

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Robert Ballew (Ballou) S10350

f29VA[sicNC]

Transcribed by Will Graves

7/19/10 rev'd 8/12/14

[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 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

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State of Alabama County of Morgan: SS

On this 21st day of January 1836 personally appeared before me Edwin R Wallace, Judge of the County Court for the County aforesaid which is a Court of record, Robert Ballew (or Ballou) a resident of the County of Morgan & State of Alabama, aged Seventy-four 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 provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. – That he enlisted in the Army of the United States in the year 1776, with Captain David Ballew and in the 71st Regiment of the Virginia troops in the Continental line, and that Colonel Nicholas Cabbell [Nicholas Cabell?] who belonged to the militia took the command of the Regiment Major Higginbotham being next in command, and marched with the troops under him with the 71st Regiment to old James Town, where they continued to rendezvous for 18 months, as well as he recollects: that he enlisted for 3 years or during the war; that his brother Captain David Beaulieu was seized with the smallpox and died with that disease in Winchester, & that a few days before his death, this declarant obtained his discharge, through the influence of his brother, in the year 1777. He then returned home and his father removed to North Carolina, Burke County, where he enlisted again in the service of the United States under the command of Captain John Hardin [John Harden] for nine months, and was marched to Salisbury in North Carolina where the company rendezvoused; that Captain Harden then retired from the service & this declarant was then placed under the command of Captain James Craig, Major Nelson being next highest in command & Colonel Thomas Lytle [probably Archibald Lytle] commanding the Regiment; that orders were there received from General Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln] to March to Purrysburg 12 miles from the town of Savannah; that the troops were then marched to Golphin's Bluff under the command of General Nash [sic, John Ashe]: the British then having possession of Augusta evacuated the place & the troops of the United States took possession of it under General Nash; & that from that place he was marched to Brier Creek Bridge in the state of Georgia where the troops were defeated by the British, he thinks in March 1779 [March 3, 1779]. That General Nash had the command of the troops at the time of the defeat. The troops were then marched, this declarant still in the service, to Charleston where he continued till the expiration of his term of enlistment, when he was discharged from service, as well as he recollects by Colonel Thomas Lytle. This declarant further states that he then enlisted with a reconnoitering party of horsemen commanded by

Captain Dick Simmons [Richard Simmons], finding his own horse and equipage, &c a Mr. ___ Martin was the Lieutenant; that he was marched with this troop of horse to Stono where there many skirmishes with the British who then had possession of Saint John's Island: The commanding officer then was Colonel Lea [Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee] of the Cavalry, who at times was succeeded by Colonel Washington [William Washington]. From Stono, he was marched to Ninety Six where there was a severe engagement with the British; & from that place, the troops were marched to Dorchester where this declarant was discharged from service & returned home to Burke County in North Carolina. This declarant was then commissioned by General Charles McDowell to raise a Company of Cavalry to join Colonel Cleveland's [Benjamin Cleveland's] troop of horse to go against the Tory party commanded by Colonel Husbands, who were defeated at Ramsour's Mills [June 20, 1780]. – This declarant was then sent with his company to conduct Colonel Shelby [Isaac Shelby] and Colonel Campbell [William Campbell] from the head of Holston River to Burke Courthouse in North Carolina which was then headquarters. From this place, this declarant was dispatched with orders to conduct Colonel Cleveland from the Yadkin River to head quarters; from there he was marched against Ferguson [Patrick Ferguson] to Kings Mountain where there was a general engagement [October 7, 1780], & the British defeated, the troops were then marched with the prisoners to headquarters at Burke Courthouse, & from thence to the Moravian towns: where he was then discharged. This was in the year 1780, to the best of his recollection. He then returned to Amherst County in Virginia in the year 1781, and in the month of September of that year, he enlisted under Major James Franklin and was under the immediate command of Captain John Stewart, under whom he was appointed quartermaster Sergeant, & was marched to Little York where our troops defeated Lord Cornwallis [October 19, 1781]. After this battle, this declarant was in legally discharged by Captain John Stewart, his last commander. He hereby is every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present, & he declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of any agency in any state. This declarant further states that his discharges are not in his possession & have been lost for many years, having been burned with all his other papers in his house which was consumed by fire the year after the Revolutionary War. And he also states that he knows of no individual in existence at this time by whom he can prove his services.

S/ Robert Ballew



[James H Gillespie, a clergyman, and James B Graham gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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State of Alabama, Morgan County

On the 22nd day of ~~July~~ June 1836 personally appeared in open court before the County Court of said County now sitting, Robert Ballew, a resident of said county and state aged Seventy four 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 7th June 1832.

