

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of Richard Vernon S1883

fn105NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

State of Tennessee, Davidson County

On the 26th day of October, 1832, personally appeared in open court before the Justices of the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions in the County & State aforesaid, Richard Vernon a resident of said County of Davidson aged 74 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 of the Act of Congress passed June 7th, 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as here stated.

I first entered the service of the U. S. about the 13th February 1776, while living in Guilford County, N Carolina as a Lieutenant in Capt. John Leak's command which was attached to the militia of Guilford County commanded by Col. Jas Martin [James Martin]¹. We marched about the above named time under Col. Martin from Guilford in an operation against the Scots Tories near Fayetteville, where we were under the command of Alexander Martin Col. of the 1st regiment of N Carolina troops and Gen. Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford]. This part of my service is proved by the certificate of Col. Martin, marked (A) and who resides in N Carolina, Stokes County.

Immediately after my return from this tour, there being a call for men to go to Wilmington, near which in the Capes the British having appeared, I entered Capt. Leak's company as a Lieutenant, Col. James Martin commanding again and we marched to Wilmington but before we arrived, the British having continued to Charleston we halted and returned. I was 30 days in service in this expedition which added to my first tour making a little more than three months. I next volunteered about the first of August 1776, (being then in the first Division in consequence of my first tour of service), in Capt. Leak's company and served as Lieutenant. This expedition was against the Cherokee Indians. We marched about the above date from Guilford under Col. James Martin to Salisbury where we fell under the command of Gen. Rutherford. From thence we marched through the country to Indian Nation and after having destroyed a number of their towns and villages we returned. However, on 21st of October, 1776, at Cathie's Fort [sic, Cathey's Fort]² near 220 miles from home I took the certificate marked (B) of James Hunter Pack Master Gen. certifying that I have four horses as pack horses in the service of this expedition, and a driver and the same day, I took all the sick of the company I was in and conducted them from Cathey's Fort home where I arrived some time in November 1776, being out in this tour a little more than three months. This tour of service is also proved by Col. Martin's certificate marked (A) as above.

About the 15th March 1780, I volunteered in Capt. Bethel's company in which I served as Lieutenant and Robert Nelson as Ensign. We marched about the time above stated from Guilford for the relief and defense of Charleston (S.C.). Bethel's company was attached to a regiment commanded by Col. Joseph Branyen [sic, Joseph Brannon?] in Gen. Caswell's [Richard Caswell's] Brigade. We entered S Carolina about the 1st of April, 1780. We marched by Camden, from thence to a place called Monk's Corner [sic, Moncks Corner] near Charleston, which the British, we understood, had entered as to make it impossible for us to give Charleston any assistance. On the 11th April or there about the British under Tarlton [sic, Banastre Tarleton] attacked us at Moncks Corner and routed us after which we collected our scattered ponies and marched to a place called the Big savanah [sic, Big Savannah] on Santee River, where we remained until Gen. Caswell with his Brigade came to us. Whence we marched to Dupree's Ferry³ on Santee where we remained some time acting as guards on the ferry until we

1 FPA W4728

2 <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/catheysfort.htm>

3 In a letter dated May 24, 1780, Governor John Rutledge wrote from Camden SC to the SC Delegates to the Continental Congress as follows: "On Saturday last, the enemy took post with a considerable force at Dupree's Ferry on Santee River, which they began to cross that day on their march to Georgetown, whither they had sent some vessels from

heard of the complete fall of Charleston. We then, under Gen. Caswell fell back to Camden and from thence we marched to N Carolina, soon after this my term of three months expired. This tour is proved by Austin Smith's⁴ certificate marked (C) who lives in Abbeville, S Carolina and who obtained a pension under the Act of 1818. This certificate is not certified by the Clerk but by the Justices of the Court of Abbeville District. We were disbanded about the last of June or first of July, having served upwards of three months in this tour.

