

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Reuben Hill ¹ S31742

Ancestry NC²

Transcribed and annotated by Will Graves

7/29/23

[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' or 'undeciphered' 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. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

[A image 136]

State of North Carolina Rutherford County} On this 23rd day of October A.D. 1832 personally appeared in Open Court before the Justices of the County of the County Court now sitting Rheuben Hill a Resident of the United States in the County of Rutherford and State of North Carolina aged Sixty 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 an Act of Congress passed the 7th of June 1832 Saith that he entered the Service of the United [States] and served under the following Named Officers.

Sayeth that at 16 years of age he was entered on the Muster Roll under Captain Butler who was a Captain of the Volunteers we was Immediately ordered on to the Line our head quarters was at a station on Pacolate [Pacolet River] Called Earles Station this was in the latter part of the year 1779 or early in the year 1780 when I became a Volunteer to the end of the War we was Under the Directions of Col. William Graham but Captain John Earls was our Immediate Commander we had to Guard the Mountains from the head of the Catawba [River] to the head of the Saluda [River] a Range of Mountains of More than One hundred Miles in length we had many Chases after the Indians and Tories we had to be Constant moving to keep the Tories from embodying broke up many Small parties when they would attempt to make stand [paper damaged and text rendered illegible, could be 'we was'] continually in their Way we had so large a Range of Country to protect that we was in Continual Service for Two year or about that time I well know that from the Times I entered the service which I believe was in the latter part of the year 1779 – or beginning of 1780, to the end of the War I was not at any one time more than Two weeks at home and when ever there our fire Arms Ready and Called out from our bed I was Young was not in the Regular Army was not under any of the Generals or Regular Officers belonging to the Regular Army and my Offices was not Changed I well Recollect that John B Earle now Adjutant General of South Carolina was one of my Messmates that we was together the greatest part of the Times that we had many a chase after the Indians Driving them from our Frontiers this Service was hard we had to find ourselves everything many times Suffering much from Cold, Fatigue and hunger but I obeyed my Orders I Rendered much of my time to the Service of my Country I never Received anything for it and now Call on them when they are able to make me some Compensation for my Service that was faithfully Rendered to the Country.

¹ BLWt26342-160-55

² I could not find this file on Fold3.com

He hereby Relinquishes every Claim whatsoever to a pension except the present and Declares that his Name is not on the pension Roll of the Agency of any State whatsoever.

Questions 1st by the Court Where and in what year were you born in

Answer I was born in York District S. Carolina in the year 1764

Question have you any Record of your Age if so where is it

Answer I have the record Taken from my Father's Register in my possession

Question 3rd Where was you living when Called into service where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and Where do you now live

Answer When I was quite small my Father with his Family Moved [to] Tryon County North Carolina now Rutherford County where I lived when Called into Service and have lived in the same County ever since

Question 4th How were you Called into Service were you Drafted did you Volunteer or were you a substitute and if a substitute for whom

Answer. In my 16 year I Became a Volunteer and served as one during the Revolutionary [war] State the names of some of the Regular Officers who were with the Troops where you served such as some of the Continental and Militia Redgments as you can Recollect I do not know what Redgment we was Attached to Col. William Graham had the Command of it we was on our Way to the Cowpens where General Morgan [Daniel Morgan] Defeated Tarlton [Banastre Tarleton]³ we did not Reach the place we was on another Occasion on our March to Join General Sumter [Thomas Sumter] when we was Ordered back to the Frontiers.

State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can Testify as to your Character and good behavior your service as a Revolutionary Soldier Joseph Moore & Robert G Twitty

Sworn to and Subscribed the day and year aforesaid in open Court

S/ Reuben Hill Senior, X his mark

[Joseph Moore, a clergyman, and Robert G Twitty gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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The State of South Carolina Anderson District } Revolutionary Claim

Before us personally came and appeared John B Earle [John Baylis Earle]⁴ (Adjutant General of the State of South Carolina) who Swears before us that he was early in life acquainted with Riuben Hill [sic] and during the pendency of the Revolutionary war as it is called they were Co-Soldiers and messmates together at Earles Block house in North Carolina.

Sworn to & subscribed the 5th day of April 1834

S/ J. B Earle

³ Battle of Cowpens, January 17, 1781

⁴ EARLE, John Baylis, (nephew of [Elias Earle](#), cousin of [Samuel Earle](#)), a Representative from South Carolina; born on the North Carolina side of the North Pacolet River, near Landrum, Spartanburg County, S.C., October 23, 1766; moved to South Carolina; completed preparatory studies; served as a drummer boy and soldier during the Revolutionary War; engaged in agricultural pursuits; elected as a Republican to the Eighth Congress (March 4, 1803-March 3, 1805); declined to be a candidate for reelection in 1804; resumed agricultural pursuits; adjutant and inspector general of South Carolina for sixteen years; served throughout the War of 1812; member of the nullification convention of 1832 and 1833; died in Anderson County, S.C., February 3, 1836; interment in the cemetery on his plantation, "Silver Glade," in Anderson County, S.C.

