

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Ward W9872  
Transcribed by Will Graves

Rachel fn49NC[sicVA]  
6/12/10

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. Folks are free to make non-commercial use this transcript in any manner they may see fit, but please extend the courtesy of acknowledging the transcriber—besides, if it turns out the transcript contains mistakes, the resulting embarrassment will fall on the transcriber. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading fails to catch all misinterpretations. I welcome and encourage folks to call those errors to my attention.]

[fn p. 12]

State of North Carolina Stokes County

On this 14 day of September A.D. 1832 personally appeared in open Court before William Poindexter & H. Senreman [?] the worshipful the Justices now sitting and holding the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for the County of Stokes John Ward a resident of this County of Stokes and State of North Carolina aged seventy-six years on the 25th of April last -- 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 into the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. That on the 2nd day of September 1775 he enlisted under Captain John Green for twelve months in Culpeper County State of Virginia -- Roberts Major and Patrick Henry Colonel that in a few weeks after his enlistment he marched under the above named officers to Williamsburgh in said State of Virginia where he remained in the service until the expiration of the term of his enlistment when on the 3rd of September of the year 1776 he was regularly discharged in writing which discharge I have long since lost so that I cannot produce the same. He states that this enlistment and service was in the Virginia line but does not know & rather inclined to believe that he was not of those troops properly known as belonging to the Continental establishment especially as the Regiment was under the command of Colonel Patrick Henry afterwards Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia. He states that during his service and while at Williamsburgh his Colonel the said Patrick Henry who had the command was chosen Governor after which the troops stationed at Williamsburgh were commanded by Major John Green & Major Seers [?] said Green having been promoted from a captaincy & was succeeded by Richard Taylor as Captain under whom he served at the time of his discharge. He states that [he] is now unable to state in whose name or by whom he was discharged. Upon the expiration of this service he returned to the County of Culpeper and in the fall thereafter to wit the fall of 1777 the particular time he cannot recollect he turned out as a volunteer militia man under Captain Ephraim Rucker James Barbour Colonel and marched to the Camp of General Washington near Philadelphia shortly after the battle of Germantown and at the time Philadelphia was in possession of the British where he remained until the expiration of three months, the period for which he had volunteered after which he with the Company was marched back and

dismissed but no written evidence thereof was given him or the other privates of the Company -- During this period of service he with many of the troops was employed in reconnoitering the position of the enemy but was in no engagement. That while thus employed he was here at the time a magazine ship of the enemy was blown up & the firing from the American Fort [Fort Mifflin] on mud island [Mud Island], that upon his return to his home in the County of Culpeper he remained there until the spring of the following year when he removed to Surry County (now Stokes, North Carolina) and in the month of November in the year 1778 he substituted in the militia service of the State of North Carolina in the place of Adam Mall [?] of the said County of Surry for five months under Captain Henry Smith and immediately thereafter he was marched to the South under the said Captain -- Lock [sic, Francis Locke] Colonel --Goode [?] Major under the general command of General Rutherford of the North Carolina militia that in this tour of duty he marched as far south as the River Savannah at this time the British had possession of the Town of Savannah and the troops to which he was attached were employed in marching along the River with a view of preventing the enemy crossing to the South Carolina side. That shortly before he had reached the Savannah the battle of Briar Creek had taken place, that during most of this time he was employed to drive a baggage or provision of wagon attached to the troops and owing to the extensive badness of the roads and the poverty [?] of his horses he was discharged after 4 months and 2 days service but on his return home he was again pressed into the service in Charleston as a waggoner where he was by order of the wagon master retained in actual service for 3 months and 2 days at the commencement of this service the British had not taken possession of Charleston, but shortly thereafter they marched over the Savannah and encamped near the town at the race ground field or cheeklands [?] pasture from which position they were driven by our troops and about the time that he left the service as waggoner as above stated the enemy had gone towards their shipping -- At the expiration of the above tour of duty as waggoner he received a written discharge but by whom given he is unable to state he placed it in the hands of one Michael Robinson with a view of obtaining his pay but he has never obtained the same nor has he hope [?] on [?] of his said discharge nor does he know whether the said Robinson is yet living -- when he returned home to the County of Surry he again on the 10th day of September 1780 was drafted as a militia man for a three months tour and went into the service in the character of a waggoner under Captain John Morgan that he was marched to the Yadkin River County of Rowan where Godfrey Miller the owner of the wagon which he drove & which had been pressed into the service obtained by application to the Captain the discharge of his wagon & also that of deponent, he was in service only three weeks. -- He again volunteered under Captain Absalom Bostick in the militia service in the spring of the year 1781 just before the battle of Guilford but did not remain more than about two weeks at which time the company to which he belonged was disbanded or broken up. He further states that he is unable to prove the performance of the above service or any of them part thereof except what is contained in the accompanying affidavits of Jacob Helsebeck<sup>1</sup> it being impracticable to procure the evidence of any other of his fellow soldiers nor has he any written or documentary evidence showing his service.

