

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension application of David Strahan S32538

fn29NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

3/16/11

[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. 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 fails 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 errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Illinois Morgan County AD 1832: On this 7th day of September personally appeared in open Court before Samuel D Lockwood Judge of Circuit Court of Pleas now sitting – David Strahan of Schuyler County Illinois aged seventy-eight – 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 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and as herein stated –

In July A.D. 1780 – I David Strahan then living in the County of Wake and State of North Carolina & volunteered my services, and entered the Service of the United States as a private Soldier in a light horse company commanded by Captain Matthew Coulers [sic, Matthew McCullers¹] from said Wake County – and joined the Regiment commanded by Colonel Mayburn [sic, Robert Mebane] consisting of about 500 men and went a tour of duty through North Carolina and into South Carolina employed against the Tories and English – We went through Chatham County and to Cane Creek so called where we had a battle² with the Tories – their number was about 1000 men. They were commanded by Hector McNeill and Davy Fanning [David Fanning] we succeeded in taking three prisoners. General Butler left us before this battle – taking with him about 500 men. In passing through Cumberland County we had a small skirmish with the English & Tories and during this campaign we had another small skirmish but where my memory at this remote period will not serve me – we were at Brown Marsh near the line between North & South Carolina at the East. The places where I went into South Carolina I cannot distinctly recollect – We were returned to Cape Fear [River] – on Cross Creek and there I received a discharge from Captain Coulers – but this discharge I have lost –

¹ [Matthew McCullers W7415](#)

² The engagement described by the veteran appears to be the Battle of Lindley's Mill which occurred on September 13, 1781, not 1780, as he states in his application. The Battle of Lindley's Mill is sometimes referred to as the Battle of Cane Creek. http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_lindleys_mill.html

among other papers – this discharge I received in October and was for three months service. I was at Hillsboro about 40 miles from Guilford Court House when the unfortunate battle was fought between the forces under General Greene and those under Lord Cornwallis. I cannot recollect the names of any other of the General Officers who served at this period – nor do I know of a living person who can testify to my service in this campaign. However John Scott of Morgan County Illinois recollects having often seen my discharge from Captain Coular for three months duty above referred to. In October A.D. 1780 in Wake County aforesaid only two days after returning from the first campaign I again volunteered and entered the Service of the United States as a private Soldier – in a light horse company commanded by Captain Solomon Woods from Wake County for 3 months duty against the English and Tories and in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Hardy Saunders, the Captain of one of the other companies was Captain Fletcher – any of the other officers I cannot recollect – we traveled through Chatham County – Johnson County [Johnston County] – Cumberland County and to Cape Fear [River] – & Rockingham County in North Carolina – & to Noose River [sic, Neuse River] in the borders of Virginia – during this campaign we had no skirmish or battle – with the enemy – but on constant and severe duty ranging through the Country in January following we returned to Wake County and there I got a discharge from Captain Woods for three months service – this discharge I have lost – but John Scott recollects having often seen it (the one named above from Morgan County) – But I know of no living person who can testify to my service in this campaign – In January 1781 in Wake County aforesaid – immediately after being discharged as above I again volunteered & entered the Service of the United States as a private Soldier in the light horse company by Captain Solomon Woods commanded – and Lieutenant Hill – the company consisting of about 60 men were ordered to act as a guard against the Tories while the General Assembly of North Carolina met & transacted their business in Wake County we were constantly employed as a guard – Colonel Hardy Saunders commanded at this time and Captain Hill commanded a company here. Mr. ___ Tryon was governor at this time in North Carolina – and Mr. Lane and Colonel Hill represented Wake County in the Assembly this year. I served 3 months this campaign – but never received a discharge – And I know of no living person who can testify to my service at this time – I never at any time received a commission while in the Service – until 4 weeks since I have lived 7 years in Morgan County Illinois and am well known to Scott Riggs – Thomas Allen and John Scott and Joel Gesford [?] my neighbors. I was born March first 1755 in Cumberland County North Carolina – my parents kept a record of my age – I lived in Cumberland County until the earlier part of the war when I removed into Wake County 2 years after the war I removed into Wilmington in Hanover County [New Hanover County] in North Carolina – where I lived 7 years I then removed into Moravian town Stokes County North Carolina where I lived 14 years – when I then removed into Camblin [Camden] South Carolina lived there 9 months – then moved into Lincoln County Kentucky one year I lived there – then removed into Casey County Kentucky where I lived 8 years – then removed into Humphreys County West Tennessee – where I lived one-year then removed into Allen County Kentucky where I lived 7 years – then removed into Morgan County Illinois and lived there 7 years and August 12th 1832 I removed into Schuyler County Illinois where I now live. I have never received anything for my 9 months Service – and in my extreme poverty & old age rely upon that Government I faithfully served as a Soldier for support. I hereby relinquish every claim whatsoever to a pension or annuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state whatsoever.

S/ David Strahan, X his mark

Attest S/ R. W. Dummer

Sworn to & subscribed this 11th day of September A.D. 1832 before me

S/ Samuel D Lockwood

[John Scott gave a supporting affidavit regarding having seen the discharges referred to in the application filed by the veteran and other standard supporting affidavit statements.]

[Joel Gesford gave a standard affidavit.]

I David Strahan the within claimant for a pension depose and say that on the 11th day of September 1832 I applied at the Morgan County Circuit Court – Samuel D Lockwood presiding Judge – for a pension under the Act of Congress for that purpose – and then set forth my claims for a pension as will be seen in the declaration to which this is annexed – And the reason why I applied and made the declaration in Morgan County – was because the court in Morgan County was the nearest and most convenient for me to appear before as it respected the time of the Court's sitting and on account of my witnesses who resided in Morgan County and to it was where I was best known. It was only in the single month before I applied for a pension that I removed from Morgan County and I thought if I had applied in Schuyler County it would have been extremely difficult if not impossible for me to have procured any witnesses – and the expense of attending it I was illy able to bear. In my former declaration I stated as I thought explicitly my relinquishment of any pension or claim or annuity whatsoever except the present one but I do hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present under the act of June 7th 1832 and I hereby declare my name is not on the Pension Roll of any Agency in any State. In my annexed declaration I produced as the law required to respectable persons in court who certified as to my age – character – and their belief of my being or having been a Revolutionary Soldier. The reason why one of them was not a clergyman was this – I was not presently known to any living in the neighborhood of Jacksonville on a farm and in this new country clergyman are not very numerous. But even among those who were in Morgan County I was unable to procure one who knew me – And the reason why I now make the certificate before a justice of the peace and not before Samuel D Lockwood Judge of Circuit Court before whom I first appeared is the calls Judge Lockwood is now & has been on his Circuits duties – and well not return to this County until the last of next month – and my many infirmities – worn me forcefully – that delay may be dangerous if I expect any benefit from this pension.

S/ David Strahan, X his mark

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$37.50 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 9 months service as a private in the North Carolina cavalry/militia.]