

[Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension application of Benjamin Howard S31138

f35NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

6/14/11: rev'd 2/5/19

[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 Kentucky Madison County: Sct.

On this 4th day of January, 1833, personally appeared before Joseph Turner, a Justice of the Peace for Madison County, Benjamin Howard, a resident of Madison County, State of Kentucky, aged seventy-seven 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 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 volunteered his services in the fall of the year 1775, under Captain Montgomery [Hugh Montgomery] and Lieutenant Craig [James Craig], for three months and marched to Cross Creek about thirty miles from Wilmington, own Cape Fear River, for the purpose of suppressing the Scotch. General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford] and Colonel Brannon [probably then Major James Brandon] commanded the expedition. When Captain Montgomery returned being an old man, he resigned his office, and Lieutenant Craig was elected to fill his place. In the summer 1776 the Cherokee Indians became troublesome on the Catawba River. They came into the settlement of the whites, where it was thinly populated, some ten or twelve miles, and laid in wait round a schoolhouse, and in the evening, after school was let out, they succeeded in killing the teacher and all the children. He then volunteered again under Captain James Craig, and the expedition consisting of two thousand troops from Rowan Mecklenburg and Guilford counties. We were marched to the head of Catawba River and not finding any body or any of the Indians, the troops were all dismissed except about 500, who were retained to protect the frontiers and marched against the Indian towns, so soon as the necessary preparations could be made. He states that he was one of the 500 which remained, and whilst the troops were stationed he was engaged in purchasing beeves for the use of the Army. By the first of September enough were purchased and the Army then marched for the Indian towns. We found no Indians, but burnt all their buildings and destroyed all their crops, and returned home in November.¹ This expedition was also commanded by General Rutherford. In a very short time after his return he states Captain James Craig raised a company of Horse, called the "Salisbury Company," consisting of about 150 men, which he joined as a volunteer. The principal services performed by this company was in ranging the country in the forks of the River Yadkin, keeping down the Tories, &c. He was engaged in this kind of service upwards of two years, and acted as Cornet to the company during that time. In the summer or fall of 1779, (he thinks) he volunteered his services under Captain Bell [William Bell], for three months, and marched to the

¹ http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_cherokee_expedition_1776.html

Catawba River, and was under him in the battle at Ramsour's Mill [June 20, 1780],² near the head of the South fork of the Catawba. Colonel Locke [Francis Locke] and Major Rutherford [James Rutherford] commanded at the battle. General Davidson [William Lee Davidson] was about 15 miles off at the time of the battle. We then returned home and was discharged. In February or March 1780 General Davidson again beat up for volunteers, for the purpose of meeting the British, who, it was understood, had lately landed at Charleston South Carolina. He says he again volunteered his services under Captain James Craig, and that the effective men in Rowan, Mecklenburg, &c turned out liberally. When our Army was organized we were marched through the country for the purpose of watching the movements of the Tories and British and prevent their foraging parties from getting supplies. This expedition was commanded by General Davidson and Colonel Davy [William Richardson Davie] who commanded the horse. He says General Morgan [Daniel Morgan] joined the Army at a Creek called "six mile Creek," & remained with them about two months. During this expedition he was elected 2nd Lieutenant by the company, and served 4 months as such. General Davidson annoyed the foraging parties of Cornwallis so much that they were compelled to return to South Carolina.³ He remained in this kind of service and in ranging the country against the Tories till Cornwallis pursued General Morgan and was in the battle at the Catawba River in February 1781 when Cornwallis crossed it. His cannon [?] crossed on rafts at Beatties Ford; his horse at Cow-Ford [?]; and his foot men at the Shoals, six miles below Beatties. The American Army was so arranged as to guard at each point of crossing. He was amongst those who were placed at the Shoals, and was commanded by General Davidson. Here we had a pretty severe skirmish and here our commander General Davidson fell.⁴ We then retreated across the River Yadkin, being closely pursued by the British. About this time, he with about 20 or 30 others, was transferred to Captain Richard Simms's Company. His Captain, Captain Craig, being very much given to intoxication, and his company had also become very much reduced by the smallpox, when Captain Craig surrendered his command. General Morgan, who had defeated Colonel Tarleton [Banastre Tarleton] at the Cowpens [January 17, 1781], and who had succeeded in making good his retreat with about 500 prisoners, had now joined General Green [Nathanael Greene], and it was understood in camp he would give Cornwallis battle. They accordingly met at Guilford Court house in March 1781, where a severe battle was fought [March 15, 1781].⁵ He says he would have been in the battle, but was ordered to assist the Commissary, Lewis Beard [?] in driving off the bullocks to Stubblefield's to prevent the British from taking them in case of defeat. General Greene retreated in

