

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Richard C. Swearingen S31402

f37NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 3/17/15

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

State of North Carolina, Ashe County: Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions November Term 1832

On this 13<sup>th</sup> day of November 1832 personally appeared in open Court before us Stephen Thomas, Joseph Southerland, Morgan Bryan Justices of the Court aforesaid now sitting Richard C. Swearingen a resident of the State & County aforesaid and of the age of 73 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 7<sup>th</sup> 1832. That he was a volunteer under Captain Harris [West Harris] his Personal name he does not recollect and marched from the Pedee River Montgomery County North Carolina to Mungen's [?] ferry at the Narrows of the Yadkin [River] where they joined with Col. Thomas Polk who resided in Mecklenburg North Carolina as he understood, from thence they marched on through the State of Virginia, the names of the Place he cannot name being at that time a boy of about 17 years of age only to Philadelphia in the State of Pennsylvania, and remained at that place for the term of three months, the City was at that time threatened with an attack by the British, he thinks he was under the command of General Lee [perhaps a reference to Charles Lee] at that Place as well as his recollection now serves him, at the expiration of the term of three months he received his discharge, signed as well as his memory now serves him by one Captain Hubbard. He then returned home to North Carolina this he thinks occurred before the taking of Philadelphia. He remained on the Pedee River North Carolina but a short time, before the times became somewhat Troublesome to the South & the British was like to make an attack on Charleston South Carolina. The Tories began to feel confidence in themselves & became very troublesome to the inhabitants of the South. There was a Call for men to go to Charleston for the defense of that City – he again volunteered under one Captain Taylor whom he thinks served at that time in the edge of South Carolina his Colonel was named Drury Ledbetter who resided near the Narrows on the Yadkin River North Carolina they marched into South Carolina and to Charleston under Taylor & Ledbetter – he remained in the Service this time three months, it being the length of time he had volunteered for one month of the time was stationed in Charleston the balance of the time he was in Sullivan's Island but was engaged in no battle in either of these occasions. He was under the command of a gentleman by the name of Rutledge – Governor Rutledge [John Rutledge] – he was then discharged in writing by Captain Taylor but he has long since lost or mislaid both so that he knows nothing of either he returned home again to North Carolina on the River Pedee where he remained till there was a Call for more men, the British had been taken Charleston the Tories got quite strong and formidable in the South one Colonel Davidson [William Lee Davidson] & Captain Brevard was raising the men to fight and disperse the Tories – he again volunteered under them for the time of three months. He joined his officers at a place called be Long house on the Fork on the road between Rocky River & Salisbury North Carolina, they then marched on to a Place called Colson's hill in Anson County for the Purpose of dislodging the Tories who were there encamped and were commanded by one Major Welch, an engagement [July 21, 1780] took place between the Company under Davidson and Brevard and the Tories which lasted from about day break

till something like 10 o'clock when the Tories were defeated & run off except those who were taken Prisoners who were some considerable number – he remained under Davidson & Brevard for the remainder of the three months, they were constantly on the alert in pursuit of the Tories, but had no further Engagement during that Campaign. He received his discharge then in writing and returned home which is long since lost or mislaid. He again volunteered and marched under the command of one Colonel Lop [probably a mistaken attempt to identify Capt. John Lopp] and Captain Lilly to go against the Scotch who had raised an insurrection at them Place called the Raft Swamp in South Carolina [sic, North Carolina], an engagement [October 15, 1781] ensued between the Tories and Scotch at this Place, Raft Swamp or Bridge, which lasted from day light till late in the day many of the Whig Party were killed in this engagement but considerably more on the Part of the enemy who fled and was then were pursued by the horse troops & many of them were slain. After which they the soldiers received a verbal discharge from their officers & returned home to await a further call – news was then received that Fannon [sic, David Fanning] was doing great mischief in the County of Randolph North Carolina. A company was then raised of which this deponent was one by one Colonel Loftin [William Lofton] & Captain Kimbail [sic, Buckner Kimbrell] they then volunteered as horseman and marched on to Deep River he thinks about 300 in number – they halted at a place called the Cross Roads now in the County of Randolph North Carolina, where an engagement took place between the company and Fanning's which commenced in the dusk of the evening. He thinks the engagement lasted for the space of two hours – many were killed on the part of the enemy. The next day they went in pursuit of Fanning to [indecipherable word]<sup>1</sup> river where he and his men had just succeeded in crossing the same, but the Party to which he was attached could go no further, the River being high & the vessels on the opposite side they abandoned the Pursuit and returned home –receiving nothing more than a Parole [sic, verbal] discharge. The next Campaign he was in was under the Command of General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford] he marched under his command to Wilmington North Carolina from Montgomery County North Carolina the British at that time had possession of Wilmington, they were engaged in several small skirmishes with the Tories on their way to that place. They were marched along the East side of the bay near Wilmington, between midnight & day they fired their Cannon, sent in spies who returned early in the morning with the pleasing intelligence that the British had evacuated the City – they marched in however next morning & saw the enemy were moving slowly off by water – they remained there about 4 days when I returned home after receiving a written discharge. There was then a call for men to go in aid General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] & Colonel Morgan [Daniel Morgan], he marched from North Carolina under Captain Pilcher who lived at that time in the County of Montgomery, the Colonel's name he does not now recollect they joined General Morgan at or near Columbia South Carolina who turned his course up Country. The names of the Places they were marched by he cannot now recollect, but he was in the engagement of what was called the Cowpens [January 17, 1781]. Pilcher was his Captain at this engagement. The spies were out, the enemy came marching along a road. The commander General Morganton [sic, Morgan] gave orders for the militia to fire on the enemy & then retreat & give room for the regulars, he was one of the Company who first fired at which time the regulars came up and began to Poak [sic, poke?] it into them mainly [?]. The British received a complete rout on this occasion, he was entrusted with a Part of the Prisoners they being sent off in Small Squads or Companies he however was released shortly after, from this Command & again Joined General Morgan near the river Santee in South Carolina – his tour of Service then expired & he received his discharge & returned home. The disaffection had become so general that no one was at rest during those intervals. In fact he was seldom at home – A call then was made for men to go to the aid of General Greene, he again volunteered and marched under the

