

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of Jacob Bledsoe (Bleasoe) S3012

fn46NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 9/15/10

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. Folks are free to make non-commercial use this transcript in any manner they may see fit, but please extend the courtesy of acknowledging the transcriber—besides, if it turns out the transcript contains mistakes, the resulting embarrassment will fall on the transcriber. 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. I welcome and encourage folks to call those and any other errors to my attention.]

State of Tennessee, Carroll County

On this 13<sup>th</sup> day of September A.D. 1832 personally appeared before the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions of the County and State aforesaid Jacob Bledsoe a resident of said County and State aged about Seventy 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 7<sup>th</sup>, 1832. That he entered the Service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated. Perhaps a year or somewhat more before this declarant was of age to be placed on the muster roll which was sixteen at that time, a sharp fight had taken place between a party of Whigs and a party of Tories at Moore's Creek in North Carolina and some time after this fight, and probably in consequence of it, two or three companies were raised in Wake and probably Granville Counties, North Carolina, which marched to, and were stationed during the tour of three months, at a place then called "Cross Creek" where Fayetteville North Carolina now stands. The object of these companies was to intimidate and keep down the Tories in that quarter. In this tour this declarant served the whole three months as a volunteer in the company (or one of the companies if there was more than one) which was raised and went from the said County of Wake. As to the officers on this tour this affiant from his extreme youth at the time, does not now recollect the name of a single one positively, though he is inclined to believe that his elder brother, Lewis Bledsoe, was his Captain. This affiant well remembers that his said brother was in the same Company with himself, for it was mainly on his brother's account that this declarant entered the service. Whether the balance of his company were volunteers or drafted this declarant does not remember, but he is well knows that he himself volunteered in order to go with his brother. This declarant does not remember whether or not there was any officer in command of this party higher than a Captain. In this tour this declarant saw no Continental officers or soldiers. This declarant does not remember whether or not he received a written discharge at the end of this term of service but if he did it has long since been lost. This declarant's recollection as to dates is now very imperfect but as well as he can remember, late in 1779 or early in 1780, this declarant again entered the service this time as a substitute for \_\_\_ Gray – and marched to, and served a tour of three months, at Charleston, South Carolina under General Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln] as commander-in-chief. The company to which this declarant belonged was raised in Wake County North Carolina (by drafting), and was commanded by the declarant's said brother Lewis Bledsoe, Captain, and \_\_\_ Jordan as ensign or lieutenant, this claimant does not remember which, nor does he remember the names of any other of the Company officers. The Regiment to which this declarant belonged on this tour was commanded by Archibald Lytle as Colonel, and James Hinton as

Major. On this tour declarant was marched by "Cross Creek" (already mentioned), through Camden, on by Moncks Corners to the "Governor's Gate", at which latter place we encamped for several weeks, at the end of which time we were stationed in Charleston and there remained until, at the end of our term of three months, we were discharged. The discharge which declarant received at this time he has also lost. After being discharged declarant went immediately home to Wake County, North Carolina, where he thinks he arrived in February or March 1780. He remembers to have heard soon afterwards that in about 10 days after he left Charleston, that place was closely invested by the British and all communication between that and the surrounding Country cut off. Indeed, as the British were in sight when declarant and those who went with him were discharged, we passed out, by command of General Lincoln, in the night. In the same year this declarant, perhaps in the month of July, he again entered the service for a term of three months as a substitute for one Curtis Roberts, but at the commencement of the term he was appointed, commissioned and served as a lieutenant throughout the term of three months in the company commanded by his said brother, as Captain. Andrew Mackleroy [sic, probably Andrew McElroy] Ensign. This company was drafted from Wake County, North Carolina. The Colonel of the Regiment to which this declarant then belonged was \_\_\_ Moore, and the Major by the name of Nalls, the militia General he served under was either General Caswell [Richard Caswell] or General Butler [John Butler] this declarant does not remember which. This declarant does not remember that there was any particular place of rendezvous for the militia on this tour but to the best of his recollection the companies from the different Counties in North Carolina fell in at different points as was most convenient to them. The object of the expedition this declarant then understood was to meet the British on their way from Charleston. We marched about several weeks in different Counties in North Carolina, through Chatham, by Moore Courthouse and through the town of Charlotte and finally, as well as this declarant remembers we reached "Rugeley's Mills." Some time in the month of August we were ordered (at the last mentioned place) to hold ourselves in readiness to march at a certain hour in the night which we did, as well as I remember before or about twelve o'clock. After we had marched several miles, our advanced guard very unexpectedly met the British and this declarant heard the firing between them, which continued in front at intervals till near day. At break of day this declarant's company and the Army generally became engaged. The North Carolina militia, as it is well known, in a few minutes fled in the utmost confusion. This declarant well remembers to have seen General Gates [Horatio Gates] riding backwards and forwards several times exerting himself to rally the militia. He also remembers to have seen his Colonel Moore, who was then, judging from his appearance, quite an old man, endeavoring to rally or prevent the flight of his Regiment. Soon after this defeat this declarant and some other members of the Company to which he belonged reassembled at Hillsboro, North Carolina, by command and this declarant was there discharged. This declarant has long since lost his discharges and his commission not deeming it a matter of any consequence to preserve them after the close of the war. This declarant had no personal acquaintance with any distinguished officers of the Continental line, but on the tour at Charleston he often saw Major Sharpe, who was then, or had been, a Continental officer. On this declarant's last tour he also remembers to have seen Colonel or General Williams, who from his large eyes, was called "the Buck." So this declarant states that he served two tours of three months each as a private, and one tour of three months as a lieutenant. This declarant resided in Wake County, North Carolina, each time that he entered the Service. He was born in that County on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of March 1762, and resided there continually until the latter part of the year's 1819 when he removed to Maury County in this State, where he lived four years, at the end of which time he removed to this County and has resided here ever since in the neighborhood of the town of Huntingdon. This claimant has no documentary evidence of his claim, and knows of no person whose testimony as to his service, he can procure, except his said brother Lewis Bledsoe, who, this claimant was informed a few months ago was still living in Granville County North Carolina. This declarant will write to his said brother and request him to send to the War Department his own affidavit and those of such of the persons as he may know of in North Carolina

