

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of David Caldwell S21104

f22NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

10/30/10 rev'd 8/6/13

[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. 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 fails 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 errors or omissions to my attention.]

[p. 9-- pages are out of sequence as posted on Footnote.com]

State of Tennessee Wilson County

On this 29th day of October 1834, personally appeared in open Court, before the Circuit Court, now sitting, David Caldwell, a resident citizen of said County of Wilson & State of Tennessee, aged about eighty years, who being first duly sworn according to law, does 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 United States service under the following officers & served as herein stated.

He first entered the service in Maclenburg County [sic, Mecklenburg County], in the State of North Carolina, as a volunteer. His Captain was William Alexander, Lieutenant, Andrew Alexander, name of Ensign not remembered. The Regiment to which his Company was attached was commanded by Caleb Fifer [sic, Caleb Phifer], – the Majors names are not recollected. Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford] was there General. They started to meet the Tories at Ramsour's Mills, & crossed the Catawba [River], & reached the place of destination after a pretty rapid march, & found the Tories encamped not far from the Mills, & immediately attacked them & after a brisk engagement, put them to flight, some of them being taken prisoners, others ran into the mill pond etc. There were several killed on both sides, but more on the side of the Tories than the Whigs. One of the Whig Captains by the name of Falls was among the slain also privates Neil & Patton. They stayed there some time after the action, & then marched home again, & were dismissed, but received no written discharge. He was out on that occasion in actual service at least twenty-five days. The precise date of this service is not remembered. [fn p. 8]

The second expedition was also against the Tories. He started from the same place, in the same year, & was under the same Captain & Lieutenant. There was but the one company, consequently had no Colonels or Generals. He marched down on the Catawba River below Charlotte, to the Catawba Nation of Indians, when they had been informed the Tories had assembled, but before they reached the place they had dispersed, & after scouring the country & remaining in that service at different points, they returned to their homes, & were again allowed to disperse, after receiving from the Captain a certificate or receipt for forty days service which is long since lost. He was on that occasion in actual service forty days.

He was out again the same year in a horse Company, under the command of Captain Lock, and Colonel Davy's [sic, William Richardson Davie's] Regiment of Cavalry. The other officers' names are now forgotten. He started from the same place, & marched down towards the Waxhaw settlements in pursuit of the Tories, but had no engagement with them, & after being out in actual service one month, was again dismissed, without any written discharge, until another

call should be made.

The next year, he was again called out (being what was called a "minute man") under Captain William Gardner, Lieutenant David Smith. They were not attached to any Regiment. They marched down towards the Yadkin [River] & marched down that River, & went down by the mouth of Rocky River which they crossed, & went up the South side of the same, & being unsuccessful and overtaking the Tories as was expected, returned home & were disbanded. He was out and that occasion in the service at least one month, he thinks more, but will sit down at that.

The same year he marched out without any Captain under the command of Lieutenant David Smith. When [fn p. 7] they reached the Yadkin they went under the command of Colonel David Caldwell, where they encamped, & waited for orders until they got the account of the battle of Guilford,¹ – a few days after which they returned home, & were dismissed. He was out that tour, at least three weeks.

The same, or early the next year, on receiving the account that Cornwallis was on his march to Charlotte,² he again went into actual service, under the command of Captain William Gardner, Lieutenant Smith, Colonel Davie & Major White, & Major Graham. They went toward Charlotte, & after touching at several points they met with the forces of Cornwallis at Charlotte & after an engagement with his Dragoons, had to retreat before his infantry, about five miles, when on meeting with some reinforcement, of Whigs, as he thinks under the command of General Sumner, they drove back the enemy to Charlotte, & being unable to drive them further they made out into the country, & remained at different points around, keeping the enemy in check & having several engagements with parties of them for some time, when after the enemy left Charlotte, they returned home & were again dismissed. A private by the name of Lock & some others were killed, & Major Graham was badly wounded. He was out & engaged in actual service on that trip at least thirty days.

In the same year he again entered into actual service under the command of Lieutenant Ross, having no Captain till we reached a company [of] Militia commanded by Captain Lamkins, to which they united themselves. They then marched on into South Carolina through Camden, to join General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene], which they did soon after the battle of the Eutaw Springs, at the High Hills of Santee. They [fn p. 6] then entered a Regiment commanded by Colonel Malmudy [sic, Malmedy] a Frenchman in the Army of General Greene. He saw General Greene there frequently. After being stationed there for some time, he was selected by Colonel Malmedy as one of his guard to go on a message from General Greene to Governor Martin to Wilmington, – but before they reached their they met the Governor & returned again to the Army. He was then discharged by his Colonel & all his company was discharged before his return. He has long since lost said discharge. Colonel Malmedy was killed soon after by a man by the name of Steed as he was informed in a duel. His discharge was for three months. He was on that occasion three months & 10 days, but he will only claim three months, as the discharge was only for that time.

He was also out on some other short tours, but will not enumerate them.

He served in all eight months & 26 days.

He has no documentary evidence by which he can prove his services, nor does he know of any living witnesses by whom he can prove them.

¹ March 15, 1781. The veteran clearly got the sequence of his engagements out of order.

² Lord Cornwallis invaded Charlotte North Carolina in late September 1780 and remained there until after the battle of Kings Mountain on October 7, 1780.

He was born in Pennsylvania, in New Castle County, & moved when very young to Caswell County North Carolina & removed from there when nearly grown to the said County of Mecklenburg in the same State, where he remained till the year 1795 when he moved to Sumner County, & after making two crops there, moved what is now Wilson County, where he has resided ever since.

He has no record of his age, & cannot state the precise year in which he was born, but from his best means of information thinks he is about eighty years old.

[fn p. 4]

He is well known to all the persons in his neighborhood, & expects they would all testify to their belief of his revolutionary services. He would name James Tompkins, John Ross, Samuel Motheral, [name obliterated] Gray, Allen Ross & many others.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity, except the present, & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the Agency of any State.

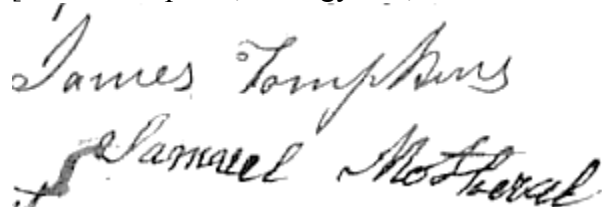
Sworn to & subscribed, the day & year aforesaid.

S/ David Caldwell



S/ Wm L. Martin, Clerk

[James Tompkins, a clergyman, and Samuel Motheral gave the standard supporting affidavit.]



[Facts in file: veteran died April 7, 1843; the place of his death is not set forth in the file; there is no family data in this file.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$29.55 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for eight months & 26 days service as a private in the North Carolina militia.]