State of Missouri, County of Jackson} SS

On this fifth day of December 1833 personally appeared before me a Justice of the peace within and for the County of Jackson and the State of Missouri Ledstone Noland a resident of Blue Township in the County and State aforesaid aged Eighty-Three 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 provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7th, 1832. “That he entered the service of the United States in August 1776 under the Command of General Griffith Rutherford and Colonel Francis Lock [Francis Locke] of the State of North Carolina and belonged to a Company commanded by Captain John Johnson of Rowan County North Carolina – he belonged to Captain John Johnson's [John Johnston’s] Company before the call for men and resided at that time in Rowan County North Carolina, near the Shallow Ford of the Yadkin [River]. Captain Johnson had his Company divided into four classes at the above mentioned time there was a call for men. Captain Johnson took half of his company and went under the Command of the above named officers (to wit) General Rutherford and Colonel Locke from Rowan to the Catawba River in pursuit of the Cherokees.¹ I was one of those who went under Captain Johnson. The Indians had been committing depredations on the Catawba River. The Army pursued them as far as the Hiwassee River in the Indian Nation, which was about four hundred fifty miles. We crossed the French Broad River, Pigeon River and Tennessee River. The Indians fired at the Army wants between the Pigeon River & Tennessee and then fled, though after that they had several skirmishes with the South Carolinians. The South Carolina troops were commanded by Colonel James Wood² – General Rutherford crossed the Tennessee at a town called Watauga, but found no Indians there, at that place General Rutherford detailed 1000 or perhaps 1200 men, under the Command of Colonel Locke to go on to Hiwassee River, and on the march there he the said Noland was one of the number they met with some Indians killed 17 and took one Indian, two squaws and a boy prisoner-- one of the squaws said that a chief of the Indians “Maneater” by name had 500 Indians at his Camp on a certain Creek called Mahomelick. On this same day Colonel Wood from South Carolina had an engagement with the Indians and killed a large number lost some of his own man and got 32 wounded, when we reached the encampment on the Mahomelick the Indians were all gone, we found a house there full of shelled beans, which we burnt. The Indian women said that the Indians must be at a place called Creek Town, we marched on there found no Indians, cut down a quantity of Green Corn, the Horsemen were put out to Guard while we were cut the Corn. They caught a Negro boy, who told them that his

