

## [Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension application of Jesse Withers S11819

Transcribed by Will Graves

fn21VA

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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. 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 fails 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 errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Virginia, County of Fauquier

On this 24<sup>th</sup> day of June in the year 1833 personally appeared in open Court for the Court of Fauquier County now sitting, Jesse Withers, a resident of in the County of Fauquier and State of Virginia, aged 73 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 7, 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

That some time in June 1779 he enlisted as a private soldier and a volunteer company under Captain John Craig at Fauquier Court House Virginia. He was marched to Big Island on the Holston River in North Carolina; there joined Major Isaac Shelby who commanded several other companies. Thence the Affiant was employed in scouting around the Country from the Block House until June 1780 – when the Indians treated with the whites and the Affiant was discharged about thirty miles below the Block House and returned home to Fauquier about the 15<sup>th</sup> January 1780. The certificate of discharge given by Major Shelby has been lost any years. The Affiant refers to the subjoined depositions of Spencer Withers<sup>1</sup> and James Withers<sup>2</sup> as proofs that he enlisted, marched away and returned as above stated.

From the time of the Affiant's discharge from the above service until the close of that year (1780) he was confined to the house by an illness produced from exposures in the Indian Campaign.

Early in March 1781, the Affiant was drafted at Fauquier Court House in the Militia in Captain Thomas Bronaugh's Company. His first Lieutenant was Joshua Tillet and Armistead Churchill was the Colonel of his Regiment. The Affiant was immediately appointed an orderly Sergeant. From Fauquier Court House is marched to Fredericksburg where companies from several counties rendezvoused under Brigadier General Weden [probably George Weedon]. From Fredericksburg the Affiant was marched down to near Williamsburg. Soon after reaching this point a dispatch arrived from Fauquier from Colonel Humphrey Brooke, Lieutenant Colonel of Fauquier County, bringing information that men had been drafted in Fauquier for the Southern Service and that the Affiant and others under General Weden were among those drafted men. These drafts were for 18 months, and were called 18-months' men. They were to reinforce the Southern Army. Thereupon the Applicant was ordered back to Fauquier Court House. This was about the last of May 1781. The Applicant was only a private in this service. His Captain was Anthony Kirkpatrick, Christopher Freebecker [sic, Colonel Christian Febiger] was the Colonel of his Regiment (which he believes was called the 2<sup>nd</sup> Virginia Regiment) and Peter Muhlenberg was the General of the Brigade after Steuben left abandoned it.

About a week after the Affiant was drafted he obtained a furlough to go to the South to his Brother Lewis whose arm had been broke from a shot at the Battle of the Cowpens [January 17, 1781]

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<sup>1</sup> [Spencer Withers S6400](#)

<sup>2</sup> [James Withers W4399](#)

& who was then lying at the head of Tiger [sic, Tyger] River in South Carolina about 9 miles from the Cowpens. According to the terms of Affiant's furlough he was to remain with his brother until he could be moved, and then the Affiant was required to leave him and to repair to General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene]. His brother was moved to Fauquier the 1<sup>st</sup> June 1781. The Affiant immediately repaired to Camden, South Carolina where General Greene was stationed. The precise day in June that he arrived at Camden, the Affiant cannot recollect. As the Affiant's Company from Fauquier had not reached General Greene as was expected, the Affiant, by order of the General, returned to Fauquier Court House. He was there informed that his Company had joined the Army under General Steuben. Lafayette had first retreated before Cornwallis to Raccoon Ford on the Rapidan River-- dividing line between Culpepper and Orange [Counties]. The Applicant fell in with General Wayne [Anthony Wayne] near Fauquier Court House (on his march from the North) – and went with his troops to join the Main Army under Lafayette at the Raccoon Ford – where also General Muhlenberg and the Affiant's Company. He reached the Ford early in the Fall – at least the weather was very warm. Thence the Affiant marched with the whole body of the Army under Lafayette to the Morbin Hills [Malvern Hills] between Hampton and Williamsburg, Va. At the Morbin Hills a Court Martial was held upon Affiant's case. He had lost an eye (the left) and was crippled in the left arm. The Court Martial decided that he was unable to bear the service of the Regular Troops and he was thereupon discharged at the Morbin Hills about the end of September or the beginning of October 1781. The Certificate of his discharge is lost as he never expected it would be useful. He was only discharged from the Regular Service. He was immediately sent to Colonel Blackwell and placed in the Commissary Service. He was employed under Colonel Blackwell in procuring provisions for the Army until Cornwallis was taken and then he returned home.

The Affiant states that he was born on the 18<sup>th</sup> day August 1760, in Fauquier County Virginia, 4 miles below the Court House. He knows of no record of age except in the Family Bible in possession of his brother James of Culpeper County. That he has always lived in his native County except when absent on above Revolutionary Services, and that he lives there now. That in all of the above services he either volunteered or was drafted as he has stated; in none of these services was he a substitute.

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.

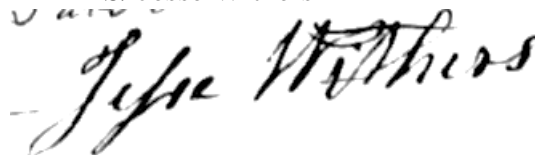
Where the applicant has not been particular in giving exact dates, it was because from old age and consequent decay of memory he was unable to do so, and could only swear (as he has done) to the best of his recollection.

