

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Fifield W17500 Hannah Proale (Proal)

f69NH [Navy]

Transcribed and annotated by Will Graves

10/2/23

[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' or 'undeciphered' 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 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

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John Fifield of Milton in the County of Stratford & State of New Hampshire age 65 years late a private in Captain George Everett's Company in the New Hampshire Regiment commanded by Colonel Beadle & afterwards a Sergeant of Marines on board the United States Sloop of War *Ranger*,¹ commanded by Captain Simpson [Thomas Simpson],² Declareth maketh oath & saith that having served eight months in Captain Tilton's Company of Colonel Poor's Regiment in the New Hampshire Line at the expiration of that Term he the Deponent immediately enlisted again at Rumney in New Hampshire, in Captain George Everett's Company in the New Hampshire Regiment commanded by Colonel Beadle, for one year. That at the time of his said Enlistment at Rumney, was in or about the month of January 1776, That he served in said Captain Everett's said Company, at Ticonderoga, & Québec & elsewhere, for said one year, and at the expiration thereof was honorably discharged at Mount Independence my said Captain Everett. That he afterwards lost his discharge, when taken by the British in the Frigate *Hancock*,³ & made a prisoner in the year 1777. That about March 1777, he entered on board said Frigate, to serve as a Marine, but cannot remember whether for one year, or for the Cruise She was then about to make; That he served in her in the Cruise she made from Boston, until she was captured by the British Ship of War *Rainbow*, when he was made a prisoner, & carried into Halifax, whence he returned in the autumn of that year. – That in October 1779, he entered the United States Sloop of War *Ranger*, commanded by Captain Thomas Simpson, and served the United States in said Sloop of War, in the Naval Service of said States, in the War of the Revolution, until she was taken by the Enemy at Charleston in June 1780 [sic, Charleston South Carolina fell to the British on May 12, 1780]⁴, when he the Deponent was made a prisoner, and continued such until having been exchanged, he got home at New Hampshire about the end of July or first of August in the same year. And the Deponent further declares, & says, that he always has been and continues to be, a resident Citizen of the United States, and of said State of New Hampshire, – And that by reason of his reduced Circumstances in Life, he is in need of assistance from his Country for support.

¹ https://threedecks.org/index.php?display_type=show_ship&id=2531

² https://threedecks.org/index.php?display_type=show_crewman&id=651

³ https://threedecks.org/index.php?display_type=show_ship&id=2411

⁴ Battle of Charleston <http://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/800401-charleston/>

& <https://allthingsliberty.com/2020/10/britains-last-throw-of-the-dice-begins-the-charlestown-campaign-of-1780/>

John Fifield



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To the Justices of the Court of Common Pleas now sitting at Dover within and for the County of Stratford and State of New Hampshire, on the first Tuesday of July, 1820.

John Fifield age 67, resident in Milton in said County, comes into Court, and in pursuance of an act of Congress passed on the first day of May, 1820, brings with him, and in his proper person exhibits to said Court a Schedule by him subscribed, containing his whole Estate and income – is necessary clothing and bedding excepted – as follows: –

He is possessed of 48 acres of land with an old house and barn on the same valued at	\$400.00
encumbered with a Mortgage to Levi Jones on which there is now due \$368.93	
The Equity of Redemption value at	31.07
one Horse \$20 – one Cal & two heifers \$30	50.00
one calf – three Sheep and one lamb	9.00
four Shoats five dollars	5.00
two old Waggon & harness	20.00
One plough and one harrow three dollars	3.00
Iron hollow ware Shovel & tongs	2.00
Old Loom, wheels, Tables, Charis & Chest, all old	4.00
	<u>124.07</u>
Income \$25.00	Deduct 24.07
	\$100.00

And the said John Fifield in pursuance as aforesaid produceth to said Court the following oath by him duly taken and subscribed: – viz.

I John Fifield do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift, sale or in any manner whatever disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provision of an act of Congress entitled “an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the revolutionary war” passed on the 18th day of March 1818, and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property, or securities, contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed.

