

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Elijah Fooshee R3635

f18NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

1/1/09 rev'd 7/27/14

[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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Tennessee Wilson County

On this 8th day of April 1845 personally appeared in open Court, before the Justices of the County Court of said County of Wilson (the same being a court of record) now sitting in Lebanon Elijah Fooshee, a resident citizen of said County & State, -- aged about 81 years & some months; having been born 22nd of December 1763, 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 & served as herein stated.

In the month of August 1780 he volunteered as a private in the State guards of North Carolina. On the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the month of August at a general muster a call was made for volunteers & he & seven or eight others stepped out & a draft was then made for others. The 15th of the same month was the day fixed for the rendezvous at the house of Colonel Litrells [sic, John Luttrell] about the center of Chatham County North Carolina within about eight miles of the residence of said declarant. On which day he entered the service & received arms from the State. Luttrell was Colonel, John Butler Major -- John Maybon [John Mayben] Captain, your declarant was elected Lieutenant, & James Crutchfield Ensign. The times were then very troublesome & Tories numerous in Randolph & other adjacent counties, & barracks were built & other preparations made for defense or attack. About the middle of September having made some progress in discipline & other preparations for efficient service, the troops took up the line of march against the Tories, horse thieves & robbers, & went into Randolph, Montgomery & Moore Counties, in the latter County we had an engagement [probably the action at the House in the Horseshoe, July 29, 1781]<sup>1</sup> with the Tories under the command of a Tory by the name of Captain Duck, at the house of a man by the name of Alston [Philip Alston]. Three or four rounds were fired by each side -- six of the Tories were killed & four of the Whigs wounded. We were in the house some in each story of the house. One of the Tories (a Scotchman) during the battle got a bundle of flax & run with it after setting it on fire to burn the house, but being discovered by our party was shot down & when examined had three balls in him. This declarant shot one ball at him & two others during the conflict. The Tories fled & were seen by us no more. We

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution\\_house\\_in\\_the\\_horseshoe.html](http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_house_in_the_horseshoe.html) David Fanning was in command of the Tory forces at this engagement, not "Captain Duck." Capt. Jacob Duckworth of Chatham County commanded one of the Whig companies in this engagement and the veteran MAY have been confusing this officer with one of the Tories.

then heard of a man being murdered by the Tories near the house of a Baptist preacher by the name of Davis in Chatham County. Our party then consisting of about twenty, the other troops having been in the same manner divided out were engaged in different sections -- our party were under the command of the Captain heretofore named. On Haw River we overhauled three of the party who had perpetrated the murder alluded to & other mischief & killed John & Tom Philip as they retreated, & took Frank Arving the head man among them prisoner, & on the next day hung him on a large limb of the walnut tree on the bank of the river about two hundred yards above Petty's Mill. He was a large fat man & before he swung off acknowledged many of his crimes & refused to ask for any quarters. This declarant afterwards ascertained that the same party had robbed the house of his father of a cloak, half [indecipherable word]<sup>2</sup> in gold that belonged to his mother & with other things the rifle of this declarant. From this we went back to the Station at Luttrell's where we remained about a week or ten days, & then divided out into parties & when out again through the adjoining Counties, scouring the country in every direction & returned to the station in November & took up winter quarters. About the first of March the Tories became pretty bold again & we marched out to hunt them, which we did about the middle of March at Lindley's Mill [September 13, 1781]<sup>3</sup> on Cain Creek on the road to Hillsboro -- we had our whole force about eighty in number & Colonel Luttrell was in command, the Tories were commanded by Colonel Fanning [David Fanning] a celebrated Scotch Tory & the same Captain Duck before named with about 120 men. The battle commenced about 9 O'clock & continued about one hour when the Tories retreated having about 36 killed on the field Captain Duck<sup>4</sup> being among the slain. Colonel Fanning as we understood afterwards was wounded in the action but made his escape. On our side there were four killed & three wounded. Colonel Luttrell while gallantly fighting at the head of the Regiment was killed. The Tories were all mounted & our troops were on foot & consequently we did not pursue them. This was about six miles from our station to which we returned after the action with the corpse of our beloved Colonel after having buried the other three gallant fellows in coffins on the battleground. We then remained at the barracks until the expiration of the term of eight months for which we had engaged which occurred about the middle of April 1781. Our Major Butler then stated to us that our time was out & that we were discharged. We then went home, but received no written discharge. This Declarant held his command of Lieutenant for the whole term. He had his commission from the Governor, but it, with all his other papers were destroyed before he left North Carolina by an unavoidable accident -- a storm which threw down his house destroyed almost everything that was in it.

