

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Abraham Forney W3976 Martha or Rachel¹ f81NC
Transcribed by Will Graves rev'd 1/3/09 & 1/28/11 & 3/12/15

[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.]

State of North Carolina, Lincoln County: October Session 1832

On this 31st day of October personally appeared in open court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions of the County of Lincoln now sitting Abraham Forny [sic] a resident of the County of Lincoln and State of North Carolina aged now about Seventy four years, who being first 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 7, 1832. That he was born sometime in October 1758 about four or five miles West of the Catawba River but has no record of his age and that he resided in the same section of Country at the commencement and during the continuance of the revolutionary War and still continues to do so. That he entered the service about the 25th day of June 1776 as one of the drafted Militia of the State of North Carolina and served as a private in Captain James Johnston's company, Colonel William Graham's Regiment.² That he was ordered to reinforce the troops at Fort McFadden near where Rutherford Court House now stands, that he remained there until about the first day of August, when he with others was ordered home to prepare for the expedition against the Cherokee Nation of Indians. The militia of this State was commanded by General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford] and the troops that he belonged [to] joined him at the Pleasant Gardens – from thence we marched into the Nation and that he went with a detachment under the command of Colonel William Sharpe as far as the Hiwassee [River], when in meeting with a detachment from Colonel Williamson's [Andrew Williamson's] Army from South Carolina who claimed the prisoners & other property we had taken as falling in that district of Country as belonging to them, we delivered them up and again joined the main Army under General Rutherford. Having effected all that could be done, we commenced our march home and we were dismissed and that he returned home the 13th day of October 1776. That he got no discharge.

That he then volunteered he thinks in February 1777 for the purpose of quelling some Tories who had or were about to embody themselves about the South Carolina line. That he joined as a private in Captain James Reid's company and the detachment was commanded by Colonel Charles McLean. The Tories were commanded by a certain John Moore, whom we pursued into South Carolina, until we found that General Pickens [Andrew Pickens] had also commenced a pursuit of them and was too far ahead for us to come up with, when we returned into North Carolina and after taking several prisoners, that he was one of the detachment ordered to take them on to Salisbury and having delivered them up that he was dismissed and returned home as well as he now can recollect sometime in April 1777.

After this time, that he was frequently out as a volunteer in short expeditions for the purpose of overawing and keeping down the Tories, who were numerous in this section of the Country and has a distinct recollection of having been more than once as far as the South Carolina line, but cannot now

¹ Note on the cover sheet states that "Rachel" is the correct name of the widow. The pension was obtained by Martha; the bounty land was obtained by Rachel.

² [William Graham S8624](#)

recollect any precise length of time or any date although the Whigs were obliged to be almost constantly in service in order to intimidate the rising spread of the Tories.

That sometime in June 1780, there was a call upon the Militia, he volunteered and served as a private in Captain John Baldrige's Company and a part embodied at the time first mentioned at Ramsour's Mills, from thence we marched to Espey's, where we joined more troops and lay there about three weeks collecting men. At this place Colonel Graham & Lt. Col. Hambright took the command of us. From thence we marched to Lincoln old Court House, to old Moses Moore's, the father of Colonel John Moore the Tory and marched and counter marched through all that section of Country & hearing that Ferguson [Patrick Ferguson] was coming on in considerable force, it was concluded to retreat across the Catawba River at the Tuckaseegee Ford and arriving at that point we then met with some South Carolina troops retreating before Cornwallis, whom they informed us was then in Charlotte, we united with these forces under the command of a Colonel Williams [James Williams] and marched up the West side of the Catawba River and then towards South Carolina in the rear of Ferguson and fell in with the over mountain troops under the command of Campbell [William Campbell], Cleveland [Benjamin Cleveland], Shelby [Isaac Shelby] & Sevier [John Sevier] at the Cowpens, from thence we united in the pursuit of Ferguson and came up with him at King's Mountain on the 7 day of October 1780. After this battle that he was dismissed and he returned home.