About the 25th of August 1780 and soon after Gates' Defeat at Camden, I entered Capt. Peay's company and served as Lieutenant. We were attached to Col. Pasely's [sic, John Paisley] regiment of N Carolina militia. After rendezvousing at Guilford we marched under Col. Paisley to Salisbury where we joined Gen. Davidson's [William Lee Davidson's] Brigade and were marched by him to the County of Mecklenburg to McAlpin's Creek [sic, McAlpine Creek] where the British coming on us, we retreated to the North side of Adkin river [sic, Yadkin River]; on our retreat we were overtaken by the English and had a slight skirmish with them near Charlotte in which several men were killed among whom was William Rankins, and a Mr. Lock of my acquaintance. Capt. Peay taking sick soon after the commencement of our return, the command of the company devolved to me. Col. Paisley was dispatched with about 700 men from headquarters on the Yadkin, among which was Capt. Peay's company commanded by me, to disperse a body of about 380 Tories collected on the Shallow ford of the Yadkin in Surry County, N Carolina. About the time we attacked them they were attacked in the rear by some troops from the other side. We killed several and took 30 or 40 prisoners, among the killed was Capt. Jas Bryant [James Bryant]. Col. Paisley took charge of the prisoners and we conducted them to Moravian Town and left them under guard. From there we returned to headquarters. The British having retreated to Waynesborough [sic, Winnsborough], S Carolina, Gen. Davidson marched us down about the Waxhaw settlement and took up winter quarters at a place called New Providence where Col. Morgan joined us. Also Col. Howard [John Eager Howard] commanding the Maryland Continental troops, while we remained here Col. Morgan was promoted to Gen. and Col. Howard's Battalion was attached to his Brigade. We remained here until my minor tour of service expired. I got a discharge for three months service as Lieutenant signed by Arthur Forbes, Capt. Commandant, (Colonel Paisley being about with the sick) and Wm Davidson, Brigadier Gen. on the 28th November 1780; (as proved by the discharge itself marked (D)). The date of the discharge is torn off and obliterated. This tour is also proved by the certificate marked (C) of Austin Smith, also by a receipt for a discharge of a tour of duty marked (E) signed by John Pratt, Junior, as a private in Peay's company then under my command.

About the first of February 1781, I was appointed Capt. in the upper part of Capt. Peay's District and being too large for one company as proved by the commission marked (E) signed by Col. Jas Martin, there never being a date to it or if there was it is torn off. In pursuance of which commission I raised a company and marched under Col. Martin to join Gen. Greene who was then retreating through North Carolina. We joined in with him near Halifax, Virginia. Cornwallis having quit pursuit of Greene turned into Hillsborough, North Carolina. The latter then returned back and marched us into Guilford County where I was ordered to raise a company of mounted infantry and joined him as soon as this was done. I was taken from under the command of Col. Martin and was placed under Benj. Ford D. A. Gen. of Gen. Greene's army. Our duty was to write expresses and pilot various detachments of our men. While we remained at Guilford I received orders from Benj. Ford D. A. Gen. to receive from McCloud Comd. of Provost Guard a body of Tory prisoners stationed, I think, at Boyd's Mill, and conduct them to a place of greater safety which I did. This is proved by the orders marked (G) and which never had any date signed by Ford. A further duty assigned to me and my men was to collect

Ch'stown, and they are certainly in possession at Georgetown, which was not defensible. Genl Caswell, who lay a little below Dupree's ferry, with the N. Carolina Brigade and the Virginia Continentals under Capt. Buford, had luckily retreated this way before the enemy got to that ferry, and thereby prevented their cutting off his retreat, which was probably their first scheme."

provision for the army which is proved by two receipts marked (H) (I), dated one the 8th of March 1781, the other 21st of March of the same year, both signed by “Joseph Thomas for Col. Davie C. G. P.” I remained here in Guilford until my term of three months service was expired and we were disbanded.

On the 13th of August 1781, I received a Capt.’s commission marked (J) to raise a company of light horsemen, signed by Col. James Martin. I was ordered to raise these horsemen for the purposes mentioned in the commission. I served a three months tour of duty in the capacity of Capt., taking and apprehending delinquents, Tories and deserters proved by the documents marked (K).

