

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Ferrell S3355

f35NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

12/22/08 rev'd2/4/15

[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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Tennessee, Jackson County

On this 16th day of May 1833 William Ferrell personally appeared in open Court before the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for said County of Jackson now sitting William Ferrell a resident in the said County of Jackson and State of Tennessee aged seventy-six years the 18 day of this month, 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 7 June 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as hereinafter stated. Applicant was born and raised in the County of Franklin and State of North Carolina, During the revolutionary War when the militia of the State of North Carolina was called on to go into the Army in defense of the Country orders was sent to the Field officers of the Regiment in the County to furnish a certain number of men from their regiments they apportioned the number to be called out from the Companies Composing their regiments and called on the Captains commanding Companies to furnish their quota of men and for the men to rendezvous at some given place on a day appointed to be marched off to the Army. If the Captain could not raise his quota of men by volunteers a draft was resorted to, applicant kept no record of the time and dates and has at this time no documentary Evidence to refer to and has to rely on his memory and cannot state the times with certainty as he would wish.

In the year 1779 and he thinks in the fore part of the year, there was a call on the militia to serve a tour of duty in the South or Southern Army applicant went as a substitute in the place of Thomas Arnold marched from Lewisburg [Louisburg] formerly called Massey's Bridge the County seat of Franklin County where he then resided under Captain Henry Hunt to Johnson [sic, Johnston] or Edgecombe County cannot certainly say which; where we joined Colonel Jonas Johnson who commanded the Regiment then called out into the service of the United States, was then with Captain Hunt's Company under the command of Colonel Johnson [Col. Jonas Johnston] marched to Camden in South Carolina staid in camp a short time at Camden do not recollect how long, then with the Army marched to the South crossed Savannah River and joined the regular Army commanded by General Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln] at Augusta in Georgia, don't recollect the time we stayed in camp at Augusta, from there we was marched down the River with the regular Army, as well as I recollect about this time Captain Hunt left the Army and I was put under Captain Jester [? Jeter?], we crossed the River back into South Carolina at or near the mouth of Bryer [sic, Briar] Creek marching as I understood after the British Army towards Charlestown crossed a small River called Edisto continued our march after the British to Stono, I was in that Battle which was in the summer and I think in June 1779 [June

20, 1779] two of my company, Abraham Prim and Christopher [indecipherable last named, looks like "Johnowthis"] of Franklin N. C. was killed in that Battle and applicant was wounded in his left leg by a splinter knocked from a tree that I stood near [indecipherable word] by a cannon ball, after the Battle we was marched back to our old camp ground -- my wound did not disable me from active service for but a few days I [never] caught up with the Army until after my time was out and received from Colonel Johnson my discharge and with others of the militia discharged at the same time returned home was called out for three months but remained in actual service upwards of four months.

As well as I now recollect in the early part of the year 1780 there was another call upon the militia for men to go to the South to serve three months after they crossed the state line, I was from home when that orders was issued to call out the men to serve this tour of duty and did not return until after the men had marched off under Captain Richard Ransom of Franklin County N. C. I found a Horse to ride Hired a man to go with me to bring the Horse back and as a volunteer followed Captain Ransom to Elizabeth Town on Cape Fear River below Cross Creek now Fayette [sic, Fayetteville] from there sent my horseback and marched on foot after Captain Ransom into South Carolina and joined by company under Captain Ransom with the Main Army lying near Charlestown in South Carolina under the command of General Lincoln. In a short time after I joined the Main Army we marched into Charlestown where the militia and part of the Army I belonged to was actively engaged in strengthening and preparing to Defend the place against the Enemy the siege Commenced very soon after, and ~~the principle barracks~~ I remained in Charlestown with the Army in Captain Ransom's Company and our principal employment was to work on the Forts, breastworks, big ditches and raise Abittis [sic, abatis] (trees with the points of the limbs made sharp and laid to Front the Enemy) to stop the approach and progress of the Enemy and their dragoons, my time of service being out before the surrender and at the time being sick not able to do duty myself and others on the sick list whose times of service was out was discharged and sent out at the great gate only a few days before the gate was blocked up by the Enemy: my discharge was handed me by Captain Ransom about one week before I was marched out of Charlestown Colonel Griffey of Chatham County NC was sent out with us to take care of the sick I continued with Colonel Griffey the distance of 100 miles. He then permitted such as was willing to go on without him & myself and six or seven others that was discharged with me left him to make our way home as we could. Being in a weak state of health it was a considerable task and the laborious march to me to get to my home to Franklin County NC was in actual service this tour before I was discharged including the time I was sick in Charlestown upwards of three months and not quite four.

Shortly after applicant returned home -- there was another call for men to go to the South to General Gates [Horatio Gates], who then commanded as I understood the Southern Army. Applicant volunteered again to serve a three months tour under Captain Julius Alfred of Franklin County NC and marched as well as I recollect in the latter part of May or early in June 1780 from Lewisburg our County seat under Captain Alfred with his Company to Cross Creek N. C. and there joined Colonel Benjamin Adams' [sic, Benjamin Exum's] Regiment of North Carolina militia, and marched from Cross Creek under the command of General Butler [John Butler] towards Camden and joined the General Gates' Army in South Carolina. I think above Camden then marched with the Army while the troops were coming in and joining the Main Army to Roochlys Mill [sic, Rugeley's Mills] cannot said the length of time we stayed there but not long before we was marched from there in the night to meet and fight the British. Our picket met the picket of the Enemy and there was some firing before daylight we lay upon our arms until light

was then drawn up in line fronting the Enemy at this time Captain Alfred was sent to guard the wagons and I was carried into action under Captain Ransom my former Captain, as to the arrangement of officers in this Battle called Gates Defeat [Battle of Camden, August 15-16, 1780] I cannot say for I do not now recollect the militia gave way and ran at the first charge of the Enemy we was drawn up in front in hearing of the Enemy and in view of their movements before the action commenced and I believe the militia was panic struck at the sight and movements of the Enemy before the charge was made; the second day after this Battle I found Colonel Sowell [sic, Benjamin Seawell?] of Franklin County NC who had come from there with troops to reinforce the Army and joined him at Cheraw Hills on Pedee [River] we marched from there to Ramsey's Mill on Deep River there Colonel Axum [sic, Benjamin Exum] came up and furloughed me and others of our Regiment that was there to go home and meet him at Hillsboro on a given day and bring with us as many of the straggling soldiers as we could pick up and bring on with us I cannot state the time we was to meet but it was a short time and we returned from Franklin our place of Residence with Colonel Jones to Hillsboro rough [sic, roughly] agreeable to the time and there met and joined the Captain Alfred and Colonel Axum amounting I think to about one Regiment and marched to the Shallow Ford of the Yadkin River and Colonel Axum gave