John Fifield

And this said John Fifield doth here in Court further declare on oath, that he served in the Revolutionary war as follows, viz. he enlisted at East Kingston New Hampshire, April 1775 in the company commanded by Captain Philip Tilton in Colonel Poses Regt. in said State for eight months that he went to Winter hill & remained until January following, that he then enlisted in Captain [paper damaged]...emsman’s company in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Reid, Then went to Vermont as a Sergeant & enlisted 19 men then returned to New Chester where he met Colonel Beedle and returned back to Rumney there joined Captain George Everett’s Company and arrived at Québec on 20 March 1776 & was stationed on the plain of Absalom until the sixth day of May following then marched to the Cedars where he was taken prisoner the

19th of the same month, that he soon made his escape from Fort Anne [?]⁵ and met General Arnold [Benedict Arnold], at [undeciphered word],⁶ and returned to Fort Anne[?] to exchange prisoners and retreated back to Mount Independence where he joined said Everett's company and served the year out and was discharged at Mount Independence and returned home – In January 1777 he enlisted on board the Frigate *Hancock* of Boston commanded by Commodore Manley [John Manley] went on a cruise to Newfoundland banks and there took the *Fox* Frigate 28 guns after fighting two hours & ten minutes, then on a cruise home were taken by the Ship *Rainbow* of Halifax and carried in there from which place he made his escape and returned home about the last of October or 1 November 1777. That on the first of October 1779 enlisted on board the Ship *Ranger* at Portsmouth New Hampshire then went to Charleston South Carolina and there taken prisoner by General Clinton's [Henry Clinton's] Army from which place he was sent to Philadelphia by a Cartel that he was discharged at Philadelphia and returned home about the last part of July or first of August 1780 –

That the date of his original declaration in order to obtain a pension is April 16, 1818 and the number of his pension certificate is 7577: – That his occupation is that of a Farmer that he is infirm and quite unable to labor for support. That the number and names of his family residing with him, and their ages and capacities to contribute to their support, or as follows, viz.: His wife named Hannah is Sixty two years of age in a poor state of health and unable to support herself by labor, that he is indebted

to Joseph Plumer Junior on a Note	\$17
to Asa Piper on Note	\$14
To Isaac Furbish \$50 to A. Capp \$8.25	\$58.25
to John Clark \$4.24 and other debts, six dollars	<u>\$10.24</u>
	\$99.49

Wherefore he prays the opinion of said Court as to the value of his property contained in said schedule, and that the same, together with a copy of the premises be duly certified to the Secretary of War.

Sworn to and declared before the said court the fourth day of July 1820

John Fifield

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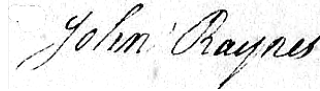
I John Raynes⁷ of Portsmouth in the State of New Hampshire, testify and say, that I belong to the United States Frigate *Ranger*, commanded by Thomas Simpson Esquire in October 1779, in quality of Captain's Clerk. I well knew John Fifield of Milton in said State, and that said Fifield then belonged to said Ship, as a Marine. That he was in her serving as such when she sailed from Portsmouth for Boston, about the beginning of November following. That he continued in said service on board said Frigate from that time until she was captured by the British at Charleston, which was, I think, the 12th of May 1780. From that time we were prisoners of war & from there continued at Charleston about a month, and then the petty officers, Seamen & Marines came in a Cartel Ship to Philadelphia. I got home from thence, about the last of July, nearly about which time the said Fifield must have also arrived in New Hampshire.

⁵ *Fort Anne*

⁶ *Larbee*

⁷ S45094

John Raynes

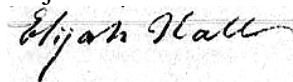


[Certified June 22, 1818]

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I Elijah Hall of Portsmouth in the State of New Hampshire late Lieutenant of the United States Sloop of War *Ranger*, when commanded by Thomas Simpson Esquire, testify and say that I well know John Fifield of Milton in said State, that in October 1779, the said John Fifield entered the said Sloop of War *Ranger* to serve one year, that he continued in said Service in said Sloop of war, in the War of the Revolution, until she was taken by the Enemy at Charleston, South Carolina May 12, 1780, when he was taken prisoner and continued as such until exchanged – After which, those who had served in said Sloop of War, & belonged to this State of New Hampshire returned home, and arrived, about the end of July or beginning of August 1780.

Elijah Hall



[p 11: On July 3, 1843 in York County Maine, Hannah Proal, a resident of Parsonsfield, York County Maine, aged 86, filed for a widow's pension under, among others, the 1836 act stating that she is the widow of John Fifield, a revolutionary war pensioner; that she married him March 8, 1791; that her husband died September 18, 1828; that she married Henry Proal on the 26th day of August 1829 who died in April or May 1830; and that she remains a widow. She signed her application with her mark.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of eight dollars per month commencing April 16, 1818, for service as a Sergeant of Marines on board the Sloop of war *Ranger* for one year. His formal widow was pensioned in a like amount.]