

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Peter Forney W4955

Nancy Forney

f2 files 6 + 53 NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 6/14/09 & 3/13/15

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

[p 5 of the 6-page file]

State of North Carolina, Lincoln County: October Session 1832

On the 31<sup>st</sup> day of October 1832 personally appeared in open Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions of the County of Lincoln now sitting Peter Forney a resident of the County of Lincoln and State of North Carolina aged now about Seventy six 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 April 1756 about four or five miles West of the Catawba River and that he resided in the same section of Country at the commencement of and during the continuance of the revolutionary war and has always continued to do so. He has no record of his age but has always understood it to be what he has stated it. He entered the service about the first day of June 1776 he thinks as a substitute for Adam Straup in Captain James Johnston's [James Johnson's] Company, Colonel Will Graham's [William Graham's] Regiment, we marched up to Fort McFadden in what is now Rutherford County and after remaining there sometime, where a greater portion of the inhabitants had fled for protection against the Indians, when I went with a party of about one hundred men under the command of Captains Harden, Cook and Johnston, in pursuit of the Indians. We marched about 100 miles and not overtaking them, we returned back to Fort McFadden, and remained in service this time I suppose three months. I served as a private or perhaps I may have been appointed a non-commissioned officer.

That sometime in February 1777, I think for it was very cold weather, he volunteered as a Lieutenant in Captain [p 6 of 6] James Reid's [sic, John Reid's] company for the purpose of quelling some Tories who had embodied themselves not far from the South Carolina line. This detachment was commanded by Colonel McLean [Charles McLean]. We marched into South Carolina and pursued after them until we found out that we could not overtake them and that General Pickens [Andrew Pickens] had commenced a pursuit of the same and was too far ahead for us to unite with him. We then commenced our march into North Carolina and having taken several persons prisoner who were suspected of favoring the Tories, Captain Reid was detached with the prisoners to Salisbury, and that he remained in service, being attached to Captain Kirkendoll's [Abraham Kuydendall's] Company, until sometime in June. This tour he thinks must have been four months.

After this time, he states that he was frequently out as a volunteer in short expeditions for the purpose of intimidating the Tories, who were numerous in this section of the Country, and the Whigs were obliged to be almost constantly in service, but cannot now recollect any precise length of time until the fall of the year 1779. I volunteered with a party to go to Kentucky, Harrod's [Harrod's] station, after staying there a short time, I returned home, and there being a call upon the militia to go to Charleston, I volunteered as a Lieutenant in Captain Neil's [Joseph Neal's] Company-- but when we rendezvoused at Charlotte, I was appointed Captain by Colonel Hampton [Andrew Hampton] and Lt. Col. Hambright [Frederick Hambright], Captain Neil being superseded upon account of intemperance.

I continued in the command of the Company during the whole tour. From Charlotte we marched to Charleston, under the command of Hall Dickson [sic, Henry Dixon] and Major John Nelson, Continental officers; the Militia of North Carolina were commanded by General Lillington [John Alexander Lillington], at that time General Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln] [p 1 of 53] of the Continental Army commanded the post. I cannot now recollect the precise dates, but think it must have been a few months tour and after the time of service expired, the British being in force off Charleston, I induced a great portion of the Company to volunteer a longer service, until we could be relieved by the Militia coming in to our aid – and I think we staid about six weeks longer than the term of service required. Upon my return home from Charleston in the spring of 1780, I immediately volunteered under Lieutenant Colonel Hambright and went in pursuit of a certain Colonel Floyd, a Tory living on Fishing Creek South Carolina. Hearing of our march he fled to Rocky Mount and we returned home and the same night I heard that the Tories were embodying at Ramsour's Mill. The next day I turned out and went up the Catawba River where encountering a body of Tories near Mounting Creek, I returned and went immediately to General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford] to inform him. I met him at Major Dixon's, with a considerable force, when I attached myself to his Army and we made a forced march to Ramsour's Mill. But the Tories had just been defeated by a body of Militia under the command of Major Rutherford, Captains Falls [Galbraith Falls], Dobson [John Dobson<sup>1</sup>], Bowman [Joshua Bowman], Knox [Patrick Knox]<sup>2</sup>, Sloan and Houston [James Houston]. The whole of these captains, I think, were killed in this action except Houston who was wounded in the knee. This battle took place the 20<sup>th</sup> day of June 1780. The Tories were commanded by Major Moore.

