

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Meshack Gentry R3974

f23NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

8/6/08 rev' 8/10/15

[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.]

[p 3]

State of Tennessee, Monroe County

On the 29 day of August 1836, personally appeared in open Court before the Honorable Charles F. Keith Judge of the third Judicial Circuit of the State of Tennessee now sitting in said County of Monroe Meshack Gentry resident in said County of Monroe aged Eighty Eight 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 7, 1832, -- That he entered the service of the United States as a Captain of a Company of mounted riflemen at Caswell Court House in the County of Caswell in the State of North Carolina in the month of November (precise day not recollected) in the year 1779 in the Regiment commanded by Colonel __ Fifer¹ in the brigade commanded by General William Davidson [William Lee Davidson]; -- that he continued during his service in the command of said mounted riflemen; -- that William Johnston was the first Lieutenant of said Company: -- The other subaltern officers of the Company not recollected. That Declarant with his Company was frequently detailed upon duty, and performed the service for short animals under other officers, but was most generally in Service in Colonel Fifer's Regiment. That he was in the detachment commanded by Colonel Washington [William Washington], that surprised and took the British by Stratagem at Rugeley's Mill in the month of December 1780 [December 4, 1780]², -- That he was in the engagement with the British at the Hanging Rock [August 6, 1780]³, and in the battle at the Eutaw Springs [September 8, 1781] under General Greene [Nathanael Greene]: that he was in several skirmishes with the British: -- That during his service he marched through a great portion of both in North and South Carolina: that Declarant was constantly in service from the time he joined the Army in November 1779 until the 15th of November 1781 (having been at the least two full years in service) when he was regularly discharged at Hillsboro in North Carolina. -- That Declarant received a discharge, which with his commission he has long since lost. Declarant has no documentary evidence of his said service, and knows of no proved he can produce of his service except the testimony contained in the subjoined Certificates. Declarant is aged and infirm and from defect of memory he is unable to give a more full or satisfactory account of his services; but hopes it will be sufficient to procure for him the liberal provision, which has been generously made by the laws of the Country for the aged soldiers who has fought her battles, and aided in securing her freedom and independence. Declarant was born in the

¹ It is difficult to make an educated guess as to the officer the veteran and tends to identify there were to Lieutenant Colonels in the Mecklenburg North Carolina militia named Phifer, Lt. Col. Caleb Phifer and Lt. Col. John Phifer. It is possible since William Lee Davidson was from Mecklenburg County that it was one of these 2 officers under whom the veteran served but such service would have been and Mecklenburg County, not as well County.

² http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_rugeley_mills_2.html

³ It is probable that if the veteran was at the Battle of Hanging Rock on August 6, 1780, he was under the command of Colonel William Richardson Davies. It is also possible that this veteran confused Davies with Davidson as the officer under whom he served.

County of Louisa in the State of Virginia. When four years of age he was removed by his parents to Lunenburg Virginia, where he resided until he was 25 years of age. He then removed to Caswell County North Carolina. A few years after the close of the Revolutionary War Declarant removed to the County of Surry N. C. where he resided until year 1818. He then removed to Greene County Tennessee, where he resided two years; Then to Bledsoe County Tennessee where he resided two years. Then to McMinn County Tennessee, where he resided two years. Then to Monroe County Tennessee where he now resides. Declarant hereby relinquishes every Claim whatever to a Pension, or an annuity except the present, and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency of any State or Territory in the United States.

Sworn to & subscribed in Open Court August 29, 1836.

S/ Meshack Gentry, X his mark

S/ E. H. Wear, Clk

[p 4]

John Sims⁴ resident of the County of Monroe in the State of Tennessee doth on his oath certify, that he is acquainted with Meshack Gentry, whose name is subscribed to the foregoing declaration, -- that he believes him to be a man of truth and entitled to credit. Affiant served in the war of the Revolution in North & South Carolina against the British and Tories, -- While in service under General Davidson Affiant recollects that a man of the same name of Declarant Commanded a Company of mounted Riflemen in Colonel Fifer's Regiment, but was not then acquainted with him. From conversations with Declarant since [indecipherable word or words]⁵ as of late years become acquainted with him Affiant is fully convinced he is the same man who commanded said Company, And feels well assured from the incidents of the Revolutionary war in North & South Carolina related by him, that he served as stated by him in his declaration.

Sworn to & subscribed in open Court.

S/ John Sims, X his mark

S/ E. H. Wear, Clerk

[John McGhee, Henry Tucker, Ayes Hadspeth, Charles Hess and James Curtis gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

⁴ [John Sims \(Simms, Simmes\) W10252](#)

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