

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of John L. Ward: S7804

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

[There are two similar depositions, the first probably having been returned because it was so poorly written.]

State of North Carolina}

Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions

Warren County}

August Term 1833

On this [blank] of August 1833 personally appeared in open court before the Justices of said court now sitting which is a court of record John L Ward a resident of Warren County North Carolina seventy years of age who being duly sworn according to Law doth on his oath make the following declaration That he was born in Bute County N Caronina [sic] now Warren on the 12th of July AD 1763 that he was drafted March 8th 1780 at Thomas Christmas's in Warren County where Warrenton is now situated whence he went to Kinsgton [sic: probably Kinston in Lenoir County] with Thomas Thomas who was drafted at the same time there he joined Gen William Casswells [Richard Caswell's?] Regiment He was at different times under the command of Cols James Allen and Isaack Sessens and major Bornier He also served under Captain Christmass [illegible] Perkins and Ensign Meritt and followed them to West Point now Waynesborough[?] thence to Cross Creek now Fayetteville thence Sheraw Hills and Pedee [sic: Cheraw Hills and Pee Dee River in South Carolina] thence to Pine Tree now Camden thence to Mccords Ferry on Congaree [sic: McCord's Ferry near Gadsden SC] on our way to Charston [sic: Charleston]. At Monks [sic: Monck's] Corner we heard of [Gen. Benjamin] Lincolns Surrendering that town of Charston and retreated towards the Santee crossing that river near where Tarleton defeated Cols Washington and White [Lenud's or Leneud's Ferry near Jamestown, where Banastre Tarleton defeated Colonels William Washington and Anthony Walton White on 6 May 1780] thence up said river to Wrights bluff [near St. Paul] joining in the with Col. Beauforts [sic: Abraham Buford's] Regulars We remained at Wrights Bluff several days thence started to Georgetown and at Cedar Creek met General Davidson badly wounded [see note below] General Davidson immediately directed a retreat We retreated to the high hills of Santee thence to Camden where a dispute occured between Gen Casswell or Col Bufort which occassioned a seperation Cass[well] taking the right and Bufort the left hand road Tarlton soon came up with Buford and cut his men to pieces [at Waxhaws SC, 29 May 1780] he then pursued Casswells Regim[ent] to which the declarant belonged General Casw[ell] and his men proceeded to Lenues ferry on Pedee Gen [Griffith] Rutherford who had previously joined Casswells Regiment to which the declarant belonged ha[d] a fine Stallion and fearing that Tarleton wo[uld] get him delivered the horse to the declarant considered to be a first rate rider and told him to lose his life sooner than the horse but to keep in the view of the army and note the movements of the enemy and to let our army when they come in sight. Some two or three miles before reaching the said Ferry being all most exhausted with fatigue hunger and thirst seeing a little cabbin on the road si[de] I called and received from the hands of and old lady a gl[ass] of milk while drinking the same the horse began prounce I looked behind saw a cloud of dust a rising I then move[d] with all speed and gave Information to the rear gard tha[t] the enemy was at hand I then pushed for the River where I found the army nearly all crossed over then I forced the [illegible] in to the River had got little advanced in the River when t[he] enemy arrived at the bank and ordered me to stop or I wood b[e] a dead man, but I forcing the horse in a still more [illegible] manner they fired a volley of balls at me which so much alarmed the horse and my self to but I lost my hold on my horse but both arrived safe on the opposite banks safe and joined the army there we marched to Coles Bridge on drowning creek thence to cross creek again crossed cape fear River then Encam[ped] waiting for reenforcements at which place Colo. Ben. Seawell Joined us with his troops about the last of June but my term of service being expired which was for three months Colo Ja[m]es Allen called on the captains to deliver up all whose terms of services was out, at which time my self, Thomas Thorne Na[?] Verser and William Medley all of the same nabourhood was discharged. Some time in the same year about the first of October I vollenteared my services in a company of light horse under the command of Captin William