About the month of October 1781, I was called out with my company under Col. Martin in an expedition against British under Major Gray who lay near Wilmington. After we had marched some distance on this route my company under Col. Paisley was ordered back by Col. Martin to keep the Tories down. We accordingly marched back to Guilford. This is the expedition mentioned in Col. Martin’s certificate marked (A). A short time after this the same month a parcel of my light horsemen under me, commanded by Col. Paisley marched against a certain Colonel Fanning [David Fanning] who lurking in Anson, Orange and other counties in N Carolina commanded a body of Tories. A list of part of the men who were in this expedition may be seen by reference to list (L). We were out in the expedition about five weeks, see (M) as to October 1781. After our return from this expedition I served until three months from October had expired, and my men were disbanded.

In the commencement of 1782, I recruited the minute company as mine was called and served as Capt. apprehending deserters, Tories and delinquents, until peace was declared, for proof see documents marked (N). All the particular expeditions I cannot recollect but know I was employed almost entirely in the service during 1782 until peace.

Where was you born—I was born in Charlotte County, Virginia—In what year was you born? 18th October 1758—Have you any record of your age—I have a record of my age in my father’s family bible now in my possession. --Where were you living when called into the service—I lived in Guilford County, N Carolina—Where have you been living since the revolution—and where do you now live--II lived in that part of Guilford now called Rockingham until 1825 when I moved to Williamson County, Tennessee and soon after moved into Davidson County, Tennessee where I now live. How were you called into the service—were you drafted—did you volunteer or were you a substitute—I volunteered. State the names 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 service. There was Col. Alexander Martin who commanded the 1st Regiment of N Carolina regular troops. Col. Howard commander of the Maryland troops, Gen. Morgan commander of the Virginia troops and Gen. Greene while in Guilford, besides Col. James Martin, who commanded the militia of Guilford, Gen. Caswell commander of the N Carolina Militia, Gen. Rutherford who commended in the two expeditions where I was, against the Scots Tories and the Indians in 1776 and Gen. Davidson who was a regular officer. I have stated above the general circumstances of my service.

Did you ever receive a commission. I never received a regular commission for Lieutenantcy, though I served four 3-months tours as such and took the oath of officer and was ranked in Court Martials as one. I must have had a certificate from Col. Martin, but I do not recollect it. I have two certificates for Captancy, one of the foot and the other of the horsemen, signed by Col. Martin, now in my possession. State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify to your character for veracity, and their belief of your service as a soldier in the revolution. I am acquainted with Saml McMaury, Solomon Morton, John Morton and William H. Mann, Esquires who can testify to my character &c.

I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity, except the present and declare my name is not on the Pension Roll of any agency in any state.

Sworn to and subscribed in open court October 26th, 1832

Test: S/ Henry Ewing, Clerk of
Davidson County Court

S/ Rich. Vernon

[William Johnson, a clergyman and James S. Williams gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

“E” [p.18]

“November 27th 1782 then Received of Rich'd Vernon in Specie CertifyCate [sic, certificate?] of Nine pounds six shilings [sic] for A tower of Duty Served with him in the Militia. The year 1780.

S/ John Pratt, Jnr.

“M” “Rect. For Mare from Jobe Warde”

“No. Carolina, Guilford County} This May Certify that I Have [undecipherable words—appear to be “Jiecvd DeSertin”] Sorril [sic, sorrel] Mare that was prest [sic, pressed] by Capt. Vernon at My Hous [sic, House] from Me the 28 of Oct. one thousand and Seven hund. and Eighty one &

I Say Received by Me

S/ Job Ward

Jenervery [sic, January] 12th, 1782”

“H” “Reseats [sic] for Cattel [sic] Colected [sic] for the South Army”

“March 8th 1781 Camp at Haw River H No. Carolina

Then Received of Capt. Richard Vernon

Four Head of Cattle for the Use of the Army

S/ Joseph Thomas for

Col. Deavie CGP”

“March 21st 1781 Received of Capt. Vernen

Eight Head of Cattle for the Use of the Army

S/ Joseph Thomas

for Col. Davie, C Gel.”

