

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Beaty (Beatty) S2990

f21NC

Transcribed by Will Graves 7/14/06

rev'd 8/18/10 & 9/2/14

[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 'indcipherable' 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.]

State of Tennessee, Rutherford County:

Court of Pleas of Quarter Sessions August Term 1832.

On this 20th day of August 1832 personally appeared in open court, before Henry Trott, V. D. Cowin & James C. Mitchell, Esquires, Justices of the court of pleas & quarter Sessions for the County aforesaid, now sitting, James Beaty, a resident of said county of Rutherford, aged Seventy eight years, five months & twenty six days or Seventy nine years five months & twenty six days, 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 of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated. He entered a volunteer regiment in North Carolina in the company commanded by Captain Jacob Nicholds [Jacob Nichols] in whose company David Henry was Lieutenant. The regiment to which he belonged was commanded by Col. Griffith Rutherford, afterwards General Rutherford, and the whole forces were under the command of General Williamson [Andrew Williamson of South Carolina]. He resided in Rowan County North Carolina when he volunteered, and was mustered into service at Charlotte, Mecklenburg County North Carolina, which he thinks was in the latter part of the year 1775. He remembers that William Davidson [William Lee Davidson], afterwards General Davidson, was the Adjutant of his regiment and he was mustered into service by him. After having been mustered into service he marched for Ninety Six in South Carolina against the Tories who had embodied there. Before we marched Ninety Six, and at Rayburn's Creek [Rabun's Creek] in South Carolina, we learned that Tories had dispersed and thus the object of the campaign being accomplished, we marched back and was dismissed after having entered the state of North Carolina. The precise place at which he was dismissed, he cannot state. He received no written discharge, but was verbally dismissed by the Colonel of the regiment. He was out two months if not longer, but he will not positively state more than two months. This campaign was performed in extremely cold unpleasant weather. There was during some part of the time the deepest snow on the ground that had almost never been known in that part of the country. The campaign was long known by name of the Snowy Campaign. After being dismissed, declarant returned to his residence in Rowan County North Carolina from which he soon went out again as a volunteer against General McLeod, a Scotch man, under whom the Scotch had taken up arms in behalf of the British government and was encamped somewhere in the state below where declarant resided. Declarant thinks that he rendezvoused to enter upon this tour

at Hillsborough Salisbury NC on the 22nd February 1776. He was under the same company officers as in his former tour and the regiment to which he belonged. He thinks was commanded by Colonel Francis Lock [Francis Locke], Col. Rutherford as he thinks having then been advanced to the station of General, and he thinks Rutherford commanded in that campaign as General. Col. Alexander Martin who was in the regular service and who he thinks commanded the first regular troops ever raised in that part of the Country, was in the same Campaign with his regiment of regulars. The regiment in which declarant served marched from the place of Rendezvous as above stated, to the cross roads in Randolph county when we joined with the Col. Martin's Regiment of regulars. He also remembers that at the same place, they was joined by another regiment of militia commanded by Colonel James Martin, a brother to Col. Alex^r. Martin. Our troops then proceeded on to Cross Creek, when we learned that Gen. McLeod had been attacked by a party of Whig troops under the command of some man whose name he cannot now remember, but who he believes afterwards became governor of North Carolina, and was entirely routed & defeated, General McLeod himself being killed.¹ He thinks he was then marched back home or in his neighborhood and dismissed by his Captain. He is certain that none of the troops to which he belonged proceeded any further after receiving the intelligence of McLeod's defeat, and perhaps they was dismissed generally at Cross Creek, but the reason he thinks he marched back with his Captain is that the men under his command was nearly all his neighbors and principally Irish, who he knows was warm hearted, patriotic fellows and generally stuck close together. Declarant thinks he was in service including the time he was marching home, during this campaign about two months. During the same year and declarant thinks in the latter part of the Summer or in the fall early, there was a call for men to go out against the Cherokee Indians who had been committing depredations on the frontier and he again volunteered his services and went out under the command of the same company officers, who commanded in his former tours. He is not certain whether his regiment this tour was commanded by Col. Lock or Col. Dobbins but believes it was one of them. The expedition was under the command of General Griffith Rutherford. There was in this campaign a regiment from Guilford County and one from Randolph one of which was commanded by Col. James Martin, and he believes it was the Randolph regiment. He remembers he thinks that they all rendezvoused or met at Cathey's fort on the Catawba River, and marched thence across the mountains, passing over Swannano Creek [Swannanoa Creek], and the French Broad River, which we crossed at a place called the Cherokee ford,, thence on proceeded on to a small water course called Tuckalege [Tuckaseegee], at which there was a small deserted Indian village. Crossing over the stream we proceeded on to the Watauga town on the big Tennessee River which was deserted. We burned the town as we did the village at Tuckalege, cut down their corn & destroyed it, which was then in roasting ears, after using as much of it as we wanted, dug up their potatoes, drove off their cattle &c. Before we reached Watauga town however our advanced guard was fired on by a small party of Indians who had ambuscaded themselves in the pass between two ridges. Their fire was returned by our guard and the Indians fled. If there was any of them killed we never saw them. None of our men were killed by their fire. One man by the name of William Alexander was wounded in the foot or ankle and we were compelled to carry him on a litter the balance of the campaign. The declarant

