

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Richard B. Meacham R7071

f9NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

4/23/09 rev'd 10/4/14

[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 Alabama Perry County

On this fourth day of September personally appeared in open Court before the County Court of the County & State aforesaid now sitting Richard B. Meacham a resident of Perry County aforesaid & State of Alabama aged seventy-five 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. I was as well as I remember in my 18 year, in 1778 in what month or on what day for my life I cannot say I had acquired a thorough knowledge of the exercise & maneuvers in a horse company -- and resolved to entered the service of the United States till the close of the war -- which I did and volunteered for that purpose in Chatham County in North Carolina on Haw River. I was elected Capt. of a horse company in a few days after I joined the service -- I think I distinctly recollect all the officers of the Brigade I was then which was composed of six companies -- I will mention Captains Douglass, Willis, Johnson, two Crutchfields and myself -- the Colonels were Litrell [John Luttrell] & my father, John Meacham (an own cousin of General Washington & with him in Braddock's war). The Brigade was under the command of General Butler [John Butler] the length of my service to the best of my recollection was three years & eleven months. I feel that I can safely make this statement. I believe I got a certificate or showing of my service & discharge from one Col. Williams one of the Commissioners at Hillsborough in North Carolina about the 16th of March 1782. General Butler gave me a Commission but I cannot say whose name was signed to it. I state now that my commission with every paper I had was burned in my house on Pedee River four miles from grassy island set on fire by one John Panky & a Negro as is believed more than 30 years ago. I was a volunteer & in the horse service and Capt. of a horse company the whole time I was in the service 3 years & 11 months as above stated. The most important engagement I was in was in a very short time after I entered the service. It was between our Regiment and Col. Fanning [David Fanning] the Tory Col. who at that time had under his command several hundred Tories & Scotsmen [Scotchmen]. A battle was fought at Lindley's Mill<sup>1</sup> on Cane Creek that runs into the West side of Haw River about 5 miles from his mouth & 9 miles from Luttrell's Barracks the place from which we started in Chatham County North Carolina in this battle I received a most severe wound the effects of which I feel more now than I did 20 years ago the wound being given by a musket ball in the right hip I was able to

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<sup>1</sup> September 12, 1781. <http://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/810912.htm>

remain on horseback but after getting back to the Barracks was unable to ride again for a month - it caused my whole right leg & foot to grow round to the right which everyone can see and has been an inconvenience to me all my life -- in this little battle we killed 37 Scotch and 26 of the American Tories -- we lost but few men I believe 4 killed -- we were marched back to the Barracks from this place after I had recovered so that I could ride & resume the command of my company we scoured the Country as often as occasion required which was very frequent in every direction -- sometimes detached under our superior officer & then another it would perhaps be of no consequence that I should enumerate the numerous little skirmishes & chases we had with the Tories for it is known by everybody that this part of the Country was perhaps more plundered & annoyed by them in small numbers than almost any other -- but little idle time during any part of my service. In 1781 when Cornwallis was at Guilford Court house we were ordered to Join the command & reinforce General Green [Nathanael Greene] and were on our march to that place at the time the battle was fought. I was also in the same year stationed with the guard to the baggage and wagons at the time the battle of Eutaw [Eutaw Springs, September 8, 1781] was fought. I could name many of the regular officers who passed occasionally through our quarter of the country but we were but little with them some parts of our Regiment were detached & engaged with them at several places but as I stated above I did not reach any point where a battle was fought by the regulars. There was General Greene a regular officer I have seen. I can say I have seen others but I suppose it will not be worthwhile for the general circumstances of my service I must refer the department to my declaration. It was as hard & fatiguing as that of any man who was long though perhaps not so important to the whole Country I should have applied for a pension before this but thought that the loss of my papers would prevent me from getting anything. I have no documentary evidence & that I know of no person living whose testimony I can procure who can testify to my service. 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 whatever.

Sworn to & subscribed, the day & year aforesaid

S/ Richard B. Meacham



[Benjamin Ford, George Hameter [?] & William West gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

To the Interrogatories prescribed by the War Department the applicant Richard B. Meacham answers as follows viz.

1<sup>st</sup> Where and in what year were you born?

Ans: I was born in Caroline County Virginia in the year 1760

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

Ans: My age is recorded in my father's Bible I believe at this time in my Younger Brother's possession.

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

Ans: In Chatham County when called into service (and being a carpenter & millwright by trade I have moved about a great deal I moved from Chatham to Morgan County in Georgia in 1810 I moved to Clark County now in Alabama on the Bigby -- I was engaged as a volunteer in a short time during the late war) I moved then into Washington County thence to Greene -- thence

to [word obliterated] thence to Wilcox thence to Perry County where I have lived since October 1833.

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

Ans: I volunteered & served as stated in my Declaration

5<sup>th</sup> 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.

Ans: General Greene -- General Wayne, Col. Lee & some others I do not recollect I cannot remember the number or names of any of the Regiments but my own as to the general circumstances of my service I have stated them in my Declaration

6<sup>th</sup> Did you ever receive a commission, & if so, by whom was it signed and what has become of it?

Ans: I have fully answered this Interrogatory in my declaration

7<sup>th</sup> 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.

Ans: I mention those who are here convenient Benjamin Ford Esquire George Hameter, Jack Ford and many others might be named. William West is a clergyman in my neighborhood. Sworn to and subscribed this the 4th September 1835

S/ J. B. Nave, Clk

S/ Richard B. Meacham