That then in the latter part of the year 1780 or the beginning of the year 1781, hearing that General Morgan [Daniel Morgan] was going upon an expedition into South Carolina, that he volunteered under Captain James Little with the intention of joining Morgan, but did not come up with him until after the Battle of the Cowpens, when we returned home and remained there until the 27th day of January 1781 when all the Whigs in this section of the Country being obliged to fly before Cornwallis. That he crossed the Catawba River and joined a detachment of troops under the command of Captain Henderson, placed as a guard, by General Davidson [William Lee Davidson], to a bye ford, where it was suspected the British might attempt to cross. Having stood guard at this point and being relieved he went some short distance to a house to obtain refreshments of which he was much in need and was not present when the guard was repulsed and General Davidson killed – with the other troops he fled to the widow Torrence's, where a considerable number of militia had collected – these being defeated and dispersed, that he then fled and joined General Green's [sic, Nathanael Greene's] Army in Guilford County – that from thence he was advised to return home and did so, receiving a ticket to obtain provisions on his return.

That on the 25th day of March 1781 when he again embodied and he was attached to the Company of Captain Samuel Espey and acted as Sergeant. We joined a detachment of Militia under the command of General Thomas Polk and marched into South Carolina and came up with General Greene's Army at Rugeley's Mills, after the Battle of Camden³ and placed under the command of Colonel Dudley who he thinks was a Continental officer, we continued under the command of Dudley until Greene commenced his March to Ninety Six, when we were left under the command of a Colonel Marshall. Captain Espey being obliged to leave the service in consequence of a wound he received at King's Mountain, went home with a part of his Company – when he was then attached to the Company of Captain Jack still acting as a Sergeant to that Company, that he was afterwards marched to Charlotte where he was dismissed by Captain Jack about the 11th day of July 1781.

That he then volunteered to go to Wilmington under the command of Captain John Weir and that he is very certain they crossed the Catawba River at Tuckaseegee Ford on the 1st day of November 1781 and encamped three or 4 miles beyond the River on the road toward Charlotte, the next day they marched through Charlotte, encamped near a Colonel Alexander's which was understood was to take the command of the detachment, we here heard of the return of General Rutherford and that he was sent to Rutherford for orders, receiving these, he returned to the Camp and we were then ordered to

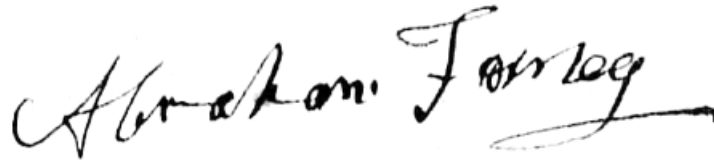
3 Sic, this is probably a reference to Greene's battle at Hobkirk's Hill near Camden.

recross the Catawba River and a Captain Loftin took command of us in place of Weir, who returned home, we then marched through the County and formed several stations, taking up all suspected persons and finally under the command of Captain Thomas McGee, Loftin resigning the command, we were marched to Salisbury and there delivered up the prisoners on the 31st day of December 1781. We commenced our march home on the next day and were dismissed.

That then in the year 1782, there was a call upon the Militia to go against the Cherokee Indians. We rendezvoused at Ramsour's Mills 1 June 1782. That in this expedition he substituted in place of his brother Peter Forney who had substituted for Captain Nicholas Friday and being accepted took command of the Company. We remained at Ramsour's until about the first of August when we commenced our march & we joined the troops of Wilkes & Burke [Counties] near the head of the Catawba River. My Company was attached to Colonel Joseph McDowell's Regiment from this we marched across the Blue Ridge and met with the Rutherford troops on the Swannanoa River under the command of Colonel Miller—General Charles McDowell taking the command of the expedition – after the juncture of the Rutherford troops we took up our line of march into the nation nearly on the trail of General Rutherford in the year 1776 and marched some further than where the Main Army halted in that year – meeting with no Indian forces of any strength, we destroyed their towns, cut down their corn fields and with the prisoners we commenced our march home and were dismissed some time in October 1782 and he states that he finds a memorandum in a Bible stating that he returned home on the 27th of October 1782.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present & he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any State.

