

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Ellis S32233
Transcribed by Will Graves

f52NC
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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.]

[p 32]

State of North Carolina Wake County

This day personally appeared before us R. Cannon & R. Smith two of the acting Justices of the Peace for Wake County, John Ellis a man of colour [man of color] and made oath that he was a Soldier in the Revolutionary War, in the Continental line of North Carolina, the length of time the Deponent does not precisely recollect, but which will appear by reference to the musterrolls of the said Army. This Deponent further deposeth and saith that he has never drawn any land himself, nor did he ever authorize any person to do it for him.

Sworn to & subscribed before us this 27th of July 1820

S/ R. Cannon, JP

S/ R. Smith, JP

S/ John Ellis, X his mark

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North Carolina Wake County: August 22nd, 1820

This day George Brasfield Esq. came before me one of the justices of the Peace for the County of wake and made oath that he has known John Ellis (a man of colour) near forty years, said Ellis has lived near to this deponent for the above mentioned time – That said Ellis has ever supported the character of an industrious and honest man & one whose word, or oath may be depended on. This deponent further states that he has frequently understood said Ellis was a Soldier in the Revolutionary Army, and has never heard it denied by any one

Sworn to & subscribed this 22nd of August 1820

S/ James Huckabe, JP

S/ Geo. Brasfield

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State of North Carolina, Secretary's Office 19th February 1821¹

I William Hill Secretary of State in and for the State aforesaid, do hereby certify that it appears from the muster rolls of the Continental line of this State that John Ellis a private in __ Company of the 10th Regimen was mustered on the 27th April 1776 for 2 ½ years, and was discharged on the first day of July 1779. Given under my hand the date above.

S/ Wm Hill

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State of North Carolina Office of Secretary of State

I William Hill Secretary of State in and for the State of North Carolina do hereby certify, that the foregoing are true and perfect copies of writing filed in this office as evidence in the support of the

¹ A certificate identical this one except bearing different date is included among the papers in the file of [John Ellis R3316](#).

claim of John Ellis to bounty land for the services of said Ellis in the revolutionary war; which claim was allowed by a Board of Commissioners appointed to pass on all such claims, and on which a Warrant was issued on the 23rd day of August 1820 4 228 acres of land, the quantity to which a Soldier was entitled for 2 ½ years service. Warrant No. 489, and drawn by Col. Thomas Henderson, on power of attorney filed here.

Given under my hand this 4th day of February 1852

S/ Wm Hill, Secretary of State

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Raleigh 4th of February 1852

Hon. Willis Allen²

Dear Sir

Your favor of the 31st ultimo was received last night, and after reading it, I concluded the best I could do for John Ellis in support of his claim to a pension was to send copies of the evidence filed in this office to obtain his land Warrant, a part of which I here with sent you. There was another John Ellis a private in the 10th Regiment in Capt. Raiford's company enlisted in 1781 for the War, for which a warrant was issued for 640 acres soon after the close of the war. I am well satisfied the claim you are prosecuting is just. I knew well the Justices before whom his deposition was made. I would do and say more but my business is so pressing, I have write [sic] by candlelight. You can pay me \$1 for the copies.

If I can assist the old soldier anymore write me

Yours respectfully

S/ Wm Hill [North Carolina Secretary of State]

State of Illinois, Franklin County

On this 6th [?] day of June 1837 personally appeared before the County commissioners court for said County Judges of the said Court of Franklin County of the State of Illinois, judicially sitting John Ellis a resident of said County & State aged eighty-three years who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to attain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. That he enlisted in the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated, he entered the service of the United States by enlistment as a private in the __ Company of the 10th Regiment in the Continental line of the State of North Carolina on the 27th of April 1776 for two years and a half in Wake County & State of North Carolina, under the Command of Captain Jones, Major Lewis & Colonel Tranton [?], Rendezvoused at Rawley [Raleigh] from thence marched to Hillsborough and was employed in guarding the Legislature then in session, for the space of one year, he remained in Hillsborough, without any skirmishing with the enemy & marched from thence to Franklin County in N. C. where he remained all the season of 1777 & a part of '8 without any fighting being done, in the spring of the year 1778, he marched to Chatham County on Pedee [River] in pursuit of the Tories who had risen on that River on his arrival at that River on about the __ day of __ 1778 we found them encamped in about __ and made an attack on

² ALLEN, Willis, (father of William Joshua Allen), a Representative from Illinois; born near Roanoke, Va., December 15, 1806; attended the common schools; taught school; moved to Tennessee and settled in Wilson County; moved to Franklin (now Williamson) County, Ill., in 1830 and engaged in agricultural pursuits; studied law; was admitted to the bar and commenced practice in Marion; sheriff of Franklin County 1834-1838; member of the State house of representatives 1838-1840; prosecuting attorney of the first judicial circuit in 1841; member of the State senate 1844-1847; member of the State constitutional convention in 1847 and 1848; elected as a Democrat to the Thirty-second and Thirty-third Congresses (March 4, 1851-March 3, 1855); was not a candidate for reelection in 1854; resumed the practice of his profession; elected judge of the twenty-sixth circuit court of Illinois March 2, 1859, and served until his death while holding court in Harrisburg, Saline County, Ill., April 15, 1859; interment in Marion Cemetery, Marion, Ill.

