

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Theophilus Coleman R2162

Keziah

fn23NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

11/26/10

[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 Columbus County: Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions February Sessions 1834

On this the 10th day of February 1834 personally appeared in open Court, before the Worshipful Josiah Nye, Robert Ward, & Elisha Sellars, Justices of the Peace for the County of Columbus holding the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions for said County now sitting: Theophilus Coleman a resident of the County of Columbus, and State of North Carolina aged seventy-two years, the second day of May 1833 – 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.

1. He entered the service as a private for six months and a Company of Bladen Militia then a resident of that County under the command of Captain Daniel Shipman, in the fall of the year 1777: – that precise time being called to his recollection by the circumstance of his Father objecting to his entering the service on account of his being only sixteen years of age, and of course, as he said not liable to the performance of Militia duty. The Company rendezvoused at Elizabethtown together with several other Militia Companies under the command of Colonel Wade, and marched thence with their Troops under the command of General Ashe [John Ashe]. He recollects Captains Leggets & Elliots Companies: – he presumes that there were other regiments, as there were other Field Officers, but he does not remember their names. They crossed the Pedee River at Port's Ferry and proceeded through the lower part of South Carolina to Brier Creek in Georgia, crossing the Savannah River at Augusta. The Americans while encamped at Brier Creek, between the Creek & the River were surprised and defeated in the early part of the day: General Ashe having taken no precaution against such a contingency – although he had been advised that the enemy were in his immediate vicinity: they made but one fire and fled. He with others, swam across the River, and joined his Company at a place called "the Ridge:" whence they took up the line of March for North Carolina and crossing the Pedee again at Ports Ferry they proceeded up the River to the Grasse Islands, and thence to Fayetteville, then Cross Creek; where they joined a body of back country militia under General Rutherford, and where he was stationed until the expiration of his term of service. He believes

that there were some Continental Troops & Officers at Brier Creek – but he does not recollect the names of any of the Officers. He received a written discharge from General ash, but it has long since been lost or destroyed.

2. Before he returned home, he became a substitute for a service of three months for his Father, who was detailed from Captain Tho' Ames' Company of Bladen Militia and ordered to report himself to Captain Daniel Shipman at Fayetteville. Captain Shipman's men, with several other Companies of Militia from the adjoining Counties, under the command of General Lillington & Colonel Thomas Brown with the back country Militia under General Rutherford, marched first to Thompson's Mill in South Carolina; thence near to Blue Bridge in North Carolina, and were stationed there four weeks. He with several others of the Bladen Militia were ordered thence to escort the baggage wagon to Fayetteville, in order to avoid Lord Cornwallis's Army then, it was said, not very far off; where they were ordered to remain until the arrival of Colonel Brown. On his arrival, they received a furlough from him, with orders to meet him again in a few days, at Livingston Creek in Brunswick County: They accordingly repaired to that place, but Colonel Brown was not there, and ~~where he was a few days after~~ being then on Long Creek, where he was a few days after, defeated & severely wounded by the Tories. They, however, received orders from him, through Colonel Edward Wingate, to repair to Hood's Creek Bridge where a small body of Brunswick Militia was stationed under Colonel Wingate & Captain Simmonds. While there an attack was made on the detachment by a body of British from Wilmington under Major Manson. The British who made their appearance about daylight, were kept in check for a short time by a small body of men at the Bridge under Captain Simmonds – but Captain Simmonds having been killed – the detachment was ordered by Colonel Wingate to disperse & returned home. He completed his term of service – and was informed that Colonel Brown had notified him & the other man to apply for their discharges – but as he lived some distance from him, he never applied, and never received one.

3. Immediately after, he volunteered in a Company of Militia light Horse, or mounted men under Captain John Grantham of Bladen County, on an expedition against the Tories in the upper part of Bladen County & the State of South Carolina – marched to Little Pedee – thence to Marsh Bluff on Big Pedee – thence back to Lumberton in Bladen (now Robeson) County, and after having been in service three months received a verbal discharge at that place & returned home.

4. At the close of hostilities, and shortly after the British Army under Lord Cornwallis marched to Wilmington North Carolina, he volunteered as a Private in Captain William Legget's Company of Bladen Light horse, who were engaged in scouting parties against the Tories and during the time, they were thus engaged – they joined the back country Militia under General Butler at Brown's Creek and formed a part of the Bladen Militia under Colonel Thomas Owen; after marching to Marsh Castle on the White March & returning on the lower side of the Marsh, they encamped outside of a cornfield at Baldwin's old field – about two hours perhaps later in the night, the British came through the cornfield, and attacked the Americans. The back country militia fled on the first fire – but the Bladen & Duplin Militia under Colonel Owens & Captain Dodd [fought], until compelled to retire by superior numbers – of the former two men, Stevens & Segourney were killed. After this skirmish Captain Legget's men returned home – but were immediately after called out again on the same kind of service against the Tories – & after having been in actual service two months, – he received a verbal discharge.

He has no documentary evidence, nor does he know of any person whose testimony he can procure.

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.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid

Test: S/ Chs. Baldwin, Clerk

S/ Theophilus Coleman, T his mark

Answers to the Interrogatories prescribed by the War Department as propounded to the Applicant by the Court.

1. I was born in Edgecombe County North Carolina May 2nd 1761.

2. I have a record of my age on a sheet of paper torn out of an old family Bible formally belonging to my Father.

3. I removed with my Father, before the Revolutionary War, to Columbus (then Bladen) County, where I have resided ever since.

4. I was drafted in the first instance was a substitute in the next & and in my two last tours I was a volunteer.

5. I have no recollection of any Continental Officers or of any Militia Officers or Regiments except those named in my declaration – and to which I beg leave to refer for the general circumstances of my service.

6. I received a discharge in one instance only – which has been lost or destroyed – for information on this head, I beg leave to refer to my declaration.

7. ____

[Joel Stevens & Luke R. Simmons gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[fn p. 11: on April 1, 1844 in Columbus County North Carolina, Kisiah Coleman, 78, made application for a widow's pension under the 1836 act stating that she is the widow of Theophilus Coleman, a pensioner at the rate of \$48.33 per annum for his service in the revolution; that she married him in 1786; that he died July 9th, 1843; that she remains his widow.]

[fn p. 16: Keziah Coleman died August 17, 1850 survived by the following children, Martha Jernigan, Elizabeth Coleman, Avy Faulk, Aly Stricklin, Sarah Jernigan, Keziah Jernigan, Theophilus Coleman, Rhoda Coleman, Anna Coleman, Moses Coleman and Mary Hammonds.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$48.33 per annum commencing March fourth, 1831, for 12 months service in the infantry and two months service in the cavalry, both as a private in the North Carolina militia.]