

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of John Venables (Venable) W18220

Transcribed by Will Graves

State of North Carolina, Stokes County

On this 10<sup>th</sup> day of September 1833 personally appeared in open court before us the Justices of the County Court of Stokes aforesaid now sitting John Venable Esq. A resident of said County in North Carolina aged Seventy one years the first day of September Instant who being 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 the 7<sup>th</sup> June 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein after stated according to the best of his recollection (to wit).

That he entered service of the United States as a substitute for a certain John Jordan in York District in South Carolina as a private militia soldier some time in the latter end of August or first of September in the year 1778 in a company commanded by Lt. Malcolm Henry in a Regiment commanded by Col. Thomas Neal & Rendezvoused at a Major Ross's in York district and marched from there & crossed Broad River at Talbot's Ferry, passing through several places in said State of South Carolina which he cannot particularly name at present, but that he was marched across Fair Forest, Tiger [sic, Tyger] & more rivers & through a small village called Ninety Six, thence crossing Saluda River to a place called Fort White Hall at which place a General Williamson [Andrew Williamson] resided where a military store was kept, at this place orders was given by the Commanding Officers that two companies (to wit) Captain Sadler's & Lt. Henry's companies should be detached from Col. Neal's regiment, when this applicant marched some miles under Lt. Henry's command up the Country not far from the Savannah River to guard the Country against the Hostile Indians and marched by a Fort called Independence several miles through a Wilderness Country & were stationed in an encampment near Savannah River at a large Canebrake on the North side of said river, at which place he was discharged from his Term of Service of three month as he entered for a Substitute aforesaid But he does not recollect whether he got a written discharge or not, & if he did he has lost it, and further he states that he knows of no living witness that he can prove the foregoing Service by as he was at the time of entering into said Service as aforesaid a Student to School under the Tuition of a Mr. Jesse Burgen in York District aforesaid, in SC & was 16 years of age the first of September, 1798, agreeable to his Father's record of his age as stated to him; and at the same time of his entering into the Service aforesaid, he was then living about 100 & 50 miles from his Father William Venables resided in Surry County N. C. and from the Division of said County is now a part called Stokes County.

The next service that this applicant entered into was as a private militia soldier drafted in Surry County in North Carolina in the month of February or March 1780, Rendezvoused at the Court house in Richmond in County aforesaid in the company of Capt. James Freeman and Lt. Samuel Dyer. That these troops to which he was attached were called into service for the purpose of joining the army organized for the defense of Charlestown in South Carolina, that in execution of this object that he marched from Richmond aforesaid towards said Charlestown about 150 miles crossing the Yadkin River & through Salisbury in Rowan County & Charlotte in Mecklenburg County North

Carolina. That they were in Company with General Rutherford near Salisbury, and after being marched to a place in or near what is called & known by the name of the Waxhaw Settlements in South Carolina near the Catawba River, & Nation of Indians of the Catawba tribe; so called; and about this time information came to our United States troops that the City of Charlestown had Surrendered to the British that upon the receipt of this information it appeared to discourage our officers to proceed any further, whereupon this Applicant with others were Verbally discharged by his Captain aforesaid after having served one month at least. That sometime in the same year say 1780 in the Spring or summer season he thinks in the month of May or June when living at his Uncle Richard Venable's in Lincoln County North Carolina, he entered the Service as a volunteer in a Company of light horse militia Troopers & found his own horse under the Command of Captain John Barber of said County of Lincoln and marched as one of the Troopers with said Captain about perhaps 15 miles to a place called the Waxhaw Settlements about the Boundary line between North & South Carolina at the encampment of General Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter] while at that encampment he said John Venable's horse escaped from him in this Capacity as a light horse militia private Soldier he served one month, and after losing his horse, as aforesaid he was permitted and directed by his Captain John Barber, to go and Join the Army under the Command of General Rutherford a distance of about 30 or more miles, in Anson County, North Carolina near the Pedee River and that soon as he reached the encampment of General Rutherford which did not exceed two days, he immediately Joined as a Volunteer militia Soldier in the Infantry of General Rutherford's forces under the Command of a Captain \_\_ [blank in original] Armstrong from Lincoln County North Carolina in Colonel Alexander's Regiment, and near this encampment General Butler & General Caswell of North Carolina with General Gates from the North Joined their forces under General Rutherford as he now thinks, but is not positively certain as to seeing all the Generals aforesaid, then marched from the encampment where those Generals met with their forces, by the place called the Cheraw hills in South Carolina to Rugeley's Mills in said State, at which place he saw a number of Generals he thinks about thirteen in number & that General Gates was the Commander in Chief at this encampment we was ordered to build up our fires & leave them in as silent a manner as possible in the Night of the 15<sup>th</sup> of August 1780, said to be 12 or 13 miles from Camden in South Carolina & from thence was marched in as a silent a manner as possible some miles from Camden in the night time when & where the advanced Guards began firing on the enemy & the enemy at our Guards occasionally from that until day light when the General engagement took place, in which our American Army under the Command of the aforesaid General Gates, was defeated that he was in the said Battle & that it was said that General Rutherford was taken prisoner during the Battle and after said Battle & defeat of our forces, he this applicant returned home to Surry County passing through Lincoln County North Carolina where he volunteered his Services & his Uncle Richard Venable resided, in this last Service as one of the Infantry in General Gates' Army and Captain Armstrong's Company he served two months at the least.

