

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Palmer W309

Susanna Palmer

f45GA

Transcribed by Will Graves

7/14/09: rev'd 10/24/17

[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.]

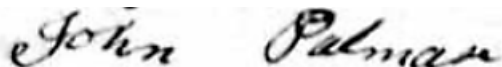
[p 42]

For the purpose of obtaining the benefit of an act for the relief of certain surviving Officers and Soldiers of the Army of the Revolution approved on the 15th day of May 1828 I John Palmer of the County of Henry and State of Tennessee do hereby declare that I enlisted in the Continental line of the Army of the revolution for and during the Term of eighteen months, and after the expiration of my Term of service -- I entered again into the actual service of my country for a period of years seven years and continued in the Army during the war -- at which period I was a private in Captain Gibson Clark's company in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Elijah Clarke of the Continental line of the State of Georgia -- who was afterwards promoted to the rank of Brigadier General and I declare that I afterwards received an honorable discharge from the service of my country -- which certificate or discharge has been for a great number of years either lost or mislaid so that I cannot procure it -- which I was entitled to under a resolve of Congress passed 15 of May 1778, and I would do further declare that I was not on the 15th day of March 1828 on the pension list of the United States -- he mentions with sincerity that he would not make this call on the bounty of his government was it not for his extreme old age and bodily incapacity to labor of [sic, for] a sustenance and from a conviction that the services he rendered his country while in the hour of need justly entitles him to a pension.

Sworn to and subscribed before this 13th May 1830

S/ Stephen Nance, JP

S/ John Palmer



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State of Tennessee Henry County

Personally appeared Jonathan Palmer a respectable Citizen of the County and State aforesaid before me Stephen Nance one of the acting Justices of the Peace for the County and State aforesaid and made oath that he is well acquainted with John Palmer who makes this application for a pension -- and he also knew him during the Revolutionary war, that he has seen him frequently during said war in the actual service of his country and knows that he was a private soldier in said Army.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 13th May 1830

S/ Stephen Nance, JP

S/ Jonathan Palmer, X his mark

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State of Tennessee Henry County } Personally appeared Benjamin Palmer a citizen of the County and State aforesaid before me Stephen Nance an acting Justice of the peace for the County and State aforesaid and made oath in due form of law that they Tories came to his father's house in the night during the Revolutionary war when he was a small boy in the State of Georgia and asked his father where his son John Palmer was (the same who makes this application for a pension) he replied -- that he was in the Army -- the Tories then mentioned that they intended to kill him, affiant states that his father died soon after the Revolutionary war.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 14th May 1830

S/ Stephen Nance, JP

S/ Benjamin Palmer, P his mark

Received 5 October 1830 [Addressed to the Secretary of the Treasury]

Dear Sir

Paris Tennessee September 15, 1830

In reply to your letter under date 9th of August 1830 requesting from me a narrative of my self during the Revolutionary war stating when, where and under whom I enlisted, served when, where and by whom I was discharged. In obedience to said request – I will proceed in as succinct a manner as possible to afford you every satisfaction my frail memory will permit – knowing at the same time you will make every reasonable allowance for the frail memory of so old a man in relating events and circumstances that from the lapse of time are scarcely to be formed within the recollection of man. I enlisted as a regular soldier under Captain Henry Dukes in the County of Wilkes and State of Georgia for the term of eighteen months and was attached to the Regiment commanded by Colonel Elijah Clarke – under whose command I continued until the Term of my service expired and from Colonel Clark I received an honorable discharge which discharge has been lost, worn out or unintentionally mislaid. As to the time of my enlistment I do not recollect – but mention that I enlisted at about the age of sixteen or eighteen years and am now about seventy-four years old. I was in many hand fought battles. I fought under General Morgan at the battle of Cowpens I was at the siege of Savannah & Augusta and number of others – that it would [be] useless to mention – some of the above enumerated battles I will mention took place after my Term of enlistment expired and while I was nothing more than a mere volunteer or militia man in which character I served my country with the exception of a few short intervals until the close of the Revolutionary war, at the time of my enlistment I received a small bounty from Captain Henry Dukes – which was the only pay I ever received for my services to the best of my recollection (I may have stated in my former communications that I enlisted – under Captain Gibson Clark if so, I must have been mistaken for my recollection now tells me it was Dukes[]) – you have now every information relative to my services that I can possibly give you – which I hope will prove satisfactory.

Test

S/ John N. Dunlop

Paris

Henry County

Tennessee

Very respectfully

S/ John Palmer

References—Andrew Jackson

John N. Eaton—William B. Lewis

State of Tennessee Henry County: On this third day of June 1833 personally appeared in open

