

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Jeremiah Wescoat R11330

fn23NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

6/27/10

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. Folks are free to make non-commercial use this transcript in any manner they may see fit, but please extend the courtesy of acknowledging the transcriber—besides, if it turns out the transcript contains mistakes, the resulting embarrassment will fall on the transcriber. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading fails to catch all misinterpretations. I welcome and encourage folks to call those and any other errors to my attention.]

State of North Carolina County of Brunswick

On this 4th day of September A.D. 1832, personally appeared in open Court, before the Justices of the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions, now sitting, for the County of Brunswick, Jeremiah Wescoat a resident of Brunswick County and State of North Carolina aged sixty-seven 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.

He entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, Colonel Edward Wingate, Lieutenant Colonel Jacob Leonard, Major John Cain, Captain Charles Gause, Lieutenant Thomas Russ that he entered the service two years before the close of the revolutionary war and left the service at the close of the war, that he resided in the County of Brunswick in the State of North Carolina when he entered the service, that he was drafted, that he was engaged in the battle of Hoods Creek¹ in Brunswick County; that he marched through the Counties of Brunswick and Bladen in North Carolina, and his services were confined to those counties, that he knew the officers above named, that he has no documentary evidence of his service, that Edward Clemmons can testify to his service. 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. That he was born in the State of Virginia in the year 1765. That he has no record of his age. That he was living in the County of Brunswick, State of North Carolina when called into service, that he has lived in the same County and State since the Revolutionary War, where he still lives. The names of the officers who were with the troops where he served, are Edward Wingate, Jacob Leonard, John Cain, Charles Gause, Thomas Russ all militia officers. That he never received a written discharge from the service, that he is known to Richard Langdon and Daniel B. Baker in his neighborhood who can testify as to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution. That he was first stationed at Lockwood's folly Bridge in Brunswick under Colonel Wingate. That he was generally kept marching until after the battle of Guilford -- that about that time he was stationed at Hoods Creek under Colonel Wingate. That there a battle was fought with the British when Captain James Simmons and Thomas Smith of our company were killed -- That under Major Leonard in Bladen County at night the company was surprised by the Tories at night -- when five

¹ Hood's Creek Bridge, September 1781. <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/hoodscreek.htm>.

of our men were wounded & two killed --

Sworn to and subscribed, the day and year aforesaid

S/ Jeremiah Wescoat

[Richard Langdon and Daniel B. Baker gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[William Hankins, a clergyman, likewise gave a standard supporting affidavit.]

State of North Carolina County of Brunswick

On this 4th day of June A.D. 1833, personally appeared before [sic] in open Court, before the Justices of the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions now sitting for the County of Brunswick, Jeremiah Wescoat a resident of Brunswick County and State of North Carolina aged sixty-seven years and nine months who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration amendatory of the declaration already made by him on the 4th day of September A.D. 1832, in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7th, 1832.

That he first entered the service of the United States as a private in the under Captain Charles Gause in the year of our Lord A.D. 1780. That he cannot distinctly recollect day of the month or the month of that year, but to the best of his recollection, it was in the spring and he believes in the month of May of that year. That he was first drafted under Captain Charles Gause as a private in the militia service of the United States for the period of six months -- That he served himself but three months of that time and hired a substitute for the remainder of the time. That Thomas Russ was Lieutenant of the company of which Charles Gause was Captain under whom this Declarant served. That he was drafted at Lockwood's folly Bridge in Brunswick County in State of North Carolina. That during the three months above mentioned for which he served -- he was kept marching about in different directions -- through the County aforesaid in search of the Tories of whom there was a large number in this section of the Country. That one evening just after dark -- The Company in which this Declarant served & the Tories had a small skirmish at Piryway [sic?] on the Waccamaw River in Brunswick County aforesaid. That there were no lives lost on either side -- that the Tories very soon fled. Hearing that armed vessels were lying within the Cape Fear Bar, the Company then marched down to the mouth of Cape Fear River where they found two armed Brigs lying at anchor. That no men were landed from the vessels and in a day or two days weighed [sic] anchor and went out to sea. The company was soon after marched into the edge of South Carolina and at Bear bluff on the Waccamaw River we had another skirmish with the Tories when their Captain James Thompson was taken and the men made their escape. Captain Thompson in attempting to make his escape got in between our company and a fence where he was taken before he could escape -- about this time my first three months service ended. Being very desirous to go home I hired a substitute for the remainder of the six months for which I was drafted. After being at home about three months the Declarant finding the times quite troublesome, he and his neighbors being much annoyed by the British and Tories -- he volunteered -- and again entered the service as a volunteer private in the militia as well as he can recollect in the winter of the year 1780 -- he thinks in the month of November or December of that year, under Colonel Jacob Leonard and Captain Thomas Russ -- That when he entered the service under Captain Charles Gause he resided in Brunswick County State of North Carolina. That when he volunteered under Colonel Jacob Leonard -- he also resided in the County of Brunswick and State of North Carolina. That he became a volunteer private soldier under Colonel Jacob Leonard at Lockwood's folly Bridge in Brunswick County. That he was immediately marched into Waccamaw Neck in South Carolina. The British had possession of

