

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Lawson R6199¹

Anna Lawson

f74NC

Transcribed and annotated by Will Graves

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[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' or 'undeciphered' 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. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

[p 9]

State of Tennessee Morgan County

On this 16th day of April 1833 personally appeared in Open Court before the Court of pleas and quarter sessions now sitting John Lawson a resident in the County of Morgan aforesaid in the State of Tennessee aged Seventy Eight years as he believes (not having any record of his age) from the [indecipherable word, looks like "purol"] information of his parents & as he is informed born in the State of Virginia & County of Bedford -- 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 lived in Cumberland County State of North Carolina the date of the year can't by reason of old age & consequent loss of memory be now recollected but it was in the fall or early part of the Winter that he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers as a substitute as a private Militia man for David Lawson Captain Charles Gholston [Charles Gholson] Lieutenant Smith Colonel Butler [John Butler] General Linelton [sic, John Alexander Lillington] rendezvoused at Elizabeth Town, Marched from Elizabeth Town to Wilmington was stationed there about two months then marched to Columbia, staid there about fifteen days then marched to Raft Swamp² -- was in the battle there and then marched to Guilford was stationed there until the Battle was fought by General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] and Lord Cornwallis. Was in the Battle³ -- was then marched from Guilford to Hillsboro under Col. Butler, was in the Battle fought by Col. Butler [sic, then Brigadier General John Butler], Col. Maybow [sic, Robert Mebane?] against Col. Fannon [sic, David Fanning⁴] who

¹ Unfortunately, there are a number of the documents in this file which are illegibly faint and cannot be deciphered, at least as appears on the digital image as posted on Fold3.com. The images posted on Ancestry.com are much better.

² There was an engagement at Raft Swamp on Oct. 15, 1781

https://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_raft_swamp.html but whether that is the engagement to which the veteran refers, it is not clear from the context of his statement.

³ The Battle of Guilford Court house occurred on the Marched 15, 1781.

https://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_guilford_courthouse.html

⁴ David Fanning (1755-1825), from Randolph County, North Carolina, was a notorious Tory militia leader and renegade earning in North Carolina a reputation for brutality on a par with that of William ("Bloody Bill") Cunningham in South Carolina. Fanning wrote a fascinating account of his exploits. Lindley S. Butler, editor, *The Narrative of Col. David Fanning* (Briarpatch Press, Davidson, North Carolina, 1981). See, also, John Hairr, Colonel David Fanning: *The Adventures of a Carolina Loyalist* (Averasboro Press, Erwin, North Carolina, 2000).

commanded a number of Tories & number of the British, that was fought at Lindley's Mill⁵ near Hillsboro in which Battle there was sixty nine of the Americans killed upon the ground & nineteen wounded -- he was then marched from Hillsboro to Cross Creek, was stationed at Cross Creek about two months, then marched to Elizabeth Town was at Elizabeth Town when Corn Wallace [sic, Cornwallis] surrendered York [October 19, 1781] -- Was then marched to Salem was then & there discharged. Applicant received a written discharge signed by General Linelton having served Eleven months the discharge which applicant received was a number of years ago consumed by fire in his father's house which was burnt. Applicant has no documentary evidence by which he can prove his service & knows of no person living whose Testimony he can procure by which he can prove his services he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State this applicant states that he is known to persons residence in his neighborhood and who can testify as to his character for veracity and their belief of his service as a soldier of the revolution Nathaniel Melton, John Holland, Samuel Stincipher [Stonecypher?], Joseph Stincipher, Andrew Pruitt, Abraham Justice, Chafa Pruitt, Charles Pruitt. This applicant has lived since the Revolutionary War in the State of Virginia, North Carolina & Tennessee & now resides in the County of Morgan Tennessee, there is no clergyman in his neighborhood who is acquainted with applicant & it is out of his power to procure the testimony of a clergyman.
Sworn to & subscribed in Open Court this 16th day of April 1833
S/ Thomas A. Lea, D. Clerk

S/ John Lawson, X his mark

[Nathaniel Melton & John Holland gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 3: On December 24, 1838 in Morgan County Tennessee, Anna Lawson, 81, filed for a widow's pension under the 1836 act stating that she is the widow of John Lawson, a revolutionary war pensioner for his services in that war at the rate of \$36.66 per annum; that she married him on the 4th Sunday of January a little upwards of 6 years before the Battle of Guilford; by the time of the battle of Guilford she had 3 children to wit John, Betsey & Joshua; she believes that the marriage took place in the year 1775 but she has no record of it and being no scholar, reference to the battle helps her date her marriage; they were married by Parson Newman at the house of John Heart in the edge of Stokes County; that her husband died January 4, 1838; and that she remains his widow; that her husband died of abdominal swelling, spitting blood & suffocation. She signed her declaration with her mark.]