The next Service he entered as a volunteer in the same year of 1780, a few days after he arrived home to his Father's in Surry County North Carolina & served as a light horseman private under Captain James Shepperd to range the County of Surry aforesaid to keep the Tories in subjection, that he continued in this Service at lease two months, that he received no written discharge in this service as a light horse Trooper he found his

own horse & at some time of the service, Edmund Kerby was Lieutenant & Wm. Haghlett was his Lieutenant at another time, in Colonel Martin Armstrong's Regiment of Surry County militia.

The next Service he entered Service as a Volunteer private in Surry County aforesaid in the Company of militia commanded by Captain William Bostick which was a short time after the Battle of King's Mountain in fall of the year 1780 or last of October & Guarded the prisoners (at the Village called the old Town) that were taken at the aforesaid Battle in this Service he continued one month at least & was discharged but not in writing & returned home. And in the next Service sometime in the month of February 1781 he again entered the Service of his Country as a Volunteer private under Captain Edward Lovell of the Surry County Militia in North Carolina and immediately after entering the Service was appointed Ensign in said Company which appointment was made by his Captain aforesaid & continued to the end of this expedition which was not less than one month as a light horseman or trooper marched from Surry County aforesaid to Guilford County North Carolina & Joined the Army commanded by General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] that he continued in said County of Guilford & was in the Battle at what is called Whitsell's [sic, Weitzel's] Mills on Reedy fork which happened a very few days before the Battle of Guilford in this Service he acted as Ensign trooper for the term aforesaid of one month but had no commission & knows of no person that can testify that he acted as an officer Ensign aforesaid, therefore he only claims as a private trooper. The next Service he entered as a volunteer horseman (there being a call for a horse Company) in the month of May 1781 in Surry County North Carolina under the Command of Captain David Humphries who was a Captain appointed to command said Company and in this Service of a three months he was employed Mostly in transporting of Lead for the use of the Army of the United States from Chizzel's [sic, Chiswell's] lead Mines near New River in Virginia crossing the rugged Blue Ridge of Mountains to Salisbury in North Carolina a distance of upwards of 100 miles for which he received a discharge from his Captain aforesaid for a Tour of three months which discharge he has lost or mislaid so that he cannot find it. This Service he proves by the Testimony of James Forrester.

The next & last Service he rendered he entered in Surry County North Carolina at the Courthouse in Richmond as a private light horseman as a Substitute for a certain Benjamin May of said County of Surry in Captain Minor Smith's Company of troopers under a Colonel Smith & Major Grayham [sic, Graham?] and this applicant found his own horse & marched from Richmond aforesaid scouring the Country to subdue the Tories through several Counties in the State of North Carolina above 200 miles to the place called the Raft Swamp & to the Brick house near Wilmington in North Carolina & at the Camp at Shaws in Brunswick County received a written discharge signed by his Captain M. Smith the 17<sup>th</sup> of November 1781 after serving his tour of three months which discharge accompanies this declaration. The following is a brief Recapitulation of the applicant's claim as set forth in the foregoing Declaration (to wit)

