

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Garrison (Garrison) S3384

f16SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

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[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 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Tennessee, Wilson County: September Term County Court 1832

On this day, viz., 27th September 1832 personally appeared before James M. Martin, David C. Hibbits & Benjamin H. Billings Esquire Quorum Justices of the County Court of said County, now sitting, John Garrison, a resident of said County & state, aged about 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 provisions made by the act of Congress passed June 7th, 1832.

He was born in Mclenburg [sic, Mecklenburg], State of North Carolina while he was [young?] his father moved to York County in the State of South Carolina.

He was born about the year 1758 as well as he can now remember & compute, having no record of his age.

When he entered into the service of his country, he was a citizen of the said County of York, soon after he married & moved to Mecklenburg County State of North Carolina where he was born about 3 years ago he moved to Rutherford County Tennessee, from which he moved to Wilson in August last where he now resides.

His first service in the revolutionary war was under a draft for one month; the time not recollected but it was in the year the British took Charleston [The British took possession of Charleston South Carolina on May 12, 1780]. He was commanded by Captain Benjamin Garrison (his brother) & Colonel Niel [Andrew Neel]. They marched through Georgia to guard the frontiers & at the expiration of the time was discharge on the ground verbally.

The same year he volunteered for an indefinite time. His Lieutenant was named Berry [William Barrey], his Captain Garrison – his older brother. We marched to a Fort on Congaree River where the British & Tories were stationed. We surrounded the Fort for about one week, when our officers sent for a company of regulars, who brought some pieces of cannon with them, & opened upon the enemy with them, which caused them very soon to surrender. The regulars engrossed all the spoils & retained the prisoners, which gave great offense to the militia & volunteers & caused much dissatisfaction & complaint among us. We were then discharged & every man did the best he could for himself. We were on that occasion out something more than one month.¹

In the fall of the same year he again volunteered, & went into service under the same Captain but the Regiment was commanded by Colonel Hill. We marched to Tyger River & joined General Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter]. We were induced by the near approach of the enemy with superior forces to retreat one day & night & the next day till sunset or near that time, during all which time we were closely pressed by Tarleton [Banastre Tarleton] the British Cavalry commander. He remembers very distinctly a remark of Colonel Hill [William Hill] that they "pressed like bloodhounds." We were then near the head of the Tyger, where we were joined by Georgia Militia. Our General Sumter then

1 The veteran MAY be describing the taking of Fort Motte. If so, that action occurred on May 8-12, 1781. The sequence of events described by the veteran is very scrambled.

determined to give the enemy battle. Tarleton came up immediately & at action brisk & hot commenced perhaps about an hour by Sun & continued till sometime in the night, when they retreated & camped some short distance from us. Sumter was wounded in the engagement. We then marched all night & next day towards King's Mountain. We were there discharged. We were out 2 or 3 months.²

He soon after volunteered again & was commanded by Captain Berry & Colonel Niel [Thomas Neel] & marched to Ramsour's³ under Davidson [William Lee Davidson]. We got there the evening after the battle. The Americans had a number of prisoners. We were detained there some time & were there or near there when the Battle of King's mountain was fought [October 7, 1780]. Where we heard that Lord Cornwallis was to pass through that country we were ordered to destroy all the boats on the Catawby [sic, Catawba River], which we did to a great extent, but he got across at Beatties Ford,⁴ where there was some little firing. We were then disbanded having served 3 or 4 months.

Soon after his return there being a call for men he again volunteered. Garrison was his Captain Bratton [William Bratton] was his Colonel & Sumter his General. We marched down near Camden where we were ordered by General Gates [Horatio Gates] to keep the enemy from passing, but we met some of Gates Army who informed us of his defeat [Battle of Camden, August 15-16, 1780] & told us to take care of ourselves, on which we commenced a forced march or retreat to Lan's [sic, Land's] Ford on Catawba River where Tarleton came on us & after a short fight we retreated without order or regularity, & never got together again.⁵ We were out about 2 months on this occasion.

So he served in the different companies 9 months and all.

He has no documentary evidence of his Services, nor does he know of any person by whom he can prove them.

The following all the names of some of the persons to whom he is known in his present neighborhood, who will, he thinks testify to his character for veracity & that in their opinion he was a soldier of the revolutionary war John C. Smith, Thomas Smith, Captain William Donnell, James Carruth, Walter Carruth, Esquire, William P. Donnell & others.

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

In consideration of the foregoing services he prays that he may have the benefit of said pension act.

Sworn to & subscribed in open court the day & date above stated.

S/ John Garrison

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John Garrison". The ink is dark and the handwriting is somewhat stylized and slanted.

[Levi R. Morrison, a clergyman, and Samuel Cannon gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$30 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 9 months in the South Carolina militia.]

2 The veteran appears to be describing the battle of Blackstocks which took place on November 20, 1780.

3 The Battle of Ramsour's Mill was fought on June 20, 1780.

4 Cornwallis passed into North Carolina via Cowan's and Beatties Fords on February 1, 1781.

5 Veteran appears to be describing the defeat of Sumter's forces at Fishing Creek on August 18, 1780.