Georgetown at that time -- Colonel Leonard finding that the Tories were marching down from Drowning Creek, marched his men in that direction but we did not fall in with them. We marched on in the neighborhood of Drowning Creek -- and then back into Brunswick County North Carolina where we were kept marching about in different directions in said County. The Declarant says he had forgotten to state that while in South Carolina Colonel Leonard joined Colonel Horry a Continental officer with whom he remained a short time before he commenced a retrograde march. That John Cain a native of the Brunswick County North Carolina was Major under Colonel Jacob Leonard, but this Affiant was not under the immediate command of Major Cain. Colonel Leonard was Lieutenant Colonel at the time this Declarant was in service, and Colonel Edward Wingate lead Colonel. That while the Declarant entered the service first as a drafted soldier under Captain Charles Gause -- Edward Wingate was at that time lead Colonel -- which will explain the apparent discrepancy between this Declaration and the first. This Declarant did not know it was necessary to be this particular in his first Declaration. That about the close or near the close of this term of service this Declarant being under the immediate command of Lieutenant Colonel Jacob Leonard -- (Edward Wingate being lead Colonel) was stationed on the West side of Hoods Creek Bridge with the whole company. This was done because the British at that time had possession of Wilmington under Major Craig -- and the Company was stationed at Hoods Creek Bridge to attack them, if they should leave Wilmington and come in that direction. That while there Major Craig with one hundred twenty men (as was then said) came to the Bridge one morning just at the dawn the day, that Captain James Simmons and Thomas Smith a private of our company who went over the bridge among others, as an advanced guard were killed. The rest of the guard retreated to the Company. The whole of our company then immediately fled. That the Colonel collected ten of his men among whom was this Declarant, who on horses followed the enemy and annoyed them by firing on them and then retreating into the woods. This we did until the enemy reached the Brick House on their return to Wilmington. That soon after this he was sent over into Bladen County under Major Leonard -- where our company was surprised at a Mr. Duncan's plantation by the Tories by whom two of our men were killed and five of them were wounded. About this time General Rutherford with one thousand mounted men, as well as this Declarant can recollect, came down and drove the British out of Wilmington. From Bladen the Company was marched back to the Cape Fear River and the British had been embarked -- were then on their way down the River. That the Battle of Hoods Creek Bridge in Brunswick County, North Carolina was fought as well as this Declarant can recollect in the March of the year 1781. That he left the service and as well as he can recollect in the month of December 1781. That he served as a drafted private soldier three months and as a volunteer twelve months in the militia making in all one year and three months service for which this declarant claims a pension -- what this Declarant meant in his first Declaration by saying that he entered the service two years before the close of the war and served until the end of it, is that he served within the two last years of the war. This Declarant has no documentary evidence of his service, but Mr. Edward Clemens of the County of Brunswick, State of North Carolina can testify to my service. I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and declare that my name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State.

To the several Interrogatories propounded by the Department the Deponent makes the following answers.

To the first Interrogatory he saith

I was born in the State of Virginia in the year 1765.

To the second Interrogatory he saith --

I have no Record of my age.

To the third Interrogatory he saith

I was living in the County of Brunswick, State of North Carolina when called into service. I have lived there since the Revolutionary War and I still live there.

To the fourth Interrogatory he saith.

I was drafted for six months of which time I served three months. During the residue of my service I was a volunteer.

To the fifth Interrogatory he saith.

This Interrogatory I have already answered in the body of the foregoing Declaration to which I beg leave to refer.

To the sixth Interrogatory he saith

I never did receive a written discharge from the service.

To the seventh interrogatory he saith

I am known to the Reverend William Hankins and Richard Langdon who can testify for me.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Jeremiah Wescoat

I Edward Clemens Sr. do hereby certify that I am well acquainted with Jeremiah Wescoat who has subscribed and sworn to the above Declaration. I knew him as a soldier of the Revolutionary War. I was in actual service with him. He served as a private in the militia under Colonel Jacob Leonard, twelve months to my knowledge. I was his fellow soldier in the service.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Edwd. Clemmons

[William Hankins, a clergyman, and Richard Langdon gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[According to a letter in this file, this veteran's application was rejected for his lack of specificity as to his services during the time he said he served 12 months in the militia.]