

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Proffit R8499

Elizabeth Proffitt f18NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

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[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.]

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State of North Carolina, County of Wilkes } SS

On this the 18<sup>th</sup> day of June in the year A.D. 1850 personally appeared before the undersigned an acting Justice of the County and State above mentioned, Elizabeth Proffitt a resident of Adkin Valley in Wilkes County and State of North Carolina, aged ninety years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed July 4, 1836, Section 3: that she is the widow of William Proffit, who was a wagoner in the service of Virginia, he was hauling a load of salt from Virginia, for one Colonel Gronger, to the County of Wilkes N. C., and on his way home, he was imprisoned by the press master, but she cannot now relate the name of this officer, but that he and his wagon and team was attached to Colonel Cleveland's [Benjamin Cleveland's] Regiment of North Carolina militia, and the time when he entered this service she does not know, but that it was about the beginning of the war in the Carolinas – her memory is not serving her in particulars as to dates for this term, its length, and duration she believes to have been six months, that this was the first time that he was engaged in said service. She further testifies that the said William Proffit was a wagoner and was engaged in hauling provisions when the battle of Kings Mountain which was fought in October 1780 [October 7, 1780] by the American Colonels Shelby [Isaac Shelby], Sevier [John Sevier], Williams [James Williams] and Colonel Campbell [William Campbell], and Colonel Cleveland Belonging to this latter Colonel's Regiment was the William Proffit who was also a wagoner and he and his team were employed by Colonel Cleveland for the term of months.

She further declares that sometime in the year 1779 (she thinks) Colonel Benjamin Cleveland of Wilkes County, came into the neighborhood where her husband the said William Proffit then lived about 3 miles below Wilkesboro Wilkes County, and informed the citizens that there was a body of the enemy close at hand, and they Colonel Cleveland and Captain Cleveland [Robert Cleveland] wished to see how many volunteers they could get by day light on the next morning. That her husband the aforementioned William Proffit volunteered his services, under the command of Capt. Robert Cleveland who was under his brother Colonel Benjamin Cleveland, and served for the term of two months. This tour she thinks he entered in the service in or about the month of January 1779, though she cannot swear positively as to this period during this campaign he was marched into South Carolina from Wilkes County and was in several small battles but from loss of memory, cannot recollect them Though she swears in positive terms that she has heard her husband say that he was in the battle of the Cowpens [January 17, 1781], but does not know whether he was then a soldier or a wagoner at that engagement, and furthermore that he was in the battle of Eutaw Springs [September 8, 1781] and was during that tour a private soldier, and does not recollect the name of any of the officers who

commanded at this battle and of whom she has heard him speak but the name of General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene]. She saith that she has heard her husband frequently speak of fighting in that battle under the said General Greene. She declares to the best of her knowledge and belief that the principal part of his service was rendered under the Clevelands viz. Captain Robert and Colonel Benjamin Cleveland. She further declares that from the time he entered the service viz. when he was pressed with his wagon and team on his way from Virginia, till he came home and remained there was a few months was about 12 months to the best of her knowledge, and that the time he served under the Cleveland's she thinks was about the same length of time.

There was another call then for volunteers in the County of Wilkes made by one Captain William Lenoir who belonged when raised to Col. Cleveland's Corps of foot troops, under whom her husband served part of the time as a soldier and part of the time as cook for said Captain Lenoir. The date when he entered under this officer she cannot recollect but thinks that it was about the close of the war or in the year 1781, perhaps in that of '80 but says that Lenoir held his men in readiness till it was said that the British had left the State of North Carolina, and it began to be rumored that they would soon make peace with us. Then the Captain told his men that they might lay down their guns, as there would be no more fighting to be done. She thinks this occurred in the last part of the year 1781.

She further declares that her husband was a citizen of Wilkes County about 3 miles from Wilkesboro where he entered the service every time, and was in the first instance when taken as a wagoner drafted and never brought his wagon nor horses back with him. In every other expedition viz the Clevelands and Captain Lenoir he was a volunteer.

She further declares that she was married to the said William Proffit on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of January in the year 1776 and that her husband the aforesaid William Proffit died on the 16 day of December in the year 1823: and that she has remained a widow ever since that period as will more fully appear a reference to the proof hereto annexed.

S/ Elizabeth Proffit, X her mark

Sworn to and subscribed before me the undersigned an acting Justice in the County and State heretofore mentioned on this the 18<sup>th</sup> day of June in the year A.D. 1850.

S/ Samuel Walsh, J.C.R.

[Sarah Tugmore [could be Gugmore], gave an affidavit stating that he witnessed the marriage of William Proffitt to Elizabeth Elmore in 1776; that they were married by James Fletcher, Esqr.]

[John Green, Jr., of Wilkes, gave an affidavit stating that when he was a boy of 12, he was aware of William Proffitt serving as a soldier in the Revolutionary War under Benjamin Cleveland and William Lenoir.]