

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Samuel Van Eaton (Van Etten) R10861

f10NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 2/16/17

[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 North Carolina, County of Davie: SS

On this 2nd day of December 1844 personally appeared before me Richmond M. Pearson one of the Judges of the Superior Court of Law and Equity in and for the State of North Carolina which Court is a Court of Record, Samuel Van Eaton aged Eighty three 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 stated: That he volunteered under Captain David Caldwell in Rowan County and went to the mouth of Rocky River and attacked a parcel of Tories and defeated them and made them run, at which time and place Colonel William Davidson [William Lee Davidson] received a wound¹ in his side which made him very sick, but did not prove fatal. I was out this time three weeks. At another time Captain David Caldwell collected a Company of men at a place called Liberty Hill in Rowan County, now Davie County, expecting to be attacked by the Tories. I was one of the number. We pitched our Camp waiting the attack, but Contrary to our expectations they took the other end of the road and crossed the Yadkin River at Boone's Ford, and Colonel Cleveland [Benjamin Cleveland] of Wilkes County came up with his men and joined us and we pursued them for some distance and had the fun of imprisoning Elias Lovelace, a Tory in a hollow chestnut tree. At this time we were out four weeks. I volunteered at New Province below Charlotte to go to surprise a party of Tories who had collected near Lord Cornwallis' camp we marched under Captain David Ramsey the whole night, came upon the Tories next morning about sunrise, fired upon them – killed some and made the rest run [Wahab's Plantation, September 21, 1780].² On this occasion several balls passed through the clothes of Colonel William R. Davie [William Richardson Davie], but none of them struck the skin. I was on my way to Cowan's Ford on the Catawba River when the British crossed at that place, but did not reach there in time for the engagement. At this place Colonel Davidson was killed [February 1, 1781].³ I volunteered and served a tour of three months under Captain James Byers from whom I received a Certificate of discharge the only one I ever did receive which I suppose was burnt through mistake when I burned many other papers which I deemed useless. I also served a campaign of five months under Captain Abel Armstrong in the upper part of North and South Carolina. My services were as a volunteer. I served under Captain Byers [James Byers] the three months Campaign above spoken of principally in the Waxhaws settlement in South

¹ William Lee Davidson was wounded at the engagement at Colson's Mill on July 21, 1780.

² http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_colsons_mill.html

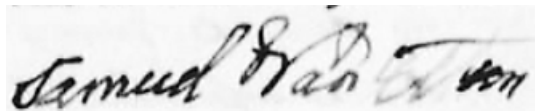
³ http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_wahabs_plantation.html

³ http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_cowans_ford.html

Carolina. I entered the service of my Country in the year 1778 and left it on the 7 day of February 1781 during which time I was out much the greater portion of my time on short terms of service occasionally coming home to see my family and to get fresh supplies of clothing &c. I served under the following officers: Captain Thomas Cowan, Captain Richard Graham, Captain David Ramsay, Captain William Wilson, Captain Abel Armstrong, Captain James Byers, Captain David Caldwell while he was Captain and after he became Colonel, Colonel Caleb Phifer and Colonel William R. Davie afterwards General Davie. But the precise length of time I served under each officer, the dates of each term of service and the different skirmishes I was in I am unable to state owing to the frailty of my memory. When I served my Country it was not for the pay I expected to receive, but for the good [of] the cause, and consequently I kept no regular account of my services and neglected in most instances to take proper discharges. I further state I have no Documentary evidence of my services and I know of no person whose testimony I can procure except that of David Hare⁴ whose affidavit is hereunto attached. I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and I declare that my name is not on the Pension Roll of the Agency of any State. I further state that I held no Commission during my service in the Army. I have a record of my age, was born on the 19 November 1761 in North Hampton [sic, Northampton] County Penn. He came to North Carolina Rowan County now Davie County with my father in 1775 and have resided in the same neighborhood ever since.

Sworn to and subscribed the date above written.

S/ Samuel Van Etton

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Samuel Van Etton". The ink is dark and the handwriting is somewhat slanted to the right.

[standard certificate of reputation for veracity, age and belief in service as a revolutionary soldier given by William H. Hall, a clergyman, and David Dwiggin, a neighbor.]

State of North Carolina, Iredell County: November 21st A.D. 1844

This day personally appeared David Haire before me William R. Everett one of the acting Justices of the peace in and for said County, and made oath in Due form of Law And that he the said David Haire together with Samuel Vaneaton [sic] served a tour of five months in the Revolutionary War under Captain Armstrong And that he frequently saw Samuel Vaneaton out at other times But is not able to testify how long owing to failure of memory.

S/ Wm R. Everett, JP

S/ David Haire, O his mark

⁴ [David Hair S6978](#)