

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Joseph Pruit (Pruett, Prewitt) R8506

fn15NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

9/28/09

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. Folks are free to make non-commercial use this transcript in any manner they may see fit, but please extend the courtesy of acknowledging the transcriber—besides, if it turns out the transcript contains mistakes, the resulting embarrassment will fall on the transcriber.]

State of North Carolina County of Wilkes

On this first day of August 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions of the County & state aforesaid, now sitting, Joseph Pruit a resident of the County of -- & State of North Carolina aged seventy-nine 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 was born in the County of Pittsylvania & State of Virginia on the 16th day of July 1754 record of which he has in his family Bible now in his possession -- and that he continued to reside in the said County until he was about 19 years of age when he removed to Wilkes County North Carolina -- after residing in Wilkes County about 4 years, he entered the service of the United States as a volunteer in Captain Benjamin Cleveland's company of minute men in the month of August 1776 and marched to Kriders fort [sic, Cryder's Fort?] In the County of Burke, where they were stationed for 2 weeks, and thence marched to the Pleasant Gardens in said County where they joined the troops under General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford], and thence marched to the most direct practicable route to the Cherokee Towns of Watauga, Coosa, Oconeluffee [?], and some others not recollected. After their arrival at one of the Indian Towns, General Rutherford received an express from General Pickens<sup>1</sup> (who had command of the South Carolina troops in the Nation) requesting that a detachment of three hundred men should be detached from General Rutherford's troops and sent immediately to his assistance -- the request was immediately complied with, and the three hundred men detached for that purpose (among whom the deponent was one). They had taken up the line of march but a short distance, when another express arrived from General Pickens stating that the Indians had fled, and that the services of the troops would not be required, they accordingly returned and rejoined General Rutherford -- upon visiting the various Indian Towns they found them almost entirely abandoned, there being in them but a few straggling men, women & children, who implored for peace and whom they did not molest. After destroying their towns, corn & such other property as they could find, the Army under General Rutherford returned to North Carolina, and this deponent received his discharge from Captain Cleveland at Wilkes Court House and repaired to his home, having served for 3 months.

After this expedition this deponent served several short terms against the Tories first under Captain Cleveland in the capacity of a scouting party after 3 celebrated Tories on the North West side of the Blue Ridge by the names of Roberts, Coyle & Jones but did not succeed in taking them -- this expedition was performed principally through the Counties of Ashe & Surry

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<sup>1</sup> Sic, Andrew Williamson was the commander of the South Carolina troops on the 1776 Cherokee Expedition.

