

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Aaron Lewis S16922

fn43NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

4/13/10

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. Folks are free to make non-commercial use this transcript in any manner they may see fit, but please extend the courtesy of acknowledging the transcriber—besides, if it turns out the transcript contains mistakes, the resulting embarrassment will fall on the transcriber. 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. Please call them to my attention.]

State of North Carolina Bladen County: Superior Court of Law Fall Term 1832

This the 11th day of October 1832, personally appeared in Open Court, before the Honorable Robert Strange, one of the Judges of the Superior Courts of Law & Equity, for said State, proceeding in the Superior Court of Law for said County -- now sitting -- Aaron Lewis Senior, a resident of the County of Bladen, State of North Carolina, aged seventy-one 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 7th 1832.

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

1. In the month of August 1780, He was ordered in the service as one of the Privates in a Company of Bladen Militia, of which Daniel Shipman deceased was Captain (the names of the other officers not now recollected). Captain Shipman received orders from General (then Colonel) Thomas Brown, to march his Company to Fair Bluff on Drowning Creek or, Lumber River in Bladen (now Columbus) County, for the purpose of engaging in an expedition against the Tories, on or near the South Carolina line; nearly the whole of the Bladen Regiment of Militia rendezvoused at that place, and were commanded by Colonel Brown. They marched thence to a place called Sandy Islands on Little Pedee [River] in South Carolina; -- there crossed the River -- marched up the same to one Ford's --, and thence back to Fair Bluff. On their return to the Bluff, the married men were discharged, and the young unmarried men, of whom he (Lewis) was one, were moved across Drowning Creek, at that place, and marched up between the Creek & Little Pedee, and in returning crossed the Creek at the place now called Lumberton, -- marched to Elizabethtown, where he, with the other man engaged in the expeditions, received a verbal discharge. He was in actual service, one month.

2: In the month of November 1780, He was again ordered into service as one of the Privates, in Captain Shipman's Company, on a similar expedition. The men composing the Company were ordered by the Captain to repair to the Company Rendezvous near to Brown Marsh in Bladen County. On his arrival there, he found only the Captain, and about one fifth of his men, when he with Daniel Turner, Richard M. Lewis, and Andrew Millican were sent by the Captain to warn in the man. The Company thence marched to Hog Swamp, between Drowning Creek & Lytle Pedee, where they United with 3 or 4 other Companies of Bladen Militia, under

the Command of the late General (then Colonel) Brown. They were originally called out for 8 months tour of duty: but after the expiration of their term of service he with other man under the command of Captain James White, were ordered to collect cattle -- collected about 300 between Drowning Creek & Little Pedee -- drove them to Fayetteville; where they were delivered to the Commanding Officer of the Troops at that place, whose name he does not recollect:. He then returned home, having been in service, altogether, six weeks.

3. In February or March 1781, He entered as a Volunteer in Captain Isaac Simmonds Company in Brunswick County -- joined it at Hood's Creek Bridge about twelve miles above Wilmington, where the Company with some other Militia was stationed, under the command of Colonel Edward Wingate of that County, for the purpose of watching the motions of the British then in possession of Wilmington, under Major Craig. After they had been in service about a fortnight, the Sentinel at the bridge gave the information that a body of men was approaching from below; and Captain Simmonds Company at his request, were immediately ordered to proceed to the bridge; on their arriving there, it was ascertained (it being then daybreak) that the Red Coats were near the Bridge -- they were received with a brisk fire -- immediately fell back, and commenced a retreat down the Creek, pursued by Captain Simmonds men, on the opposite side, until they reached the foot of our encampment, when they faced about and commenced firing also. Within a few minutes, Captain Simmonds was wounded, having his thigh broken, upon which the British rushed across the Creek, and bayoneted him -- leaving him dead on the ground. One of our men by the name of Smith was killed, at the commencement of the skirmish. After the fall of Simmonds, his men dispersed, and were ordered to return home. He (Lewis) was in the skirmish, and was in service three weeks.

4. In the Fall of 1781, He volunteered for three months tour of duty in a Company of Volunteer Militia, under the command of Captain Jared Irwin forming a part of the Bladen Militia ordered into service under the command of Colonel Thomas Owen. The Bladen Militia joined several Regiments of Back Country Militia under the command of General Butler [John Butler] at the Brown Marsh Bridge who had established his Head Quarters at that place, having been ordered from the upper part of the State, to over awe & repress the Tories, who had become very troublesome after the British took possession of Wilmington. From the Brown Marsh Bridge General Butler proceeded with his command to Marsh Castle on the White Marsh in Columbus (then Bladen) County; crossed it, and marched up to John Baldwin's plantation, where he was surprised at night, by a British Force from Wilmington under the command of Major Manson. Most of the Back Country Militia fled on the first fire from the enemy; the action was briskly sustained for some time by the Bladen Militia, and the Duplin Militia under Captain Dodd, who had also joined General Butler at the Brown Marsh Bridge.¹ One of the Bladen Militia was killed and one of Dodd's men wounded. Colonel Owens & Captain Dodd effected an orderly retreat and joined General Butler, who, after in vain having attempted to rally the Back Country men, had succeeded in collecting them, at some distance from the scene of action. He immediately retreated and crossed the Cape Fear River at the plantation of Captain Robert Scott twelve miles below Elizabethtown -- marched up the same, again crossed it at Campbellton (now Fayetteville) and was making his way to the Back Country, when after two or three days march from that place, he met a Brigade of North Carolina Militia on their march towards Wilmington - - returned with him to Morrison's plantation on the Brown Marsh, where they separated. Butler with his force moved to Waddel's Ferry, two miles below Elizabeth, crossed the River &