¹ The veteran appears to be describing the Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge, February 27, 1776. Contrary to the veteran's statements, however, the Loyalists in that engagement were led by Gen. Donald MacDonald who was taken prisoner there. Col. Donald McLeod, another leader of the loyalists, was killed in that action.

remembers an accident that occurred in his regiment about the time it crossed Swannano. One of the soldier's guns accidentally fired off and shot another soldier who was near him and he died of the wound almost instantly. From Watauga town we went to a town called Cowee, which was deserted. We burned the town, destroyed their corn & potatoes after using as much of them as we wanted, drove of their stock &c as we did at every town or Indian habitation we came to. From Cowee we proceeded to Nucusu [possibly Nucassee (Niquasse, Nikwasi)?]² a large place for an Indian town at which place a consultation was held by our officers and it was determined to divide our forces. Accordingly, Gen. Rutherford proceeded on to Hiwassee with a part of the troops and the balance remained with Col. James Martin at Nucusu. Declarant went with Gen. Rutherford, Col. Martin and the troops with him remaining at Nucusu, until our return. Soon after we left Nucasu our pilot got lost and took the wrong route which bewildered us so that we was two or three days longer in reaching Hiwassee than we had anticipated. After reaching Hiwassee the South Carolina troops commanded by General Pickens [Andrew Pickens] marched into our encampment. We learned from them that in their march they had met with a party of Indians a day or two before and had a sharp engagement with them which resulted in the defeat of the Indians. This engagement occurred between the Tennessee & Hiwassee Rivers and was on the same route our forces would have marched had not our pilot mislead us. He does not remember that any of Gen. Pickens' men was killed in this engagement but there was several of them wounded. There was a number of the Indians killed and we saw their dead bodies a few days afterwards on our march back to the point where we left a part of our forces namely to Nucusu. Having scoured the nation, burnt all the principal Indian towns and destroyed all their property, we marched directly back from Nucusu to Cathey's Station the point from which we marched to invade the nation, where we was discharged. Declarant believes he received a written discharge at the end of this tour from his Captain and if he did it has long since been lost. He thinks he was absent from home on this campaign at least two months. During this tour declarant was in no general engagement with the Indians but many of them was lurking in the woods and amongst the rocks & [?, could be "fortresses"] of the mountains, and whenever they or at least frequently when they found our men straggling off a little from the main body of the troops they fired on them and occasionally ~~killed &~~ wounded some of them. After this campaign declarant returned to his former residence in Rowan county until probably the year 1778 when he again volunteered to march into South Carolina against the British. He entered the service in the company of Captain Jacob Nicholds [Jacob Nichols] his former Captain. His regiment was commanded by Col. Francis Lock and the whole troops was under the command of General Rutherford. We rendezvoused at Salisbury. There was also a regiment rendezvoused then from Guilford county but he does not remember the name of the Colonel who commanded it. There might have been some other regiments but he does not remember that their was. We marched from Salisbury into South Carolina, entering South Carolina as he think at a place called the twelve Mile Creek from thence we marched directly towards Charleston until we reached what was called the Ten Mile House above Charleston at which place we halted for further orders from Charleston. After remaining at the Ten Mile House several days we were ordered to march to a place which he thinks was called Purisburg [sic, Purrysburg] on the Savannah River, he thinks the distance of twenty two or twenty three miles above Savannah. On the day we marched from the Ten Mile House a Sergeant in declarant's regiment created a mutiny and

