

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of Sturdey Garner S16819

Transcribed by Will Graves

State of Alabama, Madison County

On this 29th day of October 1832 personally appeared in open court, before William J. Adair, Judge of the Circuit Court of said County, now sitting, Sturdey Garner a resident of the County & State aforesaid, aged 70 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 7th June 1832: That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers & served as herein Stated – That in the year 1779 to the best of his recollection, his brother Lewis Garner was called out to go after the Tories, that his brother being a man of family, he entered as a substitute in his place, in a company commanded by Captain William Gwinn, that he was then about 17 years of age, & lived in the County of Orange in the State of North Carolina, where his company was raised, that the company rendezvoused at Colonel William O'Neal's in the County of Orange, that there were about three or 400 men that rendezvoused there & that Colonel O'Neal took command of them & marched them down into Chatham County, into Randolph County, & down on Deep River, scouting about after the Tories he states they took many of the Tories, but were unable to get Colonel Fanning & Major Walker who he understood were their officers – he states that after scouting for about two months after the Tories, he returned to the County of Orange and were discharged at Colonel O'Neal's house. The officers that he now recollects were Captain Rodgers, Captain Whitesel, Colonel O'Neal & Major Edward Gwinn. The applicant states that after his return home he went down into the County of Prince Edward in the State of Virginia & had been there but a short time before he was drafted, he thinks in the year 1780, as well as he recollects, in the spring of that year – he states that he was drafted in a Company commanded by Captain Jesse Owens, that he obtained from his Captain a furlough to go up to his father's in Orange County in the State of North Carolina, about 130 miles from Prince Edward, to make preparations for the tour, that he joined his Captain & the American Army at Hillsboro in North Carolina about 18 or 19 miles from his father's, where they remained for about four weeks – That General Gates came on through Hillsboro with his Army halted a while, & then marched on towards Camden in South Carolina; shortly afterwards General Stephens who was then at Hillsboro with his troops & who was our commanding officer received expresses to hasten to Camden, we immediately took up the line of March & made forced marches night & day, & reached Camden the evening before the battle commenced. He states he was in the engagement at Camden-- that they were defeated & they retreated to Hillsboro, from there they marched to Guilford court house in North Carolina, where they remained a while, from there to Rockingham County in said State on Hogan's Creek, remained there a short time, from thence back to Guilford, where after serving six months he states he was discharged by Colonel Forkner – during this campaign he recollects to have seen General Gates, Col Lynes, Major Morris, Major Conway, Col. Forkner,-- he recollects the Lieutenant of his Company whose name was Dudley Hammond he also remembers Ensign Hammond-- he states at the time of his discharge the Company was under the command of Captain Jones – Captain Owens having gone home; after being discharged he states he returned home to Prince Edward County in Virginia which he thinks was in the latter part of September or first of October 1780. The applicant further states that in the year 1781 but what month he is unable to say, nor is he is positive as to the year, but he thinks in the first part of the year 1781 – he again entered the Service of the United States under General Robert Lawson, as a volunteer, he states he rendezvoused at Prince Edward Courthouse, that whilst he laid there which was about three or four weeks, Colonel John Holcomb raised out of General Lawson's Brigade a volunteer Regiment of light infantry, that he joined that Regiment in a Company commanded by Captain Wilson, this Regiment of light infantry consisted of about 200 men, he states that he marched from Prince Edward to the lower part of Virginia crossed James River at Carter's ferry about 2 miles below the British

encampment, that they continued about two or three months reconnoitering the British line, to prevent their depredations – during which time he states they took several British prisoners, & many Negroes & horses from them – that they had several encounters with the British – never but one man wounded – that on one occasion when General Wayne attacked the British at James Town [sic, Jamestown] and they were crossing the River he states they lay about 7 miles off, they heard the commencement of the battle, & immediately hasten[ed] on & arrived in sight when General Wayne was retreating, but did not get there in time for the battle. He states that at the end of about two or three months, he thinks in the month of September 1781 he was discharged by his Colonel. He recollects Colonel Holcomb, Major Thomas Watkins, Major Asa Parnell, he does not recollect any of his company officers except his Captain as above stated. He states that he had written discharges of his terms of service, but that they have been lost, & that he has now no documentary evidence of any of his terms of service, that he knows of no person by whom he can prove the same, but relies on his statement above which is the result of an indistinct memory; He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid & in open Court 29 October 1832.

Test: S/ Lemuel Mead, Clerk

S? Sturdey Garner

[William Eddins, Sr., a clergyman, Isaac Wellborn, Sr., and Drury M. Allen, neighbors, give the standard certifications of character for veracity, age and believed in the neighborhood of his services as a revolutionary war soldier.]

Lemuel Mead, Clerk of the Madison County Court attested the documents.