

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements](#)

Pension application of John Duckworth S6805

fn62NC

Transcribed 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. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. Folks are free to make non-commercial use this transcript in any manner they may see fit, but please extend the courtesy of acknowledging the transcriber—besides, if it turns out the transcript contains mistakes, the resulting embarrassment will fall on the transcriber.]

[fn p. 5]

State of North Carolina, Burke County: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions October Term 1832

On this 22nd day of October 1832 personally appeared in open court before the Justices of the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions for the County & State aforesaid now sitting John Duckworth a resident of said County & State aged 74 years who being first duly sworn according to Law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefits of the Act of Congress passed June 7th, 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers & served as herein stated (viz.): That he entered the service under Captain William Knox in the County of Burke, then Rowan, & State of North Carolina sometime in the year 1776. He entered said service for the term of six months or during the War. Colonel Alexander Martin commanded the Regiment. He has understood that he was subsequently Governor of North Carolina. The Company of Captain Knox rendezvoused at Salisbury North Carolina from whence they marched to Fayetteville & from there to Wilmington where the Regiment joined General Lee (Charles Lee). We were then marched down Cape Fear River to a place called Brunswick from thence we were marched to Charleston South Carolina & arrived there the day that Sullivan's Island was first attacked (date not recollected). He remained there till the 4th day of August 1777 – when I was discharged, my term of service being about nine months & a few [sentence ends here]. Captain Knox was accidentally shot by his Lieutenant Richard Grimes of which wound he died & on his deathbed requested that his company should be discharged. It was accordingly done & this is the reason why I did not serve the War.

Shortly after my return home I volunteered under Captain Thomas Kennedy and went a short expedition against the Cherokee Indians. In a short time after, I volunteered again under Captain John Harden and went another short expedition against the Cherokees. These expeditions did not exceed six weeks or two months. These expeditions were in the year 1777 or 1778. I then volunteered under Captain Thomas Lytle for six months during which time I was generally in a stockade or fort on the frontier of Burke County guarding against the Indians.

After this service I volunteered to go against the British & Tories under Captain Thomas Kennedy (Colonel William Sharpe commanding) & was marched into Lincoln

County & was in the Battle at Ramsour's Mill. I was there wounded in the left shoulder & the ball is now plainly to be felt where it is lodged.

{Note: I felt the ball myself.

S/ Samuel Carson}

Some time after this, Ferguson [Patrick Ferguson] came through the Country & a number of the citizens crossed the mountains & joined Colonels Shelby [Isaac Shelby] & Sevier [John Sevier] under the command of Colonel Charles McDowell. We returned & followed on to King's Mountain where we defeated Ferguson. At the time of this Battle my wound was not yet well & I fought with a stent [sic?] in my shoulder of considerable length. I still remained under Captain Kennedy & Major Joseph McDowell. Col. Campbell [William Campbell] & Shelby & Sevier commanded in the battle. Ramsour's battle was on the 20th of June 1780 and the King's Mountain battle was in October following. This ended my service except some little scouting expeditions against the Indians. My whole services amounted to something upwards of two years.

I hereby relinquish every claim to a pension or annuity except the present & do hereby declare that my name is not on the pension Roll of any State or the Agency of any State.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & date above written in open Court.

S/ John Duckworth

Test: S/ J. Erwin, Clk

[fn p. 33: John Silliman and Saml. P. Carson gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[fn p. 9]

State of North Carolina, Burke County: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions April Term 1833

This day personally appeared in open court before the Justices of said John Duckworth a citizen of said County who after being duly sworn according to law makes on oath the following amendments to his Declaration that he filed in said court at October Term 1832 in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June the 7th 1832. Swears that by reason of old age and consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the length of his service precisely but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following grades – one tour of nine months in the Continental line in the years of 1776 and 1777. In the last of 1777 or first of 1778, served two short tours against the Indians of not less than six weeks. In the latter part of the year 1778 or first of 1779, served a six months tour. In 1780 served a two months tour making in all 18 months and a half, all of which time I was a common Soldier. Questions by the Court --

1. When & in what year were you born

I was born in the State of Virginia in the year of 1759.

2. Have you any record of your age

I have not; only know my age by information of my Parents.

3. Where were you living when called into service & where have you lived since and where do you now live

I was living in Rowan County North Carolina and have since lived in Burke County North Carolina where I now live.

4. How were you called into service

Answer: I volunteered in the year 1776 and served as a volunteer in all my tours and done much hard services.

5. State the names of some of the Regular officers who were with the Troops you served & such Continental & militia regiments as you can recollect and all other general circumstances that you can recollect.

I do not recollect any General officers that I was under only General Lee, General Rutherford, Colonel Cleveland, Colonel Campbell, Col. Shelby, & Colonel Charles McDowell &c &c.

6. Did you ever receive a discharge from the service

Answer: Yes my pocketbook was stolen in which my discharge was deposited.

7. State the names of Persons to whom you are known in your neighborhood who can testify as to your character for veracity & good behavior and your services as a Soldier of the revolution.

