

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of John Cobb W20902

Frances Cobb

VA NC

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of South Carolina }

Pickens District }

March Term 1833.

On this eleventh day of March one thousand eight hundred and thirty three personally appeared in open court before the Honorable Josiah J. Evans in the Court of General Sessions & Common Pleas of the said State for the District aforesaid now sitting John Cobb a resident of the District of Pickens aforesaid aged Seventy four 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 as a Volunteer under Capt. James Cobb of Col. Grimes Reg't. of Militia in Halifax County in the State of Virginia He was marched down to Williamsburg and was there put under command of Capt. Rogers of Col. Washingtons Regiment of Infantry. He was marched to Norfolk as it was reported the British was there & before the American Troops arrived the British burned the Town [1 Jan 1776] & retired on their vessels. He was then marched to James Town from there to Hampton from there to Little York part of which had been burned before he got there. He then returned to Williamsburg he was there discharged after having served about four months. He returned home, his Father was fixing to move to North Carolina to which place he moved with his Father & settled in Lincoln County N.C [formed in 1779 from Tryon County]. Shortly after he settled there within perhaps less than a fortnight he turned out Volunteer to go after the Tories he was engaged principally in the County of Lincoln under the Command of Capt. [Luke] Boyer – he was in several skirmishes. He afterwards turned out under Capt. [John] Sumpter as a volunteer and in fact he was not home except at very short periods from the commencement of the Revolutionary war in Virginia he was nearly all the time in the army. He was with with Col. Sumpter [sic: Thomas Sumter] of South Carolina for a considerable time after the Tories, engaged in patrolling the Country on what was called scouts. many prisoners were taken and a number of the enemy kill'd. He was a tour with Col. Severe [sic: John Sevier, Dec 1780] against the Cherokee Indians he was at the Valley Town [in present Cherokee County NC] kill'd several on the route. at the Battle of Guilford [Guilford Courthouse NC, 15 Mar 1781] he was guarding the Bagage. He was at the Seige at Little York when Lord Cornwallis surrendered [19 Oct 1781], he was there commanded by Col Washington [sic: Gen. George Washington] – in so long a time the frequent changes of officers it now is out of his power to relate the officers at all times & places – This declarant was born in Halifax County in the State of Virginia resided there till the commencement of the war after his first discharge he moved to North Carolina, remained there till after the end of the Revolutionary War he then moved to Spartan [sic: Spartanburg] County in South Carolina where he lived for nine years he then moved into Pendleton county afterwards District which was divided & now in Pickens District and State aforesaid where he has lived for the last thirty six years as well as he now recollects – He hereby relinquishes every claim claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and declares that his name is not on the pension Roll fo the Agency of any state.

John hisXmark Cobb

State of Georgia } SS.

Rabun County }

Before me personally appeared Henry Hicks [pension application R4962] of said County & made Oath as the law directs, that he was one tour of duty with The Rev'd. John Cobb who now lives in Pickens District S.C. as he is informed. This deponent was with the said John Cobb on a march from near Jonesborough [Jonesboro] N.C. as well as he recollects to Gen'l.

Marions [Francis Marion's] Camp below Nelsons Ferry on Santee River he saw a man throw one Stinson while they were camped on Santee River, he believes that Cobb was the man. He is sure that Cobb did services in the said campaign and he is confident the said John Cobb was a good soldier & true friend to his country, in the Revolutionary war

Sworn to 7th July 1834.

[signed] Henry Hicks

South Carolina } Personally appeared before me the under assigned a Justice of the Peace in and
Pickens District } for the District of Pickens and stated aforesaid Elizabeth Watkins and made oath in due form of law and on her oath deposed and saith that she was well acquainted with the Rev John Cobb during the Revolutionary war and kows that he went into the army and that he at that time lived in Virginia and this deponent further saith that she had three Brothers in the Service with the said John Cobb as she has frequently heard them say and that she this deponent lived immediately in the same house that he the said John Cobb made his home at when he was not in the service and that she does believe that he served as he has stated.

Sworn to before me and subscribed this 12th August 1834

Elizabeth herXmark Watkins

State of South Carolina } Personally appeared before me the under assigned a Justice of the Peace
Pickens District } in and for the District of Pickens and State aforesaid Rev. John Cobb and made oath in due form of law and on oath deposed and saith that by reason of old age and bodily infirmity and consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively to the precise length of his service but to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following grade to wit a private he entered the service a volunteer in the state of Virginia Halifax County under capt. James Cobb of Col. Green's Regm't. (the dates of the year he was in the service he cannot recollect being illiterate) was march to Williamsburg, and was there put under other officers and marched to Norfolk and different other posts and back to Williamsburg and was there discharged after serving a tour of four months he next turned out volunteer in the state of North Carolina Lincoln County under Capt. Boyer and served a three months tour which service he done chiefly in said county.

