

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Joel Meares (Mears) S2816

f23NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

4/25/09: rev'd 2/7/17

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

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State of Tennessee Warren County

On this 9th Day of July 1835 personally appeared in open court in the County Court of said County Joel Mears a resident of said County and State aged between eighty and eighty-one 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 drafted in the service of the United States for three months in Dobbs County North Carolina in February 1780 [? 1781?] as well as he recollects Capt. Burnett Johnson's company Capt. Johnson organized his company in said County at the town of Kingston [sic, Kinston] on the Neuse River. Major Blunt [Blount?] with a detachment of troops was at that place at that time. Col. Tillman [John Tilman] took command of our Regiment also Col. Linton had the command of a Regiment we marched from thence down said River to General Bryant's Mills within 15 miles of New Bern where we remained three weeks and went out in scouting parties in pursuit of the Tories we marched to Smithfield thence to Duplin court house where we came in contact with a detachment of the British and Tories commanded by Major Craig [James H. Craig] who took our troops by surprised and defeated¹ us we then retreated to Kinston where we remained until the three months expired we were discharged and returned home, again entered the service for three months as a volunteer in June 1780 [sic, 1781?] as well as he recollects in Cumberland County North Carolina to which place he moved shortly after he was discharged, and Capt. Hawkins Dye[']s company Col. Philip Alston[']s Regiment organized at Col. Alston's on Deep River and marched against Col. Fannon [sic, David Fanning] and McNeal [Hector McNeil] who commanded about seven hundred Tories in Chatham County at Lindley's Mill Haw River General Butler [John Butler] commanded our troops the enemy was in a swamp and could not be approached but in one way our troops made several attempts to march into them but were repulsed -- the enemy at length marched out of the swamp we attacked them and gave them a defeat Col. McNeil² was killed with many others marched thence to Col. Luttrell's [John Luttrell's] barracks [in Chatham County North Carolina] where we remained until our time expired and we were discharged. Again volunteered for three months in September or October 1780 [sic 1781?] to go against Col. Fanning who had collected his troops

¹ This MAY be a reference to the engagement near Kinston NC on August 16, 1781, http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_kingston_1.html

² Hector McNeil was killed at the engagement at Lindley's Mill on September 13, 1781. <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/lindleysmill.htm> & http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_lindleys_mill.html

at Bettys bridge³ in Cumberland County in Capt. James Ruffin's company Major Wade [Thomas Wade] commanded our troops we organize our troops in said County and marched to said bridge attacked Fanning and defeated him and dispersed his forces and we ranged through the country in pursuit of them as they were scattered until our time expired and we were discharged.

Again volunteered for three months in June or July 1781 as well as he recollects in Capt. John Cock's [John Cox's] company organized in Cumberland County and ranged through that County and those adjoining to suppress the Tories applicant understood five hundred troops were ordered to be raised by the State to suppress the Tories who were doing great deal of mischief and that Capt. Cock's company was a part of the five hundred he served his time out in this way and was discharged he entered in January 1782 for eighteen months Capt. not recollected in Col. Thomas Armstrong's Regiment organized and marched about 50 miles and received orders to be discharged and peace was made or about to be had; [he had] not been in service more than two weeks never entered the service anymore. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present and he declares that his name is not on any pension roll of the agency of an State he is acquainted in his neighborhood John Wood, William West, William Cummings and William Stone there is a clergyman residing in his neighborhood but it is 17 miles from this place and he cannot conveniently get him to attend.