[p 5: On December 24, 1838 in Morgan County Tennessee, Melinda Lawson, Daughter of John and Anna Lawson, aged 41 years gave testimony in support of her mother's application. She signed her affidavit with her mark.]

[p 52: On him February 20, 1840 in Morgan County Tennessee, Anna Lawson gave testimony in connection with her application for a widow's pension as follows: "that she has record of her marriage, and the ages or births of her children positively states that the oldest child of the bodies of said John Lawson and herself was named Betsey, and the 2nd was named John, the 3rd Joshua, 4th Lydia, 5th Patsey, 6th Runels, 7th William, 8th Staptles, 9th Melida [Melinda], who to her undoubted calculation is 44 years of age, she believes that her said oldest child was born Sixty four or Sixty three years past, positively states that she was married and had 3 or 4 children

⁵ September 13, 1781. https://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_lindleys_mill.html

before the close of the War, to her best believes she was married in the year 1775, She states that her said husband John Lawson, has a brother Randolph Lawson, aged to her best believe 2 years younger than her husband. She states that she was a cousin to her husband and Randolph Lawson, that, Randolph Lawson was born the next birth after her husband, she states, that said Randolph knew well all about her marriage to John Lawson."]

[p 68: On August 5th, 1842 in Fentress County Tennessee, William Lawson, 54, testified that he is the son of John and Anna Lawson; that he has no record of his age but by undoubted calculation he is 54 years of age; that his father was a revolutionary war pensioner; he testified [the following testimony makes no sense and I cannot reconcile it in any way with the known facts other than his stating he is the 7th child of his parents⁶]: "...affiant has a recollection of six children of his brothers and sisters older than himself, always understood always from his father and mother that they were married, about the commencement of the Revolutionary war a little before affiant married Delila Bolin in Hawkins County Tennessee, a year or more before he affiant, went into service, affiant going into service a volunteer private soldier for 6 months under Captain Skelton from Lee County Virginia, and went on towards Richmond Virginia, and heard peace was made and was marched back, when affiant went into said service he was a married man and had been married more than one year affiant's wife having one son namely Harman Lawson who was married about eight years past and was a man of a family before he died and had been dead about five years, affiant from every calculation of things within his own knowledge, and taken into connection with the account, he has, heard from his said parents, and from the information of the Relations, is convinced that it must be sixty-six years past at least since his said father and mother was married."]

[p 71: In August 1842 in Clinton County Kentucky, Susannah Lawson, 77, gave testimony that "...she was raised on the bounds of Patrick County Virginia not far from where John Lawson of Morgan County Tennessee were said to have been married to Anna Lawson in the edge of North Carolina in Stokes County North Carolina, affiant recollects of hearing that they were married in said County of Stokes immediately joining the County where witness was, affiant was not at the wedding but was informed by undoubted sources that they were married about the beginning of the Revolutionary war, knows that they had 3 children at the close of the War in 1783."]

[p 73: On April 2, 1844 in Cumberland County Kentucky, Randolph Lawson,⁷ 90, testified "that he is the identical Randolph Lawson that has heretofore deposed to the marriage of John Lawson, affiant's brother, to his wife, Anna Lawson of Morgan County Tennessee, affiant well remembers that they were married before the Revolutionary war knew of the marriage at the time of yet the witness was not at the marriage, affiant further states that they had a number of children before the close of the war said John died in Morgan County Tennessee being in receipt of a Pension at the time of his death.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$36.66 per annum commencing March 4, 1831 for 11 months service in the North Carolina militia.]

⁶ My best guess is that the testimony William gives about "affiant married Delila Bolin in Hawkins County Tennessee" etc. relate to his uncle, Randolph Lawson, the brother of John, father of William. That guess, however, is called question by the fact that Randolph Lawson, in his own application, says nothing about having served under a Capt. Skelton from Lee County, Virginia and marching toward Richmond.

⁷ [Randolph Lawson R6205](#)