

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Leonard Higdon R4975 Susannah fn33NC
Transcribed by Will Graves 5/3/11

[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 County of Macon

On this eighth day of October personally appeared in open court before the Judge now sitting Leonard Higdon a resident [of] Macon in the County of Macon and State of North Carolina aged 78 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 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. All my services were as a private. I served under Colonel Thomas Wade (do not recollect the name of the Major). __ Wilson was Captain. I entered the service in the year 1780. I was born in Anson County North Carolina in the year 1754. I have no record of my age.

I resided in Anson County North Carolina when I entered the service and [indecipherable word] two years after the close of the war when I after living in Georgia one year, removed to Burke County North Carolina where I have lived until about five years ago – Since that time I have resided in Macon County. I was drafted for that period of my service to which I now allude. I was engaged at the Battle or skirmish at Bettis Bridge¹ [Beatti's Bridge] in the Gum Swamp Captain Wilson was killed in this battle. I did not go out of the State of North Carolina in this campaign. I do not recollect the names of any regular officers nor did I served with any regulars. I was called out on an emergency to oppose the British & Tories who were stationed at or in the Gum Swamp. I did not receive a written discharge. I know of no person who can testify to my services and whose testimony he can be procured except John Talant [?] of Georgia whose deposition, though informally taken is herewith transmitted. This tour of service lasted about 3 months. I was also in service 2 or 3 short terms before this under the same Colonel Wade amounting in all to something like 4 or 5 months. After my services under Colonel Wade,

¹ August 4, 1781 <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/beattisbr.htm> and http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_beattis_bridge.html

I served under General Rutherford as a volunteer a tour of six months. When I entered the service I cannot remember but we marched on to Wilmington North Carolina and there remained until the surrender of Lord Cornwallis – there were no regulars with us. I served various short terms of service of which I cannot give a particular account, but the whole of my service amounts to at least 18 months.

The Reverend Charles Stiles & William Tathom lived in my neighborhood & well testify as to my character and the belief of my services.

I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State.

1st Where and in what year were you born?

2nd Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

3rd Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom?

5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

Sworn to & subscribed the day and year aforesaid

S/ Lenard Higdon, X his mark

[Ch. Stiles, a clergyman, and J. Buchanan gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

Georgia Lumpkin County: In person came before me James Contrial [James Cantrell] an acting justice of the peace in and for said County John Tallant who being duly sworn saith that deponent and Leonard Higdon was in a battle at the Gum Swamp in the service of the United States under the command of Curnel waid [Colonel Wade] and Captain Wilson in the Revolution ware [war] the date not Recollected deponent further states that he and said Leonard Higdon was together at Salisbury both places and times in the State of North Carolina this state to be to the best of my recollection. Sworn to and subscribed before me August 26, 1833

S/ John Tullunt, X his mark

S/ James Cantrell, JP

[fn p. 14]

North Carolina Macon County October 4th 1834

Personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the peace for said County Lenard Higdon who being duly sworn deposes and saith that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his services but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following terms of Services and all my services as a private –

I was living in Anson County North Carolina when I first entered into the Service of the United States in the year 1779 I volunteered and went into the Service under the command of

Captain Wilson Major White & Colonel Thomas Wade & marched from Anson County down through North Carolina to Drowning Creek into Robeson County I think from there I marched to what was called Negro head on the Raft Swamps over Streets Bridge all in the same County as well as I now recollect & then marched back to Anson County with horse in no battles met no British Army but captured some Tories. This service continued for not less than 3 three months I received no discharge.

The second tower [tour] I volunteered living in Anson County North Carolina in the year 1779 about the middle of the summer (to wit) July under the command of Captain Wilson Major White Colonel Wade marched from Anson Courthouse into the lower end of the County next to Richmond County and was there stationed on the bank of Pedee River and while there a company of Tories came to wades Mill and killed two men of our Company & then we marched to the Mill and then after [?] them for some time until the advanced guard overtook them & fired upon them and the Regiment came up the Tories & retreated and we followed them until we found that we could not overtake them until the [they] would be able to join the British Army then being at [word completely obliterated and illegible] Bridge and from there we halted or stopped [one or more indecipherable words] we marched back to Anson Court house got no discharge but was just dismissed by our officers. In this tower I served not less than 3 months as a private.