That he was born in Culpeper County State of Virginia on the 25th day of April 1755 -- That he has in possession a register of his age taken from a Bible belonging to his father, that he was a resident and citizen of said County of Culpeper during the performance of the service in the State of Virginia, that the residue of his militia tour was performed while he lived in the County of Surry (now Stokes) North Carolina where he still resides. He hereby relinquishes every claim

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<sup>1</sup> Sic, [Jacob Hilsabeck S7013](#)

whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any State whatever.

S/ John Ward

Sworn to and subscribed in open Court the day & year aforesaid

Test:

S/ Jno. Hill, CCC

Jacob Helsebeck maketh oath that he was acquainted with John Ward in the revolutionary war and well recollects that he was with deponent in the company of Captain Henry Smith of the North Carolina militia in a tour of five months service to the South and he knows that said Ward continued to perform the service of a soldier under said command. That he hearing his Declaration read he is enabled to recollect many of the incidents mentioned by the applicant the said John Ward though he is unable to affirm of his particular recollection the exact time said Ward left the troop with his wagon as mentioned by him but he does not doubt the perfect accuracy of his statement in relation to the same -- nor is he [indecipherable word] certain that this expedition under said Captain Smith took place in the year 1778 but rather thinks it was in 1777 and of this he is not competent. He has for many years up to the present period none of said John Ward that he sustains amongst his neighbors the character of a moral Citizen & upper right man & he has no doubt that he performed the additional military service as stated by him.

Sworn to and subscribed in open Court the day & year aforesaid

S/ Jno. Hill, CCC

S/ Jacob Helsebeck, X his mark

[William Blackburn & John B. Hampton gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[James T. Wright, a clergyman, gave a standard supporting affidavit.]

[fn p. 10: on January 24, 1839 in Stokes County North Carolina, Rachel Ward, a resident of Germanton district of Stokes County North Carolina, 80 years of age on the 27th of July next being born on 27 July 1759, made application for a widow's pension under the 1836 act stating that she is the widow of John Ward, a pensioner of the United States for his services in the revolution at the rate of \$63.54 per annum; that she married him December 21, 1779; that they were married by the Reverend William Hill, a minister of the Baptist Church; that her husband the said John Ward died September 15, 1838 and that she remains his widow.]

[fn pp. 4-7: family record]

John Ward and Rachel Ward his wife was Married on the 21 Day 1779

John Ward the son of Jacob Ward and Anna Ward his wife was born the 2[last digit is illegible] April 1755

Rachel Ward the wife of John Ward was born the 27th of July 1759

Richard Young Son of Joshua Young and Perthy his wife born January the 2nd Day 1768

Betsey Ward Daughter of John Ward and Rachel his wife was born September the 9th day 1780

Mary Ward Daughter of John Ward and Rachel his wife was born August the 5th Day 1782

William Ward Son of John Ward and Rachel his wife was born February the 5th Day 1784

Rebaca Ward Daughter of John Ward and Rachel his wife was born October the 21st Day 1785

Jacob Ward Son of John Ward and Rachel his wife was born December the 9th day 1787

John Ward son of John Ward and Rachel his wife was born December the 6th Day 1789

Anna Ward Daughter of John Ward and Rachel his wife was born September the 22nd 1791

Ebenezer Worth Ward son of John Ward and Rachel his wife was born September 28th 1793

Sarah Ward Daughter of John Ward and Rachel his wife was born August the 26th 1795  
Mitchel Ward Son of John Ward and Rachel his wife was born the 6th Day of September 1797  
Rachel Ward daughter of John Ward and Rachel his wife was born July the 12th Day 1800  
Judylaed [?] Ward daughter of John Ward and Rachel his wife was born July the 16th Day 1803

North Carolina Stokes County: SS:

On this 23rd day of February 1839, Rachel Ward the widow of John Ward Dec'd and her son William Ward both appeared before me Charles Banner a Justice of the peace for said County & they being sworn declares on oath that this Book is the Family Records which was wrote by the aforesaid John Ward Deceased & the same is now copied into another Book. Sworn to & subscribed the date above written before me.

S/ Rachel Ward, X her mark  
S/ Wm Ward

S/ C. Banner, JP

[Other facts in the file: in 1839, John Terry, born in June, 1773, gave testimony that the widow of the veteran was his aunt, being his mother's sister, and that he was present at the wedding dinner at his grandfather Varnon's house when John Ward and his aunt Rachel were married December 21, 1779; also in 1839, Ford southern, 74, gave testimony that he was in the party that the company John Ward and his cousin, Rachel Varnon, when they were married.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$63.54 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 19 months 2 days service as a private.]