

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Elisha Knight S31801

Transcribed by Will Graves

f16NC

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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 Georgia, County of Meriwether: SS

On the twenty ninth day of May 1834 personally appeared before me W. B. Ector [?], a Justice of the Inferior or County Court in & for said County, Elijah Knight, a resident of said County & State aged eighty eight years & upwards 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.

1st: – That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers & served as herein stated. He was born about the line of Edgecombe & Halifax Counties North Carolina; is not certain which County but rather thinks Edgecombe. He has no record of his age & never has had any; has no learning & does not know the year he was born in; he states his age as above at eighty eight years & upwards from his recollecting well “Braddock's Defeat” [July 9, 1755] which from History he is informed was seventy nine years ago & at which time he was a “good smart sized Mill boy.” His age then must have been nine or ten years; he has estimated it at nine years which would make him born in 1746. When first called into service he lived in Nash County [Nash County North Carolina was formed from Edgecombe County in 1777] State of North Carolina where he lived until the close of the Revolution, about five or six years after the close of the Revolution, he removed to Edgefield district South Carolina; from thence removed to Washington County State of Georgia; from thence removed to Clark County Georgia; from thence to Morgan County, Georgia; from thence to Jasper County, Georgia; from thence to Walton County, Georgia; from thence to DeKalb County, Georgia; from thence to Meriwether County, Georgia from thence to Troup County, Georgia where he lived two years & from thence removed back to Meriwether County where he now lives & has lived for the space of two years passed. In his first service he was a volunteer; lived in Nash County, North Carolina; entered the service under James Gray, Captain, Wilson Currell, Lieutenant, his Major & Colonel forgotten [probably Colonel Exum Lewis]; infantry service under state authority & rendezvoused at Tarborough, North Carolina; service was for three months; marched thence to Wilmington, North Carolina, direct, where was stationed during the service except about two weeks when we marched to & were stationed at Brunswick [County], North Carolina; returned to Wilmington where after remaining a short time was discharged at Wilmington at the end of the three months by written discharge by his Captain. This discharge he kept & other Revolutionary discharges & papers a long time, but it & they were destroyed by time & exposure especially by being kept on an open shelf in a Book & getting wet & when noticed were wet & molded so that in opening them they were torn & unintelligible. Indeed they were substantially destroyed; and in this casual way they were lost. This service was in the spring of the year that he entered & he returned in the summer. He was a private soldier. He does not recollect the year of this service;

he cannot; he knows it was his first service; that it was at the beginning and early in the War. The object was to defend the coast of North Carolina & especially prevent the British from landing. Their vessels were hovering off there. He entered in April & was discharged in July but what year is unable to say as he does not know; he only knows it was early in the War & from this circumstance would think it to have been in the year 1777; this militia service. While stationed in Wilmington 400 Catawba Indians came down as friendly succor.

2nd Service: He entered the service still residing at the same place, was drafted for six months in the Militia under State authority of North Carolina, was a Private of Infantry, rendezvoused at "John Perdue's on Tossnot [Toisnot] Creek in Nash County North Carolina," his Captain was William Harris & Lieutenant James Arline, marched thence to Kinston North Carolina where was stationed two weeks, marched thence to Cross Creek N. C., remained there one week collecting & preparing further supplies of provisions, marched thence to Camden South Carolina, and there a few days, marched thence to Columbia & thence to Six Mile Creek. The country about Columbia was then in military phrase known as the "Congarees," where stayed lingering about there one day, Marched thence to "Perdue's Hill" South Carolina near Augusta, stationed & remained there two weeks, there was a Log enclosure or Fort there & his company preferred to remain & guard Tories & defend the place & country. Perdue's hill was near & in sight of Augusta in the state of Georgia – Marched thence to Purrysburg South Carolina about 20 miles above Savannah Georgia where was stationed & remained one month & a half with plenty of the Rice & no Bread. On getting to this station he was attached to Captain Edward Clinch's [?] company, Lieutenant & Ensign names forgotten & also Majors; his Colonel was Joseph Clinch. There was a large army of American troops stationed & encamped there at that time under the command of General Nash [sic, John Ashe] of North Carolina of which Detachment our company formed a part but never joined the principal "Head Quarters" until reaching Purrysburg. Nash [sic, Ashe] was ahead, had crossed at Augusta before we arrived & had advanced into Georgia below Augusta & was defeated & scattered by the British & Tories at Brier [sic, Briar] Creek [March 3, 1779]; he rallied & collected again at Purrysburg as above stated where he joined him after getting released from guarding a "Bull Pen" of Tories as it was called at "Perdue's Hill" as before stated near & in sight of Augusta, but on the South Carolina side. From Purrysburg marched to the White House [could be "Horse"] ten miles, all the Army marched; marched thence to the Coosahatchie Bridge South Carolina where he was discharged by written Discharge by Colonel Clinch which has long since been destroyed as before stated. Their destruction occurred whilst he resided in Nash County State of North Carolina after the Revolutionary War. He served this draft out complete six months. He has a very imperfect recollection of the date of this service or any other as to years being so long ago, but was rather believe it commenced in November 1778 & ended in May 1779.

