

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements](#)

Pension application of Robert Anderson W28

Transcribed by Will Graves

State of Tennessee, County of Jackson

On this 13th day of November 1832 personally appeared in open court before Jonas Griffith, John Welch & William Gray Esquires the Justices of the Court of Pleas & Order Sessions for said County now sitting Robert Anderson a resident in the County of Jackson & State of Tennessee, aged Seventy two years next January, 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 & Served as herein Stated.

Applicant was drafted in Hanover County Virginia where he then resided in the militia under Captain John Thompson in the fall of 1777, was marched to the Barracks at Williamsburg where he was stationed some time & then to little York where he remained until he returned home, when he joined the Army at Williamsburg General Nelson was commander, this was a tour of two months & so soon as he returned home after he was discharged he immediately returned back to Williamsburg as a substitute for his uncle John Glenn & went home.

Applicant was next drafted on a two months tour under Captain John Anderson in Hanover & went to Richmond in Virginia where he joined Col. James Ennis' Regiment, remained at Richmond but a short time before he was marched to Petersburg & to Cabin Point, after the expiration of his tour was discharged to return home, he thinks this was in the year 1778.

In the winter of 1799 [sic 1779 ?] was again drafted under Captain Francis Underwood & was marched from Hanover Court House to Williamsburg, & then to Norfolk to which point he was marched with Col. William Dandridge of the militia who was taken sick at Norfolk & went home, he thinks that General Nelson had command at Norfolk but he was not much there, this was also a two month tour.

Applicant is not entirely certain but thinks in 1799 [sic, 1779] or '80 he was again drafted & went to Richmond occasionally backwards & forwards across James River, went to Morban Hills [sic, Malvern Hill?] below Richmond & was stationed there some time & went home at the expiration of another two month's tour. Returned & went to Westover in another tour of two months under Captain Bullock. Served another term under Captain Thompson of two months, another under Captain Underwood for two months & one other under Captain Bullock for two months. In all these separate tours applicant cannot now recollect in what succession they came or the dates particularly, but he served them all and as full tours & was regularly discharged every time, that section of the country was then becoming very important to be defended against the enemy which caused a very frequent call for troops & in the those tours was occasionally a good deal employed in marching from one point to another in that Section of the State. Among those tours & in the same years applicant was drafted under Captain David Richardson & marched to Williamsburg, from Williamsburg to Russell's ferry, generally backwards & forward – to guard the ferry, there was a British vessel that lay in the River which was

another grand object to to keep her so guarded that her crew might not get into the country, this was also a two month tour.

In April 1781 applicant was again drafted in Hanover County under Captain William Anderson & was marched to Richmond one of the great objects of the American commanders then was to protect Richmond & Petersburg & the Country below those places on James River which was now in great danger to be apprehended by the British Army. In marching from Richmond to Petersburg met Baron Steuben retreating from the latter place where he had had a skirmish with the British who had gone on up the Appomattox River perhaps under General Phillips and took possession of Petersburg. About the last of April was joined by General Lafayette from Baltimore, this was now a very critical time and a matter of great moment, when Phillips was on the opposite side of the James River towards Petersburg & Lord Cornwallis was a short time expected to join him. Lafayette watching the movements of the British Army made his head quarters at Chickahominy 18 or 20 miles from Richmond & was there stationed for some time. Hearing that the British fleet was ascending the River Lafayette marched back to defend Richmond & endeavored to get possession of Petersburg before the British Army could reach there under Cornwallis but did not succeed in doing so. From the then state of the American Army when compared to the British Army commanded by Lord Cornwallis it became necessary for Lafayette to keep out of his reach for the safety of the Army & preserve the military stores he commenced a retreat & Cornwallis after pursuit of him, Lafayette's object was to save his Army & endeavor to join to Pennsylvania troops under the command of General Wayne, he marched towards the upper Country & was pressed across the Rapidan River in Culpeper [County] or perhaps Albemarle County where he formed a Junction with General Wayne with the Pennsylvania line of about 800 men, when he re-crossed the River & marched within a short distance of the British Army. Cornwallis now abandoned a further pursuit & retired back to the low country: to Richmond & Williamsburg, this was in May or June of 1781. When Lafayette got back to Richmond was reinforced by Baron Steuben, the Army now consisted of something like 4000 men, 1500 or 2000 of whom were regulars. Lafayette followed in pursuit down to Williamsburg & had a sharp skirmish near that place with some corps & although the Americans claimed the advantage yet were forced back & encamped about 20 miles above Williamsburg on James River. Cornwallis after evacuating Williamsburg, as they crossed the River at or near Jamestown he thinks about the sixth of July they had a pretty sharp battle called the battle at Jamestown, here applicant was in Wayne's division of the Army in the battle, he belonged to Lafayette's infantry. From Jamestown marched with Lafayette's Army & continued with it until the siege of York at the capture of Cornwallis in October 1781. At the siege of York he was attached to a Regiment of Grenadiers commanded by Colonel James Mercer as well he now recollects. A few days before the surrender of Cornwallis, he was transferred to the Gloucester side of the River, his immediate company in the Grenadiers if he is correct was under Captain Thomas Hungerfort. As to the investment of Yorktown & the surrender of Cornwallis to General Washington, applicant situation as a soldier did not afford him the opportunity of knowing much of the plans & operations of the American Generals & the commander in chief so as to give a very accurate account of the siege, he was on the Gloucester side of the River where he thinks the whole brigade was commanded by General De Choise a French General & even in this he is not entirely clear from his own knowledge, being

here situated the private soldier knew but little of the transactions in the Main Army on the South side of the River.

Applicant thinks the last of the Northern troops arrived towards the last of September & preparations were soon made for advancing against the enemy, & early in October the siege commenced & continued until the 19th when the whole Garrison was surrendered to General Washington by Lord Cornwallis. In this trip Applicant served upwards of six months two tours of two months each for himself & one tour of two months a substitute for John Glenn for whom he had before substituted he thinks in his second tour in 1777 at Williamsburg, after the surrender of Cornwallis he was discharged & returned home and was not in the Army anymore during the war, he has no documentary evidence to show his services, nor does he know of any living witness by whom he can prove them, in all his service he was engaged in actual service two years & two months.

Answers to the interrogatories prescribed by the War Department

1st Applicant was born in Hanover County Virginia 29 January 1761.

2nd Has a record of his age in his possession which was taken from his father's Bible.

3rd When called into Service he was very young, he lived in Hanover County Virginia, from there he moved into Mercer County Kentucky from there to Barron County Kentucky, from there to Cumberland County Kentucky & in 1817 he moved to Jackson County Tennessee where he now resides.

4th He has embodied the interrogatory as fully as he can in the foregoing declaration.

5th Although he was in the Army where there were a good many regulars he knew but few of the officers, he thinks he was acquainted with a Major De Clumes, & a Col. Green, the general circumstances of his service he has stated above.

6th Never received a written discharge from any tour he served.

7th He is acquainted with many persons in his present neighborhood who will testify to his character & veracity among whom are Alexander Montgomery, Colonel William Scandland—and the Reverend Philip Mulkey & James Cason will testify as to their belief of his Service & that it is so reputed & believed in the neighborhood which is the best testimony he can procure.

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 except the present.

Subscribed & sworn to the day & year aforesaid.

S/ Robert Anderson

S/ William Gailbriath, Clerk
of Jackson County Court