

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

Pension Application of William Carter W3385

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 22 Aug 2012.

Virginia Patrick County to wit

On this 14th day of march 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the County Court of Patrick now sitting William Carter Esquire a resident of the County of Patrick and State of Virginia aged seventy one last May –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. He was born (as appears by a record of his age kept by his Father and now at the house of his youngest brother Silas Carter in the County of Patrick) on the 17th day of May 1761 at Staunton River in the now County of Campbell and State of Virginia but was brought to the now County of Patrick, (then Pittsylvania) before his recollection where he has resided ever since. In the fall of the year 1776 as well as he now recollects, he drove a baggage waggon for Capt. Dethrige [sic: George Deatherage] of the North Carolina militia on an expedition against the Cherokee Towns. The company to which he belonged joined Col. William's Regiment at Surry Ct House North Carolina, and being too small was divided among other companies and Capt. Dethrige sent home. This applicant continued driving his waggon in the service of the troops before they marched, and on the march across the Blue ridge, New river and the Iron mountains where his waggon broke down and he being discharged came home with his team. On this tour he was gone at least six weeks. In May 1777 as well as he recollects, he volunteered as a private Soldier under Capt Peter Hairston of Henry County Virginia where the applicant then resided, who had for subalterns William Ferguson Lieutenant and Thomas Smith Ensign. He marched to the Long Islands of Holston river and served a time of three months against the Cherokee Indians, when a treaty being entered into with the Indians [Treaty of Long Island, 20 Jun 1777], he was discharged & returned home on foot through the wilderness fording or swimming the water courses a distance of near two hundred miles.

In the next summer 1778 as well as he recollects he volunteered in a rifle company, James Lyon Captain, Samuel Hairston Lieutenant and William Birch Ensign, and marched from Henry Court House Virginia, across the Alleghany mountains, down New river to the mouth of Wolf Creek, Peters Mountain & Walkers creek ranging along the frontiers in order to protect them from the incursions of the Indians, and was discharged at the place where Giles Court House in Virginia now stands, having served a tour of three months.

In April or May 1779 as well as he recollects, the tories became very troublesome on the frontiers of North Carolina and Virginia particularly in the upper end [the western end referred to as The Hollow] of the then County of Henry (now Patrick) in Virginia. A great excitement was produced through the county by the murder of a distinguished Whig William Letcher who was shot down in his own home by a tory in the upper end of Henry County [2 Aug 1780]. Capt Elipahas [sic: Eliphaz] Shelton then commanded a company of militia in the County of Henry (now Patrick) in which the applicant was a Sergeant. On receiving the news of the murder of Letcher, he was ordered by his Captain to summon a portion of the company to go in pursuit of the murderer He rode all night collected twenty or thirty men early next morning, and pushed for the scene of the murder – The murderer and the tories with whom he was connected had fled to the mountains - where the detachment pursued them but failed in overtaking them, and returned home after an absence of a week or more – He had scarcely returned home when the tories returned to the same neighborhood and committed a good many robberies – The same Capt. Shelton then raised a company of volunteer horsemen for a three months tour, in which the applicant acted as a Sergeant and found his own horse. The tories fled again from the County of Henry Virginia into Surry

County North Carolina whither the company first mentioned pursued them, and had its head quarters at Osborne mill on Loving's creek [now Lovills Creek] in the said County of Surry – While the said company and the applicant of course were engaged in this service some of the North Carolina light Horse took some of the Tories prisoners and committed [several illegible words] to the Jail of Surry Cty aforesaid the applicant was directed to take some of the rest and escort them to the Head quarters above mentioned, where they were kept awhile, and then taken in charge of the applicant and some horsemen to the Jail of Henry County Virginia. While in this tour the applicant and fifteen or twenty of the troops pursued the Tories who had robbed a whig Daniel Carlin while said Carlin was in [word illegible],) some distance over the mountain dispersed them and recovered the property – After the expiration of this tour of duty the applicant was repeatedly in service as sergeant commanding small detachments for short periods in order to suppress and pursue Tories who were constantly committing robberies [one or two words illegible] not specify the precise length of time he served in these expeditions, but it could not have been less than two months. It would take a volume to detail all the adventures encountered which took place between the whigs and Tories in the neighborhood of the applicant for a year or two prior to the battle of King's mountain [7 Oct 1780] in many of which he was an actor – nearly half the population in what was called the Hollow being parts of the counties of Henry in Va. and Surry in North Carolina were disaffected and the whigs were kept constantly on the alert. In fact their service was more harrassing than a regular tour of duty for the same length of time. The applicant has no idea that his memory will enable him to claim for near the length of time he actually served. He will mention a circumstance, which he does not know will avail him, but refers it to the discretion of the War Department – In the year 1780 many individuals after having been drafted for the service concealed themselves in the mountains to avoid serving – It was made known that any person who brought in one of these deserters and delivered him to the proper officer should be entitled to credit for a three month tour of duty. The applicant having accompanied one Capt James Patterson from the lower end of Henry, who with six or seven men was detached to apprehend deserters, & being dissatisfied with the severity of the Captains proceedings in burning the houses of the outlyers & being apprehensive that his being in company might induce a retaliation upon his Father, who lived convenient, he returned home in company with Peter Scales – On their return they found and took prisoners four deserters – kept them in custody untill the return of Capt Patterson, when said Scales carried in said Deserters to Prince Edward Ct House Virginia & delivered them to a regular officer & received a discharge from himself & the applicant for four tours of three months – The applicant as he has already stated cannot recollect the precise time he was in actual service, but feels justified in claiming for 12 months in the whole besides the tour for which he got credit as above stated for apprehending deserters – being satisfied that in that estimate he falls short of the actual time he served, but wishing to err on the safe side if he err at all. The applicant was in service altogether with Detachment of militia under militia officers whose names he has recited and no regular officers were attached to them. The last expedition in which he was engaged was when the British had reached Salem North Carolina in March 1781 – The same Capt. Shelton above mentioned went with his company of Horse in which the applicant was still Sergeant to join General Green [sic: Nathanael Greene], Col. James Lyon commanding. The British marched down on the South side of Dan river and this Detachment marched down the north side of the said river – The Battle of Guilford [sic: Guilford Courthouse, 15 Mar 1781] was fought before the Detachment joined the army & the men returned home – The length of this tour is not recollected. Of the above period of 12 months, the applicant served as a private seven months. The ballance of the time he served as a sergeant of Horse. The applicant has had written discharges for all his regular tours of duty, but they have been mislaid or are among his Father's old papers – He will however make further search and forward any that he may find. He knows of no living witness whose testimony he can conveniently procure to prove his services except Maj. Peter Hairston, Col. Samuel Hairston & William Cloud whose affidavits accompany this Declaration. He can prove that he is reputed in his neighborhood to have been a revolutionary Soldier by nearly all his neighbors & among others by

John Conner a clergyman and Abram Staples.

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—

Sworn to and subscribed, the day and year aforesaid [signed] Wm. Carter

NOTE: On 26 July 1847 Susanna Carter, 77, applied for a pension stating that she married William Carter on 31 Jan 1788, and he died on 17 Dec 1845. She present to the court a Bible with the family record with the following entries in the handwriting of her husband:

William Carter was born may the 17th in the year of our Lord 1761.

Susannah Carter was born may the 2nd in the year of our Lord 1770

William Carter married Susannah Carter his wife January the 31st in the year of our Lord 1788.

The dates of birth of the children were not copied into the court record. On 21 April 1855 Susanna Carter applied for bounty land.