2 Term of Service. This declarant remained at home with his father, until the 20th May 1781 when a call was again made for mounted volunteers, when he again entered the service & was elected Captain. Aaron Evans was elected Lieutenant & James Crutchfield who was out in the other tour was elected Ensign. Wm Goldson [sic, William Goldston or Gholson] was Colonel & Joseph Rosser was Major. We acted under the orders of General Ambrose Ramsey who was the general of the County of Chatham but did not go out with our Regiment. We entered at once upon our duties & scoured the country all around embracing some 8 or ten

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<sup>2</sup> 

Jar? Ioz? [? abbreviation of the word "ounce"]

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution\\_battle\\_of\\_lindleys\\_mill.html](http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_lindleys_mill.html)

<sup>4</sup> The Tory officers thought to have been killed at Lindley's Mill are Capt. Edward Edwards of Orange County, Capt. William Deaton of Chatham County; and Col. Hector McNeill. I've been unable to identify the man referred to by the veteran as Capt. Duck.

counties but had no engagement with the enemy. When not marching, which was but a small portion of our time, we were generally stationed at Colonel Goldston's. On hearing that Colonel Lee [Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee] was coming on to attack the British at Guilford [March 15, 1781] our troops were at once put in motion to join him, but we arriving at Holt's Mill in Orange County we heard the firing at Guilford about 20 miles distant, & finding we were too late to be of any service, called a halt there where we remained two or three days, & on knowing the result of the battle we returned to Colonel Goldston's & remained there three or four days when we again entered upon the duty of scouring the adjacent country to protect the people from the Tories & British until we heard of the surrender of Cornwallis at York [October 19, 1781], when the Tories became peaceable & the people generally quiet & secure. They remained after this most of their time at their station or Camp at Colonel Goldston's until the expiration of the term for which they had volunteered & were discharged on 20 November by the Colonel, but no written discharges were given We furnished our own horses & most of us & this declarant among the number, our arms. So this declarant served his country in the command of Lieutenant as a volunteer one campaign or engagement of 8 months & one as Captain of Cavalry 6 months -- in all 14 months

He has no documentary evidence of his services nor does he know of any living witness by whom he can prove them.

In answer to the interrogatories embraced in the instructions of the War Department, he Claimant further declares upon his oath before the court, that he was born as before stated on 22 December 1763 in Chatham County North Carolina at the time of his birth was recorded in his father's family Bible where he has often read it & recollects it distinctly as above stated, but where the said Bible now is he does not know & he has no other record of his age. At the time he entered the service he was living with his father, Simon Fooshee, in Chatham County North Carolina where he remained until December 1841 when he removed to the County of Smith where he lived with his daughter Mrs. Petty about one year & then came to the adjoining County of Wilson where he has lived ever since & now resides with another daughter Mrs. Harrison. The answer to the 4, 5 & 6 interrogatories are fully embodied in this declaration. In answer to the 7th & last interrogatory he states that he is known by many persons in his present neighborhood among whom all the following, who he believes would testify as to his character for veracity & their belief of his services in the revolutionary war Shiloh Waters, Esqr., Col. Denis Smith, Col. C. W. Cummings, Wm B. Guild, \_\_\_ Hoffman, George L. Swan, Dr. Hazzard, \_\_\_Sweat &c &c.

The declarant further states as a reason for the lateness of his application that he had determined not to call upon his government for aid under any of the pension laws. To this he would have adhered but for the misfortunes by which he has been reduced to poverty & entire dependence upon the charity of others, & most if not all of those who would be most inclined to assist him are unable to extend to him such relief. And being now overtaken by the infirmities of old age & entirely unable to work for his living, with a wife in the same condition of dependence & want now about seventy-five years of age, he feels that he has a right to avail himself of the liberal provisions of his government in behalf of those who took part in the war of Independence.

He has never received one cent for the services rendered by him by either the State or Federal Government.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the Agency of any State.

Sworn to & subscribed in open court this April 8, 1845.

S/ J. J. McClain, Clerk

S/ Elijah Fooshee

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Elijah Fooshee". The ink is dark and the background is a light, textured paper.

[James Warren, a clergyman, and Thomas Vaughan gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[In a letter in the file dated August 12, 1846, the writer states that Fooshee died 'some months ago' and his widow is trying to find out what has become of his pension application.]