

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Peter Finn S32244

f53MD/NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

11/28/ 06 rev'd 2/12/15

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading skills fail to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[Note: The digital images of the veteran's application dated November 19, 1832 are very poor and faint as posted on both the Fold3.com and HeritageQuest.com websites. The following is my best attempt at deciphering those very faint images. Please use it with more than the ordinary skepticism as to whether or not the document has been properly deciphered.]

[p 12]

State of Kentucky, County of Allen

On the 19<sup>th</sup> day of November 1832 personally appeared before the Allen Circuit Court Peter Finn a resident citizen of the County and State aforesaid aged 89 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 provisions made by the act of Congress passed June 7th, 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States as a Waggoner in the Continental Army under General Thompson commanding General of the Continental Army at the head of the Elk River in Pennsylvania in the Spring of the year 1778 for the term of one year; that he enrolled his name in the wagon department with \_\_\_ Potter, he thinks his given name was Thomas, who conducted the wagons to head quarters at Valley Forge in said state – the Army was under the command of General Washington. He marched thence with the wagons across the Schuylkill River in pursuit of the enemy to Monmouth Court House in New Jersey where they made battle with us in June 1778 [June 28, 1778]. After [illegible words] the battle the wagons were employed in carrying the wounded of our Army to Princeton. From Princeton we went to Egg Harbor for supplies for the Army. After we returned to Princeton we went with the Army to the White Plains in New York, from there we were sent to New Fairfield for provisions for the Army. My wagon and flat was loaded with onions. After our return to the Army two or three of us went with the troops that guarded the Prisoners taken under Burgoyne to New Windsor on the North River. We went into winter quarters at Middlebrook & Bonbrook [Boundbrook] in New Jersey where I got a furlough to go home in the month of January before I returned to the Army I was took sick & remained sick unable to return to my duty until my term of service had expired. I consequently never returned to get my discharge. I have either lost or mislaid my furlough – do not know of any person now living by whom I can prove my services. I received \$10 per month for the term I was in the service.

That he again entered the service of the United States as a volunteer soldier for the term of three months near Bundy's Mill on Watauga River Washington County North Carolina (now Tennessee) he thinks in the year 1779 under command of Captain Vall Sevier [Valentine Sevier],

Regiment commanded by Colonel Carter [John Carter], Lieutenant Colonel John Sevier who he thinks was afterwards Governor of Tennessee. The troops marched across the Yellow Mountains through Buncombe County N. C. to Ramsour's Mill [June 20, 1780] where we had a battle with the Tories. We defeated them. We then returned to Bundy's Mill, the place of rendezvous where we were disbanded and returned home. He states that he entered the service of the United States as a volunteer soldier in the horse service at Bundy's Mill under the command of the same officers, he recollects a Regiment of Virginia troops commanded by Colonel Campbell [William Campbell], another Regiment afterwards joined us commanded by Colonel Cleveland [Benjamin Cleveland]. Marched from said mill the place of rendezvous to Kings Mountain, we marched by the way of Colonel Walker's where the British & Tories were fortified but they had fled before we arrived there. We pursued them to Kings Mountain crossing Broad River where I recollect in some fashion Discovering the enemy were preparing for battle on the mountain we were ordered to dismount at the foot of the mountain. Our troops surrounded the mountain in this order the battle commenced [October 7, 1780]. We defeated the enemy. The watchword was "Buford." Colonel Campbell was officer of the day. I do not now recollect who was our commander in chief. The enemy having surrendered themselves prisoners of war we guarded them on the mountain that day. The next day we marched them to what I think was called Col. Mills old place on Buffalo Creek where eight Tories were hung I think by order of a court martial. Some other circumstances might be mentioned but it is thought to be unnecessary, we then marched back to the place of rendezvous at said Bundy's Mill where we were disbanded. I was appointed & served through this campaign as first Sergeant in Captain Sevier's company. [Several illegible words] the last named campaigns did any of the Soldiers receive written discharges. It was not thought necessary. I do not know of any person now living by whom I could prove the aforesaid services. The first time I entered the service as a waggoner my residence was in the County of Baltimore in the State of Maryland & when I entered the service in the two last named campaigns my residence was in the County of Washington, State of North Carolina (now Tennessee).

S/ Peter Finn, U his mark

Test: S/ A. Ginder [?]

