

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Benjamin Wallis S32571

fn30NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

6/10/10

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. Folks are free to make non-commercial use this transcript in any manner they may see fit, but please extend the courtesy of acknowledging the transcriber—besides, if it turns out the transcript contains mistakes, the resulting embarrassment will fall on the transcriber. 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. I welcome and encourage folks to call those errors to my attention.]

State of Tennessee Hawkins County: Magistrate's Office 23rd of April 1834

On this 23rd of April 1834 personally appeared before me William Babb an acting Justice of the peace for the County & State aforesaid Benjamin Wallis a resident of Lee County Virginia aged 77 [written over, could be 76] 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 served as herein stated. That he was born in Caswell County in the State of North Carolina on the 12th day of January in the year 1758¹ as well as he remembers. That there was once a record of his age in the family Bible but on the death of his father some one of the children took the Bible, so what has now become of it he does not know. This Applicant further states that he was living in Caswell County North Carolina when he entered the service as a volunteer under Captain Adam Sanders that the Company then marched to Hillsboro Orange County, here they met with other Companies from different Counties & were all formed into a Regiment, called as he thinks, but he is not certain, Regiment North Carolina Militia, and here Major Taylor took the command of the Regiment & marched it to the mouth of Cooper River about 6 miles from Charlestown, here a part of the Regiment were ordered out on command & Colonel Nall took the command & was the pilot on the water, the command under Nall proceeded up Cooper's River after the vessels and briggs, when they set out from the mouth of Cooper's River they were ordered to go up as far as Moncks Corner & on their way to cut holes in all in the vessels & sink them to prevent the British from getting them & those that had property in them, they were to bring in & land them at the Red Banks, that they got several vessels & had not proceeded as far as Moncks Corner when there was a cessation of the firing which had been kept up at Charleston for many days & which they heard distinctly as they ascended the River and it was the cessation of the cannonade at Charleston, that induced them to return with what vessels they had supposing that Charleston which was then in the possession of the Americans had surrendered, that they had proceeded down the River nearly to Charleston, when they were ordered to [indecipherable word] ancor [sic, anchor] by their commander & here they remained till next morning & then the

¹ Sic, Caswell County was not formed until 1777. Prior to its formation, the land which he later constituted Caswell County was a part of Orange County North Carolina.

vessel in which this Applicant was, commanded by his Captain Adam Sanders, contrary to the order of Colonel Nall, wound up anchor & set sail [sic, sail] for the said Red Banks at which place they ^{did not} landed safely but the rest of the vessels & command remained & were taken prisoners by the British, they did not land exactly at the Red Banks, but they were aiming to do so, & were prevented by a person, who appeared on the shore as they were proceeding & beckoned to them & informed them that Tarlton [sic, Banastre Tarleton] with his company of horse were lying in wait for them at the Red Banks, this influenced them to land above the Banks & as soon as they could they abandoned the vessel & retreated to the swamps & before they reached the swamps Tarleton & his Company hovered [?] in sight in pursuit & was within one hundred fifty yards of them when they entered a swamp that the Company when they entered a swamp consisted of 24 besides Captain that they remained in the swamp several days during which time they ate nothing but Whortbebury [sic, whortleberry] buds] they also found in the swamp to Negro fellows upon whom they prevailed to pilot them out of the swamp, from the swamp they proceeded to a waste road & got ahead of Tarleton & his company & joined General Blueforks [sic, Abraham Buford's] army who were proceeding towards Charleston, but retreated when met by the Company to which this Applicant belonged, pursued by Tarleton & near the Hanging Rock, the company to which this Applicant belonged, left General Blueforts Army & proceeded to Fayette [sic, Fayetteville or Cross Creek] in company with the other Militia companies that were with Bluefort. Bluefort & his regulars took the road to the Hanging Rock & soon after he was separated from the Militia, he was overtaken by the British & defeated, that from Fayette & after they had heard that Bluefort was defeated, they turned across [?] to [indecipherable word] the British, that after they left Fayette, this Applicant's Captain [paper torn, words missing] that his men should be discharged, that their time was out; but the Commander refused saying he had no right to do so, the Captain then stated that his men were unable to perform duty, any longer, having already suffered much, they were then inspected & dismissed from further service they were then marched by Captain Sanders to General Butler's & there received their discharges & returned home. This term of service lasted not less than six months. This was in the year 1780 as well as he remembers [sic, remembers].

