

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of John Canterbury R1667

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 16 Nov 2020.

State of Virginia }  
Monroe County } Ss.

On this 3rd day of February in in the year of Our Lord 1834 personally appeared before me Joel Stodghill a Justice of the peace for the said County of Monroe and State of Virginia John Canterbury a resident of said County of Monroe and State of Virginia aged seventy four 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 herein stated

That he volunteered and went to Point Pleasant to assist in driving Cattle for the supply of the Army in 1774 and arrived at that place the night after the memorable Battle at the Point called Dunmores Battle [10 Oct 1774], that he was then but a Boy of 14 years of age and lived in a small settlement on Holstein [sic: Holston] River in what is now Washington County Virginia [formed from Fincastle County in 1776].

That on the 7th day of May 1777 he volunteered to go against the Indians and went on to Blackamore Station [sic: at present Fort Blackmore in Scott County VA on Clinch River] under the command of Sergeant John Harrison with seventeen others himself making eighteen, where they remained untill the first or second day of December following; that during that summer he had no engagement or encounter with the Indians, and their entire service consisted in guarding the stations and the people while tending their corn: That they left Blackamore Station at the time aforesaid and returned to their respective homes. That again in the Spring of the year 1778 he volunteered to go against the Indians and in a small company of Twenty men under the command of one John Bell who he thinks was either a Lieutenant or Ensign they took up their line of March on either the 15th or 17th April of that year for a place called Blue Stone [Bluestone], from there they marched in the month of June following to Davis's Fort where they remained between three and four weeks and then marched on to Leslie's Station where they remained until the 15th October following when there appearing no danger to the inhabitants from the Hostile Indians and having had no skirmish with them that summer they returned home.

That he again volunteered in a company of about 70 men under one Captain Joseph Martin in the summer of 1779 and on the the 22nd day of June they set out from Holstein settlement for the Cherokee Towns on the Sciota River [sic: Scioto River in present Ohio]; that soon after they started they joined about one hundred and thirty men under the command of one Colonel Lewis; that Colonel [John] Sevier from Wataga [sic: Watauga] had gone on a little before Colonel Lewis, had crossed the French Broad River, had a sucessful engagement with the Indians, but fearing that the Indians might receive a reinforcement retreated accross the River and waited until Colonel Lewis came up that their whole force when they met Colonel Sevier he thinks amounted to near 400 men; that late in the month of October or in the early part of the month of November they met with when on a scouting party a number of Indians near the Sciota River, when the Indians gave way in every direction, leaving about 25 killed and wounded and about the same number of Prisoners. Shortly after this engagement, the Indians abandoned their principal town on the Sciota, when they marched into it and took possession without any interruption from the enemy; that he well remembers to have been in the said Indian Town on Christmas the 25th day of December 1779 and left there he thinks the next day after destroying their Wigwams and such other things belonging to the Indians as might seem most valuable to them.

That again in the fall of the year 1780 a draft was made for a tour of three months out of such men as had not volunteered the preceeding year and a man by the name of Samuel Douglass being drafted who was unwilling to go he hired as a substitute for said Douglass and on the 27th of October 1780 he set out

under the command of Captain Estill for Harrods Station in Kentucky [in present Mercer County] and on their way to Harrods Station they passed Logan Station [in Lincoln County 1 mi W of Stanford], where they saw Colonel [Benjamin] Logan who had been wounded by the Indians some short time previous; that after remaining sometime at Harrods Station he thinks until about the first January following they returned to Logans Station where they remained until the first of February 1781 when they were discharged.

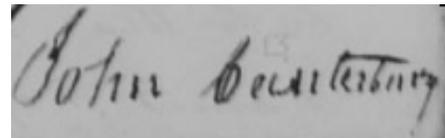
That during this tour he was not in any Battles or skirmish and nothing of any importance ocured.

