

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Andrew Carnahan ¹ W8577 Sarah Carnahan

f56NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

2/4/09 rev'd 10/24/14

[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 Tennessee Rutherford County

On this 6th day of September 1832 personally appeared Andrew Carnahan, aged seventy years, two months and twenty-six days, a citizen of Rutherford County Tennessee, before me John Conley Esquire, an acting Justice of the peace for the County & State aforesaid, 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 the 7th day of June 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated. That he entered the service in the fall of the year 1781 as a substitute. The circumstances of his entering the service, was, as near as he can remember, the following. There was a call for a Regiment of one thousand men, to be raised by a draft, in the Militia in the State of North Carolina, where he then resided, which men were directed to be raised he thinks by the act passed by the General Assembly of the State for the defense of the State. Each company was required to furnish a certain number of men, or perhaps only one man. The company commanded by Capt. Smith Moore of Guilford County North Carolina, in which County & State declarant resided, agreed to hire a man to serve the term for which the troops were called out, which was for twelve months, in preference to standing a draft out of their company, and accordingly they made an engagement by the Capt., the aforesaid Smith Moore, with declarant, to serve the tour. And in pursuance of said engagement, he entered the service as aforesaid in the fall of the year 1781. He entered the company commanded by Capt. Charles Gordon, in which company James & Hugh McCrory were appointed first & second Lieutenants, by the Assembly of North Carolina, but they declined accepting said appointment, and he does not think there was any acting Lieut. in the Company. The Regiment raised as aforesaid, and in which he served, was called the "State Regiment." It was commanded by Major Joel Lewis, and he also thinks that there was a Major Crafton who had a command in said Regiment, but his recollection about him is not as distinct as it is about Major Lewis. He thinks there never was a Col. belonging to said Regiment or if there was he has no recollection of him. Declarant states that he rendezvoused at Salisbury North Carolina, where he joined his company & Regiment as aforesaid. When he reached Salisbury, there was some militia troops there guarding the Jail, in which a Tory Col. by the name of Bryant [probably Samuel Bryan], who had been taken prisoner by the Whigs, was confined, there was also at the same time confined there a Tory Col. by the name of Hampton and a Capt. White. By whom said militia troops were commanded, he will does not remember. Their term of service being out, they were discharged a short time after he

¹ BLWt51882-160-55

reached there. Declarant states that his company remained at Salisbury until sometime the ensuing spring, guarding the Jail in which the aforesaid prisoners were confined. During the time he so remained there guarding them, they were tried, convicted and sentenced to be hung. But they were pardoned, or rather respited for a short time, and therefore not executed on the day appointed, He remembers that a great crowd of country people had assembled, on the day on which the said prisoners were sentenced to be executed, to witness it, and on finding that the prisoners had been respited, they were greatly exasperated, and it required the utmost vigilance of the troops to which he belonged, to prevent them taking said prisoners out of the Jail and hanging them forthwith. He thinks said prisoners were respited as often as twice, and finally, were pardoned, and allowed to be exchanged with the British, as prisoners of war, and he remembers they were sent to Augusta in the State of Georgia, to be exchanged and that a guard of the troops to which he belonged, were sent along to conduct them there. After the aforesaid prisoners were sent to Augusta, the company to which declarant belonged was ordered to march down the country Dowd's Mill on Deep River, which he thinks was in Randolph or Sampson Counties, to join the balance of the Regiment, who had marched previously down there. Declarant was furloughed together with John McCrory,² to go by home, and meet the company at the place above stated. He states that he and said McCrory did go by home, and at the time appointed, repaired to Dowd's Mill, and then united with the Company to which they belonged, which as before stated, was commanded by Capt. Charles Gordon, but when they reached there, the Main body of the Regiment had marched further on down the country; and Capt. Gordon's Company took up the line of march in pursuit of them and finally overtook them; but the place in which they overtook the Regiment, or how long it was, he cannot remember. He thinks he marched through some swamps before he overtook the Regiment, but his recollection is so indistinct about that, that it appears almost like a dream to him. He has been reminded by John McCrory, his comrade, that they marched through the Raft Swamp and Ash pole Swamp, which he believes to be the fact. At the time he joined with the Main body of the Regiment, it was sometime in the Summer, he thinks about harvest. A short time before he overtook the Regiment, when in about 4 miles as he supposes, a detachment of horsemen of 50 in number who belonged to General Sumter's [Thomas Sumter's] troops met with our Regiment. Both parties when they met mistook each other for Tories, and fired at each other. The only injury done by the fire, was the killing of one of Sumter's man, this is the information declarant after which received from his Regiment of the affair. And he understood that not another man or horse was even wounded. The horsemen, after being fired on retreated a short distance, and in the retreat one of them was thrown by his horse, and was taken up by declarant's Regiment, and from him that he learned that his party were Whigs, and for the first time became apprised of the mistake they had made. After declarant's company joined the balance of the Regiment, but he cannot remember how long, the whole Regiment, except Capt. Gordon's company to which he belonged, or rather twenty-five men of said company, of which number he was one, marched back up the country. The twenty-five men as before said were left behind as a guard to keep in awe and prevent the rising of the Tories, who it was feared would rise if the whole of the Whig military forces left the country. He thinks he remained in that part of the country with said twenty-five men, about three months. He remembers that during a part of that time, he was encamped on a Creek called Drowning Creek; and a part of the time he was encamped on Cole's Mill on Hitchcock or Hedgecock Creek. His memory does not serve him to state all the particulars of his service during this three months, but there was nothing of importance or