Christmass and was excepted and was frequently in service after Tories and deserters until 1781. about the 10 of February at the Waxhaws [Lancaster County SC] we fell under care of Colo Marlberry [sic: possibly Marquis Francis de Malmedy] commander of the horse and continued with him untill the battle of Guilford [sic: Battle of Guilford Courthouse, 15 March 1781] and continued with the army to Ramseys mill on deep River [Chatham County NC] then I Received my discharge the 5 of Aprile which I have misplaced or lost. I then returnd home in a declining state of health which continuing untill the spring of 1782 when captin Thomas Brittle Hartford Coty [sic: of Hertford County NC] came up in Warren County to enlist Marines to man a schooner cald Hazard fitted out as a privateer by Colo George Win [Wynn?] and others under the command of Capt. Sonnett[?]. Charles Whitehead James Random Sugar Jones and my self enlisted my friends and Capt Brittle persuading me that a sea voige wood restore to me my health we arived at Winton [on Chowan River] the 18 aprl 1782 where we were received by Capt Brittle and the crew as soon as the schooner was ready for a crews we set sail I was appointed clerk and confined mostly below deck and having no knowledge of navigation knows very little about the crews on water his health recovered and severrial prizes taken we lanted at Eadenton [sic: Edenton in Chowan County] the last of June from whence I came home the date I do not remember but my fathers negroes was cutting wheat whilest I was at sea the Tories and robbers had become so Troublesome that there were to be raised a certain number of men to be Enlisted for during the war and Aron Fuzzles a near nabor of my Fathers appointed captain under whoome I Enlisted the first of July where I continued till peace was concluded Feby 1783 I served as a private while on land and as a clerk and steward while on the Schooner. he heare by relinquishes every claim whatever to a pention or anuity except the present declares that his name is not on the pention role of the agency of any state what ever [signed] Jno L Ward Sworn to in Open Court [signed] E. D. Drake C.W.C.C.

The declarant John L. Ward maketh oath that the above is true and that he knows of no person now living by whom he could prove the truth of the foregoing declaration
[signed] Jno L Ward

State of North Carolina} Court of pleas & quarter sessions Feby Term
Warren County} 1834. on this day 24th Feby 1834. Personally appeared in open Court before the justices of said Court, now sitting it being a Court of Record, John L. Ward of the County and State aforesaid, who was born July 12th 1763, who being 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 7th June 1832. To Wit. That he was drafted March 8th 1780. at the House of Thomas Christmas in said County and from thence marched to Kingston, and joined Gen'l. William Caswell's Regiment, Col James Allen, Isaac Lessams[?], and Major Bonner[?] where he was put under the Command of Capt Thos. Christmas, Lietenant Perkins, and Ensign Merritt, from thence we marched to West Point, from thence to Cross Creek, from thence to Cheraw Hill & Peedee River, from thence to Camden thence to McCords ferry on the Congaree, on our way to Charleston, and just before we reached Monks Corner, hearing that Charleston had surrendered, we retreated towards the Santee River, crossing the said River near where Tarleton surprised Col Washington & White, then up the said River to Wrights bluff, joining on our march Col Buford with his Regulars, at which place we staid several days, from thence we marched for George Town, and on our arriving at Cedar Creek below Nelson Ferry on the Santee River we were met by Gen'l. Davidson badly wounded, and persuaded an immediate Retreat, which was done, to the high hills of Santee, and from thence to Camden, near which place, a dispute between Gen'l. Caswell & Col. Buford (as understood) and they seperated, Caswell taking the Right and Buford the left hand fork of the roads. soon after that took place, Tarleton came up with Buford, and cut his troops in a shocking manner, and then pursued Caswells Regiment to which I belonged, which was making its way to Lenoirs Ferry on the Peedee River, Gen'l. Rutherford, who had previously joined Caswells Regiment and having a fine Stud horse, and fearing that Tarleton would get him, and understanding that I was a first rate Rider called for me & delivered the Horse to me and said never let him be taken from me while life lasts but keep in the rear of the Army, and watch if the