who can testify as to this declarant's service. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and declares that his name is not (to his knowledge) on the pension roll of the agency of any State.

Sworn to & subscribed the day and year aforesaid in open Court.

S/ Edward Given [?], Clerk

S/ Jacob Bledsoe

[Standard certificate of veracity and belief of service given by Thomas A. Young, a clergyman, and Samuel Nesbitt, a neighbor]

Interrogatories propounded by the Court to Jacob Bledsoe the foregoing applicant for a pension

1<sup>st</sup>: When and in what year were you born?

Answer. In Wake County, North Carolina on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of March 1762.

2<sup>nd</sup> Have you any record of you age and if so, where is it?

Ans: I have often seen one in my father's Bible, but he has been dead many years and I know not where that book is. I have no record of my age in my possession.

3<sup>rd</sup> Where were you living when called into service? Where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Answer. I was living in Wake County North Carolina (as stated in my declaration), when called into service. I remained there resided until twelve years ago when I removed to Maury County in this State, where I resided four years, and then I removed to this County and have resided here ever since.

4<sup>th</sup> How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer, or were you a substitute and if so for whom did you substitute?

Answer. As stated in my declaration, during my first tour I was a volunteer – the second tour I was a substitute for \_\_\_ [blank in original] Gray (his given name not recollected) – for my third tour, I left home as a substitute for Curtis Roberts, but as my term of service was not to commence running until he crossed the North Carolina line, at the time the tour commenced I was appointed lieutenant and served out the term in that capacity.

5<sup>th</sup> State the names of some of the Regular Officers who were with the troops where you served, such Continental and Militia Regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

\*

6<sup>th</sup> Did you ever receive a discharge from the service; and if so by whom was it given; and what has become of it? And as an officer did you ever receive a commission, and if so, by whom was it signed and what has become of it?

Ans. At the end of my first tour I have no recollection as to whether or not I had a discharge – but I incline to the belief that I did not receive one. At the close of my last two tours, I have no doubt in my mind that I received discharges, but by whom they were signed I have no recollection whatever, nor do I know what has become of them. They have been long since lost. As a lieutenant on my last tour I well remember that I had a commission, but by whom it was signed and what has become of it [I don not know] This has also been lost long since.

7<sup>th</sup> State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood, and who can testify to your character for veracity and good behavior and your services as a Soldier of the Revolution.

Ans. In answer to the 7<sup>th</sup> requisition I will mention the names of the Reverend Thomas A. Young of Huntingdon in this County, Colonel Samuel I. Nesbitt, Deputy Sheriff of this County, Colonel Thomas J. Jennings, attorney at law of Huntingdon, Thomas Banks, Sheriff of this County and indeed as I have lived near Huntingdon for several years the court can call on as many respectable citizens of the place and the neighborhood as they may think proper.

\* Answer to the 5<sup>th</sup> interrogatory accidentally omitted in the proper place.