² [John McCrory W25689](#)

particular interest occurred during the time, except the following. There were fifteen Tories soldiers who had been taken prisoner by General Greene's Army were returning home on parole from General Greene, and were interrupted and taken prisoner by the command of Capt. Gordon. There was also a Capt. who belonged to this same company of 15 soldiers who were taken prisoner by us, but he was permitted to escape after being abused and ill treated. These prisoners were treated with great cruelty by Capt. Gordon and compelled to strip off and take switches two & two and whip each other he took their clothes & money from them and it was reported that he had sold one of them into the regular service for one hundred dollars. About the truth of this report, he has no knowledge; but he remembers that after that report he never saw but fourteen of the fifteen prisoners. The fourteen prisoners were sent to Hillsboro and put in Jail there as he understood. Charges were preferred against Capt. Gordon for their cruelty treating [sic, cruel treatment] and taking prisoners those who had been paroled by General Greene, and declarant remembers that he was summoned to Salisbury as a witness on his trial. Gordon did not make his appearance to stand his trial, and he believes never was tried.

After this affair with Capt. Gordon, declarant together with the other man that had been in Capt. Gordon's company were attached to Capt. Trouton's [Swan Trouton's] Company, as he thinks, though his recollection does not serve him to enable him to state particularly about his officers after this time; but he thinks he performed but little service afterwards, his time being nearly out, and this he supposes is the reason why he does not remember distinctly about his company officers after he left Gordon. Having returned towards Hillsboro, and his time being about to expire, Major Lewis directed him together with such other of the soldiers whose time was about to expire to meet him in Wilkes County North Carolina upon a certain day, at which time he would discharge them. Declarant accordingly met with him as directed, and received from him a written discharge, having served nearly twelve months, the term for which he entered the service.

Declarant has not now his discharge, having sold it sometime after he received it to Capt. Smith Moore, the person who engaged him to enter the Army as a substitute. He did not know he would certainly ever draw any pay for his services, and having an opportunity of selling his right to his wages for a certainty, he thought it most advisable for him to do it, and he never expected that it would be important for him to produce it at any subsequent time. Declarant does not know what has become of said Smith Moore or what he did with the discharge.

Previous to the term of Service as aforesaid, declarant served several short tours in pursuit of the Tories in North Carolina, but he cannot remember with sufficient accuracy to state anything positively about it. He remembers that he was once out about six weeks in Capt. Forbis' company, in which he thinks the Lieut.'s name was Gilmore. The troops to which he belonged during this time, were under the command of General Davidson [William Lee Davidson]. After having been in service about six weeks as above stated, he agreed to joined a company of light horse, and went home to get his horse, but his mother who was at that time alive, was so much opposed to his returning, that she prevailed on him to remain at home, she hiring a man to go as a Substitute in his place. At this time he was not much more than sixteen years of age.

