

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Benjamin Poe S31307

f12NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

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[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 County of Allen } Sct.

On this the 9th Day of December 1833 personally appeared in Open Court before Saml Houston, Saml E. Carpenter, Jno [illegible last name], William Fitzpatrick, Will Ham, Thomas Sutton, Amos Hains, Justices of the County Court in and for said County then in the Court-house thereof in the town of Scottsville in Court Sitting; Benjamin Poe a resident of Allen County State of Kentucky aged 84 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 into the service of the United States under the following named officers and served in the War of the Revolution as hereinafter stated.

That this Declarant, sometime in December 1775, as is his best recollection, volunteered as a private of infantry (North Carolina) militia, in the infantry militia Company, Miles Kerlock [Mial Scurlock] Captain, Roger Griffith Lieutenant, William Melone [Malone?] Ensign, James Thackston of North Carolina militia Colonel Commandant of the Regiment and Amos Ramsey General: and at a place known as Brazzel's old field near Ramsey's mill on Deep River in Chatham County in the State of North Carolina. In pursuance of his engagement having entered the Army as aforesaid he served in the Army of the United States in the revolutionary War as a private of infantry and under the Officers above named, the particulars of which service will be given in his answers to 5th question prescribed by the War department, and the time herein stated below to the best of his recollection.

That having served the full term of service under said engagement, and discharged there from he returned to Chatham County (North Carolina) and from thence moved to Randolph County (North Carolina) and while he lived there, in September 1781, as is his best recollection he again entered into the service of the United States in the Revolutionary War at Chatham Court house (North Carolina) as a volunteer private minute man, and the company of mounted infantry or horsemen Taverner Marsh (or Mash) Captain, John Forshee [John Fooshee] Lieutenant, Stephen Lee Ensign (or Cornet) in the Regiment under the command of Colonel Roger Griffith, the detail of his services under last mentioned engagement and Officers is deferred for his answer to the 5th interrogatory prescribed by the War Department and the length of his service according to his best recollection, hereinafter stated.

That having served the term of service under the last mentioned engagement and discharged there from, he returned to his residence in Randolph County North Carolina. The

Tories now the strongest part in Randolph County, finding himself exposed to the hazard of being taken by the Tories and by them butchered, in a few days after his return he again entered the service of the United States a private Soldier in the Army of the revolution in December 1781, a volunteer minute man of mounted infantry or horsemen at ___ in Randolph County (North Carolina) in the volunteer company of mounted infantry or Horseman Charles Goulston [Charles Gholson: also spelled Charles Goldston] Captain, James Garner Lieutenant, James Whittle Ensign or Coronet and John Collier Colonel Commandant; he refers to his answer to the 5th question prescribed by the War Department, for the particulars as nearly as he recollects them of his service as a volunteer private minute man or mounted infantry in virtue of the last mentioned engagement and the length of his service under the same and under the last named Officers. That having served out, and being discharged from his last mentioned engagement he returned to Randolph County (North Carolina). He there found his dwelling house reduced to ashes, his property destroyed, his wife and children driven away by the Tories and cast upon the charity of the world for protection and support. Finding no safety for himself, his family and what little property remained to him, from the ruthless Tories of Randolph County, he moved with his wife and children to Chatham County (North Carolina). The Tories still waging a war of extermination against the Whigs whilst he lived in Chatham County, at Chatham Courthouse on or about the middle of March 1782 to the best of his recollection, he again entered the service of the United States as a volunteer private in the Army of the United States in the company of mounted infantry or Horseman, Joseph Rosser Captain and William Goulston [William Gholson or Goldston] Colonel Commandant, the other officers are not remembered. His services as a private soldier in virtue of the last mentioned engagement will, as far as our remembered, be detailed in his answer to the 5th Interrogatories propounded by the department of War, and the length of time of the same, as is his best recollection, given below.

This Declarant upon his Oath declareth 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 as a Soldier of the Revolutionary War; but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following grades. For 3 months I served as a private of infantry militia (North Carolina) in the year 1775 & 1776 under Captain Miles Kerlock and other Officers named in the first part of this declaration. For 3 months I served as a private minute man of mounted infantry or Horseman in 1781 under Captain Tavener Marsh (or Mash) and other Officers named in a former part of this Declaration. For 3 months I served as a private minute man of mounted infantry or Horseman in the year 1781 and 1782 under Captain Charles Goulston and other officers named in a former part of this declaration. For 3 months I served as a private of mounted infantry or Horseman in the year 1782 under Captain Joseph Rosser and the officers named with him in the former part of this Declaration. In all one year, And for such service I claim a Pension. To the questions¹ put by the War Department this Declarant upon his

¹ The War Department promulgated regulations governing pension application format and requiring the following 7 interrogatories to be put to each applicant for a pension:

1st Where and in what year were you born?

