

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Benjamin Todd S1597

Transcribed by Will Graves

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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. 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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

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State of Tennessee, Rutherford County

This 20 day of November 1832 personally appeared in the open court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions of Rutherford County before Henry Trott, Henry D. Jamison and Varner D. Cowen Justices of the peace who have been appointed to hold said Court Benjamin Todd aged seventy-three years ~~and nine months~~ and being first duly sworn according to law made the following declaration for the purpose of obtaining a pension according to the act of Congress passed on the seventh day of June 1832. That he volunteered and went into the service of the United States sometime in the year 1777 as well as he now recollects into Captain Peter Foss's Company he does not now recollect the Number of the Regiment, but it was commanded by Colonel Francis Locke of Militia in the North Carolina Line. The Brigade in which he served was commanded by General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford] this his first tour of service was two months, that during the two months aforesaid he continued altogether in the town of Saulsberry [sic, Salisbury] in Rowan County in the State of North Carolina being retained there as a guard to prevent the Prisoners who had been taken and were then there from making [their ?] escape. That during the term of service aforesaid he was acquainted with General Rutherford and Locke and with Colonel Francis Locke Captain Peter Foss. At the expiration of the tour aforesaid he received a written discharge from Captain Peter Foss but he has lost it. That but a very short time after he return home from the tour aforesaid to wit in 1777 he was drafted and went into service into Captain Myrick Davis's Company that he does not recollect the Number of the Regiment but it was commanded by Colonel Francis Locke in the Militia in the North Carolina Line, that his General was General Rutherford that his second Tour was near two months, during his said second Tour he was marched from Rowan County the a place where he was drafted to Ramsour's Mills that during his second Tour he was acquainted with Generals Rutherford and Locke and Colonel Francis Locke and with Captain Myrick Davis and with Lieutenant Cunningham. At the expiration of his second Tour he received a written discharge from Captain Myrick Davis but he has lost it. That afterwards (as well as he now recollects) in 1778 he volunteered and went into service into Captain Cowen's [Thomas Cowan's] Company of Militia in the North Carolina Line in the same Regiment in which he served during the two Tours aforesaid commanded by Colonel Francis Locke that his third Tour of service was one month during which tour he marched from Rowan County in the State of North Carolina to the Yadkin River crossed the same at the Shallow Ford then marched on by what was then called Hoozertown [sic, Hausertown<sup>1</sup>] and then on to Henry County in the State of Virginia, that he marched to the place last aforesaid with others and carried a large number of British Prisoners

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1 This was another name for the Moravian town of Bethania in North Carolina

who had been taken by the Americans at the Battle of Kings Mountain<sup>2</sup> and delivered them to one Colonel Penn [?] at the place last aforesaid. Then he returned home having been dismissed in Henry County in the State of Virginia. And he believes he only received a verbal discharge from Captain Cowen at that time. That during his third Tour of service he was acquainted with Colonel Francis Locke and Captain Cowen. That in the same year last aforesaid to wit in 1778 he went into service as a substitute in the room of one Peter Todd brother of this declarant into Captain William Cole's company of Militia, he does not recollect the Number of the Regiment but it was commanded by Colonel Grimes in the Militia in the North Carolina Line. That his General was Davidson [William Lee Davidson]. That he is fourth Tour of service was three months that during the three months last aforesaid he marched from Salisbury in the State of North Carolina to Beatties Ford on Catawba River in the State of North Carolina and from thence down to Catawba River to Cowans Ford and from thence further down said River to Tool's Ford and the next day after his arrival at Tool's Ford a battle took place at Cowans Ford<sup>3</sup> between the Americans and British in which Battle General Davidson was killed in which Battle the Americans were defeated. Declarant was not in the Battle aforesaid. And from thence he marched back to Rowan County in the State of North Carolina at which place he was discharged. That during his fourth Tour of service he was acquainted with General Davidson, with Colonel Grimes and Captain William Cole. And at the expiration of this fourth Tour of service he was verbally discharged by Captain William Cole. That he served in all near eight months that he has no documentary evidence and he knows of no person by whom he can prove his services aforesaid. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State or territory in the United States. Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid & subscribed & sworn to in open Court November 20<sup>th</sup> 1832.

