

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Blair S22125

f56NC

Transcribed by Will Graves 9/19/06

revd 8/31/10 & 8/14/14

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

[p 50]

State of Georgia Habersham County: SS

On this fifth day of November 1832 personally appeared in open court before the Court of ordinary now sitting James Blair a resident of said County of Habersham and State of Georgia aged Seventy-one years and eight months 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 June 7th 1832.

That he entered the service under the following named officers and served as herein stated that he was born as he has been informed by his parents in Augusta County Virginia on the 6th day of March 1761 that he first entered the service of the United States in Burke County North Carolina where he resided at that time of entering the service under Captain James Richardson as a volunteer under General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford] that he remained in the service at that time for the term of five months at the end of which time he was regularly discharged by Captain James Richardson at the Two Sisters Ferry on Savannah River in South Carolina, the precise time of entering the service he cannot recollect the next time he entered the service was in Burke County North Carolina under Peter Foard [Peter Foard] Captain Hampton [Adam Hampton] & Hambright [Frederick Hambright] Colonels & General Lennington [John Alexander Lillington] that during that term of service he was with Colonel Lytle [Archibald Lytle] a Continental officer he marched through South Carolina at the end of three months was regularly discharged in Charleston by Lieutenant Benjamin White Captain Ford having deserted that he next entered the service in Burke County North Carolina under Captain Barnett under General Sumpter [Thomas Sumter] for ten months that he served under that term for seven months and twenty-six days that he was during that time in a skirmish with the British at a place called Blackstock's [November 20, 1780] where General Sumter got wounded that he was also in a skirmish in South Carolina called Sumter's Surprise [Battle of Fishing Creek, August 18, 1780] where General Rutherford & Colonel Isaacs [Elijah Isaacks]¹ were taken prisoners he was discharged by Captain John Sumter next entered the service in Burke County North [Carolina] under Captain John Boman [sic, Joshua Bowman] who was afterwards killed at the battle of Ram Sours [sic, Ramsour's Mill, June 20, 1780] and under General Charles McDowell, Joseph McDowell was Colonel – that

¹ Griffith Rutherford was taken prisoner at the Battle of Camden, August 15-16 1780. He was not at the battle of Fishing Creek on August 18, 1780. It is unclear whether or not Colonel Elijah Isaacks was at the Battle of Camden or the Battle of Fishing Creek

during that time he was in a battle with the British at Pacolet in South Carolina our forces were commanded by General McDowell the British were commanded by Dunlap [James Dunlap] he was also in another skirmish at the head of Cane Creek in Rutherford County he was also in the battle at Kings Mountain [October 7, 1780] under Colonel Cleveland [Benjamin Cleveland] that he was regularly discharged by Benjamin Hearn after having served under that term 6 months. That he next entered the service in North Carolina under Captain Gray and James Dugan [James Dougan] Major & Thomas Dugan [Thomas Dougan] Colonel that he served them for 6 months and was regularly discharged by Captain Gray [William Gray] in Randolph County in North Carolina that he also entered the service in North Carolina under Captain Price & came on the Siege of Augusta that he served during that time three months and was verbally discharged by the commanding officers –

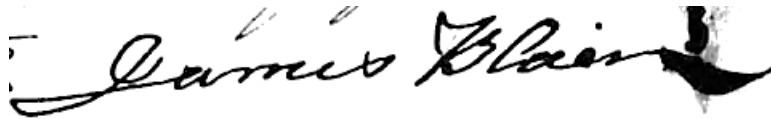
That he afterwards served seven months as an Indian spy part of the time under Captain Norwood & part of the time under Captain Wellborn. He then had the command of the line during the Indian War as Captain for the term of 11 months and was regularly discharged by Generals Pickens [Andrew Pickens] and Anderson [perhaps Robert Anderson] – That he has no record of his age that all his discharges were burned but recently by the accidental burning of his house that he now resides in the County of Habersham State of Georgia where [indecipherable word] in Franklin County Georgia and Pendleton South Carolina he has resided for about 40 years that he could refer to many persons of his neighborhood & acquaintance that would testify as to their belief of his service but as submits here with other proof he deems that unnecessary.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever 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 and subscribed this 5th day of November 1832