I volunteered again living in Anson in December 1779 or January 1780 under the command of Captain Wilson Major White Colonel Wade marched from Anson Courthouse down through Anson into Robeson to Bittis'is Bridge stopped about a mile above the Bridge at Drowning Creek about dark and part of the company swam their horses over the Creek as that was very much risen by heavy rains and as soon as they got out into the [indecipherable word, looks like "Batton"] or the other side the [indecipherable word, looks like "Corstesy"] of the British Army fired upon them and they retreated and swam the Creek and we encamped there all night without fires to keep from being seen by the British & Tories & the next day we went down and about one quarter of a mile of the bridge & formed for Battle & sent forward 20 of our riflemen to fire on the Army on the Bridge & then retreat in order to bring them to battle out of their encampment after the 20 riflemen and the British Army exchanged fire the [they] wounded one of our men by shooting him [one or more indecipherable word or words] the horse [?] the British Army then left the bridge without coming to a regular engagement . We marched to the bridge & there held a counsel of war whether to cross the Creek but concluded to cross and about the time one half of the American Army got across the bridge a battle commenced with the [indecipherable word or words] and the British got into Gum Swamp at the end of the bridge and prevented the remainder of the Army from crossing I was one of the man that got across and was in the battle which lasted about 2 hours and the American Army retreated Captain Wilson was killed which I saw done two of the British dragoons on our retreat overtook him ordered him to surrender he turned on his horse & shot one of them down with his pistol and the other shot him through the Back but he did not fall off his horse at the fire but several of them closed upon him & hughed [hacked?] him down with their swords. There was a good many killed & wounded but I don't recollect the number then we marched home to Anson I got no discharge this tower I am certain I served not less than 3 months as a private.

I was drafted then for 6 months living in Anson in the Spring of the year 1780 under the command of Captain Glen Major White Colonel ~~Wade~~ Love and General Rutherford marched from Anson County to Drowning Creek through Richmond County to Roberson [Robeson] and there encamped [indecipherable word, could be "Nine"] days and while there Holden Wade went

out to reconnoiter with 20 horsemen came across a company of Tories of 300 and charged upon them with his 20 men & killed 25 of them dead or the [indecipherable word] and the balance ran – & got none of his men killed. Then we marched down to the Cape Fear River and there met the British guard & [several indecipherable words] & then crossed the River to march on to Wilmington but before we got there the British had took shipping all but their rear guard who were attacked by some of our horse who killed one & wounded another and stayed in Wilmington about one month I am certain I served not less than six months this tower as a private I was furloughed home which I have [indecipherable word] or mislaid so that I cannot find it. After serving out my 6 month tower I was put under the command of a French captain to stay to see which the English [indecipherable word, could be "would return"] after Gen. Rutherford had left them for home with the main part of his army I am certain that I remained with this French Capt. 25 days after my six month tower had expired and it was him that furloughed me home and then Col. Love relieved me from going back without the British return or I was called for. I was drafted then for 3 months in the year 1780 or first part of 1781 Capt. Holder Wade the other officers' names not recollected, march[ed] from Anson into S. Carolina near Camden and was there stationed at a Mill & from there was Stationed at another mill near Camden & then came home I served not less than 3 months this tower as a private. Shortly after my return home I was order[ed] by Col. Wade to march to Salisbury NC and from this to Rocky River in Anson County to Guard provisions. I do not recollect who was the officers this tower but I am certain that I served not less than 4 months[s] as a private I am certain that I served not less than twenty two month[s] and 25 days as a private which time I was not engaged in any civil pursuit and for which services I claim a pension.

Sworn to and Subscribed before me this 4 day of October 1834

S/ W. W. Dobson, JP

S/ Lenard Higdon, X his mark

[fn p. 19]

The amendment of the declaration of Lenard Higdon made in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress of June 7th 1832.

1. I was living in Anson County NC when I first entered the service. I was drafted the first tour for 3 months & served at the time under the command of Colonel Wade & Captain Wilson & Captain Wilson was killed in the battle at the Gum Swamp at Bettes Bridge in Anson County or near it NC no regulars as I now recollect of being there it was a small detachment to fight the Tories & some British this service was performed as a private. This service was performed in 1779 1782 I think being no scholar I can't fix on the time with certainty I did not receive any discharge [indecipherable word or figure] I had performed 3 tours prior to this time as a volunteer under Colonel Wade all the tours but one of them Cap. Glen & [one or more indecipherable words] the Country from Anson County to the Gum Swamp drowning Creek & the last Negro Head generally scouting after the Tories & [one or more indecipherable words] British no fighting of consequence a few guns fired

[I give up—the handwriting of the scribe is just too difficult and the indecipherable words too numerous for me to think continued transcription is worthwhile.]

[fn p. 3: On December 9, 1845, in Macon County North Carolina, Susanna Higdon, 69, filed for a widow's pension under the 1838 act and for the pension due her husband under the 1832 act stating she is the widow of Leonard Higdon; she states that she married him March 31st, 1891 in Rutherford County North Carolina; that her husband died September 11 1837.]

[fn p. 24: marriage bond dated March 30, 1791 issued in Rutherford County North Carolina to Leonard Higdon & Samuel Carpenter to secure the marriage of Leonard Higdon to Susannah Harris of said County.]