

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of John Howel (Howell) R5296

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of North Carolina } Sct

County of Stokes } On this 17th day of June 1844 personally appeared before me Charles Banner a Justice of the peace in and for the County aforesaid John Howel at his place of residence in said County aged Eighty three years last October who is from bodily infirmity from the Gravel & Rheumatic pains unable to attend Court to make this his declaration which he intended to do last week but was not able to go, 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 7th of June 1832, that he has recently removed from Taswell [sic: Tazewell] County Virginia where he had no opportunity of making application or witness to prove his services for a Pension. he states that he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as hereinafter stated to the best of his recollection (towit) first he entered the Service as a private drafted Militia Soldier in the County of Henry in the State of Virginia in the Spring of the year he thinks in the year 1777 and served a three month Tour under a Capt. Jonathan Hanby & Lieutenant Edw'd. Tatom [sic: Edward Tatum] in Colo. Abram Penn's Regiment Met & Rendavouzed at Henry Court house Marched from thence through the Country ranging in pursuit of Tories to the head waters of Dan River. Then southwardly under & near the Blue Ridge of Mountains to the head of Fisher River & down the same in Surry County N. Carolina to the big Yadkin River across the same & through the Fox knobs & down & crossing the river again at Glenns ford the Tories fled & secreted themselves in the mountains and on the expiration of my three months service & returning home to Henry County at Carmicals ford on Dan River in the then Surry now Stokes County N. Carolina we met with a part of Gen'l. Greens Army [see note below] when & where this applicant with eleven others of his company in the Militia enlisted as Regular soldiers under a Lieutenant or Sargent named — Campbell in Gen'l. Greens army for the term of five years in Colo. Blacks Regim't. about four hundred in number & march'd under his command to Salisbury & through Charlotte N. Carolina into South Carolina and joined Gen'l. Rutherfords Army [see note below] at head quarters at a place call'd. Richardsons Hill in S. Carolina, where said head quarters had continued for a considerable length of time as I understood from which place a detachment under the command of a Mager Hamilton was sent this applicant being one of those, after a Tory officer who commaned a company or Regiment of Tories pursued said Tories into Georgia but never overtook them then returned to head quarters at Rich'ds. Hill. Shortly after this we march'd. toward Savanah [sic: Savannah] River and I was in the Battle of Briar Creek sometime in Feb'y or March the date not recollected [3 Mar 1779], from thence we march to & fro through strange and swampy regions of South Carolina, and I was many times sent with detachments in different directions & routes which from the length of time & his failing in memory he cannot name the places but after a long time they join'd. Gen'l. Greens Army some length of time before the Battle of Guilford in North Carolina [Battle of Guilford Courthouse, 15 Mar 1781] at which place he was engaged in said Battle and rec'd. a wound by a ball shot through the calf of his right light leg the scar of which he now shows tho the bone was not fractured. from thence march'd. towards Wilmington to Cape fear River then towards S. Carolina across Pee dee River and to Congaree River and was at a Siege of eight or nine days taking a British & Tory fort on s'd. Congree River I think the fort was call'd. the Scotch lake fort [Fort Watson near Scotts Lake in Clarendon County, 15 - 23 Apr 1781] the Enemy surrendered & we took forty odd prisoners then we marched up the River to a fort call'd. Thompsons fort where we were engaged four or five days before the british & tories surrendered [see note below] the date I cannot recollect, but Marched up said River & took another Fort call'd. Fryday's fort [Fort Granby at Friday's Ferry, 2 - 15 May] and shortly afterward I was at the Siege of 96 under the Command of Gen'l. Green [Ninety-Six SC, 22 May - 19 Jun]. soon after said Siege this applicant with part of his fellow soldiers who enlisted with him rec'd. writen discharges from Gen'l. Green & his officers after having served four years eight months & a few days. (which said discharge he has lost). from thence he returned home to Henry County Virginia, and when

