## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of John Cape S30916

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Kentucky } SS Russel [sic: Russell] County }

Be it Remembered that on this 4<sup>th</sup> day of January 1833 personnally appeared Before the undersigned John Vaughan a Justice of the peace in and for the County of Russel aforesaid John Cape a Resident of the County of Russel aforesaid and State of Kentucky aged 87 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 provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832 That he entered the service of the united states in the month of [blank] 1776 in the County of Amelia State of virginia as a volenteer private malitiaman for one year under Capt Param Booker [Parham Booker?] that they were marched to various places in the neighbouring Counties that the principle duties required of them was to guard various points he was in no general engagement during the af'd. Tour he having faithfully serv'd the full Term was Honorably discharged by his Capt. he joined no Regular troops during the tour above his lieut name was James Martin he states that shortly after his return home Captain Booker resigned and James Martin the liut as af'd. was commissioned Capt. and your declarant was Commissioned Leut in Capt Martins Company – when in the year 1778 he again entered the service as Lieut in the Company of Capt Martin that he continued in service as Lieut for upwards of one year marching through various parts of the County performing the duties required of them which was mostly guarding certain vulnarable points they joined other malitia occasionnally but staid with them but short periods does not recollect the name of any officer; at the end of the year he returned home upon parole remained there but a short time when he was again called into service as before and marched on to prince Edward Courthouse threre joined some other malitia and marched on to the Sea Cost [sic: seacoast] and had some skirmishes with the British and tories. he still continued in service marching from place to place occasionnally in Col Crocketts regiment and sometimes on furlow and finally was marched on to Little York where he was at the surrender of Cornwallis [19 Oct 1781] he then retired from Service he states that he served faithfully as Lieut in the Service of the united states in the virginia malitia more than three years in the war of the Revolution he states that his Commission is lost but how when or where he does not Recollect nor does he at this distant period recollect by whom it was signed he states that he is now so old and afflicted by bodily infirmities that he is unable to attend Court he states that there is no person whose Testamony he can procure who can testafy to his service nor has he any documentary Evidence he having lost his discharge Commission &c he furthur states that he was born in the County of Amelia state of virginia in March 1745 agreeable to the information of his parents which he believes to be true he has no register of his age he lived in amelia untill after the close of the war when he moved to Bedford County virginia where he lived untill the year 1796 when he moved to Kentucky settled in lincoln County where he remained a few years when he moved to Cumberland County Ky where he remaind untill about two years ago when he moved to Russel where he now lives he Hereby Relinquishes every Claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State Sworn to and subscribed before me the day & year af'd. John his Xmark Cape John Vaughan JP.

We John Blankenship Jessee Blankenship & John Blankenship residents of the County of Russel State of Kentucky hereby Certify that we are well acquainted with John Cape who has subscribed and sworn to the above declaration that we believe him to be 87 years of age that he is reputed and Believed in the neighbourhood where he resides to have been an officer of the revolution and that we concur in that opinion we furthur state that we have known him some of us for forty years and more and that we never

had any other belief than he served as he states we furthur state that the said John Cape is so old and somuch afflicted that we do not believe he can attend Court without great Hazard and the assistance of his friends that his affliction is old age and bodily infirmity we furthur state that the said John Cape is and ever has Been esteemed a man of strict honor and integrity Subscribed and sworn to before me the day and yer af'd John hisXmark Blankenship/ Jessee hisXmark Blankenship/ John X Blankenship John Vaughan JP.

State of Kentucky } SS Russel County }

Be it remembered that on this 14<sup>th</sup> day of August 1833 before the undersigned a Justice of the peace in and for the County af'd personnally came John Cape a resident of the County of Russel State of Kentucky aged 88 years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his Oath state That on the 4<sup>th</sup> day of January 1833 he made his declaration before John Vaughan Esq'r. a Justice of the peace in and for the County afs'd for a pension under the act of Congress of June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832 to which declaration he offers this as an amendment he states that By reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively to all the particular incidents which Transpired during the time he was in service But according to the Best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following grades

1st he served one year as a private volenteer malitiaman in Capt. Param Bookers Company – as stated in his original declaration and in Col. Lynchs Regiment. he furthur states That in the year 1778 he entered the Service of the united States a lieutenant in Capt James Martins Company that he Continued in Service from the aforesd period untill after the surrender of Cornwallis in the year 1781 making a period of upwards of three years as he has stated in his former declaration he furthur states that Each and all the aforesaid Services was performed with an embodied Corps called into service by Competent authority that he was Either in the field or in garrison and for the time during which the services was performed he was not employed in an Civil pursuit