“Valintine Alin [sic] 2 Steers Five years old

Ignatious Gann 2 Steers a year old

Wm Astin 1 Do 3 years old

Isaac Whitworth 1 Mare 2 years old

James Hays 1 Bull 5 years old

Robert McCamar 1 Steer 5 years old

John Rite 1 Steer 3 years old

Benjamin Briton 2 Steers 3 years old

Resat of publick Catitl”

“B”

“There by certify that Richard Vernon had four horses in the Sarvis of North Carolina as pack horses & drove said horses in the late Expedition against the Indians and that said horses was in the sarvis seventy eaight [sic] Days and that said horses was Delivered to me at Guilford Corthouse [sic] who was packmaster for said County for the service of Said Expedition Certified by me this twenty first Day of October 1776.

S/ James Hunter”

“Guilford County} These may certifie that you are appointed Captain of a Company of foot Militia of the upper part of Capt. Peay's District which is divided, the Line to be hereafter ascertained so as equal Numbers are to be in each Company & which you & Capt. John [last name cut off] can settle of the lower Capt. You are to nominate Lieut. & Ensign, Serjeant & Corporals and act agreable to military orders as you may receive them, as Captain, until you will receive a Commission from the Governor so doing this shall be your Comission [sic].

Captain Richard Vernon

S/ J. A. Martin, Col.”

“D Richard Vernon Discharge from Genl. Davidson”

“These are to Cartify that Richard Vernon Lieut.
In the third Regt. A Volunteer Raised in the D[cut off]
Salisbury has Served three months According t[cut off]
and is hirby Discharged.

Given under my hand the [cut off]
To all whom it may Concern S/ Arthur Forbis, Capt.
Both Civit & Military S/ Wm L. Davidson”

“Land's Bond

I do hereby Acknowledge to be Bound Body for Body for my son Benj.
Land who is a Continental Soldier for during the present War
as he has Deserted & been Apprehended & taken by Capt. Rich'd Vernon
Compy of Light Horse under my Protection, and doth hereby
agree to Deliver him when Called for by Sd. Capt. Vernon in Witness
thereof I do bind myself my heirs Executors or Administrators
to perform what I have above acknowledged to do Witness
my hand this date above mentioned.

S/ Joseph Land, X his mark

S/ John Brewer

S/ Ephraim Land

Cerfify that Mr. Land Complyed
with his Agreement

S/ Rich'd Vernon”

State of Tennessee, Williamson County

Personally appeared George Peay⁵ aged 79 years on the nineteen of January last before me Levi Crosby an acting Justice of the Peace in and for the County aforesaid and made oath that he was well acquainted with Captain Richard Vernon at the time of the Revolutionary War and was in the Service with him that the said Captain Richard Vernon and the Deponent were then residence of Guilford County North Carolina in the immediate vicinity of each other and the Deponent further saith that he has a personal knowledge of the tours of service performed by said Captain Richard Vernon herein stated. He Deponent and Richard Vernon volunteered in 1776 some time in the month of February as private soldiers under Captain John Leeke and joined the Regiment commanded by Col. James Martin of Guilford Courthouse and march on and expedition to Cross Creek against the Highland Scots and Tories and was accredited and paid for a three months tour in the same year in June following under the same officers he marched to Salisbury we then marched on near Pleasant Guard on the Catawba River and there awaited the arrival of General Rutherford with the Balance of the troops from there we marched on to the Cherokee nation of Indians on the Tennessee River we destroyed several towns cut down their corn remaining there several weeks we then returned home in October and was accredited and paid for four months.

In the year 1780 the Deponent saith that he went to a place called New Providence in Mecklenburg North Carolina and on his arrival he found Richard Vernon acting as a Captain under General Davidson the Deponent saith that he does of his own Personal Knowledge know that said Richard Vernon did perform the tour to Cross Creek and the Cherokee nation further the Deponent Saith not. Sworn to and Subscribed to before me in the year of our Lord 1837 ninth day of May.

