

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Joseph Ellis R3311
Transcribed by Will Graves

Elizabeth Ellis

f28SC
3/17/08 rev'd 12/28/14

[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 Tennessee, Hawkins County

On this 26th day of May 1835 personally appeared before the worshipful Court of Pleas and quarter Sessions of Hawkins County State of Tennessee held at Rogersville Joseph Ellis a resident of Grainger County and State of Tennessee aged 73 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 provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. I entered the service of the United States in the year 1780 about the first of April in the State of South Carolina Spartanburg County as a volunteer private under the Command of Colonel William Grimes, Major Samuel Tate and Captain George Taylor. This declarant says they were ordered to guard the frontiers of South Carolina and Georgia from the predatory excursions of Tories and Indians upon the back settlements of said State. To name all the Counties invariably and how they lay at this point I cannot owing to a loss of memory. We marched through York County crossed the Saluda River, Wateree and Santee Rivers and marched on towards Georgia near the head of a small River or Creek called Sweetwater where we came upon a body [of] Indians and had a small skirmish. We defeated them but lost seven of our men killed and 14 wounded we lay there a few days scouting about in detached parties. We then marched back under the mountains in search of Tories and Indian trails in to Rutherford County State of North Carolina on our way back we lay a while at a Fort called Warfords [Wofford's] where we were attacked again by the Indians but we repulsed them again without much damage. On our marches we would encamp at suitable places and range about a while to make what discoveries we could and take up our line of march again. When we came into Rutherford County State of North Carolina the frontier settlements of Spartanburg and Rutherford Counties were greatly troubled with the Indians and Tories insomuch that they were afraid to work out in their farms. A great many of them concluded to move lower down in the settlement. There were 30 or 40 families collected together and we guarded them across Broad River and the South Fork of Catawba crossed main Catawba at a place called Baties Ford where we left them and returned back again higher up the country we marched up into the mountains in search of Tories which were a great many lying out and to make discovery of Indians, but we made no discovery of consequence we then returned home into Spartanburg County and were discharged the middle of September being gone six months and a half. I received a discharge from Captain Taylor. Immediately after my return men were ordered out again there had to be men continually out to protect the frontiers from the Indians. I contended I ought not to stand the draft as I had just come home. But my same officers volunteered themselves and I volunteered again under my said officers about October 1780 in Spartanburg County State of South Carolina. We marched on to Morganton in Burke County North Carolina a frontier County we marched on into Wilkes County round the frontier we then marched back through Burke round the frontier towards Georgia crossing John's River Linville River and crossed the Catawba River high up we stationed ourselves as occasion would require and scout about to make what discoveries we could for fear we would on our march fall in with the enemy. We marched on towards Georgia

crossing Broad River and Green River until we got into Georgia we stationed ourselves a while and then returned towards home. On our way back we received orders to join General Morgan [Daniel Morgan] in South Carolina. We marched on immediately and joined him at a place called the Cowpens where there was a severe battle [January 17, 1781] with the British under the Command of Tarleton the British were defeated. We then marched on with the prisoners to Catawba River where we crossed. We then pushed on crossing the Yadkin River and Dan River's into the State of Virginia where a part of the troops marched back. Upon our return we attacked some Tories under the command of one Colonel Pile [John Pyle] and defeated them [Pyle's Defeat or the Battle of Holt's Race Paths, February 25, 1781]. Our Regiment then marched on into Rutherford County and were discharged being gone four months we returned home first of March 1781 I received my discharge from Captain Taylor – sometime after my return home I went into Randolph County State of North Carolina to see some of my Relations in that County and after being there some time I was drafted in the service of the United States as a private first of June 1781 in Randolph County State of North Carolina under the command of Captain Kimber [Buckner Kimbrell], Major Crompt and Colonel William Loftin [William Lofton] we Rendezvoused at Randolph Courthouse North Carolina we marched on into Granville County N. C. we were in pursuit of one Colonel Fanin [David Fanning] a noted Tory and his party who were doing a great deal of Mischief. We went on through some Counties which I cannot now relate except Chatham County we went on to Cape Fear River to a small placed called Cross Creek. From there we marched into Moore County and from there we marched for home where we arrived first of August 1781 being gone two months we done nothing particular in our route only taken a few outlying Tories. I received my discharge from Captain Kimber I then returned home to my Mother's in Spartanburg County SC. I had been there a short time when there was another call for men. I turned out as a volunteer private first of November 1781 under the Command of Captain Tate brother of my former Major in the Regiment of Colonel Robert Ware, in Spartanburg County South Carolina we marched into York County – Crossed Broad River at Tate's Ford went into Lincoln County Crossing the South fork of the Catawba at a place called the High Shoals from there we crossed the main Catawba at Beatties Ford the County next I cannot recollect went on into Rowan County N. C. crossed the Yadkin at Montgomery County N. C. then on into Randolph County & recrossed the Yadkin at Moore's ferry where we had a sharp action with a body of Tories we defeated them killing 20 of their men and we lost 11 man. We then went on into Iredell County Salisbury crossed Little River and Catawba into Burke County and on into Rutherford County and was discharged at Rutherford Courthouse first of February 1782 being gone three months and I never was out any more. This declarant says he has given as full a detail of his service as he can now recollects and as correct and if he has erred it is from the loss of memory. This declarant further states that the cause of his making his declaration in Hawkins County is it is more convenient as he lives near of the line in the extreme north corner of Grainger County where Grainger and Hawkins and Claibourne counties were joined and is acquainted with the neighborhood in each County and can give traditionary evidence of his service in each County if required and at this time there is no Court in either of the other counties. This declarant further says he was always called into service by competent authority that he always served with an embodied Corps and for the time during which the service was performed he was not employed in any civil pursuit, he says he has no documentary evidence of his service nor knows of no one who can prove the same by, and he hereby relinquishes every Claim to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency of any State. Sworn to and subscribed in open Court the date before mentioned.