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<sup>1</sup> probably Deep river

command of one Captain Jarrinds? -- they Joined General Greene near the High Hills of Santee in South Carolina where he remained some weeks they were then marched by General Greene to the Eutaw Springs for the Purpose of dislodging the British who were there encamped. He was in this engagement his Colonel he cannot recollect the engagement took place a little after of the rising of the sun – the enemy was commanded by Lord Cornwallis – they were defeated and retreated something like 5 miles – and was Pursued by the Americans beyond their encampments – the enemy Post of them took refuge in a Large brick house. Artillery was brought to bear upon them which soon removed them from their lodgment. They Pursued them he thinks something like 2 miles from this house – a flag was then hoisted by the enemy & the pursuit ceased – he cannot recollect the dates of any of the occurrences mentioned-- he remained in that section for some time when he received a discharge in writing from his Captain Jerinder [?] & returned home again where he remained in home as long as the Tories would Permit him which was but a few days – he was born in the year 1760 in the County of Edgecombe North Carolina – his father removed to Montgomery County & said State when he was an infant – after the close of the war he resided in the Counties of Lincoln & Burke for many years from thence he migrated to Jackson County West Tennessee where he returned to the State of North Carolina Ashe County where he now resides and for the Last 10 years. He further states that he has no Documentary evidence of his service and that he has no knowledge of any person now living by whom he can establish his service and in fact he is too old and feeble to hunt after testimony of his service.

In testimony of which I do hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and I do further declare that my name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state whatever – the date above.

Sworn to in open Court November 13<sup>th</sup> day 1832.

S/ Richard C. Swearingen, X his mark

S/ T. Callaway, Clk

[Jesse Coffey, a Baptist clergyman, and John Hardin gave the standards supporting affidavit.]

#### Interrogatory by the Court

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

I was born in the County of Edgecombe North Carolina some time in the year 1760.

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

Lost – or worn out long since

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 what is now the County of Montgomery, North Carolina – I have lived a greater part of my time in the Counties of Lincoln, Burke and Ashe -- I lived 15 years in Jackson County West Tennessee & live now in the upper end of the County of Ashe North Carolina

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: I was always a volunteer.

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.

I was first under Captain Harris & Col. Polk & I marched under them to Philadelphia the next was Col. Ledbetter & Captain Taylor-- was also under the command of Colonel Davidson & Captain Brevard against the Tories. I was also in a Campaign under the command of Colonel Lopp & Captain Lilly against the Scotch at the Raft Swamp. I was also in an expedition under Col. Loftin and Captain Kimball after Fanning on Deep River in what is now called Randolph North Carolina – I was also with General Rutherford on an expedition to Wilmington North Carolina. I think one McDowell was our Captain against the British. I was also under the command of General Morgan at the battle of the Cowpens Pilcher was my Captain. I was next with General Greene at the Battle of the Eutaw Springs.

Jerindor was my Captain.

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?

Answer I received several discharges in writing from the captains Jerindor, Pilcher & others which have worn out and lost many years since I sometimes received parole discharges.

[p 27]

The first acquaintance ever had of this Richard C Swearingen was by Information from my father who was a revolutionary soldier he said [he served] with Swearingen against the Indians I have often heard him speak of a man of that name who was in the Army with him in the first time I ever saw Mr. Swearingen he called to me and asked me if I was not a son of old Reuben Coffey that had a white spot on his head that they called him old sorrel I told him I was in then he told me of things that had happened between himself and my father that I had often heard my father talk of.

November 13th 1832

S/ Jesse Coffey

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

[p 31]

State of North Carolina Ashe County

Richard C Swearingen Swears that he served three months under Colonel Lopp and Captain Lilly fighting the Scotch between Pedee & Wilmington he swears he served three months tower [tour] under Colonel Loftin and Captain Kimbrel that he served under General Rutherford & Colonel McDowell from the County of Burke North Carolina & marched on to Wilmington to arrest the same from the British and Tories, that in this campaign he was out three months. He further swears that he served two tours of three months each under General Green G Morgan and Pilcher & Captain Jerridio that he was in the State of South Carolina during the great part of these six months.

September 18th 1833

S/ Richard C Swearingen, X his mark

S/ Geo. Bower, JP

State of North Carolina Ashe County: This day Personally appeared before me George Bower Esquire the undersigned Justice of the Peace in and for the County aforesaid Richard C Swearingen who being duly sworn deposed 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 as before stated, to wit about 24 months that he served in each campaign as a volunteer in the militia he had to much pride to suffered himself to be drafted but always volunteered and for such service he claims a pension.

September 18th, 1833

S/ Geo. Bower, JP

S/ Richard C Swearingen, X his mark

[p 26: On July 11, 1837, in Greene County Tennessee, the veteran applied for a transfer of his pension benefit to the Tennessee agency giving as his reason for moving that "his son who resides in Tennessee might attend to his business." Furney G. Swearingen gave a supporting affidavit as to the identity of the veteran.]

[In Pulaski County, Kentucky on April 18, 1850, Swearingen applied for a transfer of his pension payments to that place, giving as his reason for moving that most of his children had removed to and now reside in Kentucky]

[War Department interpreted the name of one of his Captains as “Jarrindo”]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for one-year service as a private in the North Carolina militia.