Colonel Lytle under whom I served at Charleston had been, as I understood, in the regular Service. Major Sharpe whom I knew at Charleston was then or had been in the regular Service though as well as I remember lived in Orange County and went out when we did. I also had some acquaintance with Colonel or General Williams, who was a Continental officer but I know not of what line; I saw him on my last tour. I also saw General Gates but only once and that at his defeat. These were all the Continental officers of whom I then had any personal knowledge and this was very slight as stated. I do not recollect at what particular Continental regiments I served with either at Charleston or on my last tour. I saw Continental officers and soldiers both at Charleston and "Gates defeat", but at the former place I held no intercourse with them and at the latter we had been with the regulars but a short time before the Battle, and then there was no time for forming acquaintances or acquiring knowledge of the kind as is now called for.

[fn p. 18]

State of Tennessee Bedford County: This day personally appeared before may John Oneal a Justice of the Peace in and for the County and State aforesaid Jacob Bledsoe a resident Citizen of said County of Bedford and having been first duly sworn according to law deposeth and saith that he is now seventy years old and is and has long been well acquainted with Jacob Bledsoe who now is and has been for the last eight or ten years a Citizen of Carroll County in said State. Also I knew him and served with him one campaign of three months in the Revolutionary war in the year 1780 under General Gates & Colonel more [sic, Moore] & Major Nalls and Captain Lewis Bledsoe the Regiment I do not recollect he also served the tower as first Lieutenant under the said Bledsoe.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 29th day of October 1833

S/ John O'Neill, JP

S/ Jacob Bledsoe, X his mark

[fn p. 27]

State of Tennessee Bedford County: This day personally appeared before may John O'Neal an acting Justice of the Peace of said County Jacob Bledsoe a resident Citizen of said County of Bedford and having been first duly sworn according to law deposes and says. That he this deponent is about seventy years of age that he was born in Wake County North Carolina his father's name was Aaron Bledsoe. Jacob Bledsoe, who is now and has for the last eight or ten years been a resident of Carroll County in this State, is a first Cousin of this deponent. The said Jacob of Carroll County was also born in Wake County North Carolina. The name of the father of said Jacob of Carroll County was also Jacob Bledsoe. This deponent was brought up from infancy in the same neighborhood with said Jacob of Carroll County and if this deponent knows anything with certainty in this uncertain world, he knows that himself and said Jacob Bledsoe of Carroll County are two distinct persons although they happen to be brothers' children of the same name, and of about the same age.

This deponent states that in the year 1780 in the month of July as well as he recollects, this deponent and the said Jacob Bledsoe both entered the service of the United States in a company which was drafted from wake County North Carolina. This Company was commanded during the whole term of its service, which was three months by Captain Lewis Bledsoe the elder brother of said Jacob of Carroll County, the said Jacob Bledsoe of Carroll County as Lieutenant & Andrew Muckelroy, Ensign, \_\_\_ Moore was Colonel of the Regiment to which we belonged and \_\_\_ Nalls our Major. The given names of Colonel Moore and Major Nalls affiant does not recollect but this deponent well remembers that said Jacob Bledsoe of Carroll County was the Lieutenant and the only Lieutenant of said Company, and that he served the said tour of three months in that capacity in the service of the United States during the war of the revolution.

On this tour the different Companies of militia fell in at different points on the route of the main body as best suited their convenience, or as circumstances would permit. Affiant does not remember or believe that there was any particular place of rendezvous for said Company. After we were organized

we marched about in different Counties in North Carolina. I remember that we were marched through Chatham County, by Moore Court house and at length to Rugeley's Mills, during this tour we were at Gates defeat, I think in August 1780, here we were scattered and put to flight. Further particulars this deponent does not recollect except that this deponent served during the said three months as one of the cooks to the officers of said Company, to wit, Captain Lewis Bledsoe, Lieutenant Jacob Bledsoe now of Carroll County Tennessee and Ensign Muckelroy.

S/ Jacob Bledsoe, X his mark

Sworn to & subscribed before made this 17th day of February 1834

S/ John Oneal, JP

[fn p. 15: facts in file: "Jacob Bledsoe had a first cousin, Jacob Bledsoe, born in Wake County, North Carolina; he was the son of Aaron Bledsoe and was a resident of Bedford County, Tennessee, in 1834, aged seventy years. He also served three months in Captain Lewis Bledsoe's company, Colonel Moore's North Carolina Regiment, and was at the battle of Gates defeat. A careful search of the records fails to show a claim for pension or bounty land on file on account of the services of Jacob Bledsoe, son of Aaron."]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$33.33 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 6 months service as a private and one month service as a Lieutenant in the North Carolina militia.]