S/ Joseph Ellis, X his mark

[Caswell Crawley, a clergyman and Richard Mitchell gave these standards supporting affidavit.]

Questions propounded by the court to Joseph Ellis applicant for a pension

1 Question

Answer I was born in the year 1762 in the State of N. C., Randolph County

2 Question

Answer I have none

3 Question

Answer I was living in the State of South Carolina Spartanburg County and once I entered the service in Randolph County N. C. from Spartanburg I came in to N. C. Randolph County from Randolph County I moved into Carter County Tennessee and I now live in Grainger County Tennessee.

4 Question

Answer I volunteered myself every time except once and then I was drafted

5 Question

Colonel Grimes, Major Tate, Captain Taylor, Colonel Ware, Captain Tate.

6 Question

Answer I received a discharge every time but have since lost them by a fire

7 Question

Answer Robert McGinnis, Esq., William Givens, John Allen, Walter Allen, Green Bunden

[p 14]

State of Tennessee Hawkins County

On this 20th day of April 1836 personally appeared Joseph Ellis before me Lewis Mitchell an acting Justice of the peace for said County of Hawkins and after being duly sworn according to law depose and makes the following additional declaration.

This declarant says he entered the service of the United States in April 1780 in the State of South Carolina under Capt. Taylor, Major Tate and Col. Grimes. The troops met at Lincoln Court house in the State of North Carolina. We then crossed Broad River into South Carolina again in York County. We marched round the frontier of said State to Georgia. We returned into South Carolina again.

This declarant states that the State of South Carolina in the spring and summer of 1780 was greatly Infested with the British troops and the people were greatly alarmed. Insomuch there were a great many Joined them even by Companies. It required all the address and management of our most enterprising Officers to keep matters arranged to keep the spirits of the people up. Our Officers marched to different places where most required to raise the despondency of the people and to intercept the parties who were going to join the British. Our Officers entreated us to not forsake them as the necessity of the times called for our exertions and to continue in service to such times as they thought proper to discharge us. Their importunities had the desired effect on a great many and they agreed to stay until such times as they more easily could be spared. This declarant says he continued in service Indefinitely until sometime near the middle of September 1780 –

