

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Henry S1524

f19VA

Transcribed and annotated by Will Graves

3/16/14: rev'd 5/31/23

[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.]

State of Tennessee Cocke County:

On this day of __ 1832 personally appeared [before] William Odel an acting Justice of the Peace of said County John Henry a resident of Cocke County and State of Tennessee aged 79 years 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 7, 1832.

That he entered the Service of the United States under the following named Officers and served as follows, that he was born in Bartley County [probably Berkeley County] and State of Virginia & shortly afterwards removed by his parents into Botetourt County in Virginia where he remained until he was called out against the hostile Indians at Fort Vanbever¹ in Greenbrier County & said State. That he rendezvoused at Fort under Col. Donley [perhaps Andrew Donally or Andrew Donnally] & Capt. Graham where he aided in guarding said Fort, and served as one of a scouting party for more than eight months, where he was discharged and returned home into Botetourt County.

Said Applicant further states that he enlisted in the service of the United States under Col. Lewis [perhaps Samuel Lewis], Major Lockhart [perhaps Patrick Lockhart] & Capt. Jas. Smith [James Smith] when said Col. Lewis & Capt. Smith fell sick & returned home & he was attached to Capt. May² Company under Col. Vance [perhaps Lt. Col. Samuel Vance of the Augusta County militia] when he fought the battle of little York under the command of General George Washington & General Marcus [Lafayette] and after the surrender of Corn Wallace [Cornwallis, October 19, 1781] that he assisted in guarding the prisoners to the Barracks two miles from Winchester Town in said State passing the Towns of Williamsburg & Fredericksburg where he received his discharge

The words following viz November 8th 1781

"John Henry a Souldier of Capt. May's Company of the Botetourt Militia is hereby Discharge by order of Capt. Vance.

Wallace Estill Lieutenant"

¹ Nicole Olson points out that this is a reference to Fort VanBibber a/k/a Fort VanBebber. Further research indicates that this fort was built in 1777 and was also referred to as Fort Greenbrier while under the command of Capt. John VanBibber. See, <https://gendeavour.com/van-bebber-vanbibber-history/>. See, also, PhD dissertation of Sarah Ellen McCartney 'O'er Mountains and Rivers': *Community and Commerce in the Greenbrier Valley in the Late Eighteenth Century*, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2018, 464 pages. pdf posted online and viewed 5/31/23. https://libres.uncg.edu/ir/uncg/f/McCartney_uncg_0154D_12426.pdf

² There were two militia captains from Botetourt County with this surname, to wit: Richard May and David May

And that this discharge is the only documentary evidence that he has any recollection of that he knows of and those person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service with whom he messed, are either dead or non-residents of his County those with whom he messed are the following viz. Hugh Caldwell, Thomas Luck, Robert Hutchinson, Joseph Shadden, John Laydon[?], & Sturdy Jones – making his term of service in the United States against the British three months, which together with his services at Fort Vanbevers 8 months making in all Eleven months and since the revolution that he has resided in Tennessee.

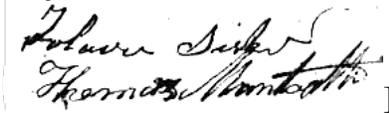
He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State.
Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ John Henry



Wm Odell J. P.

[Tolaver Sisk & Thomas Mantooth gave the standard supporting affidavit.



Amended declaration of John Henry Cocke County Tennessee for pension
State of Tennessee Cocke County} SS July 9th 1833

Answers to 4th question³ 1st negative red ink [?]

Said applicant states that he entered the service of the United States as a Private in Botetourt County Va. in the year of 1780 under the command of Col. Donley & Capt. Graham and rendezvoused at Fort Vanbevers in Greenbrier County Virginia and his term of service at said Fort was 8 months beginning in the year 1780 & ending in 1781.

Said applicant states that his Second term of service was in the year 1781 under the command of Col. Lewis, Maj. Lockhard [sic] & Capt. Smith for a while, then under Capt. May & Col. Vance at the Battle of Little York that this term was for three months, that he was a private & enrolled & said applicants discharge for 3 months tower accompanies these papers.

Question 10th 2nd negative red ink [?]

Said Declarant states that the Clerk's private seal is affixed – having no device or inscription by which it may be distinguished from any other seal.

³ The War Department promulgated regulations governing pension application format and requiring the following 7 interrogatories to be put to each applicant for a pension:

1st Where and in what year were you born?

2nd Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

3rd Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if a substitute, for whom?

5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

But said declarant has obtained the certificate of John Blair, a member of Congress proving the official character & signature of the Clerk.

Question 11th, 3rd negative – Said Applicant states that he could not obtain the evidence of a clergyman owing to the fact that there is not a clergyman residing in his neighborhood, and that said applicant offers this as a reason why the affidavit of a clergyman has not been obtained but has obtained the certificate of Tolaver Sisk & Thomas Mantooth two respectable man of his own neighborhood who concur in the opinion that he was a Soldier of the Revolution.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid

S/ John Henry, X his mark

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$36.66 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 11 months in the Virginia militia.]