S/ Levi Crosby, JP

S/ G. Peay, {Seal}

“A”

State of North Carolina, Stokes County: November 9, 1831

I do hereby certify that I was Colonel Commandant of the Militia of Guilford County in this State during the War of the Revolution. That Richard Vernon formerly of the said County of Guilford and now a citizen of the State of Tennessee served under my command in the Expedition against the Cherokee Indians in the year 1776. That said Richard was a Lieutenant in Captain Leak's Company in said Expedition. That in the said Rank of Lieutenant he likewise served under my command in an expedition against the Scots Tories near Fayetteville and in several other excursions against the Tories in the South part of the County of Randolph in this State. That Captain Leaks' company having become too large it was divided into two and the said Richard Vernon appointed by me a Captain of one of the companies. That said Richard Vernon in the Rank of Captain served under me in the Expedition against the British at Wilmington who was commanded by Major Craig. And I do further certify that said Richard Vernon in the aforesaid expeditions and in all over duties that came under my observation or to my knowledge in any way was a well behaved, faithful and meritorious officer.

S/ J. A. Martin, Senr. Commandant
of the Guilford Militia

State of Tennessee, Lincoln County

Be it known that before me Benjamin F. Clarke, a justice of the peace in and for the County aforesaid, personally appeared John Gibson,⁶ and being sworn in due form of law, deposeth and saith,

That Richard Vernon, as this deponent is informed, now lives in a Williamson County, and State of Tennessee, and draws a pension for two years service in the Revolutionary war. This deponent sayeth further that he, himself, and Richard were raised to manhood in Guilford County, North Carolina, and were mustered under the militia officers (excepting when ordered into actual service) during the war of the Revolution. This deponent knew Mr. Vernon to be in the service in the year 1781, at the time of British, under the command of Lord Cornwallis, were in Guilford County, Mr. Vernon then said that he had the appointment of commander of such of the Guilford militia as had horses, with orders to collect cattle for the troops.

A very short time after the battle of Guilford Courthouse, this deponent avers that all the Guilford militia were dismissed; and that Mr. Vernon did not serve, at that time, a term exceeding two months, if so much.

In October or November of the same year the Guilford militia were ordered into service under the command of Colonel Paisley, who was then Colonel of the Guilford militia. Mr. Vernon was at that time Lieutenant under Captain John May. And under Captain May, this deponent deposes that Mr. Vernon did not serve more than six weeks, which term of service closed the services of the Guilford militia during the war of that period.

This deponent further saith that he has now before him a copy of the communication he made to the War Department, bearing the date of February 2nd, 1835; that after a strict and impartial investigation of the premises, he discovers nothing therein obtained but what he then fully believed, and nothing but what he yet fully believes. And he declares that to the best of his recollection and belief Richard Vernon, (formerly of Guilford County North Carolina, and now of Williamson County, Tennessee) was not in actual service, in the Revolutionary War, so much, altogether, as one year.

This deponent states that he knew a certain James Martin who was called a Colonel of Guilford militia in the year 1781; and that he saw said Martin in camp a few days previous to the battle of Guilford court-house; but does not recollect that he held any special command at that time.

In the fall of the same year Colonel Martin was first in command of a considerable number of militia against the Tories; and marched to the southern part of North Carolina on Raft Swamp and

Drowning Creek. This deponent was then with Colonel Martin and well knows that Vernon was not; that this deponent obtaining a short furlough on a special occasion, returned home, & found Vernon there. A short time subsequently, Vernon turned out as Lieutenant under Captain May as before stated, & marched under Colonel Paisley into Chatham & Randolph counties against the Tories. At this deponent further saith not.

In testimony of the foregoing I have hereunto set my hand this 22nd day of May 1835.

S/ Benj. F. Clark, a justice of the peace.

[on pp. 73-74 of the Footnote.com version of this file, there appears a handwritten 2-page account of Vernon's service in the revolution at the top of which the following note appears in a different handwriting: "A memorandum of Military Services of Rich'd Vernon presumed to have been written by him –having, however no signature to it."]