That he entered the service of United States, under the following named officers, and served as herein stated, to wit:

That sometime in the year 1778, he entered the service of the United States ^{as a volunteer} in Burke County North Carolina under Captain John Harding [sic, John Harden], who immediately marched him to Salisbury, the place of rendezvous, where he was mustered into service under Col. Thomas Lytle [sic, Archibald Lytle] and Major James Irvin then took the command of the Company that Capt. Harding marched to Salisbury who (Harding) returning home. While at Salisbury he was ordered to Purrysburg by Gen. Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln], to join Gen. Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford]. From thence he marched to Galphin's Bluff under command of Gen. Nash [sic, John Ashe] and the above mentioned officers. From thence, under the command [of] said last mentioned officers he marched to Briar Creek Bridge in the State of Georgia where he fought [March 3, 1779] a very bloody battle with great slaughter and the United States troops were defeated with very great loss of life and property. From thence he marched to Charleston S. Carolina where he suffered much from want of food and raiment ^{and continued there} until the time for which he entered the service (it being nine months) had expired. To the best of his recollection he received a discharge from Col. Thos. Lytles [sic] who certified that he had served faithfully nine months and was honorably discharged. This discharge was in 1779. This does his first services. He then returned to his home in Burke County N. Carolina when he remained at home about one month. He then entered the service a second time in said County of Burke N. C. as a substitute for his uncle Robert Ballew under Capt. Richard Simmons, Lieut. ____ Martin in a company of Cavalry called the Reconnoitering horse company, commanded by Col. Lee [Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee]. He then marched to Camden he believes it is in South Carolina; thence he marched to Ninety Six and ^{joined} Col. Lee's corps of horse; he then marched to Stono's ferry on Ashley or Cooper River, he doesn't recollect which having some skirmishes every day, some very severe, with loss of lives, horses and many wounded; the British at this time had possession of St. John's Island. He continued at Stono and Dorchester alternately (the latter being Head Quarters) until discharged. He continued in this service three months & received his discharge at Dorchester about the latter [paper damaged resulting in several illegible words] by Capt. Richard Simmons. This closes his second tour of service.

He again returned home to Burke County N. C. & remained at home a few weeks, when he received orders from Genl. Charles McDowell to raise a company of horse ^{and} ^{command the same as Captain} and marched to join Col. Ben. Cleaveland [Benjamin Cleaveland], who was stationed in the neighborhood. He in a few weeks raised forty two men and horses, and joined Col. Cleaveland as above ordered. He continued to command said company of horse ^{as} ^{captain} after joining Col. Cleaveland. He watched the movements of the Tory Col. (Husbands) and his company of eight hundred until they reached Ramsour's Mills, where the Tories were wholly defeated [June 20, 1780], many killed, wounded and three hundred & more taken prisoners. He engaged in the whole of this battle, and fought at the head of his company; after this battle he returned to Burke Court House (Head Quarters) with his company. He was ordered by Gen. McDowell to take a part of his company and go to the head of Holston [River] and aid in guarding Col. Campbell [William Campbell] and Col. Evan Shelby [sic, more likely Isaac Shelby] to Head quarters at Burke Court House N. C. which service he also performed. Afterwards he was with James Davenport by order of Gen. McDowell, as express to Col. Cleaveland who was on the lower creek of the Catawba [River]

ordering him to rendezvous at Head quarters. Then he marched to King's Mountain with his company, under same officers as before. There he was in a very bloody battle [October 7, 1780], which lasted over three hours; many killed and wounded. Here Ferguson [Patrick Ferguson] was wholly routed, himself killed and nearly all his men & officers, some of the Tory officers were hung. Thence he marched with the prisoners back to Burke Court House, thence to the Moravian Towns. After this I was again discharged in 1780 and again returned home. In this last horse company he thinks he served about four months, as commander of the Company. Again, in 1781, he went to Amherst County in the State of Virginia where he volunteered his services, under Captain John Stewart and marched to Little York. There he was commanded by Gen. George Washington, and was present and fought day and night during what is called the Siege of York, and was present when the British troops marched out and surrendered [October 19, 1781]. He assisted in guarding the prisoners to near Winchester, at which place (near Winchester) Gen. Washington proclaimed that all the militia who were sick or lame might be discharged. He being lame applied to Capt. Stewart who gave him his discharge at [the] same time [Stewart] discharged William Bailey. He served nearly three months at this time. This closes his services ^{during which services he was not engaged in any Civil business}. All of which said discharges and papers relative to said services have been destroyed by fire. He can prove a part of these services by Joseph Ballew, who is now a pensioner in Tennessee, near Memphis Shelby County, and a part by _____ *Walker, who served with him, and lives in Shelby County Tennessee. He has no documentary evidence of his services. 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 aforesaid.

