

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Stewart S11472

f15NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

3/14/11: rev'd 6/9/17

[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.]

State of Virginia Scott County} SS

On this 19th day of December 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the County Court of Scott County Virginia now sitting William Stewart a resident of Scott County and State of Virginia aged 76 years who being 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 the 7th day of June 1832.

That about a year or 18 months before the battle of Kings Mountain [October 7, 1780] as he recollects, he first entered the service of the United States in the spring of that year under the following named officers, and served as herein stated that is to say, he was then a citizen of Carolina, the County not known as it is now Tennessee, he in his first tour was a volunteer and went down on Big Creek which was then a frontier about 30 or 40 miles from home to guard the same on a three months tour this applicant was then very young being only a little above sixteen years old and cannot recollect the names of any of his officers, except that he thinks one of the officers was named Steel, where they remained for three months, on said Creek a branch of Holston River, but the applicant cannot name the County because all that section of country lay along out the line between Carolina and Tennessee which was not been established, that they remained there during their whole tour; without any thing to do except guarding the frontier. At the end of that tour this Applicant returned home but does not recollect that he ever got any written discharge. Then again some short time before the battle of Kings Mountain while this applicant was a citizen of the same place this applicant's brother David Stewart and his half-brother Loving Bledsoe were drafted to go to the Army but before the date of their rendezvous, orders came that all should go Who were able to go, when this applicant as his brother and half-brother were going volunteered, and as he recollects it was about the month of September of the year in which the battle of Kings Mountain was fought that they commenced their march from Holston up Doe River and crossed the Yellow Mountain at the ball [bald?] place to Kings Mountain under Colonel Isaac Shelby and Colonel William Campbell, Captain George Maxfield and the other officers not recollected, at Broad River on their journey a Council was held, among the officers and it was determined to steal a march upon Forguson [Patrick Ferguson] at Kings Mountain accordingly the horse troops under Colonels Shelby and Campbell went on leaving the foot Company and did steal the march on Ferguson and the battle was fought before the foot Company came up, this applicant was one of the foot Company and arrived there the same evening after the battle was fought when the British and Tories were all taken prisoners and were under guard when the foot Company came up, who in fact when the foot Company arrived were

delivered over to them to guard, the next day they marched from the battleground a short distance up towards Salisbury and the next night held a Court Marshal [sic, court martial] and condemned 31 or 32 Tory prisoners to be hanged [sic, hung or hanged] and in the same night did hang 9 of them but does not recollect the reason why the others were not hung. But the next morning they understood that Tarlton [Banastre Tarleton] was near there and they had nearly as many prisoners as there were men of them and had to make their escape, that they burnt two wagons loaded with the plunder which they had taken at the battle and marched on towards Salisbury and as this applicant recollects they hung another Tory that day. They went on with the prisoners towards Salisbury until near Salisbury where they met another company of Carolina troops who took the prisoners and returned and they were then discharged from that tour which was another three months Tour. This applicant does not recollect that he got any written discharge then either and then the rest of the Company in which he was came on home, but this applicant stayed in North Carolina near Salisbury for some time perhaps a year after said Battle when there was another draft and this applicant then and there substituted in the place of one David Turnoy [sic?] for another three months and the Company rendezvoused near Moravian Town in Surry County under Colonel Cleveland Captain Benjamin Hearn [Benjamin Herndon], other officers not recollected and we had marched one day towards the Army when this applicant was taken sick and by direction of his officers returned to his uncle's in Surry County and remained there unable for service near three months and in fact before this applicant was able to arrive at the Army the tour was out so that he never joined the Army in that tour at all nor got a discharge, But this applicant remained in Surry County Carolina for some time but he does not recollect precisely how long before there was another draft when one Thomas Smith was drafted in above place this applicant substituted for a fourth three months tour, and that they rendezvoused in the Moravian Town Carolina now called Salem under Colonel John Cleveland, Captain Benjamin Hearn and this applicant further thinks that there was there a Captain by the name of Joseph Phillips but of the name he is not certain that they remained about two weeks in Salem before we marched out that they then commenced their march towards Guilford and when they were going out of the town of Salem at one end and that [they] looked back and saw the British dragoons under Cornwallis coming into the town at the other end they then marched about two miles before and then stopped, when they feared that those dragoons would pursue them and having along [a] prisoner with them, that they told him they were going on to join Green's [Nathanael Greene's] Army and let him go supposing that he would go with that information immediately to the British dragoons and they then marched in that direction about half a mile further and then suddenly changed their course across the country towards the pilot mountain using great caution not to leave any trail behind them which they could follow, that they marched on perhaps three miles, encamped all night and the Company divided the next morning between the two captains and went different routes (this applicant marched under Hearn) sometime after this Phillips the other Captain if that was the name and his men were taken by the British before they were arrived at the Army and that the Company in which this Applicant marched went towards Pilot mountain but the British intercepted them also and delayed them so that they did not reach Greene's Army before the battle at Guilford that after they heard of the battle they did not go in any lower because Cornwallis and his Army left there and went on towards Little York and they were discharged, but this applicant does not recollect that he got any written discharge, some few months after this Cornwallis was taken in Little York this was the end of the fourth tour of three months each as above stated but the date of this applicant's entry or departure from the service in any of the tours he cannot give except as he has stated. This applicant has

described his marches fully as he believes and he was not under any other officers except as above stated as he recollects. This Applicant does not recollect any other Continental officers or soldiers except as above stated. This Applicant has no documentary evidence by which he can prove any of the above facts, never having as he recollects received any written discharge, he does not know of anybody now living by whom he can prove them, his brother & half-brother and all others known to this Applicant then being dead. He hereby relinquishes all claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency of any State nor has it ever been.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ William Stewart¹

[John Pendleton, a clergyman, residing in Scott County and Thomas Strong gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$30 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 9 months service as a private in the North Carolina militia.]

¹ The handwriting of the signature on this application is identical to the handwriting for the balance of the document. Consequently, I do not think it is the actual signature of the applicant but rather is the signature applied by the scribe.