he arrive home his Father Paul Howel was drafted to go a Tour towards little Yourk [sic: Little York = Yorktown], when this applicant substituted himself & went in his Fathers place under the command of Capt. George Hairston, and march'd from Henry Courthouse Va as far as a place call'd. the Natural bridge across a creek in Rockbridge County Virginia where we met an express informing that Lord Cornwallis had surrendered [on 19 Oct 1781], when we were discharged and return'd. home. in this service he served only three weeks as a substitute for his Father Paul Howel for all of which services he claims a pention that is to say, first three months as a private Virginia Militia Soldier, 2nd four years & eight months in the Continental line of Regulars as a private altho he served as a Lieutenant from the time of Guilford Battle where he rec'd a wound untill he was discharged at 96 but has no documentary evidence to prove that fact, unless it appears on the Books or Roll in the War office of the U. States to which he begs to refer the officers of that department, 3^d. the last service for only three Weeks as a private militia soldier in Virginia under Capt. Geo. Hairston. he thinks he can prove his regular service by a certain Morris Richards [pension application W26383] & his sister Sally Forkner of Surry County N.C. he lost all his papers some years past by fire where he had deposited them in a friends cabbin that was burned —

Interogatories being put agreeable to directions required by the war department viz first) he say he was born in Maryland in the year [page torn; re]collect the County as he was very small when his Father removed from there to Virginia

2nd. he has no record of his age —

3^d. his home was at his Father Paul Howels in Henry County in Virginia when he entered and ended his services above mentioned

4th. he first was a drafted Militia soldier. next enlisted & last a substitute in the Virginia Militia.

5th. he first served in Colo. Penns Regm't. of Militia. also the last service. But the Regular service he cannot remember the No. of the Regiment. first in Colo. Blacks Regm't in Gen'l. Greens & sometimes Gen'l Rutherfords army under various Captains not recollected & Magers he remembers a Mager Hamilton but from the laps of memory & old age cannot name the under officers he was acquainted with

7th. he has but few old acquaintances now living that can Testafy as he knows of as to his character &c. only Morris Richards & John Forkner near Stokes County line, and no Clergyman convenient he himself belongs to the Baptist Church.

and 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 in any of the States.

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year first above mentioned John hisXmark Howel

State of North Carolina } SS
County of Stokes }

Be it known that on this 17th day of April 1846 personally appeared before me Charles Banner a Justice of the peace in & for the County aforesaid Howell Hartgrove a pensioner of the U. States [application S8678] & a relation of a certain John Howell who has signified that he has made his declaration for a pension also, & the said Howell Hartgrove being duly sworn, declares on his oath, that he always understood from common report of his said Hartgroves father James Hartgrove & his mother who whose maiden name was Howell, that the aforesaid John Howell enlisted as a private soldier in the North Carolina Continental Service first for three years But continued in the service untill the end of the Revolutionary War; and that he had a Brother Frederick Howell also enlisted & died or was kill'd. while in Service the date this Depon't. cannot recollect, But that he said John Howell fell heir to Frederick Howell's Bounty of land & received a land warr't. for the same as well as his own bounty & said he was cheated or fool'd. out of both, he has not seen s'd. John Howell for upwards of one year past. but when he saw him he conversed with him on the subject of his making application for a Pension & directed him to apply to myself to draw his declaration. he ask'd. him many questions concerning his being in Battles & which he could recollect. But could not remember all the captains or under officers names under whom he served: and appeared like he was in his dotage & lost his memory in a great degree; tho he said he first served in the Militia under a Capt Hanby of Henry County Va. & enlisted while in that Service under a Sargent he dont remember his name, but it was at

Carmicals ford on Dan River in the then Surry County N.C. then went Southwardly he thinks he s'd. Jno. Howell said he was in the Battles of Bryer Creek & guilford. in this last he was wounded in one of his legs & showed the scar, and from his narative together with the report of other credible persons this Deponant has just reason to believe that said John Howell served in the war as he stated he had done — Sworn to & Subscribed the day & year first above mentioned before me C Banner J.P. Howell hisXmark Hartgrove

I hereby certify that Howell Hartgrove who swore & subscribed the above affadavit is esteemed as a person of good character for veracity & truth in this County & neighborhood where he now resides & where he has resided for upwards of fifty years past & is a Pensioner of the U States. I further certify that John Howel the applicant for a Pension seemed like he had lost his memory in a great degree when I wrote his declaration & I was very puzzled to get his true meaning, he thought he enlisted under one of Gen'l. Greens Sargents, and afterwards stated that he joined Greens Army not long before the Battle of Guilford in this I expect the old man was correct. Given under my hand this 17 day of April 1846 C Banner J.P.