The latter part of the year 1780, I was frequently out, I may say almost in constant service in this County, until all the Whigs were compelled to fly Cornwallis across the Catawba River. I volunteered as one to reconnoiter the encampment of the British while they lay [p 2 of 53] three days at my father's plantation extending their lines on to a plantation which I occupied at that time. While they laid there they destroyed everything we possessed. After they moved from this position with the Main Army to Beatties Ford, I was one of those who took part on the opposite side, endeavoring to oppose what obstructions we were able to prevent their crossing and remained there until a part of the light troops had effected a passage at a bye ford four or five miles below at the ford called Cowan's Ford – and in effecting our retreat, two of the men with me were lost, one killed and the other taken prisoner – upon this I fled to the widow Torrence's being pursued by Tarlton's [sic, Banastre Tarleton's] troop of cavalry – at this place I found a considerable body of Militia, but in great confusion in consequence of the death of General Davidson [William Lee Davidson] who had been killed that morning by the British upon their crossing the River. Here our troops were utterly defeated and dispersed and I retreated across the Yadkin River and remained about Abbott's Creek about six weeks. During this

---

<sup>1</sup> Peggy Reece Bruckner points out that [Joseph Dobson W19187](#) states in his pension application that his (Joseph's) brother, Capt. John Dobson, was killed at the Ramsour's Mill.

<sup>2</sup> As originally transcribed, Will Graves erroneously speculated that this was a reference to Capt. William Knox. Peggy Reece Bruckner points out: "According to several historical accounts (cites below), the Captain Knox who was killed at Ramsour's Mill was Patrick, not William." She offers as proof:

1) In "Sketches of Western North Carolina" published 1877, (page 215), author C. L. Hunter states, "Of the Whig officers, Captains Falls, Knox, Dobson, [William?] Smith, Bowman, Sloan, and Armstrong were killed.... Captain Patrick Knox was mortally wounded in the thigh; an artery being severed, he very soon died from the resulting hemorrhage. Captains Hugh Torrance, David Caldwell, John Reid, all of Rowan, and Capt [David?] Smith of Mecklenburg, came out of the conflict unhurt."

2) William A. Graham, Major on Staff of Adjutant General of North Carolina, states in his account of "The Battle of Ramsour's Mill" that "On the 18th [June, 1780], Major [David] Wilson, with sixty-five men, among whom were Captains Patrick Knox and William Smith, crossed the Catawba at Toole's Ford, about fourteen miles from Charlotte, near where Moore's Ferry was for many years and Allison's Ferry is now. The ford has been seldom used since 1865, and has been abandoned as a crossing for many years. It is three miles below Cowan's Ford." General Graham's account also states "The troops, except Reep of Lincoln, and Major [David] Wilson, Captains [Patrick] Knox and [William] Smith of Mecklenburg, were from (what until 1777 had been) Rowan County." [Source: [http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution\\_battle\\_of\\_ramseurs\\_mill.html](http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_ramseurs_mill.html)]

3) Patrick O'Kelley's "Nothing but Blood and Slaughter" published 2004, page 180-181: Captain Patrick Knox, Mecklenburg Militia, Battle of Ramseur's Mill, 20 June 1780.

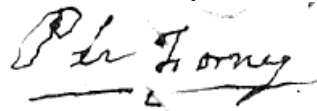
time I had no regular command and uniting with one party at the time, then with another whenever it appeared any advantage could be afforded to our cause and served nine months to the best of my recollection.

