

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of David Abernathy S1609

Transcribed by Will Graves

f35NC

rev'd 5/8/10 & 6/12/14

[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.]

State of Tennessee, Giles County: November Session of the Court of Pleas and quarter sessions for said County for the year 1832

On this the 20th day of November A.D. 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the justices of said Court now sitting & holding said Court David Abernathy aged seventy three years the 29th day of July last – a resident of said County who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following Statement or declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th, 1832.

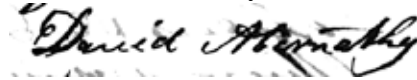
That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers & served as herein stated.

Applicant first entered the service of the United States under the Command of Colonel McLain [could be McCain] in the County of Lincoln in the State of North Carolina and marched to the place of Rendezvous with the expectation of going on towards the North against the British, But employed a man by the name of James Newby to go in his place as a Substitute, and applicant returned home, -- He received a discharge from this service which he has lost.

Applicant, next volunteered & entered the service under the Command of General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford], this expedition was undertaken for the purpose of defending the frontiers against the Cherokee Indians. He marched out of North Carolina & said Lincoln County over the mountains into the Cherokee nation as far as the old hill towns and Valley Towns in said nation –they had no battle or skirmish during this expedition the Indians having fled from the towns & left that part of the Country. He states, that they set out on this expedition sometime in the month of August & returned home again sometime in the month of October having been in service about three months, he does not believe that they received any regular discharges from this service. Applicant was not anymore in service until sometime in the year of 1781 after Cornwallis had marched through North Carolina, going on towards Little York in the State of Virginia, where he was captured in the fall of said year when Applicant was drafted for three months, he went under the command of Captain Jack in General Polk's [Thomas Polk's] brigade, the rendezvous in Charlottetown in Mecklenburg County & said State of North Carolina. He marched into South Carolina, to the neighborhood of Camden. He was joined to General Green's [sic, Nathanael Greene's] forces about twelve miles from Camden at Rugeley's [?] old field shortly after Greene had had an engagement with the British in the suburbs of Camden [Probably a reference to the Battle of Hobkirk Hill, also known as the 2nd Battle of Camden, April 25, 1781] – from thence, they marched on to Ninety Six where the British were then lying, and after the firing of some Cannon at a distance the British vacated Ninety Six, and went towards the Eutaw Springs where the celebrated battle [September 8, 1781] was fought between Greene & British, after having served out his term of three months, he was discharged & went home, which completed his services during the war. He has no documentary evidence of his said services and he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure by whom he can prove any of the above facts.

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.

S/ David Abernathy



Sworn to and subscribed in Open Court the day & year aforesaid.

S/ German Lester, Clk.

Questions required by the war department to be put to Applicant

1st: When and in what year were you born?

I was born in Dinwiddie County in the State of Virginia July 29, 1759.

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

I had a record of my age in my family Bible but it was burned some time since but [several illegible words] out & lost.

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

I was when called into service living in Lincoln, North Carolina from thence I moved to Tennessee Giles County where I now live & have lived three years last past.

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

This question I have answered in my declaration.

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.

This question also has been answered in my declaration.

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

This question is also answered in the declaration.

7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood, and who can testify to your character for veracity and good behavior and your services as a Soldier of the Revolution.

Ans. Francis Rose, Joseph Blair, Charles C. Abernathy, William McGrave [?], Isaac Wilcoxon, Daniel Culberth [?], dated why Roper, George Johnston and many others.

S/ David Abernathy

[Wesley W Taylor, a clergyman, and James White gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

State of Tennessee, Giles County: The amended declaration of David Abernathy

In the case of the application of David Abernathy for a pension

Personally appeared before me the undersigned a justice of the Peace for said County, David Abernathy aged seventy four years the 29th day of July last, who is a resident in the said County of Giles, & who being duly sworn deposes and saith that by reason of old age & consequent loss of memory, he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service But according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following grades, in the first service mentioned in said declaration, he served for the term, he thinks, of one month, before he employed a Substitute, as a private soldier in the militia under the Command of Colonel McLain [could be McCain]. The next term of service, mentioned in his declaration, lasted to the best of his recollection, three months, he was during said term, a private soldier & served as a Militia man under the Command of General Rutherford – he also served as a militia man & private soldier in the last term of service mentioned in said declaration and that he served therein for the term of three months as therein mentioned. In all of which term of service Applicant served in an embodied corps.

S/ David Abernathy

Sworn to & subscribed before me this 12th day of August 1833

S/ Robt. Oliver, JP

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$23.33 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for seven months service as a private in the North Carolina militia.]