And for which Service he Claims a pension as an officer he states that most of the time he served as Leut he was under the Command of Colo Crockett sometimes he was under the Command of Colo. McDowell being often detached out from his regiment he furthur states that there is no Clergyman residing near him nor does he know of any one who can Testify as to their belief of his services he having mostly lived in a remote part of this & Cumberland Counties for many years and for the last several years has been so much afflicted that he has been but little from home he states that since filing his original Declaration he has discovered that he can prove by Charles Thurman [pension application S31414] of Cumberland County Kentucky his services both as a private and officer whose deposition he designs procureing and when done will cause the same to be attached hereto

where and in what year were you born answer I was born in Amelia County State of Virginia in the month of march one thousand seven hundred and forty five agreeable to the information of my Parents which I believe to be true

- 2 Have you any record of your age if so where is it Answer I have none nor did I ever have any
- 3<sup>d</sup> Where were you living when called into Service, where have you lived since the Revolutionary war and where do you now live

Answer I lived in amelia County State of virginia when I was called into service and was a Citizen of that County during the whole time of my Service after the final close of the war I moved to the County of Bedford State of virginia where I remained untill the year one thousand seven hundred and ninety six, when I moved to the County of Lincoln State of Kentucky where I lived a few years then I moved to Cumberland County state of Kentucky where I remained untill the year one thousand and thirty when I moved to Russel County Kentucky where In now live

- 4 How were you called into Service were you Drafted did you volenteer or were you a substitute and if a substitute for whom and did you ever receive a commission when you served as an officer if so by whom was it signed and what has become of it
  - Answer the first tour I served was as a private volenteer malitiaman for one year I never was drafted nor was I ever a substitute the residue of my services was as leuetenant and I was regularly Commissioned by Competant authority but I cannot at this time state by whom It was signed but I know it was signed by the proper person my memory is now frail and cannot Recollect so particular as to state by whom it was signed but at the time I receved it I knew what was a good commission & know mine was a genuine one I have lost it but how when or where I know not for my tour as a private I receved a written discharge signed by my Captain which I also lost
- 5. State the names of some of the Regular officers who were with the troops where you served such continental and malitia regements as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service answer I have in the body of this declaration stated the names of some of my Colos. I was frequently with Generals Green [see endnote] Layfatte [sic: Lafayette] Washington & others and the General Circumstances of my services I have stated as well as I can Recollect State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighbourhood who can testify to your charactor for varacity and their belief of yours services as a soldier and officer of the revolution I have named the Mr. Blankenships who has certified for me in my original declaration there are others of my neighbours who I could refur to but owing to my decriped situation my acquaintance in my present neighbourhood is limited But where I formely lived I could refur to all my acquaintance and all of whom would testify as to my charactor for varacity and their belief of my services as and officer and soldier in the revolution Subscribed and sworn to the Day and year af'd.

  John hisXmark Cape

State of Kentucky } SS. Cumberland County }

This day 31st of August 1833 personnally appeared before the undersigned Justice of the peace in and for the County aforesaid Charles Thurmon Sr a resident of the County & State af'd aged 72 years who being Duly Sworn deposeth and saith, That he now is and has been well acquainted with John Cape now a Citizen of Russel County State of Kentucky he knew said Cape while he lived in Cumberland County which was many years, I knew him when he said Cape lived in Amelia County State of virgina before the Revolutionary war and I know that he served in the war of the Revolution as a private volenteer Soldier in the virginia malitia I think about one year in Capt Bookers Company he does not recollect the christain name of said Booker this he thinks was in the year 1776 he furthur states that some time thereafter said Cape recev'd. a Commission as lieutenant and entered the service as lieutenant in Captain Martin's Company of virginia malitia in Colo Crocketts Regiment this he thinks was in the year 1778 and he knows that said Cape was in service as lieutenant from the time he so entered untill after the surrender of Cornwallis in the fall of 1781 he saw said Cape repeatedly while in service commanding as lieut and knows he was regularly commissioned he saw s'd. Capt at prince Edward Courthouse & many other places he was always recognised as Lieut, this affiant is as confident that said Cape served as lieut from the year 1778 untill the year 1781 as he could be of any fact unless he had been personnally present during the whole time he was well acquainted with said Cape before he entered the service and was often with him during the war and knows he was at the surrender of Cornwallis Commanding as liut his station was never doubted he furthur states that after the surrender of Cornwallis said Cape with other Malitia officers, was disbanded there Being no furthur use for them he states furthur that he thinks said Cape is nearly 90 years of age and that said Cape has always Been esteemed an honorable upright Correct man Subscribed and Sworn to before me the day & year af'd.

