

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of Samuel Hancock: X916

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia, Bedford County Sct.

On this 24th day of December 1832 personally appeared in open Court, before the County Court of Bedford, now sitting, the same being a Court of record, Samuel Hancock a resident of the said County of Bedford and State of Virginia, aged seventy two 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 7th 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. That about the middle of November in the year 1776 being then a resident of the County of Bedford and State of Virginia, he volunteered to take the place of his brother Edward Hancock [pension application W7648] who had enlisted for the term of two years under Captain Gross Scruggs, he thinks in the Continental Army. at the time he entered the service his brother was at home sick, and about nine and a half months of his term of service had expired. He with about twelve others who belonged to Capt. Scruggs company and who were then at home were ordered to join Captain Lambert who had enlisted a Company in Bedford County and was then about to march to join the Northern Army; they met at New London, then the seat of Justice for Bedford County [now in Campbell County VA] and were marched from thence under the command of Capt George Saunders and Lieutenant Archelaus Moon. they crossed James River at Lynchess Ferry (now Lynchburg) from thence he was marched through Charlottesville to Fredericksburg at which latter place the company remained until other companies which were to form a regiment should arrive. When the regiment was formed it was marched under the command of Colo Abraham Buford to Dumfrees [sic: Dumfries in Prince William County VA] where he and the regiment were inoculated with the small pox. from Dumfries they were marched to Alexandria where they remained until their recovery from the small pox. before the army was ready to march he the said Samuel Hancock was seized with the pleurisy and before he had recovered from that attack he was taken with the bloody flux and a dysentary. so violent was his attack that his comrades lost all hope of his recovery, they marched to the north under the impression that he would die, and the report that he was actually dead reached his father in the County of Bedford. After his company marched to the north he was taken to the hospital where there were about fifty others sick, almost all of whom died. He remained in the hospital for several months unable to rise from his bed. He was finally through the agency of Doctor Tilton his attending physician carried in a blanket to the house of a widow who lived in Alexandria at whose home he remained, still unable to walk, until the time for which his brother Edward Hancock enlisted had expired. Some time after Major Allison who commanded a regiment from North Carolina discovered his situation and at his solicitation procured a waggon and he was taken to the house of an Uncle who resided in the County of Loudon [sic: Loudoun] and State of Virginia, at whose house he remained for about three months, by which time he had so far recovered as to be enabled to ride and he was taken by his father to his house in the County of Bedford. When he arrived at home, he found that the company enlisted by Capt. Scruggs were at home, their term of service having expired some time before; In this tour he claims to have served fourteen and a half months, his brother having enlisted as before stated for two years and having served at the time he volunteered in his stead not more than nine and a half months. For proof of his service he refers to the affidavits of Edward Hancock and Elijah Cundiff hereto annexed. In the fall of the year 1779 being still a resident of Bedford County he was drafted and served a tour of three months in the Militia of the State of Virginia. he was marched from the County of Bedford under the command of Capt. Jacob Early through the Countys of Buckingham, Prince Edward, Cumberland, Powhatan and Chesterfield to Petersburg in the State of Virginia where they joined the Army under the command of Gen'l. [Robert] Lawson. The Colonels were William Leftwich and Charles Lynch - The Baron Steuben visited the army frequently when on parade. He remained in Petersburg as the officers said, waiting for movements of the British vessels then lying in the mouth of James River. He