<http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=A000154>

them with success killing & wounding many and entirely routing them and taking about ___ prisoners, and a short time after many of the Tories on Pedee came in and surrendered claiming the benefit of a proclamation, some who then surrendered enlisted for the Term of during the War, this deponent further states, that age – consequent infirmity of mind & body have so impaired his recollection, that to him at this time scenes which during the War of the revolution, were most vivid in his recollection, are but dimly seen, and many forgotten, and although he recollects to have been in several other skirmishes with the Tories, he cannot now distinctly state them that he cannot now state the names of any regular officers, unless those already stated were regular officers but whether they were or not this affiant does not know, that he was marched from Pedee to Hillsboro where he remained until he was discharged, that he was honorably discharged at Hillsboro N. C. on the last day of July 1779 as well as this affiant recollects making in all three years two months and four days he served as a private in the revolution but when he reenlisted for the balance of the term over and above 2 ½ years that he served he does not now recollect, he received from Major Lewis as he believes a discharge but from some cause not now recollected it has become lost, he has no documentary evidence of his service nor does he know of any witness by whom he can prove the same he was born in ___ County State of ~~North Carolina~~ Virginia in 1754 his mother moved while he was a child to Nudbush [sic ?]³ Co., N.C. from thence to Wake County in said State where he entered the service & then to Franklin County Illinois where he has resided ever since, he does not know that he ever had a record of his age but from the best information he has received the above statement is correct. He is known to Stephen Stilly, Hugh Parks, Drury Mosely, George Anderson, Jesse Shaw, Dempsey Odom, and many others his neighbors who can testify to their belief of his service and his reputation in his neighborhood of his being a soldier of the Revolution. 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. Sworn to & Subscribed in open court the day and year aforesaid.

S/ John Ellis, X his mark

[p 12]

State of Illinois, Franklin County

Be it known that on the 29th day of December 1838 before the Honorable Frederick T. Duncan one of the Justices of the County Commissioners Court in and for said County (the same being a Court of record possessing Jurisdiction unlimited in amount and keeping a record) the Subscriber John Ellis personally appeared being a resident in said County and of the age of 84 years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following amended declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress of the 7th June 1832. That he is not able to attend personally in Court by reason of bodily debility, he states that the reason why he did not apply for a pension under the act of 1818 was because he was informed and believed he could not obtain a pension and therefore did not apply under said act.

That he did on the 3rd day of March 1835 employ one Walter B. Scates [?] an attorney resident in Frankfort, Illinois to draft a declaration under the act of the 7th June 1832 in order to obtain the benefit of the same, but in consequence of irregularity in drafting and making out the same, he is informed & believes his case was unfavorably received, it being improperly stated in respect to his tours, and the service in which they were rendered: The tours mentioned by said Scates being militia tours and therefore too long for that service his former declaration was returned to him on that account. That since that time owing to his infirmity he has not been able to procure his application to be amended so as to have the same reconsidered until the filing the original herewith transmitted. That he



can prove by Stephen Stilley and Drury Mosely Citizens of this County that he is the identical person who rendered the two years and six months service described in the secretary of States Certificate of North Carolina, dated at Raleigh in 1821.

S/ John Ellis, X his mark

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State of Illinois, Franklin County