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in good order, on the evening of the battle was fought. On the next morning Cornwallis sent him word to surrender but General Green returned for answer that he had six more pieces of cannon to sell him upon the same terms he had sold him some on the day before. Cornwallis immediately commenced his retreat, leaving his wounded upon the field of battle, not provided for. As soon as this was known General Green commenced pursuing of him, and followed him as far as Ramsay's Mill [Ramsey's Mill] on Deep Creek [Deep River], where he gave up the pursuit. Here the Army remained several weeks, and while here several officers rode into camp on one evening, and we soon received orders to be ready to march next morning by one hour by

² http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_ramseurs_mill.html

³ Cornwallis retreated from Charlotte NC in early October 1780 after learning of the defeat suffered by his forces under the command of Patrick Ferguson at Kings Mountain on October 7, 1780.

⁴ Davidson was killed on February 1, 1781 at Cowan's Ford.

http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_cowans_ford.html

⁵ http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_guilford_courthouse.html

sun, and accordingly took up the line of march for the South. When near Camden South Carolina we were halted for the purpose of washing our clothing, at a place called Camp Branch. Here General Green sent General Sumter [Thomas Sumter] to the Ford on the Congaree River to prevent the British from crossing, but his precautionary steps were taken too late. The British had crossed the River and left their baggage in the care of a guard, which General Sumter captured. In the meantime the British had marched round upon our rear, and succeeded in capturing our baggage, and was very near getting possession of our [one or more indecipherable words illegibly faint] before they were discovered. We had a pretty severe little skirmish with them, and was compelled to retreat. But on the next morning we exchanged baggage with them. All the garrisons situated between Camden and Ninety Six gave way to the American Army. But the post of Ninety Six held out,⁶ and General Green besieged it between twenty and thirty days. We drained their spring, and nearly undermined the Fort, and it was believed had them nearly starved out, and would have blown the Fort up, but the British had taken the women and children of the neighborhood in it. About this time three men rode into camp one evening dressed in hunting shirts, rode along the lines and inquired for stray horses, and suddenly dashed off under whip and a heavy fire into the Fort. It was said in camp that these men brought news to the Fort not to surrender to General Green, that they would be reinforced in a few days. General Green then endeavored to storm the Fort, but ascertained that it would be attended with too much loss, the reinforcements being about to arrive he retreated across the River Saluda and marched down on the High Hills of Santee, where a part of the men were discharged, and this affiant was one of those that were discharged. He thinks either before or shortly after his return home, General Rutherford returned home from being a prisoner of war. This was he believes, in the summer 1781. On General Rutherford's return home he beat up for volunteers to go against Wilmington. This affiant volunteered his services again under Captain Richard Simms in the Light Dragoon service. We marched immediately and defeated the Tories at the Raft Swamp.⁷ But before we reached Wilmington Governor Martin brought us the news that Cornwallis and his Army had surrendered themselves prisoners of war to General Washington. He was then discharged. He would state that he was nearly constantly engaged in the service of his country from the fall of the year 1775 to the fall of the year 1781 when not engaged in active service against the British he was actively and laboriously employed in keeping down the Tories. He firmly believes when all his services which were various all put together, that he served considerably over 4 years. He has no documentary evidence except a certificate of his oath of allegiance to his country (which is herewith annexed, and he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his services except Thomas Todd, Thomas Turner and Joseph Howard, his brother, and the two last have no personal knowledge of his services, and can only testify to the general circumstances thereof. He was born in Frederick County, Maryland, on the 6th day of September, 1755, but his father moved to Rowan County North Carolina when he was a small boy. He has a record of his age at his present residence, in his family Bible, which he obtained from his parents. He resided in Rowan County, North Carolina, when called into service. He removed to Madison County, Kentucky, in the year 1787, where he now resides, and where he has resided for the last 46 years. He always volunteered his services. He has already stated the names of as many of the regular officers as he can recollect, except Colonels Washington [William Washington] & Lee [Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee] were with the troops part of the time where he served. General Huger [Isaac Huger] commanded the continentals at Guilford. He believes he received several discharges, but in consequence of old age and bodily infirmity he cannot recollect who signed

⁶ http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_ninety_six.html

⁷ October 15, 1781 http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_raft_swamp.html

them, nor the place he got them. He however has lost all he ever had except one, which is herewith annexed. He also sends herewith a receipt for the body of William Morman an outlier, for which he is entitled to a receipt for one tour of duty. He never received a commission. He is known in his present neighborhood to the Reverend Thomas Jerman, Jr. and to Allen Burgin. 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, the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Benjamin Howard, X his mark

State of Kentucky Madison County: Sct.