¹ The engagement at Brown Marsh Bridge occurred, it is thought, sometime in September 1781.
<http://gaz.jrshelby.com/brownmarsh.htm>

encamped. At that place a requisition for 150 volunteers from his command was made by General Butler, to march against the British said to be engaged in a foraging expedition on the opposite side of the River; they were formed into three Companies. He became one of the Bladen Company of Volunteers under the command of Captain Thomas Haynes & Lieutenant William Singletary -- the other two Companies being composed of Back Country men. Having performed the service assigned them, they without meeting with the enemy, they again united with General Butler, who marched to the North East River, and took up his station on the North East near a Block house erected by the British. General Rutherford joined General Butler at that place, where information was received of the surrender of Cornwallis, and within a few days after, General Butler moved with his command across the Cape Fear to Cobham's plantation, where they were stationed (three or four miles above Wilmington) until that place was evacuated by the British and about a week afterwards, the Bladen Militia, of whom he (Lewis) was one were marched to Elizabethtown, and discharged. He received a discharge in writing from Lieutenant Singletary and had it in his possession, until he delivered it to the Magistrates who signed the accompanying Certificate -- he does not recollect to have seen it since -- and does not know what has become of it -- but presumes that it has been lost or destroyed.

5. After the termination of the service last mentioned, He returned to the Company of local militia under the command of Captain Daniel Shipman, and as the Tories were still embodied in small parties in different parts of the County then comprising what now constitutes the Counties of Bladen, Robeson & Columbus, the Company was hailed ready to march at a moment's warning he was consequently engaged in several short expeditions against the Tories, and recollects one of a week's duration to Drowning Creek under Captain Shipman -- but of the duration of the others he has no distinct recollection.

During the whole war of the service above detailed he has no recollection of serving with any Continental Troops or Officers except in the expedition under General Butler, in which he thinks there was an officer called Colonel Mebane, who was said to be a Continental officer -- but whether or not, he cannot say with certainty, and resided then & has ever since resided in Bladen County. He has no documentary evidence, except the certificate here with sent, (if that be considered such) and there are no living witnesses of the services herein detailed, except Joseph Russ,² whose affidavit is hereunto annexed. 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.

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid

S/ Aaron Lewis

The following all the answers to the questions prescribed by the War Department propounded to Aaron Lewis the aforesaid applicant for a pension on account of Revolutionary Services.

- Ans. 1. I was born in Bladen County NC the 25th of January 1761
" 2. I have my age is recorded in 2 family Bible's, one belonging to Richard M. Lewis, & the other 2 Josiah Lewis of Bladen.
: 3. I was born in Bladen County resided in the same during the Revolutionary War & ever since.
" 4. I volunteered
" 5. I recollect none except the officers and regiments I have mentioned in my declaration. The general circumstances of my service are set forth also in my

² [Joseph Russ S7435](#)

declaration.

- " 6. I received a written discharge from Lieutenant Singletary as stated above; I delivered to the Magistrates as I have thus sworn in my declaration and I don't know what has become of it since
- " 7. Captain James Shipman, John McKeithan, John Wingate, Daniel Taylor

[Robert Melvin and John Beard gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

State of North Carolina Bladen County: Superior Court of Law -- Fall Term 1832.

Personally appeared in open Court this the 11th day of October 1832, Joseph Russ, who after being duly sworn according to law -- deposed & saith.

That he was in service during the Revolutionary War with Aaron Lewis Senior in a Company of Militia under Captain Thomas Haynes, -- that he served with him three months in said Company -- saw him at Cobham's Bluff below Wilmington, for the last time while in that service -- and does not know what became of them afterwards -- he also recollects seeing him when intelligence of the surrender of Cornwallis was received at Swan's or Jones' Old Fields on the No. East [River].

Sworn to and subscribed in open Court

S/ Alex. McDowell, Clk

S/ Joseph Russ, X his mark

[fn p. 41: on March 10, 1840, veteran applied for a transfer of his pension benefits to the agency of Alabama at which time he lived in Pike County Alabama. He gave this is principal reason for removing from North Carolina was because his children had done so and he was anxious to continue with them. In this document he gives a summary of his service as set forth in his declaration with the following additional information: "That he is the same person who were likewise served in a company commanded by Captain Jarrett Irving in the Regiment commanded by Thomas Owen in the defeat at Baldwin's in Columbus County North Carolina in the service of the United States...."]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831 for 6 months service in the revolution.]