

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Johnson Wamack (Wamuck, Womack) S32577

fn13GA

Transcribed by Will Graves

5/11/10

[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 Arkansas County of Madison: SS

On this 30th day of October 1837, personally appeared in open Court before Joseph M. Hoge sole Judge of the Circuit Court (a court of record) in and for the County of Madison aforesaid in court sitting Johnson Wamuck a resident of the County and State aforesaid aged seventy-five 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 into the service of the United States a private in the volunteer militia company of Horse men or mounted Gun-men commanded by Captain Jonathan Kemp, at an old field Captain Kemp's muster ground, near Pleasant Gardens on the Catawba River in the County of Burke and State of North Carolina and as is his best recollection on or about the 20th of June 1780. That from thence he proceeded in said company under command of Captain Kemp to Caney Creek a branch of Broad River near the County line of Rutherford County (NC) where said company rendezvoused and remained several days, and where, with other companies, comprehending in all about three hundred men, placed under command of Colonel Charles McDowell. Whilst at said rendezvous, receiving intelligence that Colonel Ferguson [sic, Patrick Ferguson] commanding a superior force of British and Tories, was marching to attack us, we retreated in the direction of the Watauga River about five miles, where we were overtaken and fired on by a detachment from Ferguson's division commanded by Major Dunlap. We returned their fire, but being unable to contend with so superior a force, we retreated to the Powder Mills on a Creek near the Watauga River where we joined a Virginia Regiment commanded by Colonel Campbell [William Campbell]. In this little engagement, we had one man killed (Peter Branks) and we took three prisoners, one a Dragoon, and the others private Tories. From the Powder Mills we proceeded under command of Colonels Campbell and McDowell southward, over a mountainous country to a place called Linville-Cove on the waters of the Catawba River where we encamped for some days. From Linville-Cove, Captain Kemp's company was detached up the Catawba in quest of a Tory party under Captain Branham; upon our approach Branham's party retreated and we rejoined Colonels Campbell and McDowell about forty miles from Linville-Cove. In the meantime, receiving a large reinforcement, Colonels Campbell and McDowell no longer avoided an engagement with Ferguson; but marched in pursuit; whilst on our march

Richard Coody, ___ French and this declarant were sent westward through the mountains, to conduct to the Main Army, a small body of George or Troops, part of Colonel Clark's [Elijah Clarke's] command, of which we had received intelligence. We found and conducted a few men of said party into the settlement, who, being sick and unable to proceed, we left them and repaired to the Main Army on Broad River shortly after the battle of Kings Mountain.¹ From thence we proceeded on our return as far as Colonel Walker's in Rutherford County (NC) where we were discharged on or about the 25th of October 1780 as is declarant's best recollection.

Declarant again entered into the service of the United States, a private in the volunteer militia company of mounted Gun-men or Horsemen under Captain Joshua Inman in the County of Burke and State of North Carolina at Captain Kemp's, and, as is his best recollection, on or about the 15th April 1781. From Captain Kemp's, Captain Inman proceeded with his company to join, and did join General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] at the siege of Ninety Six. From Ninety Six, Captain Inman, with his company went to Augusta in Georgia and assisted in taking Burntfoot Brown's Fort² and Fort Grayson [sic, Fort Grierson³], after which, declarant was discharged at Augusta on or about the 25th of June 1781 as is his best recollection.

On or about the 1st of July 1781, as is his best recollection, declarant again entered into the service of the United States, a private, under Captain Abner Beckham commanding a volunteer Company of mounted militia at Spirit Creek Bridge in the State of Georgia, said Company being part of a Regiment, of which Francis Boykin was Major, Thomas Lewis Colonel and all under command of General Twiggs.

The Tories had been committing great depredations in the neighborhood of Spirit Creek Bridge where General Twiggs was encamped, parties were sent to explore the Country, ascertain the position, force and movements of the Tories, and to guard the inhabitants from further annoyance. Declarant, Jesse Boykin, Richard Coody and ___ Finn were detached, with orders to explore the Country in the neighborhood of John Pinnion a Tory Captain, collect information relatively [sic] to the force, position and designs of the Tories and report themselves to Major Boykin at the widow Alday's near Waynesboro on the waters of Brier Creek. Whilst on said service passing through Pinnion's land, we were fired on by the Tories, and declarant receiving a ball in his right side fell from his horse. The Tories did not repeat their fire, but retired, and declarant was assisted by his party and put on Coody's Horse, his own having run off when he fell from him. He was conducted by Coody and his party to the widow Alday's where they were met by Major Boykin. From Alday's we proceeded to General Twiggs encampment on Spirit Creek Bridge. On our way, we were attacked by a party of Tories under Captain Pinnion. An engagement ensued, the Tories were repulsed, there Captain (Pinnion) killed, and Philip Thomas, a private wounded in the knee. The ball lodged in declarant's side was cut out, and he remained in the Hospital at the Bridge until he was sufficiently recovered to travel when he received a written discharge signed by General Twiggs, Colonel Lewis, Major Boykin and Captain Beckham on or about the 25th of October 1781, as is his best recollection and returned home.

