

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension app of Ezekiel Hawes R4760

Bethany

fn52NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 4/25/11

[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. 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 fails 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 errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of North Carolina, Columbus County

On this the 12th day of November, 1832, personally appeared in open Court, before the worshipful Moore Lennon, Bythel Haynes and Lott Williamson, Justices of the Peace for the County of Columbus presiding in the Superior Court for said County now sitting - Ezekiel Hawes, a resident of Columbus County, aged seventy-three years and upwards, 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:

In the Spring of the Year 1776 (as well as can now be recollected) it being about the time of planting corn, then a resident of New Hanover County and the British then laying in two ships of war below the Flats in the Cape Fear River. He became a volunteer in a Company of New Hanover Militia commanded by Capt. Thomas Devane and Lieut. George Robeson. The Company rendezvoused at Wilmington in New Hanover County, marched to old Town and thence to Ancrum's plantation above Old Town, and on the British retiring, were ordered back to Wilmington. Some of the Onslow, Duplin, and Bladen Militias were in the service at the same time and they were all under the command of a Colonel Routledge [Rutledge]; -- there were also some Continental Troops at that place under the command of Colonel Martin and said to have been the first Continental Troops that were raised in North Carolina. All the Troops at Wilmington were commanded by General James Moore who he believed was also a Continental officer. After remaining at Wilmington a short time, he obtained a furlough to go home for twenty days, returned at the expiration thereof; remained until after the British had left the Coast of North Carolina, when he was discharged, having served three months,

the period for which he was called into service. He was paid at Wilmington and received a Verbal discharge.

2. Some time in the early part of the year, 1779 as well as can now be recollected, he received seventy-two dollars proclamation money from Captain James Moorehead [James Morehead] of Bladen County, North Carolina, as a bounty to join what was called the New Levies on the Continental establishment, it being understood at the time, that they were destined for the Northern Army. The men enlisted in Bladen marched to Duplin Court House, where they were commanded by Capt. Robert Raiford. After being there a short time, they were informed that their services were not then wanted and they were accordingly furloughed for six months. In the meantime, proclamation was made for the New Levies at the expiration of their furloughs, to repair to Elizabethtown, Bladen County, in order to complete their term of service in obedience thereto, he repaired to the place with the other New Levies. He was marched by Captain Moorehead to Purrysburgh [Purrysburg], South Carolina, where the American army under General Lincoln was then stationed - this was the first part of the year Capt. Moorehead delivered the men over to Col. Armstrong commanding the 5th Regiment of Continentals in the North Carolina line. As officers were so frequently changed or transferred, he has no recollection to what company he was first attached. He was at last attached to Captain (afterwards Major) Doherty's Company. From Purrysburg, they were marched to Black Swamp on the Savannah River, thence to Col. Galphin's plantation, between that place and Augusta were they crossed the Savannah and marched three days towards the town of Savannah when an express arrived there - oath of an informant that the British were pushing to Charleston. On this information being received, the army under General Lincoln recrossed the Savannah River and made a forced march in order to overtake the British, crossed then with his army, the head of Salt Catchers [Saltketcher River] and the Edisto River—Before they reached the Edisto River, the British had so blocked up the road by felling trees, that the American Army was obliged to leave the road. Between the two rivers an engagement took place between the vanguard of the American and the rear of the British army, took twenty British prisoners, and some of McGirt's [Daniel McGirt] and Cunningham's [probably Richard or Patrick Cunningham] (two famous Tories) men. McGirt was wounded and Cunningham taken prisoner. After that affair, the army was marched to Bacon's Bridge one mile above Dorchester on Ashley River, thence to Stono Church, where they remained until the action at Wapoo [Wadboo?], where the Americans were defeated. He (Hawes) was not in the Battle, having been ordered to remain with the Wagons-thence they returned to Bacon's Bridge where our Company remained until the expiration of their term of service when they marched to Strawberry Ferry on Cooper River where they were discharged. He served in this engagement nine months and received a discharge in writing from Col. Archibald Lytle who was then our Colonel or Lieutenant Colonel.

After the above detailed tour of Continental Service, he was exempt from service for three years, by Act of the General Assembly, but not availing himself of the exemption, he again entered the service, then residing in Duplin County, as a private in a Troop of Duplin Volunteer Cavalry, under the command of Captain William Vann, Lieut. John Matthews, and Ensign Robert Merritt, belonging to a company of militia under the command of Col. Thomas Bludworth who were called into service for three months on order to suppress the Tories who had collected in considerable numbers under the

command of Captain Peter Scarborough - they were subdued and Scarborough and eight of his men were taken prisoners after he had been very troublesome and done much mischief to the inhabitants of New Hanover County and the counties adjoining. Capt. Vann, by order of Colonel Kenan of Duplin, carried them to Halifax in this State and delivered them to the keeper of the Prison at that place. Before they returned from Halifax, where he as one of the Company went, his term of service had quite already expired. He received a written discharge for three months service.