<https://bioguide.congress.gov/search/bio/E000008>

I can find no record indicating that John Baylis Earle applied for or received a pension from the federal government for his service in the Revolutionary War.



[A image 142]

State of North Carolina Rutherford County} Personally appeared before me the Undersigned a Justice of the peace for the County and State aforesaid Reuben Hill who being duly Sworn deposeth and Saith that by reason of Old age and consequent loss of Memory he cannot Swear positively to the precise length of his Service but to the best of his Recollection not less than the period mentioned below and in the following Grades. In the year 1779 I joined a Volunteer company under Captain Butler I think in January 1780, we was Stationed at princes Fort in South Carolina on Pacolet River placed under the command of Col. John Earls at the end of 3 Months and on our way home we was Ordered to Earls Station where we was continued for 3 Months under the same Officers about the end of that Time Ferguson [Patrick Ferguson] was Marching through this Country Recruiting and the Greater part of the Effective Men crossed the Mountains we was Ordered out on another Tower [tour] for 3 Months over on Saluda in pursuit of the Cherokee Indians on our Return we was endeavoring to Join General Morgan but before we Reached him he fought the Battle at the Cowpens we was Ordered back to the Frontiers by Col. William Graham until Shortly before the Battle of Kings Mountain [October 7, 1780] when we Returned, we was out on this 3 Months or more we was Ordered to Join General Sumter but before we Reached his Army the Indians had broke in on the frontiers and done considerable Mischief we was Ordered back to our Stations where we was continued for 3 Months on our Return we was Ordered to the Siege of Ninety Six [May 21-June 19, 1781] but our [hole in the paper and a small portion of text missing] was changed by the Orders of Genl. Pickens [Andrew Pickens] on to the upper part of South Carolina where we was Stationed for 3 Months on the head waters of Pacolet Tyger and Enoree [River's] I was under Captain Kirkendol [Kirkendall?] commanded by Col. John Earls and Genl. Pickens at this Time our 3 Months was ordered became attached to the to the Indian Spy; and had to Serve another Tower of 3 Months as an Indian Spy where I was continued until the Spring of 1782 This makes my Service Twenty four Months as a Volunteer I know I was not less than that length of Time engaged in Actual Service During the Revolutionary War and for such Service I Claim a pension I hereby Relinquish every Claim to a pension except the present and Declare that my name is not on the Pension Roll of the Agency of any State whatsoever.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 24 day of May 1834

S/ Reuben Hill, X his mark

[A image 145]

State of North Carolina Rutherford County} February 6th 1837

Personally appeared before me Martin Beam one of the Justices of the Peace [undeciphered word] for the County and State aforesaid Reuben Hill the maker of the foregoing declaration and maketh oath that when the foregoing declaration and amended declaration was returned by the War department with objections his family was suffering great afflictions from sickness, and that he himself was taken down sick and remained so until he was informed that John B Earl, the only person by whom he was able to swear his declaration to be true in all its parts, was dead. This affiant believes that said John B Earl is dead and that there is no living

witness by whom he can prove his service except one George Hayes who was on the service of the British at the battle of the Cowpens and who was wounded and taken prisoner by Genl. Morgan when I found him and waited upon him and nursed him when Captain Butler, in whose company I was, came up immediately after the battle was fought. This affiant states that the oath of Gen. Earl is not fully set forth has actually given by him. Gen. Earl stated the length of time which he served with this affiant – and this affiant requested the Notary Public who took the deposition of Gen. Earl to note it down, but was informed that what was sent down was amply sufficient, to secure him the pension. When the foregoing declaration was returned this affiant intended to apply again to Gen. John B Earl and obtain a full Declaration from him of the length of time they served together and of places at which they served but he was prevented in the manner above mentioned.

This affiant further states in confirmation of what he has heretofore stated that he served as a volunteer private for at least two years under Capt. Butler and was engaged in defending the frontiers from the aggressions of the Indians and Tories and that after Peace was declared he was retained six months under the command of Colonel John Earle at Earles Block House or Fort Whether this was immediately after peace was declared or not this affiant cannot remember this affiant [word written over and rendered illegible] that there is no documentary evidence of whose existence he is aware which he can adduce in support of his claim. He never secured any written discharge from Service. He was in the service as a volunteer and private and but little formality was observed by them and their transactions.

S/ Martin Beam, JP

[A image 148: Application dated March 9, 1842 by the veteran for the transfer of his pension benefit to the Georgia agency as he had moved to Lumpkin County in Georgia to be with his children who were removing to that country. He signed this document with his mark.]

[A image 133: On April 1, 1855 in Lumpkin County Georgia, the veteran, aged 91, applied for his bounty land entitlement under the 1855 act. Again he signed his name with his mark.

[Veteran was pension at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service for 2 years in the North Carolina militia.]