

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Michael Lorance [Lorens, Lawrence] W382 Esther Lorance f33NC  
Transcribed by Will Graves 4/21/10: rev'd 8/15/20

[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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[p 14]

State of Tennessee Rutherford County } Circuit Court, April term, 1833

On this 6th day of April, 1833, before James C. Mitchell one of the Judges of the Circuit Courts of the State of Tennessee now sitting at Murfreesborough in said County of Rutherford and, personally appeared in open court Michael Lorance, resident of said County of Rutherford & State aforesaid, aged eighty-three 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.

1. That he entered the service of the United States, about the month of June 1780, immediately after the battle of Ramsours [Ramsour's Mill],<sup>1</sup> in a volunteer company which went in pursuit of Colonel Bryant [Samuel Bryan] who had collected a company of Tories on the Yadkin River in North Carolina. The company of Whigs started from Third Creek, a branch of the Yadkin, thence down to the Pedee River, thence returned home. Bryant made his retreat into South Carolina. Applicant cannot recollect the names of his officers in this pursuit of Colonel Bryant, in which he served at least one month.
2. About the month of September 1780, shortly after Gates defeat [Battle of Camden],<sup>2</sup> he again entered service under Colonel Davie [William Richardson Davie] in Captain Joseph Dickson's Company. He believes the Regiment contained about five companies. He remembers Captains Caldwell & Cowen. They rendezvoused about three miles below Salisbury North Carolina, thence they marched to Charlotte, Mecklenburg County, thence to Six Mile Creek where they remained a few days, thence to the Waxhaw settlement in South Carolina, remained there about two weeks. The British under Cornwallis had left Charlotte<sup>3</sup> a few days before Colonel Davie arrived there, and made their way through the Waxhaw settlement to Campden [sic, Camden]. The Americans returned home. In this campaign Applicant served at least two months.
3. Sometime in February, 1781, soon after Morgan [Daniel Morgan] had defeated Tarlton [sic, Banastre Tarleton] [Battle of Cowpens],<sup>4</sup> he again entered service again at Batie's Ford [sic, Beatties Ford] on the Catawba River North Carolina under General Davidson [William Lee

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<sup>1</sup> June 20, 1780 [https://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution\\_battle\\_of\\_ramseurs\\_mill.html](https://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_ramseurs_mill.html)

<sup>2</sup> August 15-16, 1780 [https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_battle\\_of\\_camden.html](https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_camden.html)

<sup>3</sup> Lord Cornwallis evacuated Charlotte after learning of the defeat of Patrick Ferguson at Kings Mountain on October 7, 1780. Cornwallis retreated to Winnsboro South Carolina.

<sup>4</sup> January 17, 1781 [https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_battle\\_of\\_cowpens.html](https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_cowpens.html)

Davidson] in Captain Cowen's Company. From Beatties Ford they marched down to Cowan's Ford where General Davidson was killed in opposing the passage of the British under Cornwallis.<sup>5</sup> The Americans were scattered at this place, & collected again above Salisbury where General Locke [sic, Colonel Francis Locke] took command, they marched down on Second Creek where they destroyed a bridge to prevent the crossing of the British. The British came to the place & were fired upon by the Americans. The British went below & crossed the Creek at some ford. The Americans were again dispersed. Under General Davidson & Locke opposing Cornwallis's pursuit after Morgan applicant served at least three weeks.

4. About the first of April, 1781, applicant again entered service under John Read [sic, John Reid], Captain, Daniel Carter Lieutenant, in Rowan County, North Carolina, thence they marched to the Congaree River in South Carolina where they joined General Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter] in Colonel Wade Hampton's Regiment, thence to Orangeburg then in possession of the enemy. The British fired on the Americans as they approached the town, but soon surrendered as prisoners to Sumter to the number of 100 or 150 men.<sup>6</sup> From Orangeburg the Americans marched in the direction of Ninety Six, got in three or four miles of that place, when an express arriving at General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] had left Ninety Six [June 19, 1781], they changed their course, crossed Broad River at the fish dam Ford, joined General Greene. Applicant then recrossed at the fish dam Ford with a detachment of about 50 men under Major Rutherford [James Rutherford], marched in direction to Ninety Six to Saluda River, thence down the Saluda on one side, while a party of the British marched down on the opposite side. The Americans crossed the Saluda about two miles above its mouth, made a circuit and surrounded the enemy at the head of the Congaree where they made 40 or 50 prisoners. Thence they returned to Sumter on the Congaree. Joined Greene, & went down to the Eutaw Springs where the battle was fought well known in history.<sup>7</sup> Then Applicant under Major Moore went to Georgia, swam their horses across the Savannah [River] about three miles below Augusta, thence down to Ebenezer & joined Colonel White, thence down towards Savannah then in possession of the British. They ranged the neighborhood of Savannah about three months but without any engagement. In this Campaign applicant served ten months at least. In all the service aforesaid, he served as a private.

Applicant never received any written discharge from service, and knows of no person living by whom he could prove his service, nor has he any documentary evidence whatever to prove the same.

In the several campaigns before mentioned, he was a volunteer, never served except as a private, & was always in the cavalry & furnished a horse.

Applicant represents, that on account of Palsy, deafness, & inability to speak the English language intelligibly together with old age & defect of memory, he fears the circumstances of his services, their duration, & the names of more of his officers, are not so fully set out as the rules of the War Department require. He believes that he served several months longer than he has stated above. But he could not precisely state the length of his services, & therefore does not claim a pension for more than the services before stated amounting in all the one year, one month, & three weeks to which he can safely swear.

