

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of Micajah Adams S1783

fn34NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 1/20/11

[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. I welcome and encourage folks to call those and any other errors to my attention.]

State of Tennessee, Sullivan County: September Term 1832

On this 25th day of September 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Honorable Edward Scott Judge of the Circuit Court of Law & Equity for said County now sitting Micajah Adams a resident of the County of Sullivan & State of Tennessee aged Seventy three years who being 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 & served as herein after stated, to wit. That in the summer of the year 1776 or 1777 he was a resident of the County of Sullivan & State of North Carolina, now Sullivan Tennessee was drafted in said County for the Term of three months & enrolled under Captain James Shelby of said County was employed during his said Term of service in keeping the Cherokee Indians from committing depredations on the frontier inhabitants which Tribe of Indians were in league with British & also in guarding Long's fort now in Sullivan County until his said term of service expired which was about three months as well as now recollected when he was verbally discharged by his said Captain James Shelby.

He states that in the fall of the same year he volunteered in the County of Sullivan then North Carolina, now Sullivan Tennessee, & enrolled under Captain Isaac Bletcher -- Colonels Christian [William Christian] & Evan Shelby, was again marched to little Tennessee River¹ now in Blount County Tennessee then within the Indian Territory against the Cherokee Indians, was marched by way of the Long Island on Holston River now Sullivan County Tennessee the double Springs on the big bent² on Nolichucky where he remained some days then to an Indian Ford on French Broad River then across little River on to little Tennessee River which was in the Indian Territory at that time now now [sic] the late Cherokee Indian purchase where he was continued some weeks ranging through the Indian country destroying the Indian Towns & property from there was marched home mostly on the same route he was marched out and verbally discharged by his Captain Bletcher after having been in that Service six weeks.

He states that in the summer of 1778 or 1779 he was a resident of Sullivan County then North Carolina now Tennessee was drafted in said County and enrolled under Captain John Anderson in said County & Lieutenant Maxwell was marched to Blackmore's Fort on Clinch River now Scott County Virginia to guard said Fort & the frontier against the Shawnee Indians who were in league with the British in the war of the Revolution where he continued to serve as aforesaid the full Term of his

¹ H. Dean Thomas points out that the Cherokee's name for the Tennessee River was "Tanasi."

² H. Dean Thomas suggests the word is a misspelling of the word "bend" and that the bend in the river referred to is probably the bend in the river which marks the birthplace of Davy Crockett at what is today the Davy Crockett State Park.

enrollment which was for one month, was verbally discharged for the same by his said Lieutenant Maxwell.

He says that in the month of March following as he now believes he volunteered in the County of Sullivan then State of North Carolina now Tennessee & enrolled under Captain Gilbert Christie [sic, Christian or Christy?] of said County. Colonel Evan Shelby was marched against a part of the Tribe of the Cherokee Indians then known by the name Chickamauga was marched to the Island flats on the Holston River where he with the other Troops under his said Colonel Evan Shelby embarked in canoes & descended the Holston River to the mouth of Holston River thence down the Tennessee River to the mouth of Chickamauga Creek where the Indians were stationed in their towns. Killed some Indians, took some prisoners, destroyed their property & towns the greater part of said Indians having retreated on the arrival of Colonel Evan Shelby's Regiment to which this declarant belonged, returned home after having served full nine weeks as aforesaid, that he was verbally discharged for the same by his said Captain Gilbert Christie.

He some months after the last above named Tour of duty as well as now recollected he substituted in the said County of Sullivan in the place of Jonathan Adams & enrolled under Lieutenant George Maxwell of said County and marched on to Morganson Creek near Scott County Virginia & Russell County in said State to guard the frontier settlement against the Shawnee Indians, who were frequently killing and plundering the frontier settlers in the said section of country in which service he continued for the Term of two weeks when he was verbally discharged by the said Lieutenant Maxwell and returned home.

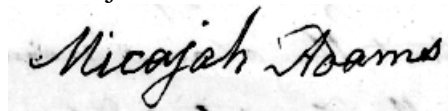
He states that in the fall of 1780 as well as now recollected he was drafted in the said County of Sullivan for the Term of one month enrolled under Captain Asher [?] and marched on horseback to be big Creek now Hawkins County Tennessee as a Ranger on the frontier against the Cherokee Indians & continued in said service for the Term of one month when he was verbally discharged by his said Captain Asher.

He states that in the fall of the year 1781 as well as now recollected he was drafted in the County of Sullivan then North Carolina now Tennessee for the Term of four months enrolled in the said County of Sullivan under Colonel Isaac Shelby & Captain Topp [probably Capt. Roger Topp] was marched to Santee River in the State of South Carolina by way of the Yellow Mountain, Burke County N. C. then to the Tuckaseegee Ford on the Catawba River then through Chestnut [?], Camden South Carolina from there on to Santee where he joined General Marion's [Francis Marion's] Army from there he was marched near Moncks Corner where he under Colonel Shelby with Colonel Maham took one hundred & twelve prisoners as stated. From there was marched on towards Coopers Bay to dislodge a party of the British who had taken refuge in a meeting house & who were defeated and the said meeting house burned previous to the arrival of Shelby's Regiment. Shortly after which time he was verbally discharged by his said officers and returned home after having served four months in actual service as aforesaid he states that he served in all in the war of the revolution thirteen months & one week he states that he has no documentary evidence of his service neither does he know of any who can testify to his service except that hereunto annexed. He states that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ Micajah Adams

S/ Wm. Anderson, Clerk



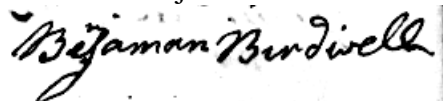
[David Adams, a clergyman, and Edward Cox gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

Benjamin Birdwell,³ a resident of the County of Sullivan & State of Tennessee do hereby certify that he is well acquainted with Micajah Adams who has subscribed and sworn to the foregoing declaration, that he knows of his own performing the four months Tour of duty to the South under Col. Shelby & Captain Lopp as he stated.

Sworn to & subscribed the 25th day of September 1832.

S/ Wm Anderson, Clerk

S/ Benjamin Birdwell

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Benjamin Birdwell". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background. The letters are connected and fluid, with a prominent flourish at the end of the word "Birdwell".

[fn p. 15: Certificate of John C. Rutledge, clerk of the Sullivan County [Tennessee] Court finding that the veteran, Micajah Adams, a pensioner of the United States at the rate of \$43.33 per annum, died January 16, 1842 leaving a widow "named Elizabeth Adams who died on the 23rd day of the same [text torn and words missing from the certificate], Sarah, John, Jesse, Stephen, Francis, Margaret, David and William Adams." The certificate is dated March 10, 1842. Stephen Adams acted as executor of the estate of Micajah Adams. It is not clear from any of the documents in the file what relationship, if any, all of the named individuals had to the veteran and his wife.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$43.33 commencing March 4th, 1831, for 13 months service as a private in the North Carolina militia.]