J M Emerson JPCC

Charles hisXmark Thurman

State of Kentucky } SS Russell County }

Be it remembered that on this 12<sup>th</sup> day of December 1833 personnally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the peace in and for the County aforesaid John Cape a resident of the County af'd. who Being duly sworn deposeth and saith that he heretofore made his declaration for a pension under the act of Congress of June 7th 1832 to which he offers this as an amendment he states that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service But according to the best of his Recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following grades Viz he entered the service of the united states in the Early part of the year 1776 in Amelia County State of virginia as a private volenteer malitiaman in a Company Commanded by Capt Param Booker he was immediately marched of and was attached to Colo. Lynches Regiment or part of his rigiment and he furthur states that he was kept in actual service as a volenteer he believes the whole of that year but as is suggested the malitia Served in tours this declarant was a volenteer and whether he volenteered for any definate length of time he is not certain but so it is if he did not when the times of the drafted malitia expired he again volenteered and continued in actual service and in this way he states that he served two tours of three months Each and six of Twenty Days Each as a private volenteer as above stated in the year 1776 which service was done and performed in the State of Virginia as stated in his former declarations, that is in Amelia and the neighbouring Counties and he declares that the service was performed with an embodied Corps Called into service by competent authority that he was either in the field or in garrison and for the time During which the service was performed he was not employed in any Civil pursuit and for which service I claim a pension. he furthur states that it is probable part of said service was performed in the year 1777 so it is he knows he entered in 1776 and he was Commissioned as Leiutenant he thinks in 1778 and he now states most positively that in the year 1778 he served as Leuet in Capt James Martins Company and in the regements stated in his former declarations two tours of three months Each and five of Twenty days Each he furthur states that in the year 1779 he served one tour of three months and six tours of twenty days Each he furthur states that in the year 1780 he served one tour of three months one of forty days and two of Twenty Days Each. that in the year 1781 he served one tour of three months and four of Twenty days Each, he states that he has made as full a statement in his former declaration as to the places and Battles &c as he can recollect he furthur states that the different tours charged by him from 1778 to 1781 was performed by this declarant as Leuet in the army of the revolution and that he served in Each and every tour was done and performed with an embodied Corps Called into service by Competant authority that he was Either in the field or in Garrison and for the time during which the service was performed he was not employed in any Civil pursuit and for which service I claim a pension as well for the time I serged as a private as a Leuetenant Subscribed and Sworn to before me the date above John hisXmark Cape

Horseshoe Bottome Russell Co. Ky. 1st July 1836

Sir. There is one John Cape living in this County who is drawing a pension as a Leut in the revulutionary war & the object of this communication is to infourm you that he is not entitled to it – that it can be proven by two different persons in this County that his onley connection with the Army was to dress Deer skins and make them up & sell them to the British

Very Res. your O'bt. S./ Henry L Green

To the Secretary of War/ Washington/ DC

P.S. there are several other Torys drawing pentions in this County, whose pentions ought to be stopt

Horseshoe Bottome 5<sup>th</sup> Sept. 1836

Sir Yours of the 16<sup>th</sup> of July came to hand a few days since after having been detained more than a mounth with the seal broken open – and in answer I have to infourm you that I am not authorised to call

a a justice of the peace to take the deposition of persons to prove that John Cape was not in the Rev'y. war; and have to request that you would authorised me to call on John Vaugh esqr or some other J.P. of this county to take the Deposition of Mary Blankinship, Jesse Blankinship, John McFall, Green Kane, Harvy Kane & Mrs Brankinship. And have the deposition of Patty Stone of Green Co. who lived in the house with said Cape during the war – you will direct your letter via Danvill & Monticello which will provable prevent it from being intercepted your &co. H L Green J. L. Edwards [Commissioner of Pensions]

NOTE: None of the officers mentioned in Cape's declarations could be identified as being in the Amelia County Militia. There was a Col. Joseph Crockett and a Col. Walter Crockett who served in the western part of Virginia. Charles Lynch was colonel of the Bedford County Militia beginning in 1778. Samuel McDowell was colonel in the Rockbridge County Militia. "General Green" evidently refers to Nathanael Greene, who passed through Virginia late in 1780 but did not command forces there except for a few days in Pittsylvania County in mid-February 1781. Charles Thurman's declaration is in the handwriting of John Vaughan. Thurman's pension application states that he was serving in the North until at least late 1778, so it is unlikely he could have seen Cape in service before that time. Notes on the pension application indicate that Cape's pension was suspended in response to the allegations of H. L. Green.