

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Whiteker [Whitaker?] S31473

fn27GA

Transcribed by Will Graves

5/14/10

[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 errors to my attention.]

State of Kentucky Cumberland County

Be it Remembered that on the 26th day of May 1834 personally appeared before the undersigned a Justice of the peace in and for the County of Cumberland aforesaid William Whiteker a resident of the County of Cumberland and aforesaid State of Kentucky aged 74 years the 15th day of February last past 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 in the month of June in the year 1776 in what is now Wilkes County State of Georgia as a volunteer militia man for 3 months under Captain John Pullam [sic, John Pulliam]; Lieutenant James Harris – Joshua Gaunt [or Gannt] Ensign and in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Elijah Clark [sic, Elijah Clarke] he was immediately marched on to a Fort called Holeman [Holman?] Freeman's Fort near the Broad River on the frontier of Georgia where he remained guarding said fort and ranging and spying about that region until his term fully expired he was then Honorably discharged by his Captain in this tour he faithfully served three months.

He states that soon after he was so discharged he was drafted for three months and entered the service of the United States under the same Captain Lieutenant & Ensign and in the same Regiment and was again marched on to the said Freeman's Fort where he was again engaged in guarding said Fort and ranging about the woods as a spy and in this way he continued faithfully his term being three months and was honorably discharged by his Captain.

In the spring of 1777 he was again drafted for 3 months under the same officers as before stated and entered the service of the United States and marched on to said fort as a guard this time another Fort was built about fifteen miles from Freeman's Fort and this Declarant was constantly employed in guarding said Fort in spying between that and the other Fort (which was called Pullams fort [sic, Pulliam's fort?]) in this way he continued his full term of three months and was again honorably discharged by his Captain.

Soon thereafter he was again drafted for three months and entered the service of the United States under the same officers and was again marched to said Freeman's Fort to perform the duties of guard & spy that he had been there but a short time when a large body of Cherokee & other Indians came on and divided their forces one part went to the Fort called pullams Fort when their approach was discovered a part of the troop at Freeman's Fort was sent on to assist in

keeping pullams Fort part of the company under Ensign Gaunt went and the Indians at the siege of pullams Fort killed Ensign Gaunt, and then the whole force that is the Indian force collected at Freeman's Fort where they remained for some time but made no attack on the Fort although they were many in number and came prepared for a siege but it was believed they discovered that there was some artillery which discouraged them and they withdrew but many of them remained in the vicensage [sic, vicinity?] until cold weather set in, and this declarant was kept most of his time after the siege was raised spying until his term expired after which he was honorably discharged by his Captain.

In the Spring 1778 he was again drafted for three months and entered the service of the United States under the same Captain & Lieutenant & Colonel (John Brown had been appointed Ensign in the room of Ensign Gaunt who had been killed as before stated) he was again stationed at Freeman's Fort in this tour the Indians again assembled at Freeman's Fort attempted an attack, set fire to some of the outbuildings and were about to make a violent effort when Colonel Clarke ordered a cannon to be fired at them which proved effectual they immediately declined any further camps and in the course of the night withdrew from that time great alarm and fear was entertained the Tories began to be troublesome and too British regiments made their appearance near the Fort that he is in a few miles; these regiments he was informed were commanded by Colonel Grayson [sic, Grierson] & Brown [Thomas "Burntfoot" Brown], and were inducing the inhabitants to take rejection under them which many done after they left their Colonel Clarke went into the settlement, obtained more men and then turned out and such of the inhabitants as had taken protection under the British & would not abandon them & take protection under the Americans and do their duty was put to death, many were killed and great distress was felt by the inhabitants; during these dreadful [indecipherable word, looks like "scans" or "seans"] this deponent continued his tour in this way until his three months expired and he was again Honorably discharged.

He further states that in consequence of the great distress of the Country and the want of men at the Fort at the request of Captain Pullam he as soon as the tour last mentioned was out he volunteered his services for three months and continued in service at said Fort under the same officers for three months during which time he was engaged in guarding, spying and discharging the duties required of him at the Fort when his time expired he was honorably discharged by his Captain.

He further states that the following spring he was again drafted for three months and was stationed at the same Fort and the whole of his time was spent in guarding, spying etc. and that no particular occurrence took place in this tour that he now recollects he served out his full three months and was by his Captain honorably discharged and was in this tour under the same officers as before stated.

He further states that some time thereafter he was again drafted for three months and entered the service of the United States under the same officers and was again stationed at said Fort and was kept there as a guard for the whole time for which he was drafted being three months and was again honorably discharged.

He states that all the aforesaid services was done and performed in a corps called into service by competent authority that he was either in the field or in garrison and for the time during which the services were performed he was not employed in any civil pursuit and for which service he claims a pension. He states that he is now old and from bodily infirmity he is unable to attend the Court of his County for the purpose of making his declaration, that he lived in a retired part of the County there is no clergyman residing in the neighborhood and from his

reduced situation he does not know that any clergyman knows of his reputation as a soldier. He further states that he never took a written discharge for any of his service nor has he any documentary Evidence of his service nor does he know of any person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service, there being no person in this Country with whom he was acquainted in the time of the war and he has been so long from there he does not know that any of his old Companions in arms are now living.

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.

1. Where and in what year were you born

Answer I was born in the County or district of Burven [sic?] State of North Carolina on the 15th day of February 1760 agreeable to the information of my parents which I believe to be true

2. Have you any record of your age, if so where is it

Ans. I once had a record of my age taken from my father's register which states that I was born the time before stated which I left many years ago at my son's in the State of Tennessee a long distance from here

3. Where were you living when called into service where have you lived since the revolutionary war and where do you now live

Ans. I lived in the State of Georgia in what is now Wilkes County when I entered the service and that was my residence During the whole time I was in service and until the final close of the war soon thereafter I moved to North Carolina near the Moravian towns where I stayed a short time then I moved to the Yadkin River same state where I remained 3 years then I moved to Lancaster County State of South Carolina where I stayed a few years, then I moved to Mercer County State of Kentucky where I lived upwards of one year then I moved to Cumberland County Kentucky, stayed here a short time then moved to White County State of Tennessee where I remained until about 4 years ago when I moved back to Cumberland County Kentucky where I now live

4. How were you called into service were you drafted did you volunteer or were you a substitute and if a substitute for whom

Ans. I volunteered 2 tours and was drafted the others I never was a substitute for any person 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

Ans. Captain William Weir had a company of regular troops at Freeman's Fort where I served David Phelps was his Lieutenant they were stationed at that for a long time felt was killed by the Indians there was no other regular officer where I served of a higher grade than Captain Weir. I was with no Continental Regiment nor was I in any militia Regiment except Colonel Clarke's as I served in his Regiment during the whole of my service and I have stated the circumstances of my services as well as I recollect previously.

6th 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 never received a discharge in writing, I was at the end of each of my tours discharged by my Captain verbally

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 of your services as a soldier of the Revolution

I am acquainted with Captain John Gabbart, Claybourn Mash, Jubilee Goggins, John Jugart, Russell Elmore, Dudley Young & Newton Gabbart and many others, all of whom I believe would

speaking well of me as a man of character & veracity & their belief of my services as a soldier of the revolution.

Subscribed and sworn to the day and year aforesaid

S/ William Whiteker, X his mark

[John Gabbart, Newton Gabbart & Dudley Young gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$70 per annum commencing March 4, 1831 for service in the Georgia militia during the revolution.]