

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements](#)

**Pension Application of Richard Ballew**, Natl Archives Microseries M804, Roll 130,  
Application #S15305

Transcribed and annotated by Nancy Poquette

“Richard Ballew, a resident of Knox County, Kentucky:

That he was drafted for a tour of three months in Burke County, North Carolina, where he then resided in the spring of 1779. Under the following named officers: George Walker, Captain; Peter Ross or Russ, Lieutenant, name of ensign not remembered. That he rendezvoused at Burke Courthouse, thence he marched up **the south fork of the Catawba River to Davis’s Station**. He was then ‘forted’ with his company until he served out he three months. I do not know whether I rec’d a written discharge or not for this service. I think I did not, but if I did, it has been lost. This service was after the Indians and Tories had taken a station (**Warford’s or Wofford’s**) **on the North Fork of the Catawba**, it was to protect Davis’s station and the inhabitants thereabouts, that this draft was made. I was discharged in the summer of 1779.”

“After the above service, I returned to Burke, where I lived and joined the company of Capt. Thomas Kennedy, now of Gerrard County, KY, about 90 miles from my present place of residence. I had not been at home long before the news came that the Indians and Tories had killed Davison & McGonigle with their families. Col. Joseph McDowell raised one hundred volunteers to pursue them. That he was one of the 100. Harry Highland was Captain, Samuel Sorrel was Lieutenant. I believe this was in the latter part of summer of 1779, as well as I can remember, and for a three month tour.”

“He again rendezvoused at Burke Courthouse, thence he marched up the South Fork of Catawba, passing Davis’s Station, where he had been previously fortified for three months, to the head of the Catawba, thence on to Swanano [sic, Swannanoa], and crossed it above where Buncom [sic, Buncombe] Courthouse now stands, thence to the **old Cowtowns**? where we had a battle with the Indians. In the heat of this engagement, under an order to charge, my horse was against an old peach tree. My ankle was twisted out of place, which has rendered me a cripple to this day. That they defeated the Indians, killed several, and took upwards of 30 prisoners. My wound rendered me unfit for further service during this tour, though he continued with the company until their return to Burke, and was then discharged... When he volunteered for this tour, his horse was valued, as was the horses of the rest of the men, and they were told if they lost their horses in the tour, the government would pay for them.”

I next volunteered in the spring of 1780 in Burke County, to go against Tories under Captain Murray. Edward Fears was my captain. He marched to Pleasant Gardens and then joined Col. Cleaveland [sic, Benjamin Cleaveland], thence down **the Catawba to Lovelady Shoals**, not far below, where we had a skirmish with the Tories under Captain Murray. In this skirmish Captain Cleaveland was wounded. My father, myself and another man took Captain Cleaveland after he was wounded, in a canoe and carried him down the Catawba about 3 miles and left him at a Whig’s house, named Conaley. He was left here to guard Captain Cleaveland, until he got able to travel. He states from old age and the consequent loss of memory, he cannot remember how long he served during this tour.” Etc.

“After the tour above related, the Tories under the same Captain Murray called at my father’s house and wantonly killed several of his cattle and sheep, and even cut open the feather beds, emptied the feathers in the yard, cut the bedcords all to pieces and took away by Father’s rifle. Thence Murray marched to join his brethren under Ferguson.”

“In September 1780, I volunteered to go against the Tories. Again Edmund Fear was my Captain, Joseph McDowell was Colonel. Then we marched for King’s Mountain and then we had a battle with the tories under Ferguson. I was not immediately in the engagement, my company having been ordered to go to a particular point, missed its way, and we did not get back until the tories had stacked their arms. One of my countrymen, John McFall [McFaul] who served under Ferguson, was hung in my sight with several more, by orders of our colonels. We brought the prisoners taken at King’s Mountain through Burke. Here I was discharged,” etc. etc.

“Shortly after this I volunteered under Captain Harry Highland, Col. Joseph McDowell. I think this was in November 1780, to go against the British, under Dunlap. We had a battle **on Cain [Cane] Creek in Burke County**. Hemphill was killed, and John Criswell? Wounded, both in our company. We got whipped. I did serve in this tour not less than two weeks.”