I am well known to the Honorable Samuel Carson, Colonel Isaac Avery & the Reverend John Lilliman who can testify to my character for veracity & good behavior and refers the court to the affidavit of Thomas Lytle¹ & Isaac Thompson² herewith filed as the only persons whose testimony I can procure to prove my services.

Sworn to and subscribed the 23rd of April 1833.

S/ John Duckworth

Sworn in open Court

23rd April 1833

S/ J. Erwin, Clk

[fn p. 24]

State of North Carolina Burke County

Whereas the subscriber John Duckworth of the County & State aforesaid having heretofore (that is to say) on or about October Term 1832 of Burke County Court made a Declaration to obtain a Pension under the Act of Congress of the 7th of June 1832 and having obtained a Certificate from the War Department entitling him to receive \$61.33 per annum during his natural life for services rendered the United States during the Revolutionary War which said Certificate is dated the 12th day of July 1833 and numbered (Blank)

And whereas further the said John Duckworth has been advised by the Commissioner of the Pension Office that there existed objections to the above Declaration at the time he obtained said Certificate appears this day before me Robert C. Ranson a Justice of the Peace in & for said County and after being duly sworn upon the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God makes the following explanations and statements with regard to the services performed by him during said War which are more fully contained in said Declaration.

With regard to his service of nine months in the Continental Army under Captain Knox he alleges that when he enlisted he was under the impression that it was only for the term of six months that soon after his enlistment he marched to Salisbury where the forces were collected and from thence on to Fayetteville at which place I saw Isaac Thompson under the command of Colonel Bateman and Captain Kennady or Hardin as I believe officers of the Militia that from Fayetteville we marched on to Wilmington and

¹ [Thomas Lytle S8873](#)

² [Isaac Thompson S7724](#)

from thence to Brunswick and to Charleston , while at Wilmington the six months upon which I enlisted (as I then believed) had expired and myself and many others applied to Captain Knox for our discharges when we were told for the first time that we had enlisted for during the War, but that if he should be able to procure a sufficient recruit of men we should be discharged his own words were "as we come in, so, we should go out," and accordingly Captain Knox in company with his 1st Lieutenant left the Army for the purpose of getting man to enlist when he Captain Knox was as I then understood and have since often heard accidentally killed by said Lieutenant whose name was Richard Grimes -- Grimes shortly after this occurrence came on to Charleston South Carolina where we had marched from Brunswick under command of a Lieutenant selected from the Army under command of General Lee whom we had joined at Wilmington. The name of this Lieutenant I do not at this time remember. Soon after the arrival of Lieutenant Grimes in Charleston we were discharged having served nine months as I alleged in my Former Declaration to which I big leave to refer for a more full and perfect account of my services during said enlistment --

As regards my service in the Militia under Captain Lytle it amounts to six months. It may be stated in my Declaration in a way calculated to make the impression that I served one tour of six months -- such is not the case -- I served two tours of three months each -- at the time I made the Declaration I did not know nor was I told that it was necessary to specify each tour separately -- my opinion was the two tours of three months each under Captain Lytle was the same as one tour of six months.

These two tours of three months each were performed at the time I alleged in my Declaration to have served under Captain Lytle. There was perhaps an intermission of 10 or 12 days between the first and second Tour for the particular period at which time this service was performed out day leave also to refer to my former Declaration --

Having now made the foregoing statements with a view of explaining more satisfactorily the nature of my service during the Revolutionary War contained in my Declaration now on file in the War Department I proceed now to notice of another subject in which I feel myself duly concerned.

I am informed by the Commissioner of the Pension Office that an affidavit purporting to be made by me has been presented at that Department alleging that I served during the Revolutionary War in the State of Pennsylvania for the term of eight months, in company with one Joseph Cross now I the said John Duckworth do hereby solemnly declare and say upon oath that I never in all my life made any such affidavit, that I never was in the State of Pennsylvania and that I have not now nor have I ever hear for known any such man as Joseph Cross, and further more swear that if it is necessary I can prove by respectable witnesses that on the 12th day of September last day of which I am informed this affidavit was made I was engaged own business at home and that no such paper was signed by me.

Sworn to and subscribed this 9th Day of February 1835.

S/ John Duckworth

S/ R C Pearson, JP

[fn p. 28]

State of North Carolina Burke County: Court of Pleas & quarter Sessions October court 1832

Thomas Little swears that he served as Captain during the war of the Revolution at the head of the Catawba River when we had to Fort against the Indians, that he commanded John Duckworth as a private who served under him for at least six months. Isaac Thompson also swears that he knew John Duckworth in the service against the Indians & that he served with him & that he met the said Duckworth at a previous time when he said Duckworth was an enlisted soldier in one of the Continental regiments when they were in service.

Sworn to in open Court 22nd October 1832
Test: S/ J. Erwin, [illegible]

S/ Thomas Lytle
S/ Isaac Thompson

[facts in file: veteran died November six, 1843 leaving no widow.

[fn p. 14: in a power of attorney dated July six, 1867 filed in Burke County North Carolina, Alexander Duckworth states that he is the only child of John Duckworth deceased, late a pensioner of the United States for his services in the revolution. He is seeking the arrears due him as the only surviving child of John Duckworth.]