court before the court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions for said County of Henry and State of Tennessee now sitting John Palmer a resident of said County of Henry and State of Tennessee aged seventy-seven 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 in the County of Wilkes and State of Georgia about the commencement of the Revolutionary war (the precise period not recollected from my present age and infirmity of body and mind) that I enlisted for the term of eighteen months under Captain Henry Duke and Colonel Stephen Heard's Regiment -- that he served the whole of said term of eighteen months -- and was during said Term of service at the siege of Augusta¹ and Savannah [September 16-October 9, 1779] -- a part of said Term I was in Colonel Elijah Clarke's Regiment who was afterwards made a General during said Term he was kept actively engaged in traversing the State of Georgia sometimes in pursuit of the British and at other times after the Tories -- at the end of said Tour he took a discharge as a volunteer under Captain Lewis Clark in the County of Wilkes and State of Georgia and in the militia for the Term of two years -- in Colonel Cunningham's Regiment and Colonel Patrick Carr -- and General Clarke's Brigade during said Term of 2 years we had a fight at the Blackstock's [June 20, 1780] on Enoree River in South Carolina. I was then transferred to Captain Burnet [could be Bennett] company and again volunteered and continued in the Army and was at the battle of the Cowpens [January 17, 1781] under General Morgan [Daniel Morgan]. I continued in the Army from thence on as a volunteer until the close of the war. I was frequently transferred from one company to another and was in so many that it is impossible for me to recollect the different names of the officers. I continued principally in General Clarke's Brigade. The time for which I first entered the Army I cannot state with more precision than I have done at or near the commencement of the Revolutionary war -- after serving the eighteen months for which I was enlisted -- I cannot state the precise time of entering as a volunteer nor many of the officers under whom I served -- but one I can state with great certainty that I was kept in the Army as a volunteer until peace was made. I am now upon the brink of the grave -- very old feeble of body and mind and have for some years been subject to fits -- which has greatly impaired my intellect -- I have sent the affidavit of two of my Brothers proving my services which is now on file in your office. I will again procure the affidavits and enclose them. I was born in New Jersey. I have no record. I was living in Wilkes County Georgia. I removed to South Carolina soon after the close of the war and lived there 8 years in Pendleton County -- from thence I moved to Kentucky in Henderson County and lived there 12 years -- from thence to Tennessee the middle part 10 years from thence to Henry County where I have resided for the last 10 years. I was first enlisted and served 18 months after which time I remained as a volunteer until peace was made the names of all the officers I cannot now recollect Captain Duke & Colonel Elijah Clarke are the names of some of the officers of the Regular troops -- I received a discharge but the same has been lost or destroyed from Colonel Elijah Clarke. I have known the Reverend Samuel Hawkins, Stephen Nanse and many other [indecipherable word or words] individuals in my County.

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

Sworn to & subscribed in open court June 3rd 1833

S/ B. C. Brown, D Clk

S/ John Palmer

¹ presumably the 1st Siege of Augusta (first/Clarke) [September 12-18, 1780]
<http://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/800914-augusta/>

John Palmer

[Richard Moore & John J. Daniel, a clergyman, gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Richard McGee & Richard Brown gave an additional standard supporting affidavit.]

State of Tennessee Henry County} Personally appeared before me Stephen Nance a Justice of the peace for said County John Palmer who being duly sworn deposes and saith that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively or with more precision than he has already done as to the precise length of his service but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned in the foregoing declaration and in the grades as there stated --

That he enlisted for the term of eighteen months whether as a militia man or regular soldier he does not recollect at the commencement of the revolutionary war under Captain Henry Duke and in Colonel Stephen Heard's Regiment. That he served the whole of said term that he was transferred to Colonel Elijah Clarke's Regiment, that after serving his eighteen months he again entered the service as a volunteer under Captain Lewis Clark for the Term of two years and Colonel Cunningham's Regiment -- afterwards transferred to Colonel Patrick Carr's Regiment and General Clarke's Brigade I continued in service during said Term. I again after serving said two years -- volunteered and continued in the Army until the close of the war -- this latter term of service was rendered under so many different officers that I cannot recollect the names of any except that I was principally in General Clarke's Brigade -- I have procured the testimony of my two brothers Johnathan & Benjamin Palmer -- one of whom well knows that I was in the revolutionary war but they cannot state the officers under whom I served nor the length of my service -- I now present you with the only and best testimony in my power -- which I hope may prove satisfactory to your department.

Sworn to before me

S/ Stephen Nance, JP

S/ John Palmer

State of Tennessee Henry County: Personally appeared before me Stephen Nance an acting Justice of the peace for said County Jonathan Palmer & Benjamin Palmer -- who being duly sworn deposeth and saith that they are well acquainted with John Palmer who makes the foregoing application for a pension -- Jonathan Palmer states that he was well acquainted with him in the revolutionary war and knew him to enlist at the commencement of the war for a term of 18 months -- he was under Colonel Stephen [Heard] and General Elijah Clarke -- but does not recollect the name of any other officer and after serving the 18 months, he served in the Army until the close of the war but under what officers he does not know -- Benjamin Palmer states that when he was a small boy the Tories came to his father's house in Wilkes County Georgia and inquired for his brother John Palmer -- and his father informed them that he was in the Army -- he states that he has always been understood by everyone who knew John Palmer that he was in the Army of the revolution and he entertains no doubt of the fact himself.

S/ Jonathan Palmer, X his mark

S/ Benjamin Palmer, X his mark

last), filed for a widow's pension under the 1838 act stating that she is the widow of John Palmer; that he was a pensioner of the United States at the rate of \$80 per annum; that she married him May 29, 1786; that he died August 7th, 1834; and that she remains his widow. She signed her application with her mark.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4, 1831, for service as a private for 2 years in the Georgia service. His widow was pensioned in a like amount. But]