

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Willis Odom S16993

f23NC/SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

9/22/17

[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 Kentucky Graves County} SS

On this 16th day of January 1834 personally appeared in open Court before Cranford Anderson, David Graham & Charles Cochran Justices of the Graves County Court now sitting Willis Odom aged Seventy-one years and about eight months a resident of the said County of Graves and State of Kentucky 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 7, 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated (to wit) he states he was born in Cheraw District in the State of South Carolina in the month of May 1762 but he cannot recollect the day of the month as he has no record of his age he states he was raised in the same district of Cheraw and State of South Carolina at which place he first entered the service of the United States in the month of April 1778 as a private volunteer militia man and Joined a company of volunteers under Captain James Hicks with whom he marched down the country towards the sea coast until they reached the neighborhood of the Wackamaw Bay [Waccamaw Bay] where he declarant with the whole company returned to Cheraw and this deponent & the whole company were simply dismissed from the service by Captain Hicks – he states that Captain Hicks was the commanding officer on this expedition & none but his company were engaged in it he states that he was engaged three weeks under Captain Hicks in this expedition in the month of April 1778 he would remark at this volunteer expedition was caused by an alarm that a portion of what was called the Tory population were about to rise.

He states that he was next drafted to serve as a private militia man for the period of one month and that he entered the service of the United States in that capacity under Captain ___ Evans in the said district of Cheraw & State aforesaid in the month of October 1778 he was stationed under Captain Evans on the Pedee River at a place called Cheraw Hills under whom and at which place he remained in the service of the United States one month at the end of which period this declarant & the whole company were verbally discharged by Captain Evans by way of illustration he would state that Cheraw Hills was a landing and place of traffic on the Pedee River at which place a wealthy Scotch merchant whose name was John Mitchell resided he was at that time strongly suspected of being a Tory & that he had just been laid in a large quantity of salt an article extremely scarce and Captain Evans with his company were sent there to take the salt for the benefit of the country where they remained guarding the same one month as above stated at the end of which period the salt was distributed to the neighboring inhabitants and a moderate compensation given to the Scotsman he states that Captain Evans was the commanding officer upon this occasion & that no others but his company were employed.

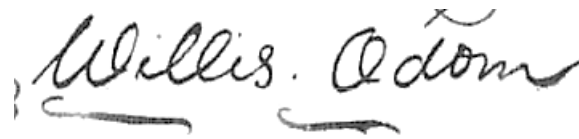
The declarant states that after he was discharged by Captain Evans he went to live with his brother who resided in Edgefield District State of South Carolina where he again entered the

service of the United States as a volunteer private mounted militia man under Captain Francis Sinkfield [Francis Sinquefield] he engaged with Captain Sinquefield for the term of 3 months and entered in the month of December 1779. Captain John Carter raised a volunteer mounted company in Edgefield District at the same time & with Captain Sinquefield & there two companies occasionally acted in concert but they were under the command of no superior officer these companies being mounted each soldier finding his own horse clothing & arms these services were wholly of a partisan character the British had the possession of the lower part of Georgia by which means & the assistance of the Tories they were enabled to keep the states of Georgia & South Carolina in continual state of alarm & it was to protect the country from the combined depredations of the British & Tories & their arguably civilized allies the Indians that the volunteer partisan companies of Captain Sinquefield & Carter were called into active service this declarant states that he served under Captain Sinquefield three months in the capacity above stated at the end of which period he was verbally discharged by Captain Sinquefield in the month of March 1780 he would state that whilst under Captain Sinquefield he was continually active served on horseback going from place to place to overawe the Tories sometimes on the Georgia frontier sometimes at the forks of the Saluda [River] & twice on the Edisto [River]. This declarant now states that about this period his father moved from Cheraw District South Carolina to Bladen County North Carolina & that when he was discharged by Captain Sinquefield this declarant followed his father there and it was at that place to wit in Bladen County North Carolina that he was drafted for a three months tour of duty he states that he entered the service this time in the County of Bladen & State of North Carolina as a private drafted Militia man under Captain Peter Robinson [Peter Robeson]. That he joined a Regiment of drafted militia man under Colonel Thomas Robinson [Thomas Robeson Jr.]. This declarant states that he was stationed the whole of the tour at Wilmington North Carolina to wit under Captain Peter Robinson & Colonel Thomas Robinson he states that he served three months this tour at Wilmington under Captain Peter Robinson & Colonel Thomas Robinson at the end of which term he was discharged by Captain Robinson but he cannot recollect whether it was a written discharge or not. If written he states that he has lost it.

To present his Services in one view he would remark that he served three weeks under Captain James Hicks – one month under Captain __ Evans¹ – three months under Captain Francis Sinquefield and three months under Captain Peter Robinson & Colonel Thomas Robinson making in the whole seven months & three weeks he states he has no documentary evidence of his services & that he knows of no living witness by whom he can prove his services. He states that he removed from Bladen County North Carolina to Edgefield District South Carolina in the year 1783 & from thence he removed to Lincoln County Kentucky in the year 1788 & from thence to Washington County Kentucky in 1789 & from thence he removed to Logan County Kentucky in the spring of 1790 & from thence he removed to Daviss County Kentucky in 1794 & from thence he removed to Graves County Kentucky in 1825 where he has resided ever since – he states that Washington B. Sullivan, John Frazer, Lewis Y. Beadly and German J Wings or his neighbors who will be ample testimony to his character for veracity and as to his reputation of having been a Revolutionary soldier. He hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension or an annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state or territory whatever.