State of North Carolina } SS
County of Stokes }

Be it known that on the 2nd day of December 1846 before me Charles Banner a Justice of the peace in and for the County aforesaid, personally appeared Daniel Wall Sen'r. aged Eighty seven years a Citizen of the aforesaid County, and he being duly sworn according to law to state what he remembers of the services as a soldier of a certain John Howel in the revolutionary war, declares on his oath that he was well acquainted with said John Howel & his father Paul Howel & family in Henry County Virginia when said John Howel was a young man & both belonged to Capt. Hanbys Company, when a draft took place for a Militia Company to march in pursuit of the Torys then recruiting towards the mountains as was said in Virginia & North Carolina the date he dont remember but it was two or three or four years after the commencement of said war, when said John Howel was drafted & went under Capt. Hanby in Colo. Penns Regm't. for a three months Tour, which he believes he served fully, that time & returned home, & stated that he & several of the same Captains company had enlisted in the Continental Service of the U States as Regular soldiers in N. Carolina. he stayed at home a few days & returned to join the army. his father & friends were very much displeased at his enlisting but he was gone nearly or quite five years & came home, in the time when this deponent was gone for a tour of three months when Cornwallis was taken in 1781 in the fall of the year, when & where this Deponant states that he saw Cornwallis surrender to Gen'l. Washington he states that he saw said John Howels written discharge for five years service, that he mentioned several Battles that he had been engaged in to the South all of which he does not recollect, but one was at guilford Battle N. Carolina where he said he rec'd. a wound in one of his legs & showed the scar with a scab on it. That he never saw said John Howel since the said war or shortly after untill last summer as this Deponant removed to Hallifax County & about 7 or 8 years ago to this County of Stokes where he now resides. that said John Howel call'd. to see him last summer, when we chatted over all our old acquaintance scenes & transactions as well as we could recollect, but said Howel appeared somewhat bewildered in his memory & could not remember half as much as I could. he said he had made application for a pension, and that he had been cheated out of Bounty of land by some Capt. somebody in N. Carolina land office, but forgotten his name, that he believes that said John Howel served as he stated, but does not recollect all the Officers names rightly that he enlisted & served under, but believes it was in the North Carolina line of Regulars &c Sworn to & Subscribed the day & year first above mentioned before me

Charles Banner J.P.

Daniel hisXmark Wall Sen'r

N. Carolina }
Stokes County }

I Charles Banner a Justice of the peace in & for the County aforesaid, do hereby certify that I have been well acquainted with the above named Dan'l. Wall for seven years, that appears to retain a good memory & is an honest industrus farmer, & is generally to be believed on his word & oath as a person of good moral character veracity & truth and I concur in that opinion. given under my hand this 2nd day of December 1846 Charles Banner J.P.

NOTES:

Howel's confusion about the times of his service is evident. Gen. Nathanael Greene did not arrive in North Carolina until more than two years after Howel stated he began his first three-month tour. A John Howell was in Jonathan Hanby's Henry County Militia company ordered on 11 Mar 1781 by Col. Abram Penn to assist Gen. Greene. It is likely that Howel enlisted as an NC Continental soldier during this period. Griffith Rutherford was General of NC Militia until his capture at the Battle of Camden SC on 16 Aug 1780. He was exchanged on 14 Jun 1781 and subsequently given command of the Militia in western NC.

"Thompsons fort" was probably Belleville Plantation, fortified home of Col. William "Danger" Thomson, site of a brief siege on 22 Feb 1781.

North Carolina records show that "John Howell, Heir of Frederick Howell, Privt" received 640 acres for 84 months service, and that John Howell received the same land bounty for his own service of 84 months. Both land warrants were deeded to a Maj. Howell.

Sally Forkner deposed that she and her brother, John Howell, lived with their father, Paul Howell, on Dan River in the part of Henry County that is now Patrick County, and that when John Howell left to join the army under Capt. Hanby on a Sunday she and two other sisters went with him 2 miles or more.