“C”

State of South Carolina, Abbeville district

Personally came and appeared before me Austin Smith and made oath in due form of law and saith, that he was well acquainted with Richard Vernon during the Revolutionary And, that he the said Richard Vernon was first Lieutenant of a company of Militia formed at Guilford Courthouse in the State of North Carolina under the command of Captain William Bethel, for the relief in defense of Charleston South Carolina. The Regiment commanded by Colonel Branyan General Caswell's division (or Brigade) that he left Guilford sometime in the month of March 1780 and entered the state of South Carolina about the first of April following; that they marched to Camden, and from thence to a place called Moncks Corner, where they understood that the British had entered and taken the town so as to render it impossible to give any assistance to the Town, that on the 11th of April they were attacked by the British under Colonel Tarleton, and routed at Moncks Corner, that after that rout they collected and marched to a place called the big savannah on the Santee River, where they remained until General Caswell's Brigade came on they then marched to Dupree's ferry on Santee where they remained for some time acting as a guard on the ferry until they heard of the complete fall of Charleston, that they then fell back to Camden with General Caswell & thence to North Carolina where their term of service expired, and this deponent further states that he was with said Richard Vernon in September 1780 under the command of Colonel Paisley, Regiment North Carolina Militia under General Davidson a three months tour which service the said Richard Vernon acted as Lieutenant Commandant, and in conclusion he saith that the said Richard Vernon was a good soldier and a true friend to his Country. Hampton Sworn to and subscribed this 18th day of January 1831 before me.

S/ James A. Black, JQ

S/ Austin Smith

State of Tennessee, Davidson County

Personally appeared Peter Lesley⁷ before me William H. Nance an acting Justice of the peace for said County made oath that he said Lesley was well acquainted with Richard Vernon during the Revolutionary War That some time early in the spring of 1780 we rendezvoused at Guilford Courthouse State of North Carolina under William Bethel Captain and said Richard Vernon Lieutenant Robert Nelson Ensign we then took up the line of march to South Carolina by way of Salisbury where we met with General Rutherford who gave us our orders to march to Charleston by way of Camden to Moncks Corner where we understood that the British had surrounded Charleston so that we could not get in there where we lay a few days and was routed by the enemy under Colonel Tarleton from thence we retreated to the North side of Santee where we lay till the arrival [of] Brigadier General William Caswell from North Carolina we then joined a Regiment called the third Regiment of North Carolina

Militia Colonel James Brannon our field officer where we continued as guard to take the ferries on said River until we heard that Charleston had surrendered to the British we then retreated to North Carolina by way of Camden from thence to the Cheraw hills on the Pedee River from thence through Fayette[ville] in North Carolina where we were detached under the command of Colonel McDowell to guard some wagons loaded with public salt to the County of Mecklenburg North Carolina our time of service being out when we was disbanded and returned to our own homes the above is [illegible word] by the said Lieutenant Richard Vernon and said Peter Leslie this deponent further states that he was called out on a tour of duty about 25th of August in the year 1780 under Captain Arthur Forbus Lieutenant William Gilmore Ensign Alexander Eleson [sic, Ellison?] in a Regiment of Militia under Commanded by Colonel John Paisley of Guilford County North Carolina and under the Command of Brigadier General Davidson and this three months tour was principle [sic, principally] Served in the Counties of Roan [sic, Rowan] and Mecklenburg and further saith that several events took place whilst he was on this tour of duty which said Richard Vernon reminds him of that makes said deponent believe that said Richard Vernon must have been in said service, one event which said Lieutenant Richard Vernon states that one evening when we were dismissed from parade the Adjutant gave word to face to the right about and logs arms and a gun fired accidentally and shot one John Brawley through the body and he fell dead and said deponent heard the gun and saw the man fall and died at said Vernon states and the Regiment was discharged about the 25th of November 1780 Camp New Providence.

And further this deponent sayeth not.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 28th day of August 1832.

S/ William H. Nance, JP

S/ Peter Lesley