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.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Peter Finn, U his mark

[p 32]

State of Kentucky County of Allen: SS

On this the 8<sup>th</sup> day of July 1833 personally appeared in open court before William Hamm, John Caruth, Will Fitzpatrick, Sam Hurstin & Thomas Sutton Justice of the County Court in and for the County of Allen State of Kentucky in the Courthouse of said County then in Court sitting Peter Finn a resident of said County who being duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following amendment to his declaration made in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the Act of Congress passed June 7, 1832. That he enlisted in the service of the United States as a private at the Head of Elk in the year 1778 and served as such as stated in his original declaration for less than nine months, when some time in January 1779 at middle Brook and Bombrook in New Jersey he obtained a furlough from Col. Thompson and in virtue thereof returned home to Baltimore, Maryland, whilst on his return he was taken sick and

that [he] remained sick until the time for which he enlisted had expired. That in the fall of the year 1779, he removed to Washington County then North Carolina, now Tennessee. That in the summer of 1780 in the said County of Washington where he then lived he again entered the service of the United States a volunteer private in the Company of horsemen commanded by Capt. Val Sevier and in the Regiment of Horse commanded by Col. Robertson. That he served as a private in said Company and Regiment for not less than three months. That in the fall of the same year 1780 as is his best recollection in September, he served as a Sgt. in the Company of horse commanded by Capt. Val Sevier, For not less than three months. This declarant upon his said oath says that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively to the precise length of his service, but according to the best of his recollection and as he verily believes he served not less than the periods mentioned above and in the grades times regiments and Companies above stated which he recapitulates and sums up as follows. For nine months I served as a private of Regulars in Col. Thompson's Regiment being employed in driving a wagon a part of the time. For three months I served as a private of volunteers in Capt. Sevier's Company and Col. Robertson's Regiment of horse. For three months I served as a Sgt. in Capt. Sevier's Company Regiment commanded by Col. John Sevier, making in all one year and three months service. And for such service I claim a Pension.

To the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> interrogatories prescribed by the War Department, not heretofore satisfactorily answered this declarant states that he was born in the County of Baltimore in the State of Maryland in July 1751 as [he] is informed and believes and knows of none.

S/ Peter Finn, P his mark

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

[Edmund Wagoner, a clergyman, William Mitchell and Drury Brown gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 4]

State of Tennessee, Sumner County

I Samuel Davis one of the acting Justices of the Peace in and for the County and State aforesaid do hereby certify that I am well acquainted with Peter Finn and that the foregoing contains a correct account of the original proceeding in the matter of the application of said Peter Finn for a pension. I further certify and declare my opinion that the above named applicant was a revolutionary Soldier and served as he states.

I do further certify that I am well acquainted with Dance [?] Brown and George C. Mirium whose names are subscribed to the above certificate sworn to before me; that they are respectable citizens of the County and State aforesaid and that their Statement is entitled to credit.

S/ Samuel Davis, J. P.

Justice of the Peace

State of Tennessee, Sumner County

I Samuel Davis one of the acting Justices of the Peace in and for the State and County aforesaid do hereby certify that Peter Finn personally appeared before me and made oath in due form of law that he is unable to attend the court house of his County in order to have the necessary interrogatories put and that I have caused them to be put in manner following, to wit:

Question

1<sup>st</sup> : Where and in what year were you born?

Answer: I was born in Maryland, County of Baltimore in the year 1750 and as well as I can recollect from information of the records on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of July of that year.

2<sup>nd</sup> : Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

Answer: My age is recorded in a Bible owned by a Brother of mine; it was recorded by my guardian in Maryland, I being left an orphan it has been some 30 years since I saw it.

3<sup>rd</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 Maryland, Baltimore County when called into Service. I then after my first tour moved with a family that I lived with to Watauga then North Carolina now Tennessee and from thence to Kentucky near the Tennessee line and then moved a short distance into Tennessee where I now reside.

4<sup>th</sup> : How were you called into Service, were you drafted, did you volunteer or were you a Substitute and if a Substitute for whom?

Answer: I volunteered for twelve months in my first tour of Service. I served nine months, was sick on furlough three months making in all twelve months. I volunteered also the next three months tour and also the last three months and I went to Kings Mountain. I never was a Substitute for any man nor was I ever drafted, always preferring to be a volunteer in Service of my Country.