In March 1781, I was drafted for a three months tour in Burke County. Harry Highland was captain, Samuel Some? Lieutenant. \_\_\_\_\_

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Another Version

Pension application of Richard Ballew (Ballou) S15305  
Transcribed by Will Graves

State of Kentucky, Knox County

On this 26<sup>th</sup> day of November 1833 personally appeared in open court before John Patton, Richardson Adams and Joseph Pritchard Justices of the Knox County Court now sitting Richard Ballew a resident of Poplar Creek, Knox County, Kentucky aged 70 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 the seventh 1832.

That he entered the service under the following officers and served as herein stated.

That he was drafted for a Tour of three months in Burke County North Carolina where he then resided in the spring of 1779 under the following named Officers George Walker Captain, Peter Russ Lieutenant – name of Ensign not remembered – that he rendezvoused at Burke court house – thence he marched up the South fork of the Catawba River to Davis's station – he was there posted with his company until he served out the three months – I do not know whether I received a written discharge or not for this service. I think I did not, but if I did it has been lost. This service was after the Indians and Tories had taken a station (Warford) on the North fork of Catawba, and it was to Protect Davis's Station and the inhabitants thereabouts that this draft was made. I was discharged in the summer of 1779.

After the above service, I returned to Burke where I lived and joined the company of Captain Thomas Kennedy now of Garrard County Kentucky about 90 miles from my present place of residence. I had not been at home long before the news came that the Indians and Tories and killed Davison & McGonigle with their families. Colonel Joseph McDowell raised 100 volunteers to pursue them that he was one of the 100. Henry Highland was Captain, Samuel Sorrel was Lieutenant I believe this was in the latter part of the summer of 1779 as well as I remember and for a three months Tour– he again Rendezvoused at Burke Court house. Thence he marched up the South fork of Catawba passing Davis's Station where he had been previously posted for three months to the head of Catawba – thence on to Swannanoa and crossed it above where Buncombe Court house now stands – thence to the old Cowetowns [Cowee towns?]- where we had a battle with the Indians. In the heat of this engagement under an order to charge my horse ran against an old peach tree or rather in passing through the forks of the peach tree my ankle was twisted out of place, which has rendered me a cripple to this day – that they defeated the Indians, killed several and took upwards of 30 prisoners – my wound rendered me

unfit for further service during this Tour though he continued with their Company until their return to Burke and was then discharged. I received no written discharge for this service – when he volunteered for this Tour his horse was valued, as was the horses of the rest of the men, and they were told if they lost their Horses in the Tour the Government would pay for them.

I next volunteered in the spring of 1780 in Burke County to go against the Tories under Captain Murray. Edmund Fiers [sic, Edmund Fear] was my Captain – he marched to Pleasant Gardens and there joined Colonel Cleveland [Benjamin Cleveland] – thence down the Catawba to Lovelady Shoals not far below we had a skirmish with the Tories under Captain Murray. In this skirmish Captain Cleveland was wounded – my Father, myself and another man took Captain Cleveland after he was wounded in a canoe and carried him down the Catawba about 3 miles and left him at a Whigs house named Conalay [sic, Connelly?] he was left here to guard Captain Cleveland until he got able to travel – he states from old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot remember how long he served during this Tour but from the best of his Knowledge he did not serve less than one month.

After the tour above related the Tories under the same Captain John Murray called at my father's house and wantonly killed several of his cattle and sheep and even cut open the feather beds, emptied the feathers in the yard, cut the bed cords all to pieces and took away my Father's rifle – thence Murray marched to join his Brethren under Ferguson [Patrick Ferguson]. In September 1780 I volunteered to go against the Tories again. Edmund Fear was my Captain Joseph McDowell was Colonel – thence we marched to King's Mountain and there had a battle with the Tories under Ferguson. I was not immediately in the engagement my company having been ordered to go to a particular point missed its way and we did not get back until the Tories had stacked their arms. One of my County men, John McFall, who served under Ferguson was hung in my sight with several more, by orders of our Colonels. We brought the Prisoners taken at King's Mountain through Burke – here I was discharged – from old age and consequent loss of memory, I cannot state precisely how long I served in this Tour but from the best of my recollection not less than six weeks. I received no written discharge for this service.