S/ Jonathan D Chastain, CC

S/ James Blair



[p 53]

In open court personally appeared James Starritt² who being duly sworn deposeth and saith on oath that he saw the aforesaid James Blair very frequently in the service of the United States during the Revolutionary War he saw the said James in almost all the tours that this deponent was out that he saw him during the Raft Swamp campaign and that his general character was that of a useful man and very good soldier. Sworn to and subscribed in open court this 5th day of November 1832

S/ James Starritt



[Evan Pearson, a clergyman, and John Holcomb gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 3]

State of Georgia, Habersham County

² [James Starritt R10084](#)

On this 18th day of October 1837 personally appeared before the Superior Court of said County now sitting, Col James Blair, a resident of Captain Murphey's District in the County and State aforesaid, aged Seventy six years, who being duly sworn, according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions made by the Act of Congress, passed June 7th, 1832. That he entered the Service of the United States in the Summer of 1778 in Burke County in the State of North Carolina as a volunteer for five months under Captain James Richardson, and Colonel Andrew Hampton. Soon after he entered the Service he was appointed Orderly Sergeant in which capacity he served during the five months. From Burke County he was marched to the Sisters Ferry on the Savannah River on the South Carolina side of said River, and was placed under the command of General Rutherford. He remained at the ferry scouting in various directions for three or four months, when he was marched up the River opposite the mouth of Bryer [sic, Briar or Brier] Creek, where he remained until after Ashe's defeat [March 3, 1779] when he was marched back to the ferry where he remained until his time was out; when he was discharged by Major Anthony Sharp [sic, Sharpe?]; [he] served this tour five months as an Orderly Sergeant. He again volunteered in the forefront of the year 1779 -- in the said County of Burke under Captain Peter Foard, and Colonel Hambright, for three months. When he entered the service he was appointed by the last named officers Ensign to the Company in which capacity he served during this tour. He was marched from Burke County through Camden and crossed the Santee River at Nelson's Ferry and went on to the Smokey Camps near Charleston in the State of South Carolina, where he remained for sometime and was then marched into Charleston and was stationed in General Moultrie's Houses -- where he remained until his time was out, when he was discharged by his Captain Anthony Sharpe; served this term three months, both these two tours in the foot service. He again entered the service as a volunteer light horsemen in the said County of Burke, for three months in July or August 1781, under Captain Adam Hampton (son of Colonel Hampton), Col. McDowell & General Charles McDowell and was marched to the ahead of Cane Creek in Rutherford County, North Carolina, where he had a fight with the British & Tories under Colonel Dunlap. From there he was marched to Gilbert Town, where he was joined by other companies. He was then marched to Ned Hampton's place on Pacolet [River] in South Carolina where he had another fight with the British & Tories under Colonel Cunningham, where he was compelled to retreat, to the head of the Catawba River to a place called Cathey's Fort. There he was sent by General McDowell with an express in company with two others to Col. Lenear [sic, William Lenoir³] but before he reached the Colonel he was fired upon by some Tories and was wounded in the shoulder. He continued on the express to Col Lenoir, and on his way back, finding that he could not get back to his old company, he joined Genl Cleveland who was on his way to the Battle of King's Mountain and was placed under the command of Captain Barlow [sic, John Barton]. He then went on in said company & was in the battle at King's Mountain. From there he was sent as one of the guard with the prisoners to Moravian Towns, where he was discharged; served this time as a light horsemen, and found his own horse, three months. He again entered the service as a volunteer light horsemen in the said County of Burke for three months in 1782 under Captain William Gray & Colonel James Dugan and was marched to the Cross Roads in Randolph County, where he was stationed and was employed in scouting after Fannin [sic, David Fanning] & his men & was in several skirmishes. When his time was out he was discharged by Major Thomas

³ [William Lenoir S7137](#)

Dugan. [He] Served in all 14 months. He is known to Captain John Stonecypher⁴ of Franklin County, Georgia & to James Starrett of the said County of Habersham whose affidavits he will endeavor to obtain. This declarant has once before made a declaration of his services. It was sent back to Col. Rusk but he is advised that it is so informal that he had better make a new one.