Sworn to and subscribed in open Court this 9th Day of July 1835

S/ Will Edmondson, Clerk

S/ Joel Meares, X his mark

[Pleasant Henderson and Edmund Pendleton gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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Interrogatories: says he was born in Dobbs County North Carolina in May 1754 has no record of his age lived in Dobbs County North Carolina until 1780 moved to Cumberland County -- state at the close of the war moved to Henry County Virginia where he lived 20 years thence Hawkins County Tennessee then Buncombe County North Carolina then to Warren County Tennessee where he now resides and has for 25 years he has stated the officers with whom he served in his declaration he never received any written discharge nor does he know of any living witness by whom he can prove his services he is acquainted in his neighborhood with John Wood, William Stone, William Cummings and William West

Sworn to and subscribed in open court the 9th day of July 1835

S/ Will Edmondson, Clerk

S/ Joel Meares, X his mark

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State of Tennessee Warren County

This ___ day of October 1834 Joel Meares aged eighty years old 2nd day of May next after being duly sworn according to law in order to obtain the benefit of an act of Congress passed 7th of June 1832 says that he was drafted into the service of the United States on the ___ day of ___ 1778 in Dobbs County North Carolina in Captain John Norman's [?] company for three months Captain Norman's company & Regiment were organized in the County of Dobbs at the town of Kingston and marched to General Briens' mill on Neuse River in 15 miles of New Bern thence up ~~into Johnson County~~ Smithfield on said River distance of 70 or 80 miles thence to Kingston

³ Probably a reference to the engagement at Beatti's Bridge on August 4, 1781 between Col. Thomas Wade's Wade forces and Col. McNeil's Tories. <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/beattisbr.htm>; could be a reference to Beatty's Bridge in Bladen County, NC, date of engagement is unknown to me. <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/beattysbridge.htm> & http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_beattis_bridge.html

where said company [was] organized, remained there until our times expired and were discharged. General Caswell [Richard Caswell] commanded this expedition. Again entered the service of his country as a volunteer for three months in Captain Hawkins Dye[']s Company in Cumberland County North Carolina Colonel Philip Alston's Regiment the troops organized at said Alston's house marched through Cumberland and Chatham Counties North Carolina principally engaged against the Tories at which employment they continued until our term of service expired. Again volunteered in a short time for three months in Cumberland County in Captain John Cocks company Lieutenant William Barrat, organized at Captain Cokes' own house this expedition was against the Tories we continued ranging through the Country until I terms of Service expired and we were discharged. Again volunteered again in a short time for three months in Captain Burrel Johnson's Company in Colonel Tillman's Regiment in Duplin County North Carolina organized at Duplin Court House and marched towards Wilmington where the British were stationed under Colonel or General Craig we marched in 15 or 20 miles of Wilmington but as we were not able to contend with the enemy we did not go any nearer our object was to capture and disperse the Tories who were marching in great numbers to the British. After our leaving Duplin Court House we learned a considerable number of Tories had assembled near that place under Colonel Fanning & McNeill we returned and defeated them McNeill was killed with a good many others our troops were then commanded by General Wade this terminated his service he hereby relinquishes all claim to any pension except the present and declares his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.

S/ Joel Mears [sic], X his mark

Subscribed and Sworn to in open court 7th October 1834

W/ Will Edmondson Clk

By Will Armstrong D. C.

Answer to the interrogatories said he was born in Dobbs County North Carolina on 2nd of May 1855 has no record of his age lived in Dobbs County until his father moved to Cumberland where he remained some time and again removed to Dobbs where he first entered the service as a drafted soldier for three months again moved to Cumberland where volunteered two tours of three months each then moved to Duplin County & state where he again volunteered three months thence to Cumberland where he remained sometime after the war moved to Patrick County Virginia after living there 18 years thence to Hawkins County after living there 10 years moved to Buncombe County North Carolina thence to Monroe County Tennessee where he now lives and has ever since never served with any regular officers received discharges at the end of each tour signed by his Captains but they are lost or destroyed he therefore has no documentary evidence of his service and knows of no one by whom he could prove the same he is acquainted with Wm West, William Stone, William Cummins Esquire, James Barclay, Esquire and John Woods in his present neighborhood

S Joel Mears, X his mark

subscribed and sworn to in open court 7th October 1834

S/ Will Edmondson, Clerk

By William Armstrong, DC

[William Cummings and William Stone gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$20 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 6 months in the North Carolina militia.]