Shortly after this I volunteered under Captain Harry Highland, Colonel Joe McDowell-- I think this was in November 1780 to go against the British under Dunlap [sic, James Dunlop]. We had a battle on Cain [sic, Cane] Creek in Burke County. Hemphill was killed and John Creswell wounded both in our company – we got whipped. I served in this tour not less than 2 weeks.

In March 1781 I was drafted for a three months tour in Burke County. Harry Highland was Captain – Samuel Sorrell Lieutenant – Edmund Polite [?] issued our rations for us each day Charles McDowell General. We all rendezvoused above Davis's Station and it was there we collected our Beans, flour, Pack horses &c – we understood General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford] was to join us with more troops when we crossed the Lookout Mountain. We marched down for the big Valley Towns on the Mobile River but on our march there and in about 15 miles of the place as I understood we took an Indian prisoner – from him we learned that the Indians & Tories were embodied in large numbers awaiting and expecting our arrival. General Rutherford never joined us and our officers concluding we were too weak to fight the enemy directed a retreat. In this tour we burnt some Indian Huts, cut down their corn and done them all the injury we could. I firmly believe I served at least four months in this, though by the terms of the draft I was only bound to serve three months, if I received any written discharge for this service it has slipped my memory – upon our retreat we had to kill and eat our horses to survive from starvation. I was discharged in August or September from this tour. That he has no documentary evidence of his service – Thomas Kennedy of Garrard County, Jacob Grindstaff of Rockcastle County and my brother Peter Ballew know I was a soldier of the revolution.

He hereby relinquishes his every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of the agency of any State.

Answer to

Question 1<sup>st</sup> I was born in Buckingham County Virginia in the year 1763.

2<sup>nd</sup> I have no record of my age in my father has often told me I was just turned of 16 when I was first drafted.

3<sup>rd</sup> I was living in Burke County North Carolina when I was called into the service – thence I moved after the revolution to Greenville County – thence to Knox County where I live for 30 years.

4<sup>th</sup> I was twice drafted for three months – my other services was as a volunteer and all as a private.

5<sup>th</sup> I never served with any Continental officers or Regiments.

6<sup>th</sup> I am not certain that I ever received a written discharge. If I ever did they have long since been lost and I do not know who signed them.

7<sup>th</sup> Pierce Dant Hamblin, Joshua Lye, Benjamin Harp, James Lee & Joseph Peace I doubt not if present would testify to my character for veracity and their belief of my services as a soldier of the revolution.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year above written.

S/ Richard Ballew

X

I Peter Ballew of the County of Whitley and State of Kentucky resident on Poplar Creek about 1 mile from my brother Richard Ballew – Poplar Creek being the dividing line between Knox and Whitley Counties – state upon my oath that I lived in my father's house with Richard Ballew the above applicant in the County of Burke and State of North Carolina and lived close neighbors to him ever since. I am some years younger (6) then my brother Richard and was never called into Service, but have heard the statement of Richard read. I had heard him tell the same story so often from the time of the performance of the several Tours, down to the present day – that I knew it almost as well as himself. I know of my own Knowledge, that he served the several Tours stated by him, or at least left home with the Troops – and returned with them. I cannot say, like him, the length of some of the Tours – but I had supposed and now believe that in the whole war he served longer than the time stated by him. I state that I have always understood from my Brother that he got his ankle put out a place in making a charge upon the enemy at the battle of the Cowetowns as he has related it – and I have heard in substance the same from the troops that were in that Battle with him. I know he was a good while confined with it after his return and that he has been a cripple ever since at the least he is not able to get about without difficulty by himself, and as I understand from him, it grows worse as he grows older. I knew Colonel J. McDowell – General Charles McDowell, Colonel Cleveland, Captain Fears, Captain Walker, Peter Russ, Harry Highland. I knew the Tory Captain John Murray and as to what happened at my Father's, I know it to be as stated by my Brother, I believe my Brother is 70 years of age.

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ Peter Ballew