This declarant, on his oath states, that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service, but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below, and in the grade of a private soldier (To wit) I served as a private under Captain Kemp in Colonel McDowell's Regiment as stated above for four months, and five days, I served as a private under Captain

¹ October 7, 1780.

² Sic, Fort Cornwallis. June 1, 1781. <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/fortcornwallis.htm>

³ May 23, 1781. <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/fortcornwallis.htm>

Inman as stated above for two months. I served as a private under Captain Beckham in Colonel Lewis's Regiment and under General Twiggs, as stated above for three months and twenty-four days, forming a total of nine months and twenty-nine days and for such service I claim a Pension.

Declarant on his oath further states, That in the year 1835, he procured he is declaration for a Pension to be made out and signed and sworn to the same, in the Circuit Court of Washington County, then Territory, now State of Arkansas: that he obtained a favorable decision their own by the Honorable Archibald Yell the Judge of said Court, that said declaration, shortly afterwards, as this declarant is informed was forwarded by his attorney David Walker to the War Department. That the Commissioner of Pensions as he is informed suspended his said Claim, principally for want of precision in setting out the length of his service and for want of conformity with the regulations prescribed by the department, but did not decide on the merits. That his said Declaration has not been returned to him. That he has frequently endeavored to procure a second application to be forwarded; but has been unable hitherto to do so. That from want of education, and a knowledge of business of this kind, want of health and disappointment of those on whom he depended to draft his declaration, and not to abandonment of his claim, are to be ascribed his long delay in a second application for a Pension. This Declarant, on his oath states, That he has no documentary evidence to offer, and knows of no witness by whom he can prove his services as a Revolutionary Soldier. 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 any Agency in any State or Territory.

And the said Court in conformity with the requisitions of the department of War propounded to the Declarant the questions following, to which, on his oath he answerseth as follows (to wit)

1st Where and in what year were you born? I was born in Goochland County State of Virginia on the 2nd day of January 1762, as I have been informed and believe.

2nd Have you any record of your age and if so where is it? I have no record of my age.

3rd Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live? When called into service, I lived in Burke County State of North Carolina, Since the Revolutionary War, I have lived in Pendleton South Carolina in __State of Tennessee, in Lawrence, Crawford and Washington Counties in the State of Arkansas, and now live in Madison, a new County taken from Washington County State of Arkansas.

4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom? I volunteered.

5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service. General Greene commanded at the siege of Ninety Six whilst I was there; I know of no other Regular Officer whose name I remember who was with the troops at any time where I served. Colonel McDowell's, Colonel Campbell's and Colonel Lewis' volunteer militia regiments are all I can now recollect so as to name them, although there were other regiments in service where I served. The preceding part of this declaration in braces, so far as I can now remember all the material circumstances attending my service.

6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it? I was always discharged, but with the exception of one, the discharges were verbal only. At Spirit Creek Bridge, I received a written discharge, given by Captain Beckham, as I believe, and signed by him and other Officers as before herein stated. It got out of my

possession many years ago, I do not know how, nor what has become of it.

7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution. I refer to Martin Johnson, Pleasant M. Johnson, Randolph R. Coffee and Burrel Homesley in my neighborhood, who, amongst others, would, I doubt not their testimony to my character for truth, and their belief of my services as a Soldier of the Revolution.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid in Open Court

S/ Johnson Wamack, X his mark

S/ H. B. Brown, Clk

[Charles B. Whitely, a clergyman, Martin Johnson, Pleasant M. Johnson, Randolph R. Coffee⁴ and Burrel Homesley⁵ gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$33.22 commencing March 4th, 1831 for 9 months & 29 days service as a private under Captain Branham and Colonel McDowell]

⁴ His signature looks more like "R. R. Colfer."

⁵ His signature looks more like "Burrel Hornsby."