

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of Isaac Earthman S21173
Transcribed by Will Graves

fn14NC
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[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.]

State of Tennessee, Davidson County

On this 6th day of February 1834 personally appeared before the Justices of the Court of Pleas & Quarter sessions now sitting Isaac Earthman Senior a resident of said County & State aforesaid where he has resided 34 or 35 years past aged 84 years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the Act of Congress passed June 7th, 1832.

That he was born, he thinks in the year 1749 in the State of Pennsylvania, from whence, at the age of 12 years he removed to North Carolina, Orange County.

He entered into the service as a volunteer militia man in the County of Orange. The exact year of his entrance, he does not remember, but he believes it to have been 1778 or '79. He rendezvoused at Hillsboro, and was marched from thence under Captain Murray & Colonel Ramsey & Moore through Salisbury up into the mountains, to the head quarters of General Rutherford's Camp. We continued at General Rutherford's Camp some time, and as our Regiment, & one of a neighboring County was not wanted, we were marched back to Hillsborough & there dismissed, applicant receiving at the same time a discharge from Captain Murray for three months service. Applicant has lost this discharge as well as all the others which he received.

When he was dismissed, he retired home, & remained there for upwards of a year, when he was drafted by Captain Gwinn and after convening at Hillsborough applicant's Regiment was first under the command of Captain Young & Colonel Piercely [sic, Paisley] – who marched us off for Sunsburch [sic, Sunbury ?] on Savannah River in South Carolina. We arrived at Priersburgh [sic, Purysburg], in about two months from the time of leaving Hillsboro: and stayed there some considerable time – so long as to discover the unpleasant situation of our Camp & designated it by the name of “Smoky Camp.” General Saunders was the commanding Officer .Orders were forwarded that the Army under his (Saunder's) care should immediately move of the Savannah River, and prevent, if possible, the British from taking Augusta. We proceeded up the River, as far as a White house, opposite Augusta & waited there until the battle of Briar Creek was fought. As the Americans were defeated in this battle it was incumbent on General Sanders [sic] to retreat back into the heart of North Carolina. He started for Hillsboro, & applicant proceeded with him, until he received a furlough when he left the Army behind. He was drafted for five months, but served only four months & two weeks.

He was at home about one year, after his discharge from this second tour, when Captain Gwinn of Orange County North Carolina applied to him to enter into what was called the “Minute Company” - - the object of which was to protect Hillsboro from the depredations of the Tories. But a short time after he became a member of this Company it was understood by the Company, that the Tories were in the vicinity of Hillsboro. It was the hope of the Company to destroy these depredaths [sic], & with this expectation, go back of them. On their return from Hillsboro Captain Gwinn & Col. O'Neal fought themselves too weak to strike a decisive blow, -- Colonel O'Neal offered to any one of the soldiers an excellent horse, saddle, & bridle, to go to General Butler, & request of him to aid them (Gwinn & O'Neal) in the disruption of the Tories. Applicant closed with this proposition, & arrived safely at

General Butler's. The Tories found [indecipherable word] to escape to the swamps, and there defied all pursuit. He served in this way three weeks – he then laid by for six months – was called out a second time by Captain Gwinn to watch the Tories who had got or was going into the neighborhood of Hillsboro. On their way to Hillsboro, at Lindley's Mill, we encountered them, & after a close & well contested battle, victory appeared on our side, their Colonel Fanning being killed¹ and Colonel McNeal wounded – he served two weeks – enlisted for no particular time.

During his service, he frequently saw & was in some degree familiar with General Butler – he saw General Sanders, Col. Mayben [sic, Robert Mebane?], & his own immediate officers over him. It will be seen, that his whole term of service amounts to eight months & three weeks. He knows of no person whose testimony he can procure, who can testify to his service except Adam Binkley² nor does he have any documentary evidence showing his service.

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.

February 6th 1834

S/ Isaac Earthman, X his mark

S/ Henry Ewing, Clerk of Davidson County Court

[William Ralston, a clergyman and Adam Binkley gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Facts in file: veteran died September 8, 1834; there is no family data in this file.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$24.88 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 7 months & 14 days service as a private in the North Carolina militia.]

1 David Fanning was not killed in action during the Revolution.

2 [Adam Binkley S1890](#)