecca intermarried with Anderson Runnigan [?];⁴ John Venables; and declarant.

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Malcolm Venables".

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$50 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831 for service as a private in the South Carolina and North Carolina militia. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Runnigan".
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