

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Eddings S3326

f21NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

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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.]

State of Tennessee, Wilson County.

On this 28th day of September 1832, personally appeared in open court before David C. Hibbetts, James McMartin & Benj. W. Billings, Esquires justices of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions of said County of Wilson now sitting, William Eddings Senr. a resident of said County of Wilson & State of Tennessee aged seventy four years, who being 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.

He volunteered his services to the United States in the summer of the year 1777 (according to his best recollection) in Culpepper County, Virginia; he belonged to the company commanded by Captain Harry Hill, in the Regiment commanded by Col. Barber, was mustered into service at Culpepper Court House; did not remain there long, before they marched for Genl. Washington's headquarters which he thinks was near the line, between the States of Maryland & Pennsylvania; in their march they crossed the Potomac River at the Ferry called Nolin's ferry, if he recollects, passing through Frederick town in the State of Maryland and another small town, name not recollected; we were stopped and stationed for some time, at some great mills in Maryland, not far distant from Genl. Washington's head quarters. The Maryland troops had united with the Virginia troops shortly after they had crossed the Potomac. After we had remained some time at these mills, we were informed that Genl Washington only would require one half of the Virginia & Maryland Militia, and that the other half should be discharged, that they might return home and thereupon a drafting took place, to ascertain who might return home and who should remain to be attached to the army under Genl. Washington. Upon the draft having taken place, it fell to his lot to return home, so that he did not continue in the public service at this time more than about two months, according to his best recollection. He does not recollect who assumed the command of the Maryland & Virginia Militia, nor does he remember the names of the Major of his regiment, or the Lieutenant of his company.

The fall after his return from the campaign above stated, his father removed to Wilkes County North Carolina; some time in the next year 1779, to the best of his recollection, he again volunteered his services in the Revolutionary War; belonged to the company commanded by Capt. Wm. Lenore (sic, William Lenoir) and Lieutenant Nathaniel Gordon, Major Allen was one of the field officers; does not remember the Col Commandant in this campaign. We were mustered in service at Wilkes Court house, if he recollects rightly, marched after being organized, equipped. He, down the Yadkin [River], crossed the river one evening, and recollects after they had marched about one mile from the river & had encamped, that Capt. Lenoir came to him & told him he must select twenty or twenty five men and

return to the ferry, that they might watch for the crossing of one Bryant, who was a leader among the Tories & was expected to cross the river that night; from there we were marched about through the country guarding the citizens against the attacks and depredations of the Tories; we recrossed the Yadkin [River] and returned to Major Lewis' the father of Major Micajah Lewis who was killed by a stratagem of the picket guard of the enemy; he recollects one incident that occurred in that campaign; on their return to Wilkes County up to Major Lewis' they took one of Genl Pickens' light horsemen, who believing us to be Tories, confided himself to be one, and set about much abuse against the Lewis family; the Lewis' were present and questioning him at the same time, though he did not know them, we kept him under guard at Lewis' where we remained stationed for some time, until Genl Pickens crossed the River and came over where we were encamped, he saw his man under guard (and calling him Mulkey by name if recollects rightly) and inquired of him what he was doing there; after stating his situation and the abuse that he had rec'd, Genl Pickens flew into a great rage & ordered him to leave the guard & to go and wash himself (for the man had been badly beaten & as he understood had been shot at with a musket, when attempting to escape, and had rec'd a buckshot near his back bone), the Militia officers appeared to be conscious of having suffered the soldier to have been mistreated and much abused. From Major Lewis' they marched down the Yadkin [River] again and crossed the river at the shallow ford, the same day he thinks Lord Cornwallis with his army crossed the same place; late in the night the news reached our camps that the enemy were near at hand, we were ordered to our arms and commenced a retreat through the woods that night; the next day in our retreat we got scattered & did not collect together again before the second day about 10 O'clock, shortly Genl Locke's troops joined us, still retreating from the enemy, in short time after Genl Locke joined us, the British Dragoons came upon us, we retreated and were only saved from being cut to pieces or taken as prisoners, by Genl Pickens corps of Cavalry keeping between the enemy and the Militia. The British pursued us & pressed us closely for about seven miles until we met with Genl Green's army - being greatly fatigued & exhausted we were directed to halt for the night & join his rear next morning. The British then retreated (precipitately) & Genl Green with his army pursued them toward Guilford Court house and about the second day after we had joined the main army his term of those months had expired, he was discharged and returned home. He well recollects that his term of service expired but a few days previous to the Battle of Guilford. He knew Genl's Morgan, Buford, Genl Greene, Col Williams.

