

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Robert Major [Majors] S2002

f16NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 5/29/16

[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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[p 6]

[State of Tennessee, Bedford County]

On this 15<sup>th</sup> day of August in the year 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Worshipful John T. Armstrong, Samuel Phillips and John L. Neill Esquires Gentlemen Justices of the peace appointed to hold the court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for Bedford County in the State of Tennessee, Robert Majors, a resident of said County aged Seventy-one years five months and some days; 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 7<sup>th</sup> June 1832. That he entered the Service of the United States under the following named Officers and Served as herein Stated; (to wit) That he entered the Service of the United States, as a drafted Soldier in the County of Surry in State of North Carolina, in the year 1778 as he believes; he states that one John Davis was one of the proper number to be called out; but was absent at that time and he states that he was ordered to rendezvous at Richmond the County Town, on a particular day; by the proper officers; He further states that his brother John Majors<sup>1</sup> Substituted in the place of some person whose name he has forgotten, to go with him; He also states that when he and his brother appeared according to orders, he aforesaid John Davis appeared and filled [p 7] his own place according to his number; He states that he was then released; But in order to accompany his Brother who had manifested so much brotherly affection for him he states he substituted also, in the place of one John Carmichael and was placed under the command of Captain James Shepherd, and the Major's name was Richard Good [Richard Goode]. He states he was marched from Surry County to Salisbury in Roan [sic, Rowan] County North Carolina he states at that place he was taken sick and was hauled in a wagon to a place called the hanging Rock in the State of South Carolina he states that after he recovered; he traveled on to head quarters Puvillsburg [?sic, Purrysburg] on the Savannah River. He states that he was marched from that place to what he thinks was called the two Sisters [Two Sister Ferry]; and from that on up to what was called the Black Swamp on Savannah River. He states the troops were under the command of General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford] & Colonel Lock [sic, Francis Locke] and Major Good. He states that soon after he joined the Main Army, after his sickness, he understood then a part of General Rutherford's Army and the British had a small skirmish on Briar Creek on the Georgia side of the Savannah River; He states that they remained there until the 10 April 1779 when he states he was discharged in writing. He thinks his discharge was signed by General Rutherford, but not being able to read writing he is not certain. He states he served five months on this expedition; he states that during the balance of the year 1779 in the year 1780 [p 8] he was frequently engaged in reconnoitering through the country on the Yadkin River in

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<sup>1</sup> [John Majors S16944](#)

search of Bands of Tories. He states he joined Captain John Halbert and a Major Smith [probably Henry Smith] both citizens of Surry County North Carolina. He further states that afterwards in the year 1781 he volunteered in Captain Minor Smith's Company of light Infantry; and marched down the Yadkin in passing the Town of Cross Creek, and thence on down to Drowning Creek, a distance of about 150 or 200 miles. He states that at or near that place, he saw a company of Dragoons belonging to the American Army under the command of Major Graham & Captain Charles Polk, He states that during this tour of duty the company he belonged to was fired on by the Tories and one of the Americans were killed, and the next morning our troops killed one of the Tories. He states that he was then marched near to General Rutherford's headquarters where he states they were discharged, or dismissed and sent home with their Captain; he states he served nine months in this last tour.

He hereby relinquishes all claims whatever to any pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any Agency in the United States; He further states that he has no documentary evidence at this time; and that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify as to his Service.

[p 9] Interrogatories by the Court

Intrg. 1<sup>st</sup> Where and in what year were you born?

Answer: I was born in Dawset [sic, Dorchester?] County in the State of Maryland in the year 1761 the 14<sup>th</sup> of March as I have been informed by my parents

2<sup>nd</sup> Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

Answer: I have a record of my age at my dwelling house in this County, in my Book called Westley's Sermons [sic, Wesley's Sermons?], taken from the record in my Father's Bible

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

Answer: I lived in the County of Surry in the State of North Carolina, when I was first called into service, and in the same County when I was last called into service. And I remained in the same County until the year 1806, when I moved to Bedford County in the State of Tennessee, where I have lived ever since, and where I now live.

4<sup>th</sup> How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom?

Answer: I was first drafted and released; and then I substituted in order to go with my Brother for to fill the place of one John Carmichael And in my tour against the Tories I always volunteered, and in my last tour under Captain Minor Smith I was a volunteer.

[p 3] 5<sup>th</sup> State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Answer: I recollect Lieutenant Joel Lewis of the regular troops who commanded the 9 months man I have seen some Regiments of Militia but do not recollect their number, I saw some Regular troops on Savannah River, but do not know any thing about their numbers or the names of their officers. And only know such officers & regiments as I have given in my declaration.

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

Answer: I received one discharge from General Rutherford I think, but what has become of it I do not know.

7<sup>th</sup> State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

Answer: The Reverend R.W. Cardwell, William Norvill Esq., Matt. Martin Esq. & John Tilman.

The foregoing Sworn to in open Court this 15<sup>th</sup> day of August 1832.  
S/ Jas. McKisick, Clk

S/ Robert Majors, X his mark

[p 4: Richard W Cardwell, a clergyman, and William Norvell Sr. gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 15]

And amendment to the declaration of Robert Majors made at August term 1832 of Bedford County Court in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed the 7<sup>th</sup> June 1832. State of Tennessee, Bedford County

Personally Appeared before me the undersigned an acting justice of the peace for said County Robert Majors, who subscribed and was sworn to the declaration above alluded to; who after being duly sworn according to law deposeth and saith that by reason of old age and consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his Service, and the precise periods to a month, when he Served, but to the best of his recollection, he served not less than five months in the year 1778 & 1779 in Captain Shepherd's Company as stated in the accompanying declaration made in August 1832 Said term of Service he entered about the 10<sup>th</sup> of November 1778 and ended the 10<sup>th</sup> of April 1779. Deponent further says to the best of his recollection he Served not less than three months in the latter part of the year 1779 and 1780 as a volunteer under Captain Halbert and a Major Smith, but the precise months he performed this last mentioned Service in, he cannot state, he further States that he served not less than nine weeks as mentioned in the accompanying declaration, in Captain Smith's Company, and he states to the best of his recollection he entered on the last tour about the 15<sup>th</sup> of August 1781 and was dismissed between the 20<sup>th</sup> and last of October 1781 making in all a term of actual Service of not less than eight months as a private Soldier for which he claims a pension – Sworn to and Subscribed this fourth day of January 1833.

S/ Saml. Clay, JP

S/ Robert Majors, X his mark

[image 446 in the Ancestry.com version of the file of Patrick McGuire is the summary for this veteran's file. It indicates that the Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$26.66 per annum for service as a private for 8 months in the South Carolina [sic North Carolina] Militia.]