

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Hugh Telford S2021

Transcribed by Will Graves

f22NC

rev'd 3/22/17

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

State of Tennessee, Wilson County} S

On this 31<sup>st</sup> day of October 1832 personally appeared in open Court, before the Judge of the Circuit Court now sitting, Hugh Telford a resident of said County of Wilson & State of Tennessee aged sixty-eight years on the 4<sup>th</sup> of June 1832, 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 7<sup>th</sup>, 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated; --

Colonel Taylor commanded the Regiment to which he belonged & Major William O'Neal – he volunteered his services in the Revolutionary War about the 5<sup>th</sup> June 1780 in a company raised in Orange County North Carolina, commanded by Captain Edward Gwin [sic, Edward Gwinn] we rendezvoused at Major O'Neal's, marched through Orange into Chatham County & then marched to Randolph [County], in the two last counties, the Tories, under the command of Colonel Fannon [sic, David Fanning] were very troublesome to the Friends of the United States, and the Tories were the main object for which we were called into service – at different times we routed the Tories and took many prisoners but did not have anything like a general engagement. During this time Lord Cornwallis marched into Orange County & also into Guilford County, and our attention was immediately called to the British forces, he was at Clapp's Mill Guilford County and in the Battle [March 4, 1781]<sup>1</sup> fought at that place between part of the British Army & part of the Militia under the command of General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene]; does not recollect who was commanding officer in the Battle, but recollects that Colonels Washington [William Washington] & Lee [Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee] were both in the engagement. He was at the battle ground the next day & was very near being taken prisoner by a foraging party sent out by Tarleton. Captain Gwin & his company was then detached to prevent depredations upon the Citizens of Orange County on Haw River. And whilst we were thus detached the battle at Whitesell's [sic, Wetzel's] Mill<sup>2</sup> on Reedy Fork in Guilford was fought and was within four miles of them during the fight, but on the East side of Haw River. From Haw River we were marched to join General Greene's Army, and on the way he was taken sick with the smallpox & was left behind having served between four & five months. He reached home and remained there until the month of June 1781, when he again turned out volunteer and as a Ranger under Captain Gwin to suppress the Tories who were then annoying the friends of Liberty at a most distressing rate in Chatham, Randolph & the adjoining Counties – met at O'Neal's again, marched against the Tories, & finding them too strong for us, we retreated and joined General Butler's [John Butler's] command on Haw River. The same night we joined General Butler's Army, the news reached us that Fanning & McNeill [Hector McNeill], Tory Colonels had gone round & had taken Hillsboro,<sup>3</sup> the Governor [Thomas Burke] & his

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution\\_clapps\\_mill\\_1.html](http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_clapps_mill_1.html)

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution\\_battle\\_of\\_weitzells\\_mill.html](http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_weitzells_mill.html)

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution\\_battle\\_of\\_hillsborough.html](http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_hillsborough.html)

Council & all the prisoners we had at that place. Captain Gwin & Captain Wilkinson of the Continental Army were sent down to the lower Counties in North Carolina to notify Colonels Brown & Robinson of the fact that the Governor & Council had been made prisoners & that they should assist us to retake them. We then, after having carried the intelligence to Colonels Brown & Robinson, undertook to guard the pass through a large swamp that the enemy were expected to cross, but they received information of our purpose, and took a different route; General Butler was pursuing them; But the Tories being reinforced by the British from Wilmington turned upon General Butler & caused him to retreat about which time Captain's Wilkinson & Gwin again joined the main Army; we continued our retreat about two days perhaps longer at length the British & Tories came upon us at Captain Baldwin's in the night, and after two severe and heavy attacks [Brown Marsh, September 1781]<sup>4</sup> General Butler with his Army retreated across Cape Fear [River], and then marched up the River opposite to Fayetteville, where Captain Gwin with his company left General Butler's Army & returned home. We were not discharged after we returned home, but held ourselves in readiness for any emergency that might demand our help; but by the time we recruited ourselves & horses, Lord Cornwallis surrendered [Yorktown, October 19, 1781] and no further call was made upon us – this Campaign he served between two and three months to the best of his recollection & belief, and he believes he can with propriety and truth say, he served as a volunteer Soldier in the Revolutionary War seven months at the least.

He has no record of his age, but has stated his age according to his best recollection of his father's family record which fell into the hand of some of the family – not now remembered.

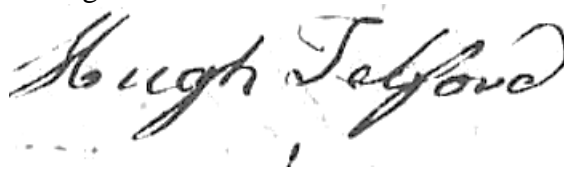
He lived in Orange County North Carolina when he volunteered in the service of the United States. Continued to reside there until the year 1795 as well as he can recollect, then moved to Tennessee on Suggs Creek in Wilson County where he still resides.

He knew Generals Greene & Pickens [Andrew Pickens] – he knew Colonel Robert Mebane who was a Continental officer & was with us acting as a most active & vigilant part the night of the Battle at Baldwin's plantation where General Butler was defeated. He knew Colonels Washington & Lee of the Dragoons -- & was with them a few days in service previous to the battle at Clapp's Mill. He never received a written discharge, nor did he hold any Commission in the Army – And has not any documentary evidence – nor does he know of any person by whom he can prove his services except the Reverend James Gwin & his sister who is not able to attend Court. He is well acquainted with the Reverend John Spinks, Dr. Jacob Woodrum [?], Taylor Lindsly, Ransom Gwin, some of whom expects he can get to testify their belief of his having been a soldier of the Revolutionary War. The certificate of the Reverend James Gwin is here upended & made part of this declaration. He hereby relinquishes every claim 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 & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ Wm. S. Martin, Clerk

S/ Hugh Telford



[John Spinks, a clergyman, Jacob Woodrum & James Drennan gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

State of Tennessee, Davidson County

I James Gwin a clergyman residing in the County of Davidson & State of Tennessee do certify

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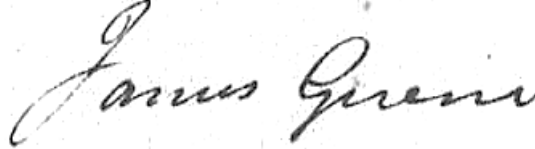
<sup>4</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution\\_brown\\_marshall.html](http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_brown_marshall.html)

that I am now well acquainted with Hugh Telford of Wilson County and have been acquainted with him for about 50 years, and further certify that said Telford did serve in the Revolutionary War for the space of seven or eight months under Captain Edwin Gwin in the State of North Carolina as a private.

Sworn to in open Court this 23<sup>rd</sup> of October 1832.

Test: S/ Henry Ewing, Clerk

S/ James Gwin

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James Gwin". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and somewhat slanted to the right.

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$23.33 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831, for service as a private for 7 months in the North Carolina militia.]