in North Carolina and Grayson in Virginia, and in which this deponent served 2 months -- In a few days after this deponent returned home he again volunteered himself to go against the Tories under Captain Cleveland -- it being understood that a body of them had assembled on New River in Ashe County under Captain John Roberts, one of the 3 persons above mentioned -- Captain Cleveland with his men marched direct to the place where they understood the Tories had embodied themselves, and prepared to attack them, but upon making a proper inquiry as to their numbers, they found their strength was too great there being about 300 of them, and only about 30 or 40 of the Whigs, they accordingly retreated after capturing some few of the Tories who were sent out to reconnoiter, but whom they afterwards released, upon finding that they were closely pursued -- after the prisoners were released, Captain Cleveland with his men recrossed the mountains where they were discharged and returned home -- In this expedition this deponent was in service 5 weeks. In a few weeks after the deponent arrived at home he again volunteered himself to go against the same body of Tories, and was attached to a company commanded by Captain Larkin Cleveland, but was afterwards transferred to the command of Captain William Nall -- they rendezvoused at Captain Cox's on New River on the North West side of the Blue Ridge in what is now Ashe County North Carolina and thence marched down the River to near Grayson Court House in Virginia where they captured a Tory by the name of Oliver Roberts (a brother of the Tory Captain) whom they detained some time, in custody, and until he gave the most solemn assurances that he would from thence forth join the Whigs, and that he would within a given time repair to Wilkes Court House and join the standard of Colonel Benjamin Cleveland which he afterwards did -- After the release of Roberts, they crossed to the South side of the mountain upon the waters of the Yadkin [River] where they captured 2 more Tories, but who afterwards made their escape -- they then recrossed the Blue Ridge in the hope of meeting with a body of Tories under the command of Colonel Bryan, but to their ascertained had abandoned that part of the Country and took a direction towards the High Rock Ford on Haw River where this deponent afterwards understood they had been attacked and defeated by the Americans. After scouring the Country round through Grayson in Virginia for some time they proceeded up New River near to its source, and after having captured several other Tories, they recrossed the mountains to Wilkes Court House and from thence were discharged and returned home. In this expedition, this deponent served for 2 months. Soon after this deponent returned home he was again ordered out by Colonel Cleveland to go on a similar expedition against the Tories on the waters of the New River in which he served 2 weeks. In a short time after this little expedition Colonel Cleveland received information that a number of Tories were embodying themselves near Ramsour's Mills in the County of Lincoln upon which he issued orders for all the Whigs in the County of Wilkes to turn out and oppose them -- this deponent accordingly again turned out and marched under Colonel Cleveland towards Ramsour's Mills -- but before they reached the point at which they expected to meet with the Tories they received intelligence that an engagement had taken place between them and the Whigs in which the Tories were entirely defeated -- upon receiving this information Colonel Cleveland ordered his men to return and proceed back as far as Hamblin's old store where they were stationed for some time to keep the Tories in check as the neighborhood around that place was considerably infested by them -- after the neighborhood was restored to a state of tolerable security, Colonel Cleveland discharged his men and they returned home -- In this expedition, this deponent served one month. This deponent also performed one other tour of 2 weeks under Colonel Cleveland against the Tories in the edge of Virginia, in which they captured several & executed some -- after which they marched for Wilkes where Colonel Cleveland discharged, and they repaired to their respective

homes -- where this deponent remained until the close of the War. This deponent further states that he has resided in Wilkes County ever since the War of the Revolution until about 3 years ago, when he removed to the County of Ashe. He further states that he never received a written discharge for any portion of his services nor has he any documentary evidence to prove them -- but refers to William Spicer<sup>2</sup> & Benjamin Hammons<sup>3</sup> who served with him, as witnesses whose testimony is hereto annexed, for proof of his services. His answers to the 5th interrogatory is contained in the general body of this declaration. He further states that there is no clergyman residing in his neighborhood who certificate he could procure -- but he refers to Mr. Robert Bangar & John Holloway Esquire as persons to whom he is well known in his present neighborhood, and who can testify as to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution.

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 & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ R. Martin, Clerk

S/ Joseph Pruit, X his mark

On the day & year aforesaid, personally appeared in open Court before the Court aforesaid, William Spicer, who, after being duly sworn according to law deposes & saith that he served with Joseph Pruet the above applicant during the 3 months tour performed under General Rutherford against the Cherokee Indians, and further that the said 3 months tour as set forth and specified in the foregoing declaration as having been performed by the said Joseph Pruit was performed by him.

Sworn & described the day & year aforesaid

S/ R. Martin, Clk

S/ Wm Spicer, X his mark

On the day and year aforesaid personally appeared in open Court before the court aforesaid, Benjamin Hammons, who after being duly sworn according to law deposes & saith that he served with Joseph Pruit the above applicant, during all of the several tours mentioned in the foregoing declaration except the 3 months tour against the Cherokee Indians under General Rutherford, and further, that the said several tours of duty as set forth & specified in the foregoing declaration (with the exception of aforesaid) as having been performed by the said Joseph Pruit were performed by him.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid

S/ R. Martin, Clk

S/ Benjamin Hammons, X his mark

[Robert Bangar & John Holloway gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[fn p. 2: Joel Prewitt [sic] executed a power of attorney in Wilkes County North Carolina in which he states that he is the son of Joseph Prewitt, a soldier of the revolution. The power of attorney is dated June 23, 1853.]

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<sup>2</sup> FPA S3962

<sup>3</sup> FPA W4978