Declarant was born in Baltimore County in the State of Maryland, on the 11th day of June 1762. He has no record of his age. The information he has about his age & place of birth, he derived from his parents.

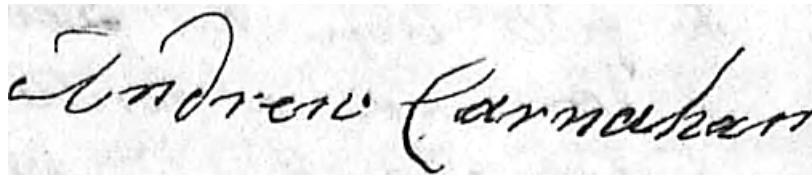
When he entered the service, he lived in Guilford County North Carolina; and after the termination of his services, he continued to live between one and two years in Guilford aforesaid; that he cannot state positively how long. After this time he removed to what is now Davidson

County Tennessee, where he resided about eight years; he then removed to Kentucky, Logan County, where he lived about ten years; he then removed to Rutherford County Tennessee, where he now resides & where he has resided ever since. He has already stated that he entered the service as a Substitute, that he received a written discharge and that he sold it to Smith Moore. He did not know any of the regular officers, never having served with any of them.

He is acquainted with David Hall, Randolph B. Hall, William pace, Wilie Ballard and many other persons, who he believes well testify as to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution. He has no documentary evidence of his service; but he states that John McCrory whose certificate is hereto annexed, knew him in the service and served with him on the tour of twelve months as above stated, and was for a considerable portion of the time a mess mate with him, and he believes he will testify to all the material facts in relation to his said twelve months tour of service. He does not know of any person by whom he can prove his other services.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or a nobody except the present, and declares his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State.

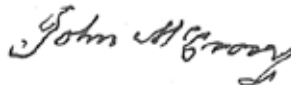
S/ Andrew Carnahan

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrew Carnahan". The ink is dark and the paper appears slightly aged.

Subscribed & Sworn to the day and year aforesaid
J. W. Conly, JP

This 6th day of September, personally appeared before me John Conly, a Justice of the peace for Rutherford County Tennessee, John McCrory, aged sixty-nine years and about war months, a citizen of Maury County Tennessee, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth, on his oath, certify that he was well acquainted with Andrew Carnahan who has subscribed & sworn to the foregoing declaration, at the time he states he served a tour of twelve months in Capt. Gordon's company, in the Regiment of North Carolina State Troops in which Major Joel Lewis and Major Crofton commanded. He states that he himself served the same tour of duty and was in Capt. Charles Gordon's company with the said Andrew Carnahan, and was his messmate, during the whole time, until, the said Carnahan remained with Capt. Gordon and 25 men, in the lower part of North Carolina, in the neighborhood of the Swamps, at which place he left him, and afterwards belonged to Capt. John Maybin's [sic, John Mebane's] Company. He has no recollection of seeing the said Carnahan in the service after he marched up to join the balance of the Regiment, at Brown's Mill, on Haw River in Chatham County North Carolina; and he believes he afterward saw him at Lindley's Mill but a short time before his term of service expired, at which place affiant was taken sick and was sent home. He has heard said Carnahan's his declaration read, and states that he believes the facts as therein stated in relation to his service and the circumstances attending it, or true from his personal knowledge of the same. He further states that he is satisfied that said Carnahan served the full time he his services were required, and that he received a written discharge as he states, though he did not see him discharged. Subscribed & sworn to before me this 6th day of September 1832.

S/ John McCrory

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John McCrory". The ink is dark and the paper appears slightly aged.

S/ J. W. Conly, JP

[Randolph B. Hall, a clergyman, and David Hall gave these standards supporting affidavit.]