2nd Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

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

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

5th 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.

oath answers as followeth: To Question the 1st. That he was born on the 14th day of August 1749 (old State) in Culpeper County State of Virginia as from the best information he believes. To question the 2nd. That he has no record of his age. To question the 3rd. That when he entered the service of the United States in the Revolutionary War he lived in the Counties of Chatham and Randolph in North Carolina. That since the war he has resided in the Counties of Chatham and Wake North Carolina and in the Counties of Barron, Monroe and Allen where he now lives in the State of Kentucky. To Question the 4th. That he entered the service as a volunteer. To Question 5th. That he does not remember having served with any of the regular troops of the United States, he recollects that Colonel Lee's [Henry [”Light Horse Harry”] Lee’s] Corps of dragoons was with the troops with which he served for a few hours only. Of North Carolina militia and volunteers he served with and under General Ambrose Ramsey, Colonel James Thackston, Colonel Roger Griffith, Colonel Collier and Colonel William Goulston, Captains Miles Kerlock, Tavener Marsh (or Mash) Captain Charles Goulston and Joseph Rosser, Lieutenants John Forshee, James Garner Ensigns William Malone, Stephen Lee and James Whittle and many others.

The Circumstances of his service are as follows. Shortly after he entered the service in 1775 at Brazzel's old field in Chatham County (North Carolina) he was marched by Captain Kerlock and the other Officers with him before mentioned herein in the direction of Cross Creek against the British and Tories under General McDonald [Donald MacDonald] and McCleod [Donald MacLeod], they were halted for some time, waiting in addition to their force and at length reached Cross Creek and were detained several weeks at Cape Fear [River], he recollects that the day before he reached Cross Creek, the engagement between the American United States troops under colonels Lillington [John Alexander Lillington] and Caswell [Richard Caswell] and the British troops under McDonald and McCleod was said to have been fought [Battle of Moore’s Creek Bridge, February 27, 1776]. He recollects that the troops with which he served intercepted and took many of the Tories in their retreat from the said Battle which took place at Moore's Creek bridge, having served the term for which he had engaged he was discharged about the first of June 1776 at Cape Fear, as is his best recollection.

This declarant further states, that shortly after he entered the service at Chatham Court house under Captain Marsh (or Mash) in September 1781 he was marched by Captain Marsh and the officers before mentioned as commanding with him against the Tories, the principal object being the protection of the Whigs and their families and property from the assaults and pillage of the Tories, that the troops with which he served traversed the Country through the Counties of Chatham, Orange, Guilford, Anson, Cumberland, Randolph and Wake in pursuit of the Tories, that there were many engagements between the detached parties but no general engagement. That the troops with which he served were marched back to Chatham Court house and then discharged by Colonel Griffith in December 1781 as is his best recollection.

That a short time after the last mentioned discharge, having entered the service again at ___ in Randolph County under Captain Charles Goulston, Captain Goulston and the other Officers with him commanding as before mentioned marched the troops under their command from thence through the same section of Country mentioned in the last statement of service in against the same ruthless Enemy, the Tories, the nature of the service in the Country being the same as the statement above, the troop was discharged at Randolph Court house in March 1782 as is his

6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

best recollection.

That finding the Tories still waging a War the most murderous against the Whigs, having within a few days after the last mentioned discharge from the service again entered the same at Chatham Court house under Captain Joseph Rosser and Colonel Goulson [Lt. Col. William Gholson] Declarant and now under their command were again laid in pursuit of the Tories in Randolph, Wake, Cumberland, Guilford, Anson & other Counties of North Carolina, after many partial engagements between small parties, declarant was, with the rest of the troops he served with discharged at Chatham Courthouse in June 1782, as is his best recollection. Declarant was in no general battle while in the service, but was in many skirmishes with detached parties. To Question the 6th, he answers, that all the discharges from service mentioned herein with the exception of his discharge from the infantry militia service in 1776 at Cape Fear were verbal, That at Cape Fear Colonel Thackston gave him a written discharge which was consumed or destroyed by the Tories when they burned his house in Randolph County as before mentioned. To Question the 7th. That he is known to John Dyson, Levi Roark, Robert F. Pulliam, Johnson J. Cockrill, Robert H. Paris, Walter Thomas, Isaac Tracy, Lovel Stenson and many others in his present neighborhood, who can testify as to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution.

This Declarant further states that he has no documentary or other evidence, to prove his said services nor does he know of any person by whom he can establish the same. 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 or territory.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid in Open Court.

S/ Benjamin Poe, X his mark

[Levi Roark, a clergyman, Walter Thomas, Johnson J. Cockrill, Thomas Caruth, Robert H. Paris, Matthew Johnson, Asa Roark, and William Johnston gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$47 50 per annum commencing March 4, 1831, for service as a private for 3 months in the Infantry and for 9 months in the Cavalry, all in the North Carolina militia.]