I returned home in the spring of 1781 and commenced repairing my plantation, which had been entirely burnt up while the British lay there. I continued at home until there was a call upon the Militia to go to Wilmington, when I again volunteered and commanded a Company of Dragoons. Simmons & White were also Captains and Charles Polk I recollect was appointed Major of Dragoons. The expedition was commanded by General Rutherford. [p 1 of 53] We marched through that disaffected County around Fayetteville on to Wilmington. Here General Rutherford by a well effected stratagem enforced a belief upon the British that our forces were much larger than they really were & in consequence of that belief they immediately evacuated Wilmington. We returned home in the fall. I have no recollection of the precise date of this particular service but think it must have been a four months tour.

This deponent states that he has no documentary evidence to substantiate his claim & relies upon the annexed affidavits.

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 subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ Peter Forney



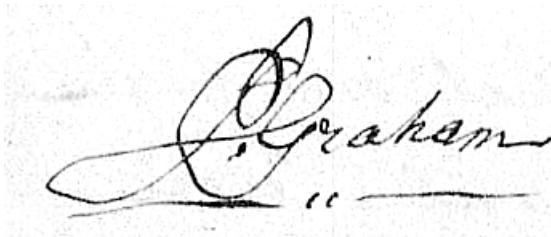
Test: Vardry McBee, Clerk

[Andrew Hoyle and Robert Abernathy gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 4 of 53]

General Joseph Graham<sup>3</sup> being duly sworn in open Court deposeth that General Peter Forney served a tour of duty in a Legionary Corps commanded by Colonel Robert Smith all under the command of General Rutherford to Fayetteville & Wilmington against the Tories & British said Tour commenced early in September 1781 and returned home early in the summer of the same year. Sworn to & subscribed October 31<sup>st</sup>, 1832.

S/ J. Graham



Test: Vardry McBee, Clerk

[p 4 of 53]

Also Abraham Forney<sup>4</sup> came into open Court & made oath that he served with Peter Forney his brother, in several tours amounting to about 18 months or more in the Army of the United States, in the revolutionary war, & some part of the tour he was and acted as an officer.

S/ Abraham Forney

---

<sup>3</sup> [Joseph Graham S6937](#)

<sup>4</sup> [Abraham Forney W3976](#)



Sworn to as above  
Test: Vardry McBee, Clerk

[p 50]

State of North Carolina Lincoln County

Personally appeared Abraham Forney brother of Peter Forney who being duly sworn, depose and saith That he distinctly recollects that his brother Peter Forney was a substitute for Adam Stroup in Captain James Johnston's Company That he left home about the 1<sup>st</sup> [?] of June 1776 & marched to Fort McFadden in what is now Rutherford County, that his Brother must have served in this Tour at least three months, That his Brother Peter Forney was an officer of (first Sergeant) as the said Peter Forney had placed the Deponent as a centenal [sic] on the Fort. The Deponent states that he & his Brother Volunteered in Capt. James Reeds company his Brother Peter Forney a Lieutenant about the first of February 1777 that they marched into South Carolina & finding the Tories had fled they returned to N. C. & having taken several persons prisoners, The deponent was ordered to march with Capt. Reed to Salisbury with the Prisoners that the Deponent returned home from Salisbury about the 1<sup>st</sup> of April, that his Brother Peter Forney did not return until in June that his Brother Peter Forney must have served in this tour at least four months. The Deponent states that during the year 1788 [sic] & part of the year 1779 his Brother Peter Forney was most of the [time] in service but only recollects the particular service he performed with a party to Kentucky Harod's Station—That he was from home at least Five [?] and a half months that as soon as his Brother Peter Forney returned from Kentucky he Peter Forney volunteered as a Lieutenant to go to Charleston S. C. that he the Deponent went with him to Charlotte. The Deponent cannot distinctly recollect the time his Brother Peter served in this Tour but well recollects that it was some time in the last of April or first of May when he returned home & that some of the men came home some time before his Brother Peter that he recollects of seeing Several discharges written & signed by his Brother Peter as Capt. & that the men told me that Brother Peter was their Capt. that he had agreed to stay Longer I well recollect that the discharge was dated 9<sup>th</sup> of April 1880 [sic] that he had several of the discharges until a few months ago & that his Brother Peter Forney must not have got home before the last of April or first of May The Deponent says he must have served at least six months. The Deponent states that he recollects the Time his Brother Peter started to Wilmington & the time he returned home but has no recollection as to the time of service but recollects well that the men called him Capt & said that they were commanded by his Brother P. Forney Sworn & subscribed before me this 14<sup>th</sup> of October 1833.