S/ Willis Odom

¹ J. D. Lewis lists three captains whose surnames were “Evans” and who served in the Cheraw militia during the Revolution. Namely: Charles Evans, Jr., David Evans and Thomas Evans. See, http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/patriot_military_sc_captains.htm



[Fletcher Sullivan, a clergyman, and John Frayser gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 13: On June 3, 1844 in Van Buren County Arkansas, the veteran applied for the transfer of his pension benefit to the Arkansas agency, his having removed to Arkansas to be with his son Lewis Odom who lives in Van Buren County Arkansas on the middle fork of the little Red River, and to be with his grandchildren. He signed this document with his mark.]

[p 18: On November 7, 1846 in Barry County Missouri, the veteran applied for the transfer of his pension benefit to the Missouri agency stating that he had moved there to be with his children and grandchildren. He signed this document with his mark.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$28.16 per annum commencing March 4, 1831, for service as a private in the North Carolina and South Carolina militia, 3 months as a private in the Cavalry and 4 months and 21 days as a private in the Infantry.]

[another version]

Pension Application of Willis Odom, Natl Archives Microseries M804, Roll 1838, Application #S16993

Transcribed and annotated by Nancy Poquette

Graves County, Kentucky, 16th January 1834, Willis Odom, aged 71 years:

“He states that he was born in the **Cheraws** District in the state of South Carolina, in the month of May, 1762...He states that he was raised in the said district of **Cheraws**...at which place he first entered the service of the United States in the month of **April 1778** as a private volunteer militia man and joined a company of volunteers under Captain James Hicks, with whom he marched down the country towards the seacoast until they reached the neighborhood of the Waccamaw Bay when this declarant, with the whole company returned to **Cheraws** and the declarant and the whole company were simply dismissed from the service by Captain Hicks. He states that Captain Hicks was the commanding officer on the expedition in the month of April 1778. He would remark that this volunteer ___ was caused by an alarm that a portion of what was called the Tory population was about to rise.”

“He states that he was next drafted to serve as a private militia man for the period of one month and that he entered the service of the United States in that capacity under Captain ___ Evans in the said District of **Cheraws**, state aforesaid in the month of **October 1778**. He was stationed under Captain Evans on the Peedee River at a place called **Cheraw Hills**, under whom and at which place he remained in the service of the United States one month at the end of which period this declarant and the whole company were verbally discharged by Captain Evans.”

“By way of illustration, he would state that **Cheraw Hills** was a landing and place of traffic on the Peedee River at which place a wealthy Scotch merchant whose name was John Mitchell resided, who was at that time ___ suspected of being a Tory and that he had from there laid in a large quantity of salt and extremely scarce, and Captain Evans with his company were

went there to take the salt for the benefit of the country where they remained guarding the same one month as above stated, at the end of which period the salt was distributed to the neighboring inhabitants and a moderate compensation given to the Scotchman. He states that Captain Evans was the commanding officer upon this occasion and that no others but his company was employed.”

“This declarant states that after he was discharged by Captain Evans, he went to live with his brother in Edgefield District, state of South Carolina, where he again entered the service of the United States as a volunteer private, mounted militia man under Captain Francis Sinkfield. He engaged with Captain Sinkfield for the term of 3 months and entered in the month of **December 1779**. Captain John Carter raised a volunteer mounted company in Edgefield District at the same time with Captain Sinkfield and their two companies occasionally acted in concert, but they were under the command of no superior officer.”

“These companies being mounted, each soldier finding his own horse, clothing and arms, their services were wholly of a partizan character. The British had the possession of the lower part of Georgia, by which means, and the assistance of the Tories, they were enabled to keep the states of Georgia and South Carolina in a continual state of alarm and to protect the country from the combined depredations of the British and Tories and their equally civilized allies, the Indians, that the volunteer partizan companies of Captains Sinkfield and Carter were called into active service. This declarant states that he served under Captain Sinkfield three months in the capacity above stated, at the end of which period he was verbally discharged by Captain Sinkfield.”

“In the month of **March 1780**, he would state that whilst under Captain Sinkfield he was on continual active service on horseback going from place to place to overawe the Tories, sometimes on the Georgia frontier, sometimes at the Forks of the Saluda and twice on the _____. This declarant now states that about this period, his father moved from **Cheraws** District, South Carolina to Bladen County, North Carolina, and that when he was discharged by Captain Sinkfield, this declarant followed his father there and it was at that place, to wit, in Bladen County, North Carolina that he was drafted for a three months tour of duty. He states that he entered the service this time in the said county of Bladen and state of North Carolina as a private drafted militia man under Captain Peter Robinson, that he joined a regiment of drafted militia men under Colonel Thomas Robinson. This declarant states that he was stationed the whole of this tour at Wilmington, North Carolina, to wit under Captain Peter Robinson, Col. Thomas Robinson. He states that he served three months this tour at Wilmington...at the end of which time he was discharged...”

“To present his services in one view, he would remark that he served three weeks under Captain James Hicks, one month under Captain Evans, three months under Captain Francis Sinkfield, and three months under Captain Peter Robinson and Colonel Thomas Robinson, making in the whole, seven months and three weeks...”