He refers to the annexed deposition of Robert Henson<sup>3</sup> his former messmate in the Militia Service to prove that service and also to prove that Affiant was drafted in the 18 months service.

He refers to the sworn certificate of John H. B. Rawles and John Porter to prove the reputation of his Revolutionary Services and their concurrence in the general opinion.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid in open Court.

S/ Jesse Withers



S/ A. J. Marshall, C. C.

We, James Withers and Spencer Withers (the former residing in Culpeper and the latter in Fauquier Counties) hereby certify that we are well acquainted with Jesse Withers, who has subscribed and sworn to the above declaration; that we believe him to be 73 years of age; and that we know that he

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<sup>3</sup> [Robert Henson \(Hanson, Hinson\) R4902](#)

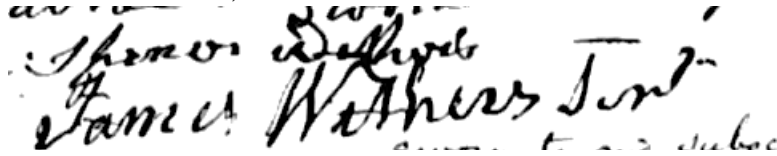
volunteered under Captain John Craig for the Indian Service as stated in his Declaration; and I, Spencer Withers, certify that he marched away and did not return home till late in the Winter following – 1779 – 1780.

And I, Spencer Withers, further know that the aforesaid Jesse Withers was drafted in the 18 months service as stated above.

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ Spencer Withers

S/ James Withers, Sr.



Sworn to and subscribed in open Court.

S/ A. J. Marshall, C. C.

[fn p. 7]

State of Virginia Fauquier County: SS

Personally appeared before me a Justice of the peace, for the County and State aforesaid Robert Henson, a Revolutionary Soldier, eighty years of age, now living in the Poor House of said County, his thigh having been cut off and he nearly quite blind, and being first solemnly sworn, made oath, that Jesse Withers of said County, was drafted in Captain Tom Bronaugh's Company of militia about this Spring of 1781: That he was the messmate of said Withers and marched in company with him to near Williamsburg and that thence the said Withers was called back to Fauquier Court House, and did not see him again, until we met him at Morbin Hills, near Williamsburg, the fall of the same year, having been drafted in the 18 months service – That the deponent remained in his Regiment of militia.

S/ Robert Henson [very faint]



Subscribed and sworn to this 7th day of May 1833

We, John Porter and John H. B. Rawles, residing in Farquier County, Virginia, hereby certify that we are well acquainted with Jesse Withers of the same County and State, who has subscribed and sworn to the above declaration; that we believe him to be 73 years of age; that he is reputed and believed, in the neighborhood where he resides, to have been a soldier of the Revolution, and that we concur in that opinion.

S/ Jno. H. B. Rawles

S/ John Porter

Sworn and subscribed the day and year aforesaid in open Court.

S/ A. J. Marshall, C. C.

State of Virginia Fauquier County: SS

On this 21st day of September in the year 1833, personally appeared before me, John Marr, one of the Justices of the County Court of the above County and State, Jesse Withers, who being solemnly sworn declares that he is the same Jesse Withers who applied for a pension under the Act of Congress of 7th of June 1832, by making his declaration before the Court of the above County on the 24th of June 1833; and being advised that it is necessary for him to state exactly the periods for which he served in the Revolutionary War, declares that from old age, sickness and consequent decay of memory he cannot state precisely the whole amount of service; but that he is certain he did not serve less than seven months in the Indian service under Captain John Craig and Major Isaac Shelby; that he served at least three months under Captain Bronaugh and Colonel Armistead Churchill; and that he served at

least four months under Captain Kirkpatrick and Colonel Feebecker; – and that for these periods of service, of which he is certain, he claims a pension.

And being further advised that it is necessary for the applicant's answers (to the questions prescribed by the War Department to be propounded by the Court "to be written and sent and sent to the Department with his Declaration" – the Applicant further declares in answer to the first question that he was born in Fauquier County Virginia in the year 1760; in answer to the 2nd question that he knows of no record of his age except the private Record of the family Bible which is in possession of his Brother James of Culpeper County; for answer to the 3rd question, that he was living in Fauquier County Virginia at the time of his entrance into each service, except that he was at Williamsburg when he was drafted at Fauquier Court House for the southern service – as stated in his Declaration; that he has lived in Fauquier ever since the Revolutionary War and that he lives there now. – To the 4th Question he answers that he volunteered in the Indian Service under Captain Craig and that he was drafted in the other two Services and that he was no substitute – all of which he has stated in his Declaration; to the 5th he answers that Captain John Craig and Major Isaac Shelby are the officers he recollects in the Indian service; Captain Thomas Bronaugh and Colonel Armistead Churchill in the Militia Service; and Captain Anthony Kirkpatrick and Colonel Feebecker in the 18 months' service, – all of which together with the Regiment said circumstances of his service are as fully stated in his Declaration as his aged memory will permit; to the 6th he replies that all the discharges he received are long since lost; To the 7th he answers that he is known in his neighborhood to John H B Rawls and John Porter and very many others who can prove the reputation of his Revolutionary services.

S/ Jesse Withers

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$58.33 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 14 months service in the Virginia Continental line and militia.]