¹ [http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_cherokee_expedition_1776.html]
² Sic, the South Carolina forces in this campaign were commanded by Andrew Williamson. I am unable to identify an officer by the surname of Wood who served in this campaign.
Master Hicks and Scott his son in law with a large number of Indians were on their march
retreating from us, two of the Horsemen came back to the Colonel and told this news, we took up
the line of march about Dark and marched all night, next morning between daylight and sunrise
we heard Bells, but knew not where our horsemen were, we soon heard firing and pushed to the
place, we found Hicks and his wife wounded and some of his Negroes killed which was done by
our Horsemen. The Horsemen pursued and took Scott and his family, but the Indians having no
baggage fled out of the way, we then returned to Tennessee River to the Army under General
Rutherford, we scouted about through the country for some time found very few Indians and then
marched home to Rowan County – on this foregoing Expedition I served three months. In the
beginning of the year 1777 (I commenced my services as a Fork Ranger under the command of
the aforesaid Captain Johnson in which capacity I served not less than three years – the duties of
these Troops that is the Fork Rangers was to protect and defend the country from the
Depredations of the Tories as well as the British, we furnished our own provisions, horses &c –
for which services I never received any compensation at intervals during this period of three
years – I was engaged in a number of Expeditions against the Tories and the British a kind of
predatory warfare). In the spring of the year 1780 – General Rutherford ordered Captain
Johnson to raise a Company to assist in relieving Colonel Buford [Abraham Buford], who was
pursued by the British Col. Tarleton [Banastre Tarleton], when he the said Noland went with him
to Salisbury to General Matthew Locke's and there raised about 400 men, who went under the
Command of Colonel Frank Locke to Charlotte with a view of covering the retreat of Col.
Buford, whose troops were dreadfully mangled [Battle of Waxhaws, May 29, 1780] – we there
met with Colonel Buford's troops returning on parole after their defeat and surrender to the
British. After a short Scout among the Tories we returned home. I remained at home about two
days and then proceeded on an Expedition to Colson's under Command of Captain Johnson to
fight the Tories, we went on with him down the Yadkin below the trading Ford there fell in with a
Company with General Davidson and some 60 or 70 miles below the road forked and the Troops
were divided General Davidson [William Lee Davidson] and Captain Johnson took one road
with about 100 men and Captain James Craig with the residue of the men took the other road--
he the said Noland was in the company commanded by Craig General Davidson commanded the
whole – after they separated Davidson & Johnson took prisoner a Tory Lieutenant who informed
them where the Tories were – they marched near to them that night and next morning early they
had a fight [Colson’s Mill, July 21, 1780] and General Davidson was severely wounded in the
side though they whipped the Tories and being near to the British they returned but Captain
Craig with whom he the said Noland was marched towards the firing and met General Davidson
& Johnson's men retreating – after Davidson was wounded Colonel Locke commanded – we
then all returned to the Battle Ground. The British & Tories came in sight and retreated. A party
was detached to go in pursuit of the enemy Captain Johnson commanded and he the said Noland
went with him to Mass Ferry [Mask’s Ferry] they were informed that the enemy were on the far
side of the River at Mass Ferry so they crossed the River some distance above the ferry and went
down to the ferry but when we got there we found the Enemy on the opposite side of the River
we fired across at them and killed eleven out of thirteen we then returned home – these two trips
constitute not less than three months service – from this time until June 1781 I served as a fork
Ranger under Captain Johnson as aforesaid.

In June 1781, I went to Wilmington under the Command of General Rutherford in a
company commanded by Captain Gabriel Enoch [Gabriel Enochs] -- Colonel Rutherford Sent
Col. Smith [Robert Smith] (who commanded our Regiment) down on the South side of the Cape
Fear River and he the said Noland went with said Smith and at the mouth of Cape Fear River
opposite Wilmington, we attacked a large party of Tories and ran them into the River and
destroyed in all about 400 General Rutherford then detached Col. Smith with his troops to
proceed on to a place called Lockwood's folly to guard against the British passing there I was on
this Expedition and we remained there until General Rutherford recalled them to Wilmington the
British having abandoned Wilmington upon receiving intelligence of the Surrender of Cornwallis
– after hearing of the Surrender of Cornwallis, we were all dismissed and returned home. This
constituted a tour of four months service. I left the service about the first of November 1781.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity, except the
present, and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any Agency in any State.

I was born in the County of Charles in the State of Maryland then a province of England
in the year 1750.

I had a record of my age in a family Bible but it was left in North Carolina when I moved
to the State of Kentucky.

When called into service I was living in North Carolina in the County of Rowan until the
year 1800, and in the State of Kentucky until the year 1825. I live at present in Blue Township in
the County of Jackson in the State of Missouri.

I was called into service three times by being drafted and afterward a volunteer, I was not
a Substitute.

General Davidson, General Rutherford and Colonel Locke were part of the time with the
Troops where I served the number of the Regiment I do not recollect. I was in service against
the Indians at the Hiwassee and Tennessee Rivers and against the British at Colson's where
General Davidson was wounded and also at Wilmington.

I never applied for or received a Discharge.

William Ferrel, Lilburn W. Boggs, Gan Johnson, Gabriel Fitzhugh, Henry Barker,
Thomas Pitcher, Eli Glasscock and John Fitzhugh can testify as to my character for veracity and
their belief of my Services as a Soldier of the Revolution.

S/ Ledstone Noland, X his mark

[William Ferrill, a clergyman, and Lilburn W. Boggs gave the standard supporting affidavit.]
[Charity Glasscock and Senah Parish also gave a supporting affidavit.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of $80 per annum commencing March 4, 1831, for service as
a private in the North Carolina militia.]