As to his character for veracity, & their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution applicant refers to his present neighbors Nace W. Overall, Robert Overall, William Northcut,

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<sup>5</sup> February 1, 1781 [https://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution\\_cowans\\_ford.html](https://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_cowans_ford.html)

<sup>6</sup> May 11, 1781 [https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_orangeburch\\_2.html](https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_orangeburch_2.html)

<sup>7</sup> September 8, 1781 [https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_battle\\_of\\_eutaw\\_springs.html](https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_eutaw_springs.html)

Jordan Williford, Arthur Totly, Robert Thompson, & James Tucker to all of whom he is well known & who can testify as to his character for veracity & their belief of his services aforesaid.

Applicant was born in Germany on the 18th of November 1749, as appeared from his father's record which applicant brought to America with him & lost it during the revolutionary war. Applicant lived in Germany until he was about twenty-eight years old, when he was sent with a Regiment of Germans over to America to aid the British in subduing their colonies. He landed in New York on Staten Island 3rd of June 1777, remained in the British service about one year, deserted them in Rhode Island, escaped over to General Sullivan's Army, as a deserter made himself known to Sullivan who permitted him to pass on to Pennsylvania. He made his way to Spring house Tavern eighteen miles from Philadelphia where he resided eighteen months as a barkeeper. Thence he moved to Rowan County North Carolina in 1780 where he resided about seven years, & where he was residing when he entered the service of the United States. The County of Iredell was in the meantime laid off, & comprehended his residence. Thence he moved to Mecklenburg County North Carolina, where he lived until the year 1812 when he moved to Rutherford County, Tennessee where he has ever since & now resides.

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 any of the agency of any State or territory.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid

S/ William Ledbetter, Clerk

S/ Michael Lorange, X his mark

[Nace Overall, a clergyman, and Jordan Williford gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 10: On January 2, 1842, in Cannon County Tennessee, Esther Lorange, 74, made application for a widow's pension under the 1838 act stating that she is the widow of Michael Lorange, a pensioner of the United States for his services in the revolution at the rate of \$57.50 per annum; that she married him in Iredell County North Carolina in the year 1786; that she has no record of her marriage and relies upon the record of the births of her children as testified to by Mary Ford; that her husband died February 8, 1834; that she remains his widow; that she has lost most of her memory and cannot remember the day and month of her marriage but the ceremony took place at the dwelling house of her father Abram Moore and that they were married by James Carr. She signed her application with her mark.]

[p 6: On September 24, 1841, Mary Ford, 63, a resident of Cannon County Tennessee gave testimony that she knew Michael Lorange & Esther his wife in Mecklenburg County North Carolina; that she knew them from her earliest recollection until the death of Michael in Rutherford County on February 7, 1834; they were married in Mecklenburg County North Carolina about half a mile from where she was then living; at the time of their marriage she was at the house of her brother taking care of children so that the older part of her brother's family could attend the wedding; after the wedding, the party came to her brother's house to play and dance; the enclosed list of the ages of their children she believes to be correct; she recalls that their oldest child was born about 10 months after the wedding and that affiant was about 10 years old at the time of their wedding; that affiant moved to Tennessee about 38 years ago and that Michael & Esther came some 7 years thereafter; Esther now lives in Rutherford County Tennessee some 15 miles from affiant.

Mary Ford ]

[p 4 family record]

"John Lorance was bornt September 23<sup>rd</sup> 1787

Anny Lorance was bornt Augest 5<sup>th</sup> 1789

Esther Lorance was bornt February 18<sup>th</sup> 1792

Michel Lorance was bornt Oct 5<sup>th</sup> 1794

Ephraim Lorance was bornt April 29, 1797

Catharine Lorance was bornt December 16 1799

Jinny Ervin Lorance was bornt Janury 11<sup>th</sup> 1802

George W [could be M] Lorance was bornt Agust 13<sup>th</sup> 1805

Mary Lorance was bornt January 31 1809

S/ Mary Ford"

John Lorance was bornt September 23<sup>rd</sup> 1787  
Anny Lorance was bornt Augest 5<sup>th</sup> 1789  
Esther Lorance was bornt February 18<sup>th</sup> 1792  
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Mary Ford

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$57.63 commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831 for one year one month & 21 days service. His widow was pensioned at the rate of \$44 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1843.]

South Carolina Audited Accounts<sup>8</sup> relating to Michael Lorance

AA4

<sup>8</sup> The South Carolina Audited Accounts (AA) are now available online at <http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/>. To find the AA for

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[p 2]

Gentlemen

Please deliver to Captain John Reid the indents due to me from the State of South Carolina for my services.

S/ Michael Lorens

February 7, 1787

Commissioners of the State Brigade



[p 3 : Printed form of Indent No. 197 Book M dated first of October 1784 “delivered to Mr. Michael Lawrence [sic] late Private in Reid’s [John Reid’s] Troop, W. Hampton’s [Lt. Col. Wade Hampton’s] Regiment Sumpter’s [Thomas Sumter’s] Brigade this our Indented Certificate for the Sum of Ninety-four pounds Sterling being amount pay and bounty due him for Services in that Troop Together with Interest thereon from the first April 1782 to date hereof Agreeable to Resolution of General Assembly of the Eleventh March last.”]

[p 4: Reverse of the above Indent bearing the following endorsement, among others:

September 18, 1787 I assigned to John Reid the whole of my right to this Indent together with all the indents which are or may be due hereafter thereon.

Test

S/ Jas. Munford

S/ Michael Lorence



[The reverse also includes endorsements by John Reid whose signature appears as follows:



This is the signature of the officer under whom the veteran states he served his last term of service.]