This Applicant further states that he again entered the service in the year 1781 as well as he remembers, the month he does not remember as a volunteer under Captain William Wilson commanded by Colonel William Moore from Caswell County they were marched again to Hillsboro the place of General rendezvous here they remained some time awaiting the arrival from other Counties from Hillsboro they were marched to the Waxhaws & joined Army under the command of General Morgan & Smallwood at this place General Davidson took the command of the Regiment, to which this applicant belonged. That at this place the whole Army was stationed to [indecipherable word] the progress of the British who were stationed on the opposite side of the Catawba River under the command of Lord Cornwallis that while at this place the British made no attack on them, that after the expiration of the three months for which they volunteered the Tories being dangerous the Regiment to which this Applicant belonged were marched by Colonel Moore to his house & there they were discharged by Colonel Moore & returned home. This term of service lasted three months.

This Applicant further states that he again entered the service in the year 1781 as well as he remembers as a volunteer under Captain John McMullin [John McMullen] Captain of a company of Rangers that he found his own horse & arms, from Caswell County they flanked on the right of the British who were marching in the direction of Little York under the command of Cornwallis, the object of this Company of Rangers was to prevent the British from breaking off

from the Main Army & plunder & also to prevent the Tories from doing mischief they ranged in Caswell County where the British remained stationed at the Red House called Dobins's [Dobbins''], then into Orange County, then into Granville County and into some other Counties which he cannot remember. Then they crossed Dan River into Virginia where they joined the Grand Army, then in camp commanded as well as he remembers by Generals Morgan, Greene & Smallwood that here they applied to the quarter master for provisions, but was refused & the Captain next morning marched back into Caswell County where they were dismissed by the Captain they did not receive a written discharge from this Term of service. This Term of service lasted three months as well as he remembers.

This Applicant further states that he again entered the service in the year 1781 as well as he recollects as a volunteer under Captain Sargent [?] Captain of Rangers, that they ranged Caswell County that during this Term of service they were surrounded, in attempting to enter the British camp while they lay at Dobins's, but made their escape without any loss, that this was in the night, that during this night they took prisoner a British Dragoon who was hung by the command of General Butler [, he served?] two months, from this service he received no discharge. This Applicant further states that owing to the laws [sic, loss?] of memory produced by old age & affliction he cannot swear positively to the length of time he served but to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods above mentioned making in all not less than fourteen months & for which service he claims a pension. This Applicant further states that since the Revolution he has lived in North Carolina & Virginia & now lives in Lee County Virginia near the line & that the reason he applied in Hawkins County is that it is more convenient to a Magistrate & he is unable to go far, for he has been afflicted with fits for five years, & is unable to travel far, without endangering his life. He further states that he never received a Commission & that he received written discharges from all his Tours of service except the [illegible word] he has above mentioned, one of which discharges viz. The first he lost with his pocket Book during the Revolutionary War, the others he knows not what has become of them, for he took no care of them. He further states that he knows of no one now living by whom he can prove his services during the Revolutionary War. He further states that there is no clergyman in his neighborhood. This Applicant further states that he is well known in his present neighborhood to Samuel Marion & John Fritts who can testify to his character for veracity & their belief as to his services during the Revolutionary War.

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 any Agency of any State, or (if any) only on that of the agency of the State of North Carolina.

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ William Babb, JP

S/ Benjamin Wallis, X his mark

[Samuel Marion & John Fritts gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

State of Indiana Rush County: On this first day of September 1837 before me the Subscriber a Justice of the peace of the said County of Rush personally appeared Benjamin Wallis who on his oath declares that he is the same person who formerly belonged to the Company commanded by Captain Adam Sanders in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Knolls and afterwards long to the Company commanded by Captain William Wilson in the Regiment commanded by Colonel William Moore in the service of the United States. That his name was placed on the pension roll of the State of Tennessee from whence he has lately removed. That he now resides in the State of Indiana where he intends to remain and wishes his pension to be there payable in future the

following are his reasons for removing from Tennessee to Indiana his children removed to Indiana, and from inability from old age he was compelled or induced to remove in order to be with them for the purpose of having there a to procure a living

S/ Benjamin Wallis, X his mark

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$36.66 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 11 months service as a private in the North Carolina militia.]