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

Answers to the interrogatories propounded by the Court:

- 1st: Was born in Augusta County in the State of Virginia in the year 1761.
2. Has no record of his age that he knows of.
3. Was living in Burke County and the State of North Carolina; has lived in Burke County North Carolina and Ray County Tennessee & in Pendleton District South Carolina & in Franklin and Habersham Counties in the State of Georgia; he now lives in the County of Habersham, Georgia.
4. He volunteered & never served as a substitute.
5. He recollects Colonel Archibald Little [sic, Lytle], General Lincoln & Cols Shelby & Williams [probably Col. James Williams who mortally wounded at Kings Mountain] in addition to those mentioned in his declaration. As stated the general circumstances of his services in the body of this declaration.
6. Did receive a written discharge for his first five months service from Major Anthony Sharpe, one from Colonel Hambright for his next tour of three months & one from Major Thomas Dugan for his last tour of duty. These discharges were burnt when his house was burnt in the County where he now lives.
7. Is known to James West, Absalom Holcombe and Stephen Cobb who can testify to my character for veracity and their belief in my services as a soldier of the revolution.

He was in the battle at Ramsour's Mill but was out so short a time that he does not claim anything for that service.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ James Blair

S/J. T. Carter, Clerk

[James West, a clergyman, and Abraham Holcombe & Stephen Cobb gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 16]

State of Georgia Franklin County: SS

Personally appeared before me Christopher Addison a Justice of the peace in and for the said County, James Starritt and Marmaduke Vickery⁵ of the County of Habersham who being duly sworn deposed and saith, as follows to wit, the said James Starrett says that he is well acquainted with Colonel James Blair who he is informed is now applying for a Pension in the County of Habersham. He was also acquainted with said Blair in the time of the Revolutionary war in Burke County in the State of North Carolina, and frequently saw the said Blair in the service of the United States he recollects particularly to have seen him at what was called the Raft Swamp, and at various other places – but cannot now state

⁴ [John Stonecypher S16539](#)

⁵ I could not find any evidence that a man by this name filed for a federal pension for his services in the revolution. This may be the only record of such service.

particularly what officers the said Blair was under, but knows that he was a considerable time in the service of his Country –

The said Vickery says that he also was well acquainted with the said Blair in the Revolutionary War – and served a three months tour with him in the year 1782 – under Captain William Gray and Colonel James Dougan, and saw the said Blair at various other times in the service, but does not recollect at this time under what officers, or in what particular year, but thinks it was before the tour stated above.

Sworn to & subscribed before me this 20th day of October 1837

S/ C. Addison, JP

S/ James Starritt

S/ Marmaduke Vickery, X his mark

[p 19]

State of Georgia Franklin County: Personally appeared before me Christopher Addison a Justice of the peace in and for the said County, Captain John Stonecypher of said County, who being duly sworn deposed and saith, That he is well acquainted with Colonel James Blair of Habersham County (State aforesaid) who he is informed is now applying for a Pension under the Act of Congress passed 7th of June 1832. That he deponent was well acquainted with James Blair, when he the said Blair lived in Burke County in the State of North Carolina previous to his entering the Service of the United States in the War of the Revolution. That he saw the said James Blair in the service under Captain Richardson & Colonel Joseph McDowell & General Rutherford in the said County of Burke North Carolina, which was a five months tour, He deponent also saw the said James Blair in the service at the Battle of Kings Mountain as a light horseman under Captain Barton in Colonel Cleveland's Regiment, and saw the said Blair start to Moravian town in charge of some prisoners. He Deponent understood from various persons who served with the said Blair, that he the said Blair, performed various other tours of duty, during the Revolutionary war – the said Blair was esteemed a variable soldier at that time – and he has been so considered ever since. This deponent being well acquainted with the said Blair ever since the Revolutionary War –

Sworn to and subscribed before me this day of October 1837

S/ C Addison, JP

S/ John Stonecypher, X his mark

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$40 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 12 months service as a private in the North Carolina militia.]