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State of Tennessee Rutherford County

Personally appeared before me, the undersigned, an acting Capt. justice of the Peace for the County and State aforesaid Andrew Carnahan, who, being duly sworn, deposes and saith, that, by reason of old age, and the consequent loss of memory, he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service, as a soldier of the revolution, but according to the best of his recollection, he served not less than the periods mentioned below, and in the following grades. For six weeks I served as a private in Capt. Forbis' Company, in which I think a man by the name of Gilmore was Lieut., and General Davidson was the commander in chief of the troops. I served a second tour in Capt. Charles Gordon's company, in the Regiment commanded by Major Joel Lewis, as a substitute, as stated in my original declaration. I hired myself as a substitute for twelve months, and after serving the tour I was discharged, for the twelve months, which discharge, I disposed of as stated in my former declaration. I cannot state whether I did or did not serve actually every day of the twelve months. I may not have rendezvoused on the very day on which the troops were ordered to rendezvous. I have no recollection on that point. I know that some of the troops did not rendezvoused on the day they were ordered, having a distinct recollection of numbers of them coming in after I had rendezvoused. I well know that I substituted to perform a tour of twelve months; that my officers were satisfied with the length of time I had served, and I was honorably discharged for having performed a tour of twelve months and that said tour of twelve months, I served as a private.

Subscribed and Sworn to before me this 20th day of June 1833.

S/ J. W. Conly, JP

S/ Andrew Carnahan

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[On March 19, 1853 in Rutherford County Tennessee, Sarah Carnahan, 70, filed for a widows pension stating that she is the widow of Andrew Carnahan, a pensioner of the United States for his services in the revolution; that she married him on February 7, 1808; and that he died May 4 1839; that she was her husband's second wife and that she herewith files the family record]

[p 20—family Record]

Andrew Carnahan and Elizabeth his wife was married in the year of all Lord 1783 January

Hugh Carnahan was born in 1784 April 6th

James Carnahan was born December 6 1786

John Carnahan was born in March the 18 1788

Thomas Carnahan was born in August 18 1790

Ann Carnahan was born in October the 3 1792

Mary Carnahan was born January the 3 1795

Andrew Carnahan and Sarah his wife was married February the 7 1808

Sarah Hilton born November 6, 1782

Andrew Carnahan departed this life May the 4th 1839 aged 76 years, 11 months and 16 days

FAMILY RECORD.

MARRIAGES.

MARRIAGES.

Andrew Carnahan and Elisabeth
 his wife was married in the year
 of our Lord 1783 in jenerary they
 Hugh Carnahan was born in
 jenerary the 1784
 April the 6 James Carnahan 1786
 John Carnahan was bor in march
 the 18 1788
 Thomas Carnahan was born in
 August the 18 1790
 Ann Carnahan was born in october
 the 3 1792 Mary Carnahan was
 born jenerary the 3 1795
 Andrew Carnahan and Sarah
 his wife was married february
 the 7 1808

FAMILY RECORD.

BIRTHS.

BIRTHS.

Sarah Hilton Born
 november the 6 1782

FAMILY

BIRTHS.

Andrew Carnahan
 Departed this life may
 the 4th 1839
 Aged 76 years 11
 months and 16 days

[p 53: An affidavit given February 7th, 1855 in Rutherford County Tennessee by James Carnahan of said County, aged 68 years in which he gives testimony that he was well acquainted with Andrew and Sarah Carnahan for about 40 years; that they lived together as man and wife and he never heard their marriage disputed or called into controversy. His relationship, if any, to the veteran or his wife is not stated.

James Carnahan]

[p 23: On September 23, 1856 in Rutherford County Tennessee, Sarah Carnahan, filed for her bounty land entitlement as the widow of Andrew Carnahan; that she married him February 7th, 1808; that they were married by one Jacob Scott a justice of the peace; that her name prior to her marriage was Sarah Helton; that her husband died in Rutherford County Tennessee May 4th, 1839 and that she remains his widow. She signed this document with her mark. Her application was supported by the affidavit of Willis Sanford and Joshua Helton, whose relationship, if any, to the widow is not stated

Willis Sanford
Joshua Helton]

[Facts in file: Sarah Hilton and Andrew Carnahan were married by Jacob Scott, JP]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$44.66 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 13 months and 12 days in the North Carolina militia. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]