3rd Service: When on his return home after being discharged as above at Coosahatchie Bridge South Carolina, he met a Detachment of about five hundred American troops near Cross Creek North Carolina coming South. He joined them by becoming a Substitute for William Boykin who returned home. They were drafted men some from Virginia but principally from North Carolina acting under State authority as Militia Infantry under a call for six months service. He joined near Cross Creek & Cape Fear River & marched across Cole's Bridge on Drowning Creek thence across Pee Dee River at Mahaley [?] ferry South Carolina thence out to the "Congarees" via Columbia & Granby to Augusta Georgia. His Captain was William Williams, his Lieutenant & Ensign, Major & Colonel forgotten, came to Augusta Georgia & remained two weeks. The Town had surrendered to the American troops three days for our company reached there. Left Augusta & marched into South Carolina striking the country at the Cheraw Hills & marching down to Congarees to near the Santee River & thence to Cross Creek North Carolina where was stationed & remained two weeks. During this service was

reconnoitering & scouting the country protecting the inhabitants & preventing Tory depredations & the formation of regular bodies of them. Before reaching Cross Creek the Detachment had separated into several companies & squads for better observation of the Tories & their hostile movements. Whilst at Cross Creek our Corps consisted of about two hundred men encamped in temporary Barracks. Marched thence to Peacock's Bridge on Contentny [sic, Contentnea Creek] River North Carolina where he was discharged by written Discharge by Captain Williams which Discharged he lost as before stated. He did not make out this original engagement complete of six months there being no official need of the Troops. He entered it in May & was discharged either in September or October 1779, say the latter which will make the actual time not less than four months. His Colonel's name he thinks was Wynn. General Clarke [Elisha Clarke] he thinks then commanded at Augusta. He acted as a private.

4th Service: He entered service again still residing in Nash County North Carolina as a private soldier of Infantry, State Militia of North Carolina, was drafted for six months, rendezvoused at Halifax town North Carolina, marched thence up Dan River to near Hill's Iron Works & thence West to Guilford North Carolina, was there two or three days only when the "battle of Guilford" took place [March 15, 1781]¹ between the American & British troops the former commanded by General Greene [Nathanael Greene], the latter by Lord Cornwallis. It was a hard fought battle & well contested, but at length the American Militia particularly gave way & Greene was worsted & retreated, I was with him, retreating & taking a position at Hill's Iron Works [sic, Troublesome Iron Works] ten or fifteen miles from Guilford. During this whole service his Captain name was William Williams, his Lieutenant's name, Jesse Powell, his Major's name was Brinkley, his Colonel was ___ Linton [William Thomas Linton]. He entered this service in the Fall of the year, he thinks in October 1780 & was discharged at the end of six months at Ramsey's Mills North Carolina to which place we had marched from Hill's Iron Works. He was discharged in May 1780 [sic 1781] by written Discharge of Captain Williams which he has long since lost as before stated. After the battle of Guilford & one months station at Hill's Iron Works, during which time that we stayed at the "Works" Greene pursued Cornwallis to Ramsey's Mills we then took post at Ramsey's Mills by order of General Greene whilst he was following & reconnoitering Cornwallis. He was stationed at this place upwards of four months making out complete his original engagement of six months. He was discharged at Ramsey's Mills North Carolina. He was in & fought in this battle of Guilford; it commenced in the morning & continued several hours, the Regular Troops were little engaged, the Virginia militia fought well.

Summary service:

| | |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| 1 st service: | 3 months |
| 2 nd ditto: | 6 ditto |
| 3 rd ditto: | 4 ditto |
| 4 th ditto: | <u>6 ditto</u> |
| | 19 months in all |

Extra & additional service—He made several short tours as a Volunteer; one under Colonel Clinch against the Tories scouting the country about Toisnot Creek & Cape Fear N. Carolina, served about three months; they, the Tories, were hanging on the rear protecting the rear of Lord Cornwallis.

And he further states that he has no documentary evidence by which to further substantiate his claim & knows of no surviving associates by whom to prove his actual service. No surviving witness can be found by me if any lives. I have been lingering in decrepit health for the past six years during which time I have lived almost wholly at home alone & private &

¹ http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_guilford_courthouse.html

have not walked any for near a year from loss of the use of my limbs & from old age & extreme obesity weighing near three hundred pounds. In his present neighborhood he is known by its Samuel Lewis & Reuben Williams, Stephen Williams & Green Talbot who can testify (two of whom have done so) as to my character for veracity & their belief of my services as a soldier of the Revolution. There is no Clergyman resident in the County sufficiently acquainted with him & his patriot character to testify to this requirement. There is no Clergyman with whom I have been familiar for the past six years.

And he further states from the lapse of time & consequent loss of memory he cannot be more particular & specific as to the times, dates & circumstances of his service then as set forth in the above Declaration but he is certain that he did not serve less than the above periods.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of the Agency of any State.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ Elijah Knight, X his mark

S/ W.B. Ector, JC

[Green Talbot and Stephen Williams gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$63.33 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 19 months in the North Carolina militia.]