In 1778            three months a private militia man in this Service he saw & knew a Major Pickens afterwards was General – Colonel Thomas Neal & General Williamson  
in 1780            one month under Captain Freeman he knew General Rutherford & Colonel John Armstrong of the Regulars he was a private infantry

in same one month a light horsemen – General Sumter under Captain Barber  
 in same two months in the Infantry under Captain Armstrong in time of Gates  
 defeat  
 in same two months under Captain Shepperd light horseman  
 in Jan. One month under Captain Bostick infantry  
 in 1781 one month under Captain Lovell in the light horse  
 in 1781 three months under Captain Humphreys in the light horse  
 in 1781 three months under Captain M. Smith in the light horse

he can prove by the Testimony of Reverend William Steel a clergyman as to the most of the Services & part by James Forrester & part by Abm Stow

And 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 and the several questions being propounded agreeable to the directions prescribed by the secretary of War first this applicant states that from the best information he can get he was born in the County of Frederick & State of Virginia on the first day of September 1762 of which he once had a record but it was burned with his house in 1789 as he believes.

That he first entered the Service in York district in South Carolina – the second in Surry County North Carolina. The third in Lincoln County North Carolina. Fourth at General Sumter's Encampment, and all the other Services in Surry County North Carolina – and served in the capacities as stated in the foregoing declaration the officers is already named that he knew – he only received two written discharges as above mentioned one of which is lost.

7<sup>th</sup> & lastly he states that he is well acquainted with a great number of Respectable Citizens in Stokes County who can testify as to his character for veracity & belief of his performing Services as a Soldier of the Revolution and for that purpose and reducing William Steele a Clergyman & Charles Banner Esq.

Sworn and subscribed in open court the day and year first above mentioned.

Sworn to & subscribed in open court 10<sup>th</sup> of September 1833.

S/ Jno Hill, C. C. C.

S/ Jno Venables

We William Steele a Clergyman residing in the County of Stokes North Carolina & Charles Banner residing in the same County in North Carolina do hereby certify that we are well acquainted with John Venables Esq. Who has Subscribed and Sworn to the above declaration that we believe him to be 71 years of age that he is reputed and believed in the neighborhood where he lives to have been a soldier of the Revolution and that we concur in that opinion, Sworn and Subscribed in open court the day and year first above written.

S Wm. Steele

S/ Jno Hill, C. C. C.

S/ C. Banner

North Carolina, Brunswick County Capmt [sic, encampment?] at Shaws John Vennable [sic] is hereby Dismissed By Order of Col. Smith he having Serv'd his tower in my Troop as a good Soldier [illegible word]

S/ Minor Smith, Capt.

November 17<sup>th</sup> 1781

State of North Carolina, Surry County

Personally appeared before me James Lovell a Justice of the said County Abraham Stowe of said County whose evidence he is entitled to Credit –maketh oath that John Venables of Stokes County performed a three months tour of military duty a light horse soldier or trooper under the command of Captain Minor Smith in the Regiment commanded by Col. Smith and Major Grayham – this tour of service was performed late in the year 1781 known by the name of the Wilmington expedition. These troops belonged to General Rutherford's Brigade and this deponent further saith not.

Sworn to & subscribed before me this 31<sup>st</sup> day of August 1833.

S/ Abraham Stowe, A his mark

S/ James Lovill, JP

[In a letter dated Dec. 30<sup>th</sup> 1833 from John Venables to the War Department, he supplements his declaration (at length—the letter is 3 pages long), giving the following additional information:

he says he was under Liuet. Malcolm Henry during the 3 months service in Col. Neal's Regiment in 1778 in SC.

“ Now Sir it lies upon my mind to make a few remarks concerning the services disallowed; and as to the Tour of two months I served as a trooper ranging the County of Surry under Captain James Shepperd in the year 1780, at that time there was as great a necessity to keep the Tories in subjection as there was to fight the British Army and I was bound to serve in capacity as a soldier much as any other services this was the year of battle was fought at Ramsour's Mill in Lincoln County between the Whigs and Tories, in the month of May, Gates defeat near Camden in August a few days after Sumter's defeat, at fishing Creek, the two last in South Carolina; and again in October the battles of Kings Mountain was at the Shallow Ford near Huntsville where the brave Captain France was killed. I did not see any good reason why I should not be allowed for that service the same as any other; and as to the tour transporting lead I was not employed as a hereling [sic, hireling?], but enlisted as a Soldier and received a written discharge for a three months tour of militia duty, why should I not be allowed for that tour the same as the others – But upon the whole I have said nothing that will prevail anything...”]

[Mary Venable, the widow, filed for her own pension. In her application, she gives the births dates of her 9 children. Her maiden name was Mary Curry. She married John in Surry County, NC as few days before Christmas 1783.]