I Joseph Turner a Justice of the peace for said County, do certify that Benjamin Howard this day personally appeared before me and made oath and subscribed to the foregoing declaration. I further certify that said Howard, from bodily infirmity cannot attend court. I further certify that in consequence of a paralysis, which has almost destroyed his speech, it was very difficult to obtain from him the history of his services during the revolutionary war – and to this cause, and this alone, should any error or confusion in the narrative of his services be ascribed. And I do hereby declare my opinion after the investigation of the matter, and after putting the interrogatories prescribed by the War Department, that the above named applicant was a revolutionary soldier, and served as he states. I also certify that said Howard is a credible person, and that his statement is entitled to credit.

Given under my hand and seal this 4th day of January 1833

S/ Joseph Turner, JP

[Thomas Turner and Joseph Howard, the brother of the applicant, both gave supporting affidavits but neither actually served in the war, being too young, and only testify as to what they understood to be the reason for the absences of the applicant from home during the war.]

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Thomas Todd,⁸ a resident of Madison County aged 72 years, states he was personally acquainted with Benjamin Howard in the revolutionary war, the same who has signed the preceding declaration. He knows of his own knowledge that the said Howard served a tour of 2 months in Captain Craig's Horse company which he believes was in the year 1781. Howard found his own horse, and was engaged in keeping down the Tories and scouting parties from the British Army. Howard was Cornet to the company of Captain Craig. Sworn and subscribed this 7th day of January 1833

S/ Thomas Todd, X his mark

[Thomas Jerman, Jr., a clergyman, and Allen Burgin gave the standard supporting affidavit.]


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These are to Certify that Benjamin Howard has Faithfully Served the Space of one month in the Light Dragoon Service in Captain Simms's Company and produced a Certificate for two months Service which Completes a Tower of three months he is hereby Discharged from the Same, Given under my Hand at Camp at Raft Swamp Cumberland County this 11th Day of October 1781

S/ Richd Simms Capt.


⁸ [Thomas Todd S17736](#)

These are to Certify that Benjamin Howard has Faithfully Served the
 Space of One Month in the Light Dragoon Service in Capt. Simons's
 Company and Produced a Certificate for Two Months Service which
 Compleats a Course of Three Months he is hereby Discharged from
 the same Given under my Hand at Camp at Buff Swamp
 Cumberland County this 14th Day of October 1778


 Matthew Simons J.P.

[p 7]
 State of North Carolina Rowan County
 I hereby certify that Benjamin Howard this Day appeared before me, one of the Justices of the
 said County, and took the Oath of Allegiance, agreeable to Law. Given under my hand this
 Fourteenth Day of March A.D. 1778 S/ Jas Brandon, J. P.

State of North Carolina, Rowan County.
 I HEREBY certify, That Benjamin Howard this Day appeared before
 me, one of the Justices of the said County, and took the Oath of Allegiance, agreeable
 to Law. Given under my Hand this Fourteenth Day of March Anno Dom. 1778


 Jas Brandon J.P.

Howard, Beni., N.C., S31138. 50

[p 10]
 May the 13 1790 received of Benjamin Howard William Morman to answer this Tower of
 Dubty received by me Jas Laysden

May the 13 1790 [?] received of Benjamin Howard William Morman to answer this Tower of
 Dubty received by me S/ Jas Laysden [?]

[p 23]
 State of Kentucky Madison County: Sct.
 Personally appeared before me, the undersigned, a Justice of the peace for Madison
 County, Benjamin Howard, (the same who has signed and sworn to the annexed declaration) and
 who being duly sworn depose and saith, that by reason of old age, and the consequent loss of
 memory, he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service, but according to the

best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below, and in the following grades:

"For 4 months I served as 2nd Lieutenant – For 2 years I served as Cornet to a Horse Company – For 2 years I served as a private; and for such services I claim a pension."

S/ Benjamin Howard, X his mark

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$100 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for two-year service as a private in the North Carolina Cavalry, militia service.]