That on the 8th day of August 1781 he substituted for a man by the name of Looney who had been drafted for a three months Tour to go against the British and Tories in South Carolina; that he marched this time under the command of Captain Roger Toss [sic: Roger Topp], Lieutenant Moses Looney and Ensign Ephraim Grimes or Graham; that this company was composed of about Eighty men; that they marched directly to the Swamps of Santee in South Carolina and was there under the command of General Francis Marion and Colonel Campbell [probably Richard Campbell] that he was in no engagement while on said Tour upon one occasion however when on a reconnoitering party they came upon a British Hospital [Colleton House at Fair Lawn Plantation near Moncks Corner, 17 Nov 1781] and fired upon it, but the fire not being returned they marched up and took it without the effusion of blood; The Hospital he thinks contained in all about eight men sick and well which they made prisoners; that he continued in service this tour until the first of November 1781 [sic] when the news of the Surrender of Lord CornWallis [on 19 Oct 1781] being received they were discharged, wanting eight days of fulfilling a three months tour.

That he was born in the County of Prince William in the State of Virginia in the year 1759; that he has no record of his age and does not rember to have ever seen one; that he was living during the whole time he was in the war in the Service of his the United States during the Revolutionary War, on the Holstein River in what is now Washington County Virginia, and shortly after the close of the war he moved to the County of Monroe where he now resides and has resided ever since; that the manner in which he was called into service is as well described in the foregoing part of this declaration as his frail memory which is much impaired by age will enable him to do; that he has discribed the names of the officers and the general circumstances of his service as well as he can; that he never received a written discharge for any of his services, and that he is well known to the Reverend Jacob Cook and [blank] of his neighbourhood who can testify as to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution.

That he has no documentary evidence and that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure, who can testify as to his services.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity or pension except the present and declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of the agency of any State



State of Virginia } S.S.  
County of Monroe }

On this 19<sup>th</sup> day of January 1835 personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of the Court of Monroe now sitting, John Canterbury a resident of the said County of Monroe and state of Virginia aged seventy four years, who being first duly sworn according to Law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benifit of the Act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832; That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated: He was a volunteer for a tour of one month from the County of Montgomery in Virginia to guard the frontier settlements on Clinch River from the attacks of the Indians. He went to Blackemore's Station on Clinch River aforesaid, but he does not know in what County it was. He served his full term of one month as aforesaid volunteered and then returned home. He does not recollect the name of the officer under whom

he served this tour, nor has he ever received any pay for the same. That some short time afterwards he was again a volunteer for one month from his home in Montgomery County, to guard the frontier settlements on Bluestone in Montgomery County against the attacks of the Indians; that he served out his full term of one month volunteered as aforesaid, and returned home. He does not now recollect the name of the Officer under whom he served this tour, but he has never received any pay for the same. After having served the aforesaid tours he removed to the County of Washington and State of Virginia to Holstein, and there substituted for one Samuel Douglass to serve a three months tour of duty to Kentucky and was marched to a place called Benjamin Logans station, where he served his full term of three months and then returned home. He was not in any engagements in this tour

that afterwards he again volunteered under the command of Captain Joseph Martin against the Indians that they marched westward across the French Broad River to the Indian Towns; that he was in several skirmishes with the Indians; they killed some & took some of them prisoners; that the Indians evacuated their towns. He was in no general engagement. Captain Martin & the men under him were on their return home, and after having got near home the Captain verbally discharged his men; the declarant returned to his home on Holstein, in Washington County Virginia having served a tour of full two months, for which he never received any pay. He afterwards substituted in the room of one David Renfrow [David Renfro] to serve a tour of three months against the Brittish under the Command of Col [William] Campbell of Holstein; that he was marched to South Carolina, he thinks in the summer or fall of the year 1781 to the Santee River and there he joined the army there encamped under the command of General Marian. He was frequently detached upon small reconnoitering parties; and once they took about eighty of the Brittish prisoners, who were brought to Camp & afterwards sent to Camden to the main Army he thinks under the command of General [Nathanael] Greene. The Army remained in Camp until after it was known that Cornwallis was taken and they were then discharged. He does not now recollect whether he received a written discharge or not, and consequently cannot say who give it, if he did ever receive one it is long since lost. By reason of age and infirmity He has almost entirely lost his memory he cannot recollect precisely the time of his service against the Indians, but believes the several tours were made in the year 1778 or 1779 as well as he now recollects

He was born in the County of Prince William and State of Virginia in what year he does not know but from circumstances which he is enabled to recollect he believes it to have been in the year 1760 or 61; he has no record of his age and cannot certainly know.