5<sup>th</sup> : State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served; such Continental and Militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your services.

Answer: I have stated in my foregoing declaration my captain's and colonel's name. The Marquis de Lafayette was at Valley Forge the short time I stayed there and at the battle of Monmouth the whole American Army and General Washington at their head were present and the Soldiers thought General Lee [Charles Lee] who commanded the front acted badly. I believe he was broke or suspended by a court-martial. Generals Maxwell, Dickinson, Cadwallader & followed after the British at Princeton. In my first tour from Holston, East Tennessee my Colonel's name was Sevier [John Sevier] and also my Captain [Valentine Sevier] and in my last in the battle of Kings Mountain were commanded by the same officers.

6<sup>th</sup> : Did you ever receive a discharge from the Service and if so by whom was it given and what has become of it.

Answer: In my first tour of twelve months I received a furlough at the end of nine months to go home as I before stated and was taken sick on the way home which sickness increased and confined me to my bed the greater part of the balance of my time. I got a friend to write to my commanding officer about my situation and received orders from him not to come until I was fit for duty. When I got well I asked General Buchanan what I must do and he told me I need not go as my term had expired. I have lost the furlough and never applied for a discharge believing it unnecessary and of no consequence as I had been a volunteer. I never demanded any in my two volunteer trips with the Holston troops.

7<sup>th</sup> : State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief of your services as a soldier of the Revolution.

Answer: I have lived in this neighborhood for 25 or 30 years. I think my character ought to be well known in that time. I will name Robert Holmes<sup>1</sup> an old and respectable man of my neighborhood and who is also a pensioner under this law and who has with great freedom sworn

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<sup>1</sup> Probably the same man as [Robert Holmes W84](#)

and signed one of the annexed certificates, Samuel Davis the Justice of the Peace, Daniel Brown, George C. Marcum and Edmund Waggoner the clergyman.

I Samuel Davis one of the acting Justices of the Peace in and for said County do hereby declare my opinion after the investigation of the matter and after putting the interrogatories prescribed by the war department that the above named applicant was a revolutionary Soldier and served as he states. And I further certify that Edmond Waggoner is a regular minister of the gospel and that Robert Holmes is a credible person and their statement is entitled to credit.

I do further further certify that Dance Brown and George C. Marcum are respectable citizens of the neighborhood and that full credit is due to their statement.

Witness my hand and seal this 10<sup>th</sup> day of March 1834.

S/ Saml. Davis, J. P.

Justice of the Peace

P. S. He served in first nine months, in the next three months and three in the last as an orderly Sergeant.

9

3

3

15 months

[p 24]

State of Tennessee Sumner County

This day personally appeared Peter Finn before me Samuel Davis an acting Justice of the peace in and for the County of Sumner and made oath that in his first declaration Major John Williams of Simpson County Kentucky knew and was personally acquainted with this Affiant's Services he served in the said Company and was with him in all the first tour and gave his Certificate on oath to that amount and was sent to the War office from Allen County Kentucky as he believes and was informed. Major Williams was always the personal friend and intimate acquaintance of this Affiant and as he the said Williams lived in Simpson County Kentucky this affiant thought proper with the advice of his friend to move to the County of Allen in Kentucky and make his application in that State but after that his friend Major John Williams his friend departed this life sometime early last fall so that he is deprived of getting his testimony anymore this affiant heard the papers have come back but that and that is all the information is all he knows about them he resides now in Sumner County where he has thought proper to make the last Application he can state a number of persons that is acquainted with his services and veracity but as that has already been proven by Dance Brown and George Marcum he deems it unnecessary to reduce any further Testimony of the kind anymore.

Sworn to and subscribed this 30<sup>th</sup> of May 1834

S/ Samuel Davis, JP

S/ Peter Finn, P his mark

[p 26]

State of Tennessee Sumner County:

This day personally appeared Petter Finn [sic] a resident of the State and County aforesaid before me Samuel Davis one of the Acting Justices of the peace in and for said County and made oath in due form of law that he is eighty-four years of age on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of July last. That he is from bodily infirmity unable to travel to the court house without endangering his life in order to make the necessary declarations (in order to obtain his pension) in open court. And now at this day to wit being the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 1834 at the house of Samuel Davis in the neighborhood of this applicant he being one of the acting Justices of said County and this

applicant being also a resident of the State and County aforesaid who being first duly sworn upon the holy Evangelist of Almighty God the truth to speak doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions of the act of Congress of the 7<sup>th</sup> of June 1832. That he volunteered in the service of the United States under the command of Capt. John Murry in the County of Baltimore in the State of Maryland they were the State troops of Maryland. They were mustered into service in the town of Baltimore and went by water from thence up some distance from the Point as it was then called and then they marched to the head of Elk River and there stationed some time drilling and mustering he was then transferred to the company of Capt. Potter their Colonel's name was Thomson [sic] he acted sometimes as Commissary General. He then was marched to Valley Forge and they are stationed at Valley Forge some time. The time he volunteered was the last day of March 1778. He was then marched to Monmouth at the time of the battle and was present at that battle but was engaged during the action in guarding the baggage wagons he was then with others detailed to carry the wounded to Princeton College which was converted into a hospital, he then was marched to Egg Harbour from thence back to Princeton. From thence across to the North River to White Plains from White Plains [to] New Fairfield from thence back to White Plains again from thence to Albany to carry provisions to the prisoners taken From Burgoyne [Battle of Saratoga or Bemis Heights, October 7, 1777] he assisted in guarding them to New Windsor his Regiment took up winter quarters at Middlebrook and bambrook. He then was to go home and got a furlough from the commanding officer he thinks it was Col. Thomson but he has lost the furlough and at this distance of time he cannot tell but it was the commanding officer he served nine months this time, commencing at the last day of March and continued until the first day of January following the time he received his furlough after he went home he was taken sick and continued so until the time of his services expired which was April following being twelve months the time he volunteered for but was in actual service but nine months and three months upon furlough. After he got well he asked General Buchanan what he could do and the General told him that as he was sick until expiration of the time and also that fact was known to his officers he need not return he was told afterwards that he had or could get a discharge but never applied for one.

He volunteered again under the following circumstances his former Guardian Nicholas Hale hired him to go with him to Lexington Kentucky but as the Indians were Hostile on the way they changed their direction and went to Watauga North Carolina now East Tennessee And there he volunteered as above stated at Bundy's Mill and was marched to Ramsour's Mill on the waters of Broad River but was not immediately in the action owing to his sickness, his Capt.'s name was Valentine Sevier, his Col.'s name was John Sevier their Ensign's name was Thomas Tolbert who was slightly wounded in the back of the head. They were marched back to Bundy's Mill on Watauga there verbally discharged, he served out three months this was the year after his first tower [tour] which thinks must have been in the year 1779 or '80. He would here state that he sent on his declaration last year by an Agent but his Agent was a man of different politics and as he had told his agent that he believed all that were opposed to the present administration were Tories he thinks\* <sup>he suppressed it</sup> \*, he could never get any account from his Agent nor would he give him any satisfaction.

He volunteered again shortly afterwards as there was a call to go against the Tories in North Carolina he volunteered this time also for three months under the same Capt. Valentine Sevier and Col. John Sevier and Col. Campbell of East Tennessee Troops then North Carolina called Holston troops he was marched to Kings Mountain and was in that remarkable engagement he was appointed after he was mustered into service in this tour an orderly or 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt.

and acted as such the whole time & service at the battle of Kings Mountain he acted as commander of the Company and led them up the hill to the charge he recollects in the commencement of the action that an Irish Soldier Patrick Murphy was Slightly wounded in the throat he cried out ["]they have gullithed [sic] me yes old man said but never mind they cannot kill you["] he was present when Ferguson was shot down. He could detail many of the circumstances of this stupendous action but deems it unnecessary, there were 8 Tories hung after the battle where he was commanding Guard. 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 any Agency in any State or Territory within the United States.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this the 18<sup>th</sup> of March 1834

S/ Saml Davis, JP

S/ Peter Finn, X his mark

[Edmund Wagoner, a clergyman, and Robert Holmes gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 21: On April 25, 1837 in Marion County Illinois, the veteran applied for the transfer of his pension benefit to the Illinois agency; that he moved to Illinois to live with his youngest son in order that he might support and maintain the veteran. In this document he refers to himself as having belonged to the company commanded by John Murry of the Regiment commanded by Col. Thompson. He signed this document with his mark]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$20 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831, for service as a private for 6 months in the Maryland and North Carolina militia.]