

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Conyers S31617

Transcribed by Will Graves

f17Ga

1/21/08 rev'd 11/17/14

[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.]

State of Georgia, County of Screven

On this 3rd day of September [1832] personally appeared in open Court before us Hope Brannon, Thomas Oliver, Jacob Bryan & Ben H. Prescott Justices of the Inferior Court of the County of Screven now sitting John Conyers a resident of the County and State aforesaid aged Seventy-two 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, 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under his father John Conyers, the period he does not recollect, on the Florida expedition. That the period of service he does not recollect for he returned when he reached the Altamaha [River] that he was under the command he thinks of Colonel John Jones of Burke County. That he was next drafted to go to the defense of Savannah and had an engagement with their shipping at the Fort and drove them back they then ascended the Back River and had another engagement with them at Brown's dock defeated them again and took their vessels. The deponent was then relieved and he returned home. After some short time he thinks two or three weeks he returned and met persons flying some wounded, from Savannah, and learnt that the City was taken. He then fled with his father to Carolina. Three or four months after this this deponent volunteered under McKay & James Jackson of Georgia does not know what commission he then held, to go on an expedition to Butler's plantation in the Midway Settlement to fight the British & Tories. He was there defeated but the same day attacked the Tories about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile from there and killed the whole of the party. He was then discharged and returned to South Carolina. He then volunteered under Colonel Stafford [William Stanford] who was under General Marion [Francis Marion] and was in an engagement under them, at Parker's Ferry¹ and were there defeated for want of ammunition having only two rounds apiece. He then returned home and was in no more regular services though frequently in scouting parties. The deponent forgot to mention that he was taken by the Tories at Ashe's defeat [Battle of Briar Creek, March 3, 1779] in the fork of Briar Creek and confined a prisoner by them for two weeks in the [indecipherable word]² at Paris Mills and then taken to Savannah and placed on board a prison ship at Cockspur where he was confined about five months and to the

1 https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_parkers_ferry_2.html Heitman says a Colonel Stafford was wounded at Parker's Ferry on August 31st 1781. Veteran's statement regarding this action is very puzzling in that the action at Parker's Ferry on August 31, 1781 was an overwhelming Whig victory. Little is known about an earlier action in April 1781 and perhaps it is this action to which the veteran is referring.
https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_parkers_ferry_1.html Neither Marion nor Stanford, however is thought to have been at that earlier action.

truth of this last statement he thinks Mr. Paul Bevil of this County can certify. And he knows of no one by whom he can prove the foregoing except Mr. George Williamson in Alabama and he does not know that even he is alive. And the deponent 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 & year aforesaid.

S/ Benj. Prescott, JIC

S/ John Conyers



[Peyton L. Wade, a clergyman and Aug^s Seaborn Jones gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

Questions propounded by the Court to John Conyers applicant for a pension on account of service in the militia.

1st: When and in what year were you born?

Answer: Fork of Briar Creek, then Burke County now Screven in 1759.

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

Answer: None

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

Answer: In fork of Briar Creek where [I was] born, and where I have always lived & still live.

4th 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: Was drafted & also frequently volunteered.

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.

Answer: These questions have been answered in the general Statement of my services.

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: Never received other than a verbal discharge that I recollect.

7th 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.

A: The whole County

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 2 years in the Georgia service.]