S/ Robert Ballew, X his mark

S/ H. Philpott, Judge of the County Court for Morgan County, Ala.

*Said Walker has been diligently enquired for and cannot be found.¹

Interrogatories propounded by the Court to Robert Ballew, an applicant for a pension.

1st Where and what year were you born?

Ans: I was born in the State of Virginia in Buckingham County; I cannot tell the year.

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

Ans: I have none. All this record kept in my father's family Bible was destroyed by the Tories.

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

Ans: I lived in N. Carolina Burke County when I was called into service; since the Revolution I lived [in] Virginia in Amherst & Buckingham Counties until I moved to Kentucky, Knox County in 1800 and in 1819 moved to Morgan County, Ala. where I now live.

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

Ans: I first ~~drafted under~~ volunteered under David Ballew (as mentioned in a former declaration, where I called it "enlisting" not understanding the import of the word). The balance of my Services were as a volunteer except once as mention[ed] in my Declaration, I was a substitute for Robert Ballew my uncle.

¹ This is probably intended to refer to [William Walker S32573](#)

5th: State the names of some of the Regular officers who were with the troops where you served, such continental and Militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Ans: The above interrogatories were fully answered in my Declaration as I am able to do.

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

Ans: These questions are fully answered in my Declaration.

7th Did you ever receive a commission and if so, by whom was it signed and what has become of it?

Ans: I received the appointment of Captain, and my commission was signed by Genl. Chas. McDowell, which was burnt with my Discharges as mentioned also in my Declaration.

[James H Gillespie, a clergyman, and James B Graham gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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State of Tennessee, Shelby County

Personally appeared before me John Ralston an acting Justice of the peace in and for said County Joseph Ballew who being first duly sworn deposed and saith That he is a Brother of Robert Ballew of Morgan County in the state of Alabama whose application for a pension accompanies this affidavit. That said deponent was a soldier of the Revolution and is now drawing a pension for his services under the act of Congress of the 7th June 1832. That he this deponent was a citizen of Burke County N. Carolina in the year 1778 and knows of his own personal knowledge that said Robert Ballew did enlist in the service agreeably to the statement first made in his application and was out engaged in service for the term of nine months, but as to the particulars of the service of said applicant this deponent cannot state as he was not in the same company with him, but deponent knows & positively states that he entered the service as stated in the commencement of his application and was continued therein for the time of nine months. This deponent further states that he knows of his own knowledge that the second term of service mentioned in the said declaration of Robert Ballew for the term of three months as a substitute for his uncle Robert Ballew was also rendered. Deponent cannot state as to the particulars of applicant's service during this term of three months but he does know & positively states that he entered the service the second time as stated in his declaration for the term of three months and was that long absent from home before he received his discharge. Deponent has an indistinct recollection of having seen both the discharges of Robert Ballew for the two terms of service above mentioned.

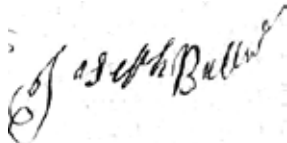
This deponent further states that the said Robert Ballew whose declaration accompanies this affidavit did enter the service the third time as stated in his said declaration under the order of Genl. Charles McDowell and continued therein for the time of four months again to [the] best of deponent's recollection. This deponent went out with said applicant on this tour of service and knows all the particulars relative to that term of service to be substantially true, for this deponent served during all said time with said applicant and returned home with him at the expiration of the time for which they entered. Deponent further states that he knows of his own personal knowledge that the said applicant did receive a commission as Capt. of the reconnoitering horse company as stated in his said declaration. This deponent further states that after the close of the war himself and his

brother settled at a considerable distance apart, but deponent heard that his said brother Robert Ballew had all his papers destroyed by fire as stated.

This deponent knows of his own knowledge that the said Robert Ballew did go to Amherst County in Virginia in the year 1781, as stated in his declaration, and deponent frequently heard and always understood that said applicant there entered again into the service and was tat the taking of Cornwallis at Little York; but as to the particulars of that term of service deponent cannot state, but firmly and fully believes that the said Robert Ballew did serve in that campaign as stated in his said declaration.

And further this deponent saith not.

S/ Joseph Ballew²

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph Ballew". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "S/ Joseph Ballew²".

Sworn to and subscribed to before me this 6th day of June 1836.

S/ John Ralston, JP

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$45.40 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private in the infantry & cavalry in the North Carolina and Virginia militias.]

² [Joseph Ballew S31541](#)