S/ Abraham Forney



Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

Test: S/ Vardy McBee, Clerk

[Add—Died July 22, 1849]⁴

April Session 1833 personally appeared in Open Court Abraham Forney who being duly sworn, deposeth and saith that by reason of old age and the loss of memory, he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of some of his service, but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following grades:

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. From the 25 th June 1776 to 13 th of October 1776 | three months 18 days a private |
| 2. From the blank February 1777 to blank April 1777 say | two months a private |
| 3. From the he thinks first June 1780 to 10 Oct. 1780 say | four months 10 days a private |
| 4. From 1 January 1781 to blank March 1781 say | three months a private |
| 5. From the 25 March 1781 to the 11 July 1781 | three months 17 days a Sergeant |
| 6. From the 1 November 1781 to 31 st Dec. 1781 say | two months a private |
| 7. From the 1 June 1782 to 27 October 1782 say | <u>three months 27 days a Captain</u>
22 [months] 12 [days] |

And for such service I claim a pension

And this declarant further states that there is no resident clergyman in his immediate neighborhood, but in place thereof he refers to General Joseph Graham, Isaac Lowe and Alexander Lowe who are his near neighbors as to his general character and as to the general belief of his revolutionary services.

⁴ This note is written in a modern handwriting.

Sworn to in open Court

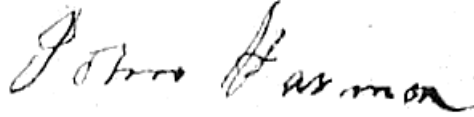
S/ Vardy McBee, Clerk

S/ Abraham Forney

[Isaac Lowe and Alexander Lowe gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

John Harman⁵ in open court and made oath that he recollects of having seen Abraham Forney in the Service during the revolutionary war and thinks it was in the Army before the battle at Kings Mountain
Sworn to in open Court

S/ John Harmon



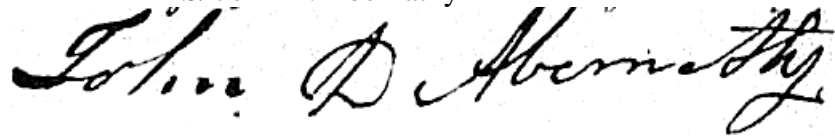
Witness: S/ Vardry McBee, Clerk

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State of North Carolina Lincoln County

Personally appeared before me the Subscribing Justice of the peace in & for the County of Lincoln, John D. Abernathy who being duly sworn according to law depose & saith, that he well recollects of serving as a private soldier in the Cherokee expedition in the Summer & fall of the year 1782, in Captain Abraham Forney's Company -- That deponent further states that he believes that the said Abraham Forney was regularly appointed to said office and as such was entitled to the pay of a Captain of mounted Riflemen.

S/ John D. Abernathy



Sworn to & subscribed before me this 18th day of May 1833.

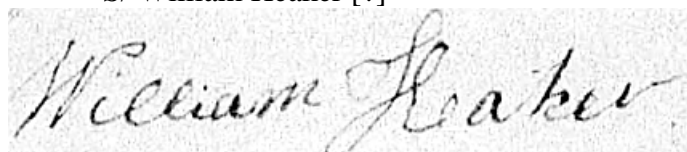
S/ Nath'l Edwards, JP

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State of North Carolina Lincoln County

Personally appeared before me John B. Keane one of the Justices of the peace for said County William Hager [?] Senior & being duly sworn Depose & saith that he served a tour in the Cherokee expedition though in what year he cannot recollect & that Abraham Forney was his Commanding Captain & served as such he further saith said Abraham Forney's Company were mounted Riflemen.
Sworn to & subscribed May 11th, 1833

S/ William Heaker [?]



Test: S/ John D. King, JP

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North Carolina Lincoln County: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions October Sessions 1832

On this 1st day of November 1832 Peter Forney⁶ came into open Court & made oath that he has

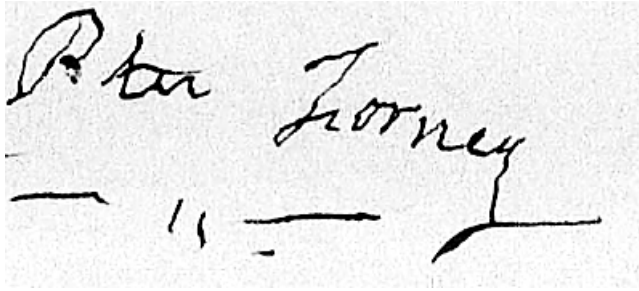
⁵ Sic, [John Harmon W2795](#)

⁶ [Peter Forney W4955](#)

heard the annexed declaration of Abraham Forney his brother read, that he served with him nearly all the time therein stated and knows that said Abraham did serve as a revolutionary soldier as stated in the Army of the United States.

Sworn to & subscribed the day above stated.

S/ Peter Forney

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Peter Forney". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, textured paper background.

