

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Britain Meeks S16478

f12NC

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 'indcipherable' 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 Georgia Meriwether County

On this 2nd day of September 1833, personally appeared in open Court before the Inferior Court, now sitting, Britain Meeks a resident of said County & State, aged 69 years & upwards 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.

1st That, he was born on the 18th day of November in the year 1763, in Pitt County State of North Carolina, has a record of his age in an original entry in an old Bible now in his possession, was raised & lived there until brother, after marriage there & after the Revolution removed to Anson County same State where he resided upwards of 20 years removed from there in 1816 to Jones County State of Georgia where he resided one year removed thence into Baldwin County same State, removed thence to Gwinnett County same State in 1820 where he resided until February 1831 when he removed to this County, his present neighbors are John Rush, Bennett Lawrence & Marcus Caldwell his present residence Meriwether County, Georgia.

1st Service. -- He entered service whilst he resided in Pitt County North Carolina as a volunteer private soldier in Infantry of Militia -- under State authority when a draft was ordered & five out of six of his class were required, he was then in his 16th [word written over, could be 17th] year of age, he rendezvoused at Greenville the Court House of Pitt County NC his Capt. was Austin Spain [Augustin Spain] Lieut. forgotten Major forgotten & Col. also his General was Caswell [Richard Caswell] his Christian name Richard he thinks marched thence to Kingston [sic, Kinston] on Neuse River Dobbs County, marched thence on to the Town of Cross Creek, marched thence to Cheraw Hills South Carolina shortly after the British had been in possession of it & injured it, marched thence through the Country by Ramseys Mills [sic, Rugeley's Mills] where remained but less than 2 days & left in the night for Camden SC in concert with the Army under General Gates [Horatio Gates], near & with him we were marching, our Corps were the advance, & in the night met the British advance about halfway between Ramsey's [Rugeley's] Mills & Camden who apparently had the same intent of surprised that we had, he had entered this service 5th May 1780 & this battle [Battle of Camden] took place 16th of August 1780, the picket guards had some skirmish fighting that night, & in the morning the general battle took place between Gates & the British troops, he now was in Camden it was said to be 6 miles, or rather that the battle was about half way between yet & Ramsey's [Rugeley's] Mills which were 12 miles apart, on the attack the militia in a panic & our Corps with them retreated, our officers tried to rally & called out several times to "form" but such was the confusion, & the spirit of

escaping [?] at the time the rush of the British, that there was no general success in the rally, & I being young & seeing officers & all flying joined in the retreat also & we were not embodied again until reaching Kinston Dobbs County NC where we had been stationed before; -- & where we remained not less than three weeks, marched thence through the country, State of North Carolina, to near Salisbury, on & about Crab Tree Creek [Crabtree Creek], where he was discharged by General Caswell, by written discharge, which he has lost "many, many years ago" in the month of November 1780, he cannot particularize the day of the month but it was later than the 5th day on which day six months service was completed. All this time he served as a private, & he thinks his Col. was __ Caswell also, a son of the General, but he is not sure. During the above service, marches & stations, his Corps was generally reconnoitering & protecting the Country against the Tories, supporting the inhabitants, & as being prepared to retail further inroads of the British, &c, & remained little time at any point.

2nd Service. -- He served ten days as a Volunteer Private in Infantry State militia, North Carolina, under a call of public emergency, his Capt. was __ Moye [John Moye], sometime in the summer of the year 1781, rendezvoused at Greenville Pitt County North Carolina in which County he resided scouted through Pitt & Dobbs Counties under an apprehension & report that a party of British would attempt to retake some British prisoners which we had in custody, & to observe the state of Country lying between Greenville & Kinston. -- From this service was discharged at little Contentnea Creek in Pitt County, received no written discharge, was discharged by Capt. Moye -- He cannot recollect the month or day of entrance of this service.

Summary of service

1st service 6 months

2nd ditto 10 days

6 months & 10 days in all

During these services he was engaged both times with an embodied Corps of Troops & was called into service by State authority, that in all said service of six months & ten days he was in the field or in Garrison, nor during that time engaged in any civil pursuit. And he further swears & states that by reason of old age & consequent loss of memory he cannot swear more positively than he has done as above but to the best of his knowledge & recollection he did not serve less than said periods & in the said grades to wit, for six months & ten days I served as a Private Infantry Volunteered Militia; & for such Service I claim a pension.

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 -- and that he knows of no person by whom he can prove his services as here set forth & that he has no original documentary evidence to present in proof or corroboration of the same, all Revolutionary vouchers which he once had being long since lost or destroyed.

Sworn to in open Court, & subscribed, now sitting, the day & year aforesaid

S/ W. B. Ector, JIC

S/ Britain Meeks, X his mark

[Allen Dykes, a clergyman, and John Rush gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$21.10 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 6 months and 10 days in the North Carolina militia.]