

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Whitfield R11395

Mary

fn45NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

7/8/10

[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 Illinois Effingham County

On this 16th day of March in the year 1844, personally appeared before me James Shields, one of the judges of the Supreme Court of the State of Illinois, assigned to hold Circuit Court in the 2nd judicial circuit of said State, composed in part of the said County of Effingham, and sole judge of the circuit court in and for said County, said court being a court of record, having a Clerk and official seal and declared court of record by the laws of the State of Illinois creating said court, Mary Whitfield, a resident of the County of Effingham and State of Illinois, aged 87 years past, who being by me first duly sworn according to law, doth, on her oath, make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress last July 4th 1836. That she is the widow of William Whitfield who was a private in the Army of the Revolutionary war, and served in behalf of the United States as follows, as well as she now recollects, viz.

That the said William Whitfield resided in Duplin County in the State of North Carolina in the spring of the year 1777 she believes, was drafted to serve in that war for three months and entered the service in that County under Captain Quinsey [?] and Colonel Ben Sasser [?] as well as she can recollect, and was marched to the Army as she then understood and had a Battle at the time they arrived to the Army, but she does not know the place, nor the name of the Battle, and that he remained with the Army until he served that time out, and that he enlisted as she understood, and continued with the Army or troop, without having returned home, but she cannot state the name of the troop, whether it was in the Continental line, State troops or militia, but recollects of hearing him say after he returned home, that he had belonged to what was called the Rockingham Regiment, but can't state whether he served all the time in that Regiment or not. She cannot give a full description and history of his services, and of all the Battles or engagements he was in, nor the places where he was stationed nor the country through which he marched; she has heard her said husband often relate all these things, but from her advanced age & weakness of mind & forgetfulness, she cannot now describe them, as he has been dead so long they have escaped her recollection. She recollects of hearing him say that he was at the Battle of the Cowpens¹, and many others not recollected: that he served as a private all the time, he was home once on furlough, about five months after he first went out on the draft, she recollects she

¹ January 17, 1781 <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/cowpens.htm>

had her first child which was a few days old when he then came home & when he then left her again to return to the Army, he never returned home again until the war closed, she recollects they then said Cornwallis had surrendered, and that he said he is officers told him if they should have to call out the troop again he would be ready to go, when called for.

That when her husband left her and went to the Army, she had to break up housekeeping & live with her father's family in Duplin County North Carolina until the war closed. That they suffered a great deal, while her husband was out, her father & her three brothers were frequently called out against the British & Tory parties, & left her and her mother & four other sisters alone to keep house & support themselves, while the Tory party frequently came upon them, took their possessions, killed their cattle and stock, & burnt their smokehouse & barn and stole her father's Negroes & took them off & her mother, herself & family were frequently compelled to hide & secret themselves from fear of the ravages of the Tory parties. That she believes he had a discharge of his service in writing given to him at the time that Cornwallis was taken, or when the troops were then discharged but does not now believe it is in existence. She has not seen or heard of it since her husband's death, he then had a great many papers which were taken at his death by her son William Whitfield to the South part of Kentucky, where he died several years ago.

She further declares that she was married to the said William Whitfield, about the 9th Day of September in the year 1775 by a license she believes issued in Duplin County North Carolina by a clerk of that County & was married in that County by a Justice of the Peace whose name was Wright, which marriage took place before the commencement of the Revolutionary war. That her maiden name was Beck, and she believes she was in the 18th year of her age at the time she was married and that her oldest child was born about four months or a little better after her husband first went out in the service, that her second child was born about the 19th of January 1783 and that she had born in wedlock with the said William Whitfield thirteen children and only four of them are now living, which are before he youngest. That she had a family Record of the ages and [indecipherable word] of herself, husband & children and of her said marriage, which was kept by her husband in his lifetime but was lost or destroyed about fifteen or sixteen years ago, being made in an old Book, which was destroyed by the family, & that she has not now any record of these events, she had the record wants transcribed on a piece of paper which is also lost or mislaid.

She further declares that her husband the aforesaid William Whitfield died on the 8th day of August in the year 1825 in Steward [?] County in the State of Kentucky, that she has remained a widow ever since the death of her said husband. She further declares that she has no documentary evidence of her husband's services or of their marriage, that she has a sister now living in Wayne County Illinois, by the name of Anne Slocumb, who is about 2 years younger than this declarant by whom she can prove her marriage as aforesaid, all of which will more fully appear by reference to her proof hereto annexed.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 16th day of March A.D. 1844.