remained at Petersburg until the time of service expired and was honourably discharged. but his discharge has been lost. He can prove this tour by Major Samuel Mitchell whose affidavit is hereto annexed. In the month of December in the year 1780 being still a resident of Bedford County, He the said Samuel Hancock again entered the service in the Militia of the State of Virginia as a substitute for Uriah Squires and served as an orderly sergeant for the term of three months. He was marched from the County of Bedford under the command of Capt. John Trigg, his Lieutenant he believes was Simon Miller. he was marched through several Counties in Virginia to Petersburg. from thence to a place called Cabin Point, he thinks in the County of Surry where they remained some time, from thence they were marched to Mackeys mills he thinks in the County of Southampton Virginia, at which place as well as he recollects he joined the army under the command of General Muhlenburg [sic: Peter Muhlenberg]. The officers who commanded the regiment to which he was attached were Colonel Merewether [sic: Meriwether] & Maj'r Declamon. from Mackeys Mills he was marched to a place called the tanyard near Portsmouth, from thence he was marched to near a British fort on Nansemond River in Norfolk County. whilst there the army had several skirmishes with the British, from thence he was marched across the Dismal Swamp to a place called Williamsons mills where his tour having expired, he was discharged. His discharge has been lost he can prove this term of service by Isaac Cundiff whose affidavit is annexed hereto. he thinks his term of service expired about the first of March 1781. He remained at home in the County of Bedford aforesaid not more than two or three weeks when he was again drafted into service in the Militia of the State of Virginia, and was marched from Bedford County under the Command of Capt. Adam Clemant, Lieut. Cobb & Ensign Tate. He was marched to Salisbury in North Carolina at which place they arrived in about ten days after being drafted. as soon as he arrived at Salisbury he was appointed Sergeant Major to the Regiment. The Regiment was commanded by Alexander Rose a Major. From Salisbury he was marched to Ninety six [in South Carolina] where they had joined General Green [sic: Nathanael Greene], who had laid Seige to the town and fort [starting on 22 May 1781]. They were engaged here nineteen days when Lord Rodney [sic: Francis Rawdon] came up from Charleston to the relief of the fort, when Gen'l. Green retreated [on 19 June] and was pursued by the British to near Broad River, a distance of about 120 miles. the Army after crossing the river rested two or three days. When the army left Broad river, he was left to give information to some of Lees [Lt. Col. Henry Lee's] troops who were out on a foraging party of the rout which the troops had taken. The British at broad river having retreated back towards ninety six; Lees troop was sent in pursuit when the foraging party returned he joined them and he with Lees troop pursued the British until within about seven miles of ninety six. They then turned down the river Saluda about twenty five miles where they fell in with a foraging party of the British and took forty five prisoners [probably at Friday's Ferry on Congaree River near Columbia, 3 July 1781] They then marched to the high hills of Santee where they again joined General Green. here he, with a number of Militia were left to guard the baggage waggons belonging to the army and about 150 prisoners. Green with the rest of the Army marched to Eutaw Springs where he had an engagement [8 Sep 1781]. The Virginia Militia were shortly afterwards marched to guard the prisoners who were sent to Virginia and he was one of those. He was marched to near Guilford Courthouse in North Carolina where his term of service having expired he was honourably discharged.

His discharge signed by Alexander Rose and dated July 31st 1781 is herewith exhibited. As will be seen by his discharge he served four months during this tour and acted as a Sergeant Major. In the month of February 1782 he took a deserter from the Army named George Baney he was at considerable trouble and expense with him. On the 26th day of February 1782 he delivered him to Capt. A Kirkpatrick, whose receipt he has, and is herewith exhibited He can procure no other proof of his services except such as is herein before refered to. In answer to interrogatories propounded by the Court, the said Samuel Hancock states first that he was born in the County of Chesterfield in the State of Virginia on the 28th day of February in the year 1760
2nd. That he has a record of his age taken from his fathers register by himself. The original is in the possession of his brother in the state of Kentucky
3rd. When called into service he was living in the County of Bedford in the State of Virginia

where he has resided ever since.

4th. That as stated in the body of his declaration he volunteered the first tour. his second tour he was drafted. His third he was a substitute for Uriah Squires and his fourth tour he was drafted.

5th. He has in the body of his declaration stated the names of his officers and Continental & Militia regiments with whom he served and the general circumstances of his service as far as he can recollect.

6th. He received discharges for all the tours except the first. They have been lost, except his last discharge which is now shown to the Court.

7th. He is extensively known in his neighbourhood. he is known to every member of the Court of which he is now the presiding member.

He hereby relinquishes 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.

Samuel Hancock

NOTE: On 18 July 1839 Ann Hancock, 79, applied for a pension stating that she married Samuel Hancock 11 Feb 1784, and he died 14 April 1837. With her application is a copy of a bond signed by Samuel Hancock and Archibald Moon in Bedford County on 9 Feb 1784 for the marriage of Hancock to Nancy Moon. This Nancy Moon, AKA Ann Moon, was the widow of Jacob Moon, killed at the Battle of Guilford Courthouse on 15 March 1781, according to pension application W4691.