The next and last campaign he served was against the Cherokee Indians who had been attacking the frontier settlements. Capt Keys commanded the Volunteer campaign from Wilkes County North Carolina & he was the 1st Lieutenant, Col Herndon was Commandant of the Regt, Col McDowell & Major McDowell were field officers in this campaign. Genl. McDowell of Burke [County] or Rutherford [County] North Carolina was appointed to take the command of the expedition. [He] does not recollect the place distinctly where the North Carolina troops were rendezvoused. We marched from Wilkes Court house through Burke, crossed the Blue Ridge at the head of the Catawba thence through the wilderness as it was then called to the Indian Country - recollects that on this march they crossed French, Broad & Pigeon Rivers & perhaps some other rivers he crossed but does not recollect; each officer & soldier furnished himself with a horse, arms - at least he did and believes the others done the same. They encamped one night within about 6 miles of the first Indian town they reached, but the Indian spies had discovered us and when we reached their town they had all abandoned it, except one old man, who informed us that we had been discovered & the warriors had all retreated to the Valley Towns where the main battle was fought. On our march we laid waste the country, destroying their little towns, provisions, & every thing that we considered would be useful or necessary for their subsistence, he was not at the Battle, but was about eighteen miles distant when it was fought; he served in this campaign about two months agreeable to his best recollection and belief. After having done all they

could well do to break up the Indians & compel them to sue for peace, he returned to Wilkes County North Carolina - where he resided for about seven years, then moved to Lawrence County South Carolina where he resided about seventeen or eighteen years, then removed to Wilson County Tennessee where he has lived upwards of twenty four years. He was born 21st April 1758 according to a record now in his possession, taken from his father's family record.

He will now state his services as a volunteer Minute Man, under the Command of Col Cleveland of Wilkes County and Major Allen. Nathaniel Gordon was the Captain of the Company to which he belonged in the minute service and this was previous to the expedition against the Cherokee Indians. Col Cleveland's object principally was to keep the Tories in check & to prevent them from embodying - he was about two years in this service, but cannot state how long he was on duty and in actual service under arms, but will state that he believes he served in all about three months; Col Cleveland was once taken prisoner by the Tories; we went & rescued him and at the time he was retaken three of the Tories were killed & shortly afterwards three more were taken prisoner and were hanged at Wilkes Court house. The Tories were very troublesome in North Carolina to the Whigs.

This applicant has not been able to state dates & must rely upon the foregoing statements of the events which he had personal knowledge of. He is well acquainted with Rev'd Elijah Maddox, Jasper R. Ashworth & John Guthrie, Citizens of Wilson County, Tennessee, who can testify as to his character for veracity & their belief of the services above stated & his being a soldier of the Revolution.

He has no documentary evidence to sustain his application, does not recollect that he ever rec'd a discharge in writing.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity, except the present, and declares that his name is not in the pension Roll of the agency of any State.

S/ William Eddings, X his mark

Sworn to & Subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ Josiah J. McClain, Clerk of Wilson County Court

[Elijah Maddox, a clergyman, Jasper R Ashworth & John Guthrie gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

State of Tennessee Wilson County

Personally appeared before me the undersigned, a justice of the peace within and for the said County of Wilson & State of Tennessee William Eddings, who being duly sworn deposeth and saith, 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 following grades. For 2 months, I served as a private in the Company of Volunteers raised in Culpeper County Virginia, commanded by Captain Henry Hill in 1777, to the best of his recollection. In 1779 I again entered the United States service as a volunteer from Wilkes County North Carolina in the Company commanded by Captain William Lenoir; & served not less than 3 months as a private soldier; in 1781 or 1782, but cannot remember which year, I again volunteered and served 2 months as a Lieutenant in the company of mounted gunmen commanded by Captain Keys from Wilkes County North Carolina. In 1780 or 1781 - he volunteered in the minute service, commanded by Captain Nathaniel Gordon, and I served as a private soldier in this Campaign in all not less than 3 months (he believes he served more than 3 months). At the time his original declaration was prepared he omitted to state that he could prove that he entered the service of the United States in the Revolutionary War, by Sally Chandler, he is now able to procure her testimony; but he does not know of any other living witness by whom he could prove his services as above stated and set forth; When he was appointed a

Lieutenant he was regularly commissioned & served as such but does not recollect what he done with his Commission – or any of his discharges if he received any. For such service I claim a pension.
Sworn to and subscribed before me this 5th day of July 1833

S/ William Eddings, X his mark

S/ Silas Tarver, JP

[On July 5th, 1833 in Wilson County Tennessee, Sally Chandler, 70, gave a supporting affidavit in which she stated she remembers the veteran leaving home and returning frequently from the service in the revolution but she cannot testify as to the precise length of his services.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$35 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 8 months service as a private of Infantry and 2 months service as a private of cavalry in the North Carolina militia.]