he then turned out under Capt. Sumpter and served a six months tour and from that time he was scarcely out of the service for as soon one time of service was up he would again volunteer as it was not safe for men to stay at home in them times in that part of the country where he lived he was under the command of Col. Sumpter of South Carolina for some time the precise length of time he can not recollect he was under Col. Severe in a Tour after the Cherokees he was at the Valey Towns he was one of the baggage guard at the time of the battle of Guilford He continued in the service untill the Siege of Little York where Cornwallis surrendered he there ended his service after having served under the command of Cols. Severe and Washington three months he is certain and he thinks nearer six months he knows that he did serve his country not less than the terms above mentioned and he is confident a great deal more for during five years he was unable to follow any civil pursuit on account of his frequent tours in the service

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 20th August 1834

John hisXmark Cobb

The State of South Carolina } Ss.

Pickens District } Before me personally came the Rev'd. John Cobb of said District and made Oath, That at this late period he can not recollect dates nor many occurrences of the Revolutionary War with which he once was familiar & in part an actor. He has no records to appeal to being illiterate. He does not know of any living Witness except the two who have testified for him Henry Hix & Eliz. Watkins. The first service he did was as a Volunteer under Capt. James Cobb, Lieut. William Hancock, Ensign Rich'd. Wommack [sic: Richard Womack] under Col. (he thinks) Lacy. They went to Williamsburg and the Capt. became deranged or incapable of duty, Capt. Rogers took Command of the

Company and they were under Col Washington. They marched to Norfolk and from there to a place below he thinks the Green Sea [a swamp now in the City of Chesapeake] against the British, but they got on their Vessels. Before he got to Norfolk the Town was burned by the British. As they came to Norfolk they passed Little York, Hampton. He then returned by Portsmouth, James Town to Williamsburg where he was discharged for four months service and This deponent is positive he did serve not less than four months at this time.

In the year 1780 He was drafted in the State of North Carolina His Father & himself having moved into Lincoln County N.C. and he turned out under Capt. Boyer (Luke B.) Major Jon. Tipton [Jonathan Tipton] Col. John Sevier was marched to the Bald Mtn against the Indians they found a few & killed some then went then to the Valley Towns in the Cherokee Nation burned their Towns & then caught & killed a few of them the others escaped was stationed on Nola Chucka [sic: Nolichucky River] he thinks it was called the Blue Springs & was there as well as he recollects when he heard of the Battle of Kings Mountain [7 Oct 1780] – many men was taken from that section to Kings M'tn. But some were left & he was one of them to Guard the Frontier. He was continued in the service & marched to Col. Sevier's House on Nola Chucka river & was discharged by Col. Sevier after having served out the time of service which he saith was not less than Three months.

He then returned to Lincoln County N.C. and the British & Tories were then troublesome and he turned Out Volunteer under Capt John Sumpter under Col Joseph Deckson [sic: Joseph Dickson] and was marched to Mecklenburg from there they went to reeinforce Gen'l. [Daniel] Morgan and followed him & overtook him at the place called the Cowpens the evening before the Battle [17 Jan 1781] and was at the Battle of the Cowpens under General Morgan when Taleton [sic: Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton] was Defeated. They pursued the British to the Widow Tarrant's where they had another skirmish the British retreated. [See endnote.] They pursued to Guilford Court House and at the time of the Battle he was placed to Guard the Baggage – otherwise he would have been in that Battle. from there they followed to Hillsboro' [Hillsborough] N.C. – And from there to Halifax N.C. and from there to Little York where the decisive Battle was fought this Deponent was there during the Seige after he got there perhaps two weeks when Cornwallis marched out he was present & witnessed the surrender. After which he was discharged. He is positive he was was over, but he says not less than Four months. And he saith in his

first Tour	1778 - or 9	4 months
Second d'o	1780	3 d'o
Third	1781	<u>4 d'o</u>
He was in actual service		11 months

And was nearly all the time out & in scouting parties. He was very little at home but cannot now recollect dates.

John hisXmark Cobb

Sworn to before me the 8th Oct 1834

NOTES:

According to Patrick O'Kelley in *Nothing But Blood and Slaughter*, Vol 3, the skirmish at Tarrant's Tavern near present Mooresville NC on 1 Feb 1781 occurred when Tarleton surprised the militiamen who were refreshing themselves with pails of rum.

On 10 Sep 1845 Frances Cobb, born Frances Smith on 1 May 1770, applied for a pension stating that she married John Cobb in Spartanburg District on 27 Aug 1786, and that her husband died on 21 May 1841. Matthew Abbett stated that "Mrs. Cobb's first son after marriage was born about two weeks previous to the birth of his own oldest son, who was born 24th August 1790."