S/ J. Forney, JP

S/ Abram Forney

[p 52]

State of North Carolina Lincoln County

Personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the Peace Peter Forney who being duly sworn, Depose and saith, that by reason of old age & the consequent loss of memory, he cannot swear positively as to the precise length 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

First Tour, For three months I served as a noncommissioned officer. See declaration No. 1

Second Tour. For four months I served as a Lieutenant. See declaration No. 2

Third Tour. For one month & 16 days I served as a private. See declaration No. 3

Fourth Tour. For seven months & 15 days I served as a Captain. See declaration No. 4

Fifth Tour. For seven days I served as a private See declaration No. 5

Six Tour. For one month & 15 days I served as a private See declaration No. 6

Seventh Tour. For four months I served as a Captain of the dragoons See declaration No. 7 and for such service I claim a pension.

Sworn & Subscribed 22nd of October 1833.

S/ J. Forney, JP

S/ Peter Forney, X his mark

[p 53]

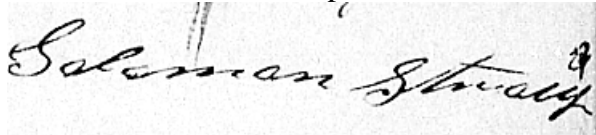
State of North Carolina Lincoln County

Personally appeared Solomon Straup who being duly sworn deposes & saith that he has frequently heard his father Adam Straup say that he was a soldier under Peter Forney who was a Captain & commanded a Troop of Cavalry in a Tour to Wilmington.

Sworn & subscribed this 9th Day of October 1833.

S/ J. Forney, JP

S/ Solomon Straup

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Solomon Straup". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, slightly textured paper. The name is written in a fluid, connected style.

[p 6 of 53: On November 12, 1845, Nancy Forney, 79, made application in Lincoln County NC for a widow's pension stating that she is the widow of Peter Forney, a pensioner, that she married him March 4, 1783; that he died February 7, 1834. She signed her application with her mark. Abraham Forney gave a supporting affidavit.]

[p 8 or 53: Certified copy of a marriage bond given by Peter Forney and Joseph Henry in Lincoln County, NC on February 7, 1783, to secure the marriage of Forney to Nancy Abernathy.]

[Facts in file: Peter and Nancy had many children, the following of whom survived their father: Daniel M. Forney, Mary Reinhart, Jacob Forney, Moses Forney, Eliza Meek, Susanna Ship, Lavina Fullenwider, Nancy Johnson [Nancy Johnston],<sup>5</sup> Carolina Hunley, Sophia G. Hunter and James M. Forney. Nancy Forney, the widow, died May 1, 1847.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$70.77 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831, for 22 months and 22 days service as a private in the North Carolina militia. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]

---

<sup>5</sup> Hershel Parker notes: "Peter's [Peter Jr] daughter Nancy (named for his wife) married Will Johnston whose last name is often spelled Johnson. But because Cousin Will is the son of Jane Ewart and James Johnston, and you have James Johnston in the body of Peter Jr's pension application, you might use Johnston."