

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements](#)

Pension application of John Franklin R3756

Transcribed by Will Graves

State of North Carolina, Burke County: Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for October 1834

On this 31st day of October 1834 personally appeared John Franklin in open Court before the Justices now in session the said John Franklin being a resident citizen of the County of Burke and State of North Carolina aged Seventy four 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 act of Congress passed June 7th, 1832.

That he entered the Service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein after stated.

In the year 1777, I was drafted and served a three months Tour at Cathey's Fort (now Burke County) against the Cherokee Indians; was taken out of Captain Thomas Whitson's Company of militia Burke County and placed under the command of Captain Charles McDowell who was then a militia Captain. I do not know by whom said Captain McDowell was commanded. I know not but this I know that I served out the tour of my engagement of three months and was discharged by said McDowell without receiving any written discharge.

In the spring of the year in the year 1778 I was again drafted as a private and served a three months tour as a militia private under Captain James McFarland (who was commanded by Colonel Charles McDowell was by this time promoted) at what was called John Davidson's Fort. This was also against the Cherokees.

In the winter of 1778 & 1779 I was again called on and served as a drafted militia private my third tour under the command of Captain James McFarland, who was commanded by Colonel Charles McDowell. In both these tours I was drafted out of Captain Leroy Taylor's company of Burke militia. This third tour I served at a place called Samuel Davidson's Fort in Burke County.

In 1779 & the commencement of 1780 I served as a drafted militia private a tour of six months against the Cherokees in what is now Greene County State of Tennessee at a place called Crawford's Fort under the command of Captain Samuel Williams who was then under the command of Colonel John Sevier and discharged me at the expiration of six months verbally for I neither now or at any time before received a written discharge.

In the month of September 1780 I returned to what is now North Carolina and joined the Country in a fearful and desperate situation. The Tories and Whigs were fiercely contending together and scarcely any man could be found at home. I did not know what to do or what party to join. The British and Tories appeared measurably to have subdued the Country. One Patrick Furgason [sic, Ferguson], a British Colonel, was then stationed with a large British force near the head of Silver Creek in Burke County North Carolina not far from my former place of residence and I amongst many others of the people took protection under him as a British Subject and was immediately marched by him with the rest of his forces to King's Mountain and was there under him when the Battle was fought between the Whigs on the one side and the British and Tories on the other. On this day I was as aforesaid on the side of the British for which be assured I now claim no credit for I saw my error before the Battle was over. On the side of the

British was Colonel Ferguson of the British regulars and Colonel Ambrose Mills & Husbands of the Tories – on the American side was Colonel Campbell [William Campbell], Colonel Cleveland [Benjamin Cleveland], Colonel John Sevier and Colonel Shelby [Isaac Shelby], who commanded the American Whigs. The British and Tories were defeated with the loss of their commander, Ferguson. I returned to what is now called East Tennessee having been only Eleven days with and in the service of the British. So begun and so ended my allegiance to the British King. I now for the purpose of atonement for my last weakness in engaging in the service of the British King enlisted for the term of 18 months on the American side under Captain Samuel Williams. This was in early in the summer of 1781 in the Continental Service in the North Carolina line. [Several illegible words]... We were commanded by Colonel John Sevier. I was marched by said Captain Williams under the command of Colonel John Sevier and Colonel Charles Roberson with their Troops to the State of South Carolina to oppose the British under Lord Rawdon at the High Hills of Santee we joined General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] who commanded the N. C., Virginia & Maryland Troops. I was now transferred to General Marion [Francis Marion] who commanded the South Carolina Troops and put under the immediate command of Colonel Maham [Hezekiah Maham] who was commander of the South Carolina Troops of Light horse. I now served 18 months in the American service. In various instances I assisted in taking many British Prisoners. That at the time at Moncks Corner about one month before Christmas in 1781 we captured the British hospital. We being about 400 strong, we all under the command of Captain Donelson and Col. Maham. The Troops with whom I then served captured & took upwards of 80 British Prisoners.

I continued to serve until the last of the year 1782 when my time expired. At the expiration of this 18 months term of enlistment I was dismissed by Colonel Maham but never received a written discharge. When I served against the Indians or British or Tories, I know of no person by whom I can prove my service or the preceding statements; that I have no documentary evidence of my services & that I know of no person whose testimony I can procure who can testify as to my service.

I hereby relinquish every claim to a pension or annuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State.

I was born in the State of Virginia near a place then called Stump Fort and removed to North Carolina when about four years of age as I learned from my parents. I have no record of my age. I lived in Burke County North Carolina when called into service the first tours for three months each against the Cherokees. When called out to perform the 4 [sic, 4th ?] tour of service against the Cherokees I lived in what is Greene County East Tennessee. This tour was for the term of six months. I lived in Greene County as now called State of Tennessee but then North Carolina when I enlisted for the term of 18 months as before described. Since the Revolutionary war I have lived and now live in Burke County N. C.

I never received a written or [illegible word, looks like “Provlet”] discharge from the service but on the expiration of my time of service I was invariably dismissed by my officers.

As to the persons to whom I am known of my present neighborhood there are but few of them here except John Suddath, Esq., & Colonel James Erwin. As to the general circumstances of the service I was in there was but little variation in the service of the

three 3-months tours I was in for I was fortified in and saw but few officers: the first in 1777, I saw all none above my Captain Charles McDowell; the second tour at John Davidson's Fort in 1778, I was under the command of Captain James McFarland who was commanded by Colonel Charles McDowell as before stated. The third tour in the winter of 1778 & 1779 at Samuel Davidson's Fort, the same Captain McFarland had command under same Colonel McDowell. The fourth tour of service of six months I was in 1779 & the first of the winter of 1780, there I was commanded by Captain Williams who was commanded by Colonel John Sevier in that part of the mountain Country of N. C. now Greene County Tennessee. In this service we were principally fortified in & ranging the Country against the Cherokees round about. It was a dangerous duty for it was on the frontiers & against the Cherokees. The fifth & last tour of service I was in for 18 months as an enlisted Private, commenced early in the summer of 1781. I enlisted & marched under Captain Williams of the N. C. Continental Line and commanded by Colonel John Sevier. We marched to South Carolina at the High Hills of Santee. We joined General Greene of the Continental Army. I was placed as before stated under General Marion who commanded the South Carolina Troops and were variously engaged in the service of the United States in opposing the progress of the British under Lord Rawdon. We had various & many skirmishes with the Enemy mostly in cutting off his supplies of Provisions and attacking his out Posts in which attacks we were often successful & succeeded in capturing many of their Troops as before stated. I was attached to the Company of Captain Donelson of the South Carolina Troops of Horse under Colonel Markham [sic, Maham] as before stated.

S/ John Franklin

Sworn to in open court 1st November 1834.

S/ J. J. Erwin, Clerk