² *Nucusee*

<http://gaz.jrshelby.com/rw-roads/Conflicts-1775-1782.htm> (viewed 9/2/14)

made an attempt to leave the army and march directly home. He had induced perhaps as many as thirty to go along with him and they actually started. They was pursued and overtaken, made prisoners and corporally punished together with three or four more of his associates for their dereliction of duty, or rather for their mutiny. Others of the party, who were thought to be more blameless, were permitted to go unpunished upon their promising to return to duty. Having marched to Purrysburg we marched thence up Savannah River to a place which he thinks was called Zcubla's Ferry [Zubly's Ferry]—the distance above Purrysburg, he does not remember. At this point we made an encampment and proceeded to erect some fortifications. We built three redoubts and about them platforms for cannon. We also erected a kind of breast work or abutment entirely surrounding our encampment. This abutment was formed by large timbers which we cut & placed together so as to form a strong and secure breastwork. We remained in this position for a considerable time, but declarant cannot remember how long; we remained however until we marched up the river to cross over to the Georgia side to join Gen. Ashe [John Ashe] and assist him against the British. We had commenced crossing over and all our Cannon had got across and a part of our forces about this time Gen Ashe came up or rather met us retreating from the British. He had been attacked by them and gave orders immediately for a retreat.³ When he met our troops, Gen. Rutherford endeavored to persuade him to wheel and rally his troops and with the assistance of our troops stand an engagement. Finding it impossible to induce Gen. Ashe to turn round & face the enemy, even with the assistance we was able to afford, Gen. Rutherford ordered such of our troops and artillery as had crossed the river to recross. After we marched down the river to a place either called Turkey Hill or the Black Swamp and he does not remember which when we encamped, and remained some length of time but how long he does not remember. Declarant does not remember any other important movement of the troops to which he belonged until they marched to Camden South Carolina. The attack made on Gen. Ashe when he retreated as above stated was as declarant believes at Briar Creek. After declarant's regiment was marched to Camden, they was all discharged by Col. Locke. He received a written discharge from his Colonel as he thinks but has since lost or destroyed it. From Camden declarant returned to his residence in Rowan County North Carolina having served a tour of six months.

Declarant was born in the state of Pennsylvania in Chester County in Nottingham township. He had at his residence a record of his age which he took from a record made by his older brother, he having taken it from a record made by our father is a small Bible. Afterwards my brother above mentioned transcribing it made the following mistake. Declarant had a twin sister and instead of dating our births on the same day in the transcribed record our brother dated one of them in 1752 and the other in 1753. The mistake was never discovered until after our father's death and the old Bible was lost or destroyed. No one could then tell whether my birth or my sisters was correctly entered in the transcribed record and never the uncertainty as to whether the declarant is in his seventy ninth or eightieth year. Declarant was living as already stated in Rowan County North Carolina, when he entered the service of the United States and during the whole of the revolutionary. Declarant continued to reside in Rowan County for a number of years after the war, when then removed to Sullivan County East Tennessee and resided in that & Greene county East Tenn. Probably Ten or more years. He then removed to Cumberland County Kentucky, and resided probably twenty years or more, from thence he removed to Rutherford County, Tennessee where he now resides and has

³ Claimant is describing Ashe's retreat from the Battle of Brier Creek, March 3, 1779.
<http://gaz.jrshelby.com/briercreek.htm>

resided ever since he first came to this part of the state. Declarant as already stated never entered the service in any other way than as a volunteer. Declarant knew in the army Col. Archibald Lytle who belonged to the Continental line and served in the same army. He also remembers Captain William Lytle and Maj. Anthony Sharp though at the time he knew him he was in the militia. He thinks in the regular army he was a Captain and afterwards became a brigadier Major in the militia. Declarant is known to the Rev'd Calvin Curlee the Rev'd James Porter, Jessie Stovall Esq, Hugh Read Esq, James Todd, John Cooper and many others who he believes would testify as to his character for veracity and then belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution. Declarant states that he has no documentary evidence of his service and he does not know of any person whose testimony he can procure to testify to his service. He hereby relinquishes any 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.

S/ James Beaty

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James Beaty". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name "S/ James Beaty".

Sworn to & subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Jn. R. Laughlin JP

[p 9: James Porter, a clergyman, of the Methodist denomination, and Jesse Stovall, JP, gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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