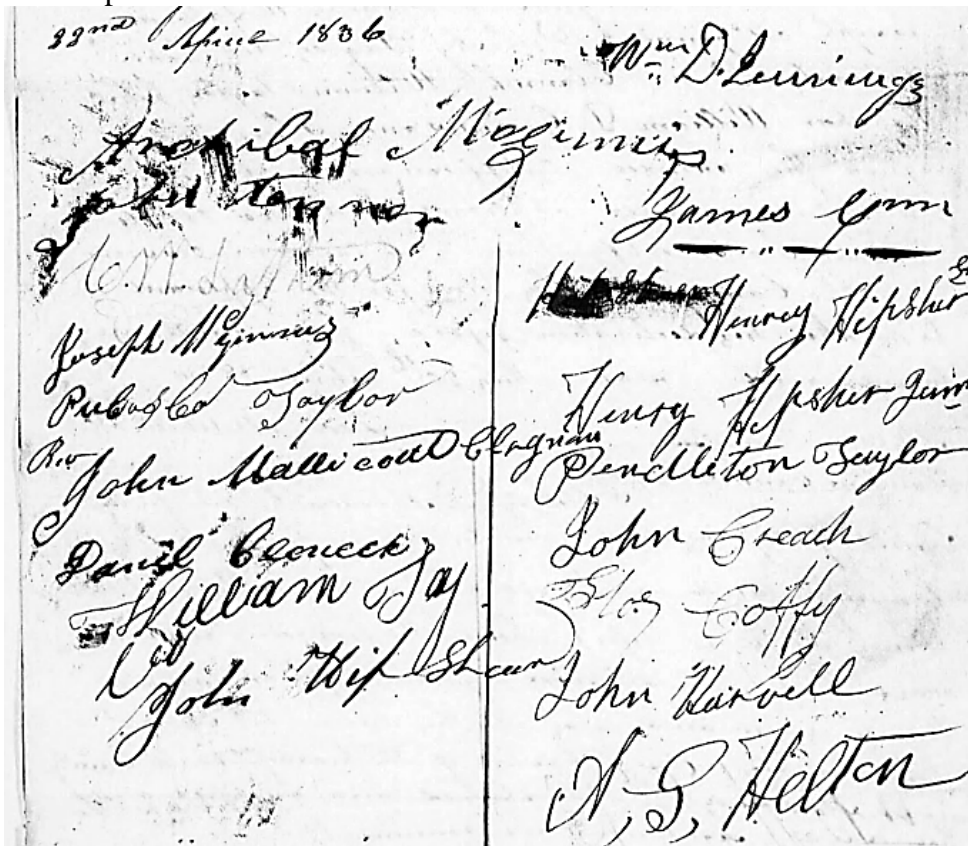
This declarant further says if his former declaration states he was out six months and a half in his first engagement it was a mistake in him or his Clerk in drawing it for him for he was out five months and a half which was the time intended to be specified in his former declaration. This declarant says the cause of his serving the length of time which he states in his engagements was owing to the great necessity there was for men in the service. A great many of the enemy in different parts of the Country, and the disaffected people of the Country Joining them it was necessary for men to continue some time in service to do anything of importance. If when men were called out they had returned home in a month or two before they could be called out again it would greatly endanger the Country and expose it to the ravages of the enemy. Such men as could be induced by their Officers to continue with them were men of no families and could be more conveniently from home and was persuaded to remain until such times as would be more safe for them to be discharged. This declarant says at other times they were so circumstanced that necessity Compelled him to remain in service to secure and make good what they had achieved. When he joined Morgan at the Cowpens after the battle they were put to forced marches until they got in Virginia to secure the prisoners and until such times as they

could be spared. This declarant avers he was actively engaged in the service the time he states. Sworn to and subscribed the day and year before mentioned before me
 S/ Lewis Mitchell, JP, Hawkins County S/ Joseph Ellis, X his mark

[p 17]

We the undersigned do hereby Certify we are acquainted with Joseph Ellis being Neighbors of his we believe him to have been a revolutionary Soldier we have been acquainted with him for many years we believe him to be an honest man & man of Integrity and veracity, as far as we know. Given under our hands and seal this 22nd of April 1836

Archibald McGinnis	William Jennings
John Tanner	James Conn [?]
Joseph McGinnis	Henry Hipsher, Sr.
C. W. Lathrum	Henry Hipsher Junior
Pulaslea Taylor [Pulaski Taylor?]	Pendleton Taylor
Rev. John Mallicoat, Clergyman	John Creach
William Taylor	Sloe [?] Coffy
John Hipshear	John Harvell
	A. G. Helton



[p 11: On March 26, 1859 in Franklin County Tennessee, Elizabeth Ellis, 70, filed for a widow's pension under the 1853 act stating that she is the widow of Joseph Ellis, a revolutionary war pensioner; that she married him in Grainger County Tennessee about 30 years past; that her husband died in the year 1848 leaving her a widow; that her post office address in Franklin County Tennessee is Chowan Depot. She signed her application with her mark.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$20 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 6 months in the South Carolina militia.]