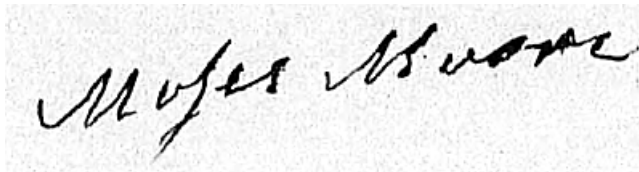
Test: S/ Vardry McBee, Clerk

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Moses Moore came into open Court & made oath that he is well acquainted with Abraham Forney who has signed this declaration & that he deponent served in the tour to the Cherokee nation in the year 1782, & having heard his declaration, believes he was in that expedition although I did not then know him at that time.

Sworn to in open [Court]

S/ Moses Moore

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Moses Moore". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, textured paper background.

Test: S/ Vardry McBee, Clerk

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[On September 4, 1850, in Lincoln County NC, Martha Forney, 83, filed for a widow's pension stating she is the widow of Abraham Forney, a pensioner of his services in the Revolution; that she married him February 29, 1788; that he died July 22, 1849. She signed her application with her mark]

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[Power of attorney dated November 15, 1854, given by Rachel Forney, widow of Abraham Forney, appointing William P. Bynum to pursue her bounty land claims. She signed this document with her mark.]

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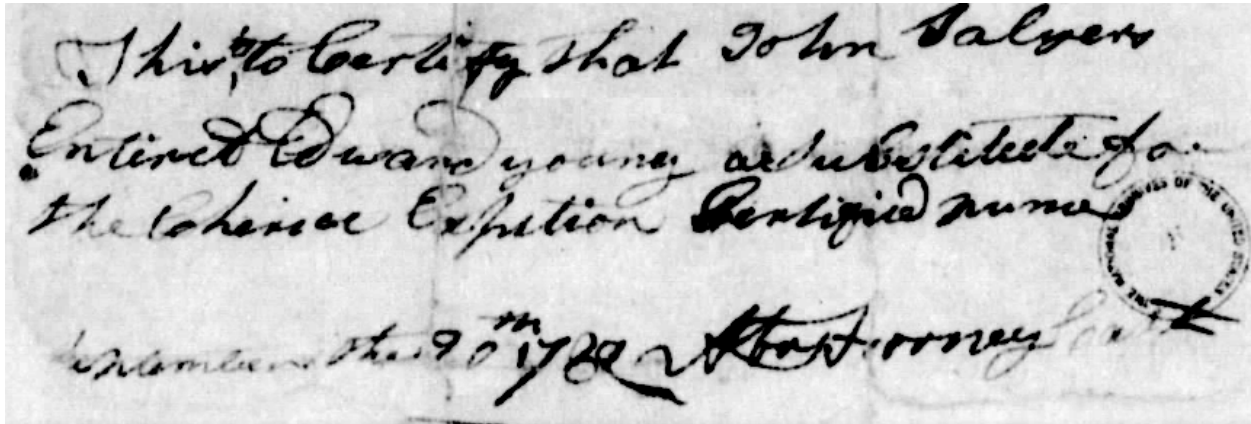
[On May 3, 1855, Rachel Forney, 87, filed in Lincoln County, NC, claiming her bounty land entitlement stating that she is the widow of Abraham Forney, a pensioner of the US for this services in the Revolution; that she married him in 1803; that her name prior to her marriage was Rachel Gabriel; and that her husband died July 22, 1849. She signed this document with her mark.]

[p 22 allegedly is a copy of the marriage bond given by Abraham Forney and Henry Kintor to secure the marriage of Forney to Martha Gabriel. Dated February 27, 1788 in Lincoln County, NC]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$145.60 commencing March 4th, 1831, for 22 months and 12

days service as a private, Sergeant & Captain in the North Carolina militia.]

[Note: the following document appears in the papers submitted in support of the claim for [John Salyer \(Salvers\) R9160](#) and is an example of a document signed by Forney while serving as a captain in the militia.]



This is to certify that John Salvers
Entered Duane Young as substitute for
the Cherokee Expedition Certified name
at Newbern the 9th of May 1782
[Signature: Wm. Forney]

A circular stamp is visible on the right side of the document, partially overlapping the signature. The text within the stamp is partially legible and appears to read "OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE MILITIA" around the perimeter.