S/ Jas. Shields, Judge

S/ Mary Whitfield, X her mark

State of Illinois Effingham County

On this 16th day of March 1844 personally appeared before me William H. Blakely, Clerk of the circuit court in and for the County of Effingham aforesaid, Thomas Soward a resident of said County, aged ninety-three years past, who being by me first duly sworn upon his oath, says, that he resided in Rowan County in the State of North Carolina previous to the

Revolutionary war, and that he was personally acquainted with one William Whitfield who then resided in Duplin County North Carolina. That this affiant was a revolutionary soldier himself and belonged to the company commanded by Captain Ben Graham (or Grimes, some called him) who belonged to the 7th Regiment of the North Carolina troops what was called the Rockingham Regiment, he is not positive whether it this Regiment belonged properly to the Continental Line or State Troop, but by what other name the troop was called, if any, as he was illiterate and paid no attention to such matters; That this affiant while at the station called headquarters of the Army on the waters of Cross Creek a tributary of the Adkin River [sic, Yadkin River] in North Carolina became more particularly acquainted with the said William Whitfield, who was marched to & joined with the United States troop at headquarters aforesaid as a private in the drafted company, so called, from Duplin County Militia, commanded he believes by Captain Quinsey; This affiant was informed & understood at the time that said Whitfield came with his Captain's company, that it was a draft the company for three months, he thinks, which was in the forefront of the fall of the year 1777 as well as he recollects; that at the time their time expired, said Whitfield joined the company to which this affiant then belonged under Captain Graham or Grimes as aforesaid; This affiant is not positive whether said Whitfield enlisted or not, in the company under Captain Graham or Grimes, but believes he enlisted from the fact of his long continuance with the Army in Captain Graham's or Grimes Company; That said Whitfield served & belonged to said company and Regiment, from the time he entered it in the fall of the year 1777, until the Army was disbanded at the surrender of Cornwallis; That this affiant and said Whitfield were together in most of the Battles, their Regiment had a part in, during all that time, but they were not both together in all of the Battles, as sometimes a part of their company was detached, to be sent against the Tories upon what was called scouting parties and some times against small English companies through the interior of the country, This affiant recollects one battle that they were not both together, viz., the Battle of the Cowpens, That this affiant was not at that battle, on account of having been some days previous to that battle after some beef cattle for the Army, But that he arrived on the ground where that Battle was fought the next morning after which and saw the slain and wounded upon that occasion "which was a dreadful spectacle to Behold." This affiant recollects that said Whitfield was with the troop the morning after the Battle of the Cowpens & was informed that all the troop then there was engaged in it. That said Whitfield was with one company at the Battle at Charleston, & Hickory-plains, Eutaw Springs, at Ramsey's Mills, Broad River and at Yorktown, at the close of the war and perhaps at some other of our engagement; that we on many times and occasions were sent in detached partitions [sic] of our true through the country and therefore cannot speak of having been together all the time, but that said Whitfield and myself had a personal knowledge of each other's service during all the time as aforesaid.

That this affiant recollects that said Whitfield got a furlough to go home at or about the time he joined our company at head quarters to see about his wife having a little one and he then said, and that he returned again to our company in a few days as well as he recollects. That we went home from Yorktown together some seven or eight days travel, pretty much all our way home. That he has [several words obliterated] the said Whitfield since they parted on their way home, but has understood and believes that said Whitfield resided a number of years after the war in Duplin County North Carolina and then removed to Kentucky and afterwards to Tennessee where he died some eighteen or twenty years ago. That he is now acquainted with Mary Whitfield, the declarant in the foregoing declaration named, who now resides in the town of Ewington [?] in Effingham County Illinois, who is now a widow and he believes from information he has received from her [word obliterated] particular inquiring of her about her

husband the said William Whitfield, that she is the identical person and widow of the said William Whitfield, who served with this affiant in the Revolutionary war as he has above herein set forth.

S/ Thomas Soward, X his mark

Subscribed & sworn to before made this 16th day of March 1844

S/ Wm H. Blakely, Clerk

[fn p. 9: on March 16, 1844 in Effingham County, Illinois, Bryant Whitfield, 33, gave testimony in support of his mother's application for a pension and testified as to what his heard his father say about his service and the service of Thomas Soward