In his several tours against the Indians and Brittish he faithfully served the United States as a Common soldier the full term of ten months at different periods between the years 1778 and the latter end of 1781 or beginning of the year 1782. He does not know the names of the regiments or continental troops with whom he served in his last mentioned tour nor the names of the officers except General Marion & Col Campbell. He is acquainted in his present neighbourhood with William Handy William Arnot Henry Arnot Jr Henry Arnot Sen'r. & many more who can testify as to his character for veracity & their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution. Having been discharged from Gen. Marion's army as aforesaid he went to the County of Franklin in the State of Virginia [formed from Henry and Bedford counties in 1786] where he resided about four years and then he came to the County of Greenbrier which is now Monroe, where he has resided ever since, which is about forty eight years.

He has no documentary evidence, and knows of no person whose testimony he can procure, who can testify to his service. 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.

John hisXmark Canterberry

Virginia

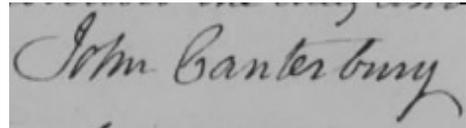
Monroe County SS

On this 18<sup>th</sup> day of November 1839 personally appeared in Open Court before the County Court of Monroe County now sitting John Canterbury a resident of said County of Monroe and State of Virginia aged eighty 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<sup>th</sup> 1832: that he entered the service of the United States under the following named Officers as far as they are recollected as served as herein stated Viz. In the commencement of his service he engaged and served as a volunteer to guard the western frontier on Clinch river then in the State of Virginia for the term of one month under an officer whose name he does not recollect, but recollects that his rank as an officer was that of Sergeant he does not recollect either the precise year in which this service was rendered. Shortly after the expiration of this term, he served another month on Blue Stone River as a guard He does not recollect the year of this service or the name of the officer, but he thinks his rank was that of a Sergeant. The next service that he rendered was in a volunteer company that was raised in Virginia and marched into Kentucky as a substitute for one Samuel Douglass; he went to Logan's Station and was out two or three months, he feels confident not less than two the name of the officers under whom this service was rendered he does not recollect, nor does he remember the year, he went from near what was then called the long islands of Holstine, where he resided. Shortly after this he volunteered his services and marched under Captain Joseph Martin in an expedition against the Cherokee Indians and joined Col Sevier on the French Broad river and marched to the Cherokee towns where some skirmishes were fought by part of the company, and some Indians killed & some taken prisoners, he was out at this time about two months.

He next engaged as a substitute in room of David Loony in a Campaign from Holstine into South Carolina under Col Campbell; the Captains name he does not recollect the name of the Lieutenant was Moses Loony, and the Ensign Ephraim Grimes He joined Marion on the Santee river, and was in a scouting party that took eighty prisoners who were sent by Gen. Marion to Camden, the term of this service at this time was three months, this service must have been in the year 1781 for he well remembers that while in this tour he heard the news of the surrender of Cornwallis. He does not recollect any person who was with him in any of the tours above mentioned, who is now living, and he is consequently unable to produce any actual proof of the service he performed. He is now about eighty years of age as he believes but has no record of his age.

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, or if any only that of the agency of the state of Virginia Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Canterbury". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and somewhat slanted to the right.

This day the said John Canterbury being duly sworn in Open Court deposes to the allegations contained in the said declaration & upon being interrogated by said Court, made the further answers to the questions required by law – that he was born in Fairfax County in the state of Virginia that he received no discharge in writing, when he left the service that he has no record of his age – that he can prove by his neighbors the Rev. Joseph Ellison and Samuel Clark that he is a man of truth and entitled to full credit in his statements.