On this 12th day of September A.D. 1837 Personally appeared before the Honorable Walker B. Scales Judge of the 3rd Judicial Circuit of the State of Illinois and Judicially Sitting at Frankfort, Franklin County, John Ellis a resident of said County and State, aged Eighty Three 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 provision made by the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. That he entered in the Service of the United States under the following named Officers and served as herein Stated, he entered the Service of the United States by enlistment as a private in Captain Jones Company of the 10th Regiment in the Continental line of the State of North Carolina on the 27th day of April 1776 for two years and a half in Wake County and State of North Carolina under the command of Captain Jones, Major Lewis and Col. Trenton [?], rendezvoused at Rawley [sic, Raleigh] from thence we marched to Hillsboro and was employed in guarding the Legislature then in session for the space of two months & afterwards for the space of six months stationed remained in Hillsborough without any skirmishing with the enemy, and marched from thence to Franklin County in North Carolina where he remained all the season of 1777 and a part of 1778 without any fighting being done in the Spring of the year 1778 he marched to Chatham County on Pedee in pursuit of the Tories who had arisen on that River and on his arrival at that River we found them encamped and made attack on them with success killing and wounding many and entirely routed them and taking about 50 prisoners and a short time after many of the Tories on Pedee came in and surrendered claiming the benefit of a proclamation which had been issued by the Governor some time before, some who were thus surrendered enlisted for the term of during the War. This deponent further states that his old age and consequent infirmity of mind and body have so impaired his recollection that to him at this time scenes which during the War of the revolution were most vivid in his recollection are but dimly seen now and many forgotten and although he recollects to have been in several other skirmishes with the Tories he cannot now distinctly state them. That he cannot now state the names of any regular officers unless those already stated were regular officers but whether they were ordered out this affiant does not know. That he was marched from Pedee to Hillsboro where he remained until he was discharged. That he was honorably discharged at Hillsboro North Carolina on the 1st day of July 1779 as well as this affiant recollects making in all three years two months and four days he served as a private in the revolutionary war but when he enlisted for the balance of the Term over and above two years and a half that he served he does not recollect he received from Major Lewis as he believes a discharge but from some cause not now recollected it has become lost he has no documentary evidence of his Service nor does he know of any witnesses by whom he can prove the same he was born in __ County State of Virginia in 1754, his mother moved from that State while he was a child to Nudbush County North Carolina from thence to Wake County in said State where he entered the service from thence to Franklin County in the State of Illinois where he has resided ever since, he does not know that he ever had a record of his age but from the best information he has received the above statement is correct. He is known to Stephen Stilly, John Pully, John T. Davis, Drury Odom and many others his neighbors who can testify to their belief of his service and his reputation in his neighborhood and of his being a Soldier of the Revolution. 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. Sworn to, subscribed in open Court the day & year aforesaid.

S/ John Ellis, X his mark

[John P. Maddox, a clergyman, John Browning, Stephen Stilly, John Pully, John T. Davis gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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State of Illinois, Franklin County

Be it known that on this 29th day of December 1838 personally appeared before me Frederick F. Duncan one of the Judges of the County Commissioners Court as aforesaid in and for the County and State aforesaid Stephen Stilley who is personally known to me to be a credible person to be believed on oath; he states that he has been personally acquainted with John Ellis who has applied for a pension under act of 1832. That he has also seen a certificate in the possession of said Ellis dated in the year 1821, signed at Raleigh in the State of North Carolina by the Secretary of State there of; and Deponent states upon his personal knowledge that the said Ellis was at the time of the dates in said Certificate known in the said State of North Carolina to be the identical person designated in said Certificate; and this Deponent further knows and believes that the said John Ellis is the same individual to whom the Secretary of State gave this Certificate: and moreover that said Ellis has always been reputed and esteemed to have been a revolutionary Soldier, is now 84 years of age and has been an acquaintance of this deponent from this Deponents infancy & further he saith not.

S/ Stephen Stilley

[Drury Mosely gave an affidavit similar to that of Stilley.]

[p 4: Certificate dated March 27, 1852 issued by the clerk of court of Williamson County Illinois stating that James Ellis is the Administrator of John Ellis deceased of the County of Williamson and state of Illinois; that James Ellis was appointed Administrator February 14, 1852.]

[p 5: Certificate dated March 27, 1852 issued by the clerk of court of Williamson County Illinois that John Ellis, a revolutionary war pensioner died October 21, 1850 survived by the following named children only: James Ellis, William Ellis, Polly Ellis, Mahaliah Ellis and Henry Ellis.]

[p 7: Power of attorney dated February 14, 1852 signed by James Ellis as administrator of John Ellis deceased of Williamson County Illinois.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James Ellis". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.

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H. R. [House of Representatives] Washington 10th June 1852

I hereby certify that I was well acquainted with John Ellis a colored man from the year of 1829 or 1830 2 the time of his death, during all of which time he resided in the Counties of Franklin and Williamson in the State of Illinois. I know him to be the identical person who made application some years ago while a resident of Franklin County aforesaid for a pension on account of services rendered in the war of the Revolution. Said to be from the State of North Carolina I further certify that he was a colored man and had the reputation in the neighborhood where he resided of being an honest upright man and one who statements his neighbors and those acquainted with him had the utmost confidence.

S/ Willis Allen MC [Member of Congress]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831 and ending when he died October 21, 1850. He was pensioned for his service as a private in the North Carolina Continental line.]