Before the tour of service above detailed, and shortly after Lord Cornwallis had left Major James Craig in the command of Wilmington, orders were issued to Capt. Vann by Col. James Kenan, to repair with his Company (of which he was a private) to the Big ^{or Blueford's} Bridge on the northeast twelve miles above Wilmington, to guard against incursions of the Tories, and to prevent the disaffected from going into Wilmington. The Company rendezvoused at the Big Bridge where they were joined by a Company from Bladen, one from New Hanover, and another from Onslow Counties all under the command of Col. James Kenan. In a skirmish with the British at that place, who made an attack on Col. Kenan's command and were defeated. A man by the name of Simmons, a private, was killed. He received a written discharge for three months service. The discharge which he received from the Continental service, he delivered to one William Anderson, in order to receive his pay many years ago and knows not what has become of Anderson or the discharge ^{the others are lost}. He has no documentary evidence of his service and the only living witnesses of his service whose attendance he can procure are John Fowler and Charles Hays. 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 and subscribed the day and year first above written.

S/ Ezekiel Hawes, X his mark

[fn p. 6]

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

1. In New Hanover County in the year 1759 2nd February
2. I have not.
3. In New Hanover: I have resided part of my time in Bladen & Duplin and now reside in Columbus County North Carolina.
4. I enlisted once, and was a Volunteer in every other instance.
5. When in the Continental service, besides the officers already named, I was acquainted with General Sumner, General Huger, Major Eaton, who was the Major of Armstrong's Regiment Major Daniel Williams, Captain Hardy Holmes – Major Raiford – Colonel Malmedy – the General circumstances of my service are embodied in my declaration.
6. This Interrogatory is answered in the body of my declaration.
7. Joseph Gore, Colonel John Gore, Major Thomas Frink, William Gore, Joseph Carlisle, Henry Best Esquire

[William Kemp, a clergyman, and John H White gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[fn p. 9]

State of North Carolina Columbus County: Court of Pleas & Court Sessions – November Sessions 1832

Personally appeared in Open Court, this the 12th day of November 1832, Charles Hay,¹ who after being duly sworn according to law, on his oath deposeth as follows

That he recollects that the Applicant for a Pension, Ezekiel Hawes served with this Deponent during the Revolutionary [war] in a Company of Militia that was called into service for three months under the command of William Vann Captain, and John Mathews Lieutenant – that they marched to Bluefort Bridge on the northeast [River], when they were stationed, until they were obliged to retreat before a superior force from Wilmington then in possession of the British – he and the said Haws [sic] completed the term of service. Further this Deponent sayeth not.

S/ Charles Hay, X his mark

[fn p. 10]

Personally appeared in Open Court, this the 12th day of November 1832, John Fowler,² who after being duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath depose and say, that – He recollects serving during the Revolutionary War for 3 months in a company of Sampson Militia under the command of William Vann Captain, John Mathews Lieutenant, with the applicant for a Pension Ezekiel Hawes – that they marched together from Sampson County to Blueford's or the Big Bridge on the North East River, where they were stationed some time – at that the said Hawes completed his term of service – further the Deponent saith not

[no evidence this affidavit was signed by affiant]

[fn p. 43: application for a transfer of pension benefits dated May 29, 1838 filed in Kemper County Mississippi by the veteran stating that he has moved to Mississippi because the greater part of his children have moved to that state. The identity of the veteran was attested by Ezekiel Hawes, Junior, son of the veteran.]

[fn p. 12: On June 7th, 1850 in Kemper County Mississippi, Bethany Hawes, 70, filed for a widow's pension under the 1848 act stating she is the widow of Ezekiel Hawes, a revolutionary war pensioner; that she married him before the year 1800 and had one child by him but does not recollect the precise time they were married; that her husband died in the month of February 1841; and that she remains his widow. She signed her application with her mark.]

[fn p. 40: certificate from the clerk of court of Sampson County saying he had searched the records in that County for a marriage license for a Ezekiel Hause [sic] to marry Bethany Vann and found no such record. The certificate is dated December 7th, 1852.]

[fn p. 42: A. D. Vann a resident of Sampson County North Carolina gave testimony that he was present at the marriage of Ezekiel Hawes to Bethany Vann; that the marriage took place in his father's house. His affidavit is dated February 18, 1854 and does not include a statement of his relationship, if any, to the widow.]

¹ No veteran by this or any similar name filed for a pension under the federal pension acts.

² [John Fowler S16809](#)

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$50 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 3 months service as a private in the North Carolina militia and 12 months service in the North Carolina Continental line.]