

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Joseph Ford S15429

f31NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

1/2/08 rev'd 3/9/15 & 8/25/21 &

5/27/23

[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' or 'undeciphered' 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. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

State of Kentucky Pike County: SS

On the 25th day of February 1834 personally appeared in open court before the Justices of the Pike County Court now sitting Joseph Ford a resident of Kentucky in the County of Pike age 77 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 entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

He first entered the service as a volunteer in the militia of North Carolina in the month of September in the year 1777 in a company of which Benjamin Cleveland was Captain. The name of the other company officers he does not recollect. He met his company at Kriders fort [Criders Fort]¹ in Burke County North Carolina on the 3rd day of September 1777 as above stated. From here we marched to Davis's Fort on the head of the Catawba River in the said County of Burke where this applicant was placed in a light horse company commanded by Captain __ Bartlett [Robert Bartley] -- Colonel Francis Locke was commanding Colonel of the Regiment to which Captain Cleveland's company belonged. General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford] was the commander in chief. From Davis's Fort we marched on an expedition against the Cherokee Indians at what was then called the "Near Settlement" and the "Overhill Towns" and marching on passed the "Near Settlement" (the Indians had fled before our arrival there) in a short distance from the Overhill towns we fell in with the Indians and had a hot engagement with them and they were defeated and fled. We then marched on to the Overhill Towns & burned the houses or huts and corn belonging to the Indians and everything that could conduce to their sustenance that we could get hold of except a few horses and cattle that we carried home with us. From here we marched back to the head of the Catawba River to Davis's Fort and after lying there four months as Garrison to guard the frontiers against the incursions of the Indians (scouting parties from the Fort being almost continually out) he received a discharge on the 18th day of March 1778 signed by Captain __ Bartlett having been in service in this tour six months and 15 days.

¹ William F. Brown III notes: "While researching Cathey's Fort, I ran across the pension application of Joseph Ford S15429. The pensioner mentions (or it has been transcribed as) "Cryder's Fort." From the context of the pensioners statements, it would appear he was talking about Cathey's Fort (in the Pleasant Gardens on the Catawba River) and not Cryder's Fort (in present-day Lenoir)."

He next went into the service in the militia of North Carolina as a volunteer in the company of which Thomas Whitson was the Captain John Baldwin to the best of his recollection was the Lieutenant of the company. The names of the other company officers he does not recollect. Colonel Charles McDowell was the commanding Colonel of the Regiment to which his company belonged. He joined his company at Crider's Fort in the said County of Burke and went into the service in this tour on the first day of April 1778. From here we marched to the head of the Catawba River and after marching over adjacent country & seeing no sign of the Indians (Cherokees) we returned down the River and at the crossing of the North fork of the Catawba River we were met by a considerable number of Indian Warriors belonging to the Cherokee nation & had an engagement with them in which Zebulon Shelton a private was killed and seven or eight of our troops wounded among whom were captains White and Whitson, White afterwards died of his wounds and Whitson recovered -- the Indians were vanquished in the engagement and fled and we could not ascertain how many of them were killed as they carried off their dead with them. From here we marched back to Crider's Fort where Captain Whitson and his company remained as a Garrison to guard the frontiers against the incursions of the Indians while we remained here spies and Scouting parties were continually out from the Fort to watch for the approach of the Indians. After remaining at the Fort at the least four months under Captain Whitson on the fourth day of October 1778 he received a discharge signed by Captain Thomas Whitson having been in the service in this tour six months and seven days.

He next went into the service in the militia of North Carolina in a company of North Carolina militia of which Lieutenant __ Carthy acted as Captain -- There was no Captain in command of the company. The names of the Ensign & sergeants he does not recollect. He went as a volunteer in this tour and joined his company at Crider's Fort on the 25th day of October 1778. From here we marched up to Davis Fort on the head of Catawba River where we went as a Garrison to guard the frontiers and after remaining there 5 months and 18 days he was on the 28th day of April 1779 discharged his discharge was signed by Lieutenant __ Carthy having been in the Service in this tour six months and 3 days.

He was next in the month of July in the year 1781 commissioned by Governor Martin Governor of North Carolina a Lieutenant in the militia of that State. He joined his company at Bulner's [?] Mill on Roans Creek in the County of Washington North Carolina on about the last day of August 1781. Captain James Roddy was the Captain and Charles Asher the Ensign of the company in which he was Lieutenant. The name of the Sergeant he does not recollect. Colonel John Sevier was the commanding Colonel and Major Valentine Sevier his brother the Major of the Regiment to which his company belonged. From Bulner's Mill we marched over the Stoney Mountains (then so called) and met our commanding Colonel on the Catawba River and then marched on to Camden in South Carolina where we halted but a short time and then marched down to since the Santee Swamps in the same State (South Carolina) and there joined General Marion and scoured over the Swamp and surrounding country in various directions after the Tories and at the Monks Corner [Moncks Corner]² we fell in with a body of Tories and after a sharp conflict with them we vanquished them took 90 of them prisoners and the rest escaped. After marching over the country around the Santee Swamps and driving the Tories out of their places of concealment where they had collected we returned through Camden and from there across the line between North and South Carolina and then up Devils Creek a branch of the Catawba and then over the mountains and down the Watauga River to Washington County and he

² Applicant MAY be referring to the action which is believed to have occurred on November 17, 1781 between Whig forces under Col. Maham. https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_fair_lawn_plantation.html

received a discharge on the 12th day of February 1782 having been in the service in this tour 5 months and 13 days.

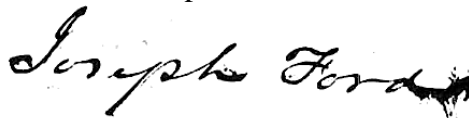
At the time that he entered the Service in the last tour he resided in Washington County North Carolina at the time of entering the Service in all the other tours he resided in Burke County North Carolina.

He has no documentary evidence by which he can prove his services.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any State.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Joseph Ford



The court then propounded to the said Joseph Ford the following interrogatories to wit

1st Where and in what year were you born?

Ans: In the year 1757 in the County of Frederick and then colony of Maryland

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

Ans: I have none -- I only know my age from the information I receive from my parents

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 Burke County North Carolina when I first entered the service I resided in North Carolina -- Since the Revolutionary War till about 25 years ago when I removed to Kentucky in the then County of Floyd. The County of Floyd has since been divided and included me in the County of Pike Kentucky where I now reside.

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

Ans: I went in all my tours as a volunteer -- Never under a draft or as a substitute.

5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Ans: These are as fully set forth in my declaration as my recollection will enable me 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: I received a discharge signed by Captain Bartlett at the end of the second I received a discharge signed by Captain Whitson At the end of the third tour I received a discharge signed by Lieutenant ___ Carthy And at the end of the fourth and last tour I received a discharge signed by Captain James Roddy all of which have been lost

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

Ans: I received a commission signed by Governor Martin Governor of North Carolina which was lost with my discharges -- but in what manner the commission and discharges were lost I am not able to say

7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

Ans: I will name the Reverend William Tackett, Simeon Justin and Henry Weddington

[William Jackitt, a clergyman, Simeon Justin & Henry Weddington gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$79.23 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 23 months and 23 days in the North Carolina militia.]