S/ Benjamin Todd, X his mark

Question 1<sup>st</sup> Where and in what year were you born?

Answer: I was born in Northampton County in the State of Pennsylvania in the year 1759

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

Answer: I have not yet was set down in my father's family Bible but I do not know what has become of it

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

Answer: I was living in Rowan County in the State of North Carolina when called into service all four of the tours aforesaid and continued to live at the place last aforesaid for several years then I moved to Madison County in the State of Kentucky and resided there about 10 years then I removed to Rutherford County in the State of Tennessee where I have resided ever since

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

Answer: When I went into service the first time I volunteered when I went into service the second time I was drafted, the third time I volunteered. The fourth time I went into service as a substitute in the room of Peter Todd

5<sup>th</sup> 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.

Answer: I was acquainted with General Rutherford, General Davidson, Col. Francis Locke, General Locke, Colonel Grimes, Captain William Cole, Captain Myrick Davis, Captain

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2 The Battle of Kings Mountain occurred on October 7, 1780.

3 <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/cowansfd.htm> The Battle of Cowan's Ford occurred on February 1, 1781.

Peter Foss and Lieutenant Cunningham and the general Circumstances of my services are above stated.

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

Answer: At the end of my first tour of service Captain Peter Foss gave me a written discharge but I have lost it. At the end of my second tour of service Captain Myrick Davis gave me a written discharge but I have likewise lost that; at the end of my third Tour Captain Cowen gave me a verbal discharge and at the end of my fourth tour Captain William Cole gave me a verbal discharge

7<sup>th</sup> 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.

Answer: Joseph Gowen, Esquire, Colonel William Low, Colonel Joseph Eury, Colonel Alfred P. Gowen, Burton S. McFerron, Esquire, John Jacobs, Esquire and Jeremiah Jacobs, Nathan Lyon, all of whom I believe would testify as to the facts aforesaid.

Subscribed & sworn to November 20, 1832.

S/ Benjamin Todd, X his mark

S/ J. R. Laughlin, Clk

[Nathan Lyon, a clergyman and John Jacobs gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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Additional Declaration of Benjamin Todd for a pension

This declarant by way of additional declaration comes into open court in the court of Pleas & Quarter sessions of Rutherford County in the State of Tennessee at August term 1833 of the court aforesaid before the worshipful John Fletcher [several other judges named by interlineation which is illegible] and states that at the time he subscribed and swore to the original declaration which is marked A he was residing in Rutherford County in the State of Tennessee and that he has resided in the County and State aforesaid ever since that time to the present period. He states that some time in the year 1777 he volunteered & went into service of the United States as a private in went into Captain Peter Foss company of militia he does not now recollect the number of the Regiment But it was commanded by Colonel Francis Lock [sic, Francis Locke] of militia in the North Carolina line the Brigade in which he served was commanded by General Rutherford this his first tour of service was three months he finds it was stated in his original declaration marked A that his first tour of service was two months which was as he believes a mistake made by his counsel that a very short time after he returned home from the service of the first tour to wit some time in 1777 he was drafted & went into service as a private into Captain Myrick Davis's company that he does not recollect the number of the Regiment but it was commanded by Colonel Francis Locke in the Militia in the North Carolina Line that his General was Rutherford that this his second Tour of service was two months. That afterwards some time in 1778 he volunteered & went into service as a private into Captain Cowens' company of militia in the North Carolina Line in the same Regiment in which he served during the two tours aforesaid commanded by Colonel Francis Locke that his third tour of service was one month, that afterward in the same year last aforesaid to wit in 1778 he went into service as a substitute as a private in the room of Peter Todd, brother of this declarant into Captain William Cole's company of militia he does not recollect the number of the Regiment but it was commanded by Colonel Grimes in the militia in the North Carolina Line that his General was Davidson that his fourth tour of service was three months that he served in all nine months.

Sworn to & subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Benjamin Todd, X his mark

S/ John R. Laughlin, Clk

[Judges who signed S/ John Fetcher  
S/ H. D. Jamison  
S/ V. D. Cowan]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$26.66 per annum commencing March 4, 1831, for service as a private for 8 months in the North Carolina militia.]