Enemy come in view and immediately give information. Some two or three miles before reaching the said River being about exhausted with fatigue, hunger & thirst, and seeing a little log Cabin on the road side, I call'd for something to eat or drink. an old Woman gave me a tumbler of milk While I was drinking the milk the Horse began to prance. I looked Back and saw a cloud of dust arise. I then moved with all speed, and gave information to the rear guard, that the Enemy was at hand, and pushed for the river, where I found the army had nearly all crossed; I there forced the Horse in the River, but had got very little distanced from the land, when the Enemy came to the Bank and ordered me to come back, or I was a dead man. at the same time they fired so rapidly, that the alarm caused me and the Horse to get seperated, but both landed safe and joined the retreating army on their way to Coles bridge on Drowning Creek, from thence to Cross Creek, and crossing over Cape fear river, we there Encamped, waiting for reinforcements, at which place Col Seawell joined us with his troops towards the last of June, and our time of service having expired, which was for three months, Col James Allen called on the Captains to deliver up those whose time of service was out, at which time myself, Thos. Thorne, Nathan Vasser, and Wm. Medley, all in the same neighbourhood were discharged, and came home. but I was soon after getting home taken with the ague and fever, but when ever I found myself able went with others in pursuit of Tories & deserters and carrying expresses from and to Gen'l. [Jethro] Sumner (who lived within two miles of my Father) to other officers until it was officially presented that Gen'l. [Nathanael] Greene had come in place of Gen'l. [Horatio] Gates and took the Command of the Southern Army [at Charlotte NC on 2 Dec 1780], and the greatest exertions were made to raise men. there was a call for a draft, Volunteers and during the Year men, among the number Capt William Christmas turn out as Volunteer Captain, a Nichols lieutenant, & — Fulker Ensign, officers for five months from the 10th October 1780 and Completed his company, of whom I was one & with him or his officers was frequently in service of dangerous and fatiguing enterprises, until called into actual service by Col [Thomas] Eaton, who ordered Capt. Christmas to repair with his men to the south to recruit and strenghten the few remaining whigs, and cooperate with [Col. Francis] Marion, [Col. William] Washington, Leigh [sic: probably Col. Henry Lee] & others, and being ready to join Gen'l. Green in this service was experienced great hardship from almost continual marching today with one party, tomorrow with another, from deep river North Carolina to Santee in South Carolina. scarcely two days in any one section, until we were called (I believe to the Waxhaws) in order to cooperate with Gen'l. Greene, to prevent Corn Wallace [sic: Cornwallis] from intercepting and rescuing the prisoners that Gen'l. [Daniel] Morgan had taken at the Cowpens [on 17 Jan 1781]. at this place Christmas and his men fell under the Command of Col. Marbody, who continued to Command until the Battle of Guilford Court House on the fifteenth of March. Shortly after the Battle commenced Col Marbody with a party of his Horse was dispatched in order to stop the retreat of the Malitia, I being well acquainted with Col Washington joined his troops, and continued with him until we ran Wallace [sic: Corwallis] and his adherents to Ramsays Mills on Deep River, where I was taken very sick, and as I could have no tidings of my Col, Captain, or any officer of the Company, and continuing sick and as opportunity offering of my putting my horse in a Waggon, I might be conveyed within two or three hundred yards of Gen'l. Sumners house, and within two miles of my Fathers, Col McDowell who I was well acquainted with gave me a furlough to Gen'l. Sumner, where I arrived about the middle of april 1781. & heard of the safe arrival of my Captain, lieutenant, and most of the men. about the first of May I went to the Shrees [or Shores?] Mineral Spring and drank fully of the Water, which enabled me to accompany Gen. Sumner under Capt William Farrow, Lieut. Yarborough, and Ensign Tilley to join his regiment that had previously marched to North Carolina under (I believe Col [Otho Holland] Williams) we left home about the 1st August & marched for Camden, but before we got there Gen'l. Greene had got the British and tories on the retreat & we following on in order to overtake Gen'l. Greene or some other officers, which we did somewhere on the Santee River, we found Col William Henderson, who immediately took command of Capt Farrow's men, who were enlisted for six months, and were put in pursuit of the enemy and had frequent skirmishes with them, until the 8th September at the Eautau [sic: Eutaw] Springs, where in early part of the Battle I rec'd a ball in my left thigh, a Buck shot in my left ancle, and another in my right leg, which bled so profusely that I was soon carried off the field and many days intervned before I knew anything of the Battle, owing to the heat and loss

of Blood, but being placed in kind and attentive hands I was enabled to get home a few days before Christmas, so much exhausted that it was generally believed I never should recover. I continued to breathe however until April 1782, when a Company of my intimates and school fellows engaged in a privateer and persuaded me to accompany them as a means of restoring me to my health, which I did, on the 9th April & returned the last of June or first of July in fine health. Whilst I was at sea this state was laid off in sections, and each section was to have a Capt, Lieut. & Ensign, and were empowered to Enlist men for and during the War. Aaron Fussil, a near neighbour of mine was Captain and William Fussill Lieut. and myself Ensign. Our section was from the Virginia line North about about Twenty five for thirty miles to where we lived, Halifax east forty five or fifty miles, Wake Court House South forty five or fifty miles, Hillsborough West sixty or sixty five miles. This service commenced the 1st July 1782 in which service I suffered more fatigue and cold than I ever experienced before or since. - some time in February 1783 we were all dismissed as peace was concluded &c. - This appliant hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a Pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the Pension roll of the agency of any state.
Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid. [signed] Jno. L. Ward
in open court. E. D. Drake C.W.C.C.

NOTE: "General Davidson" may refer to then-colonel William Lee Davidson, but he is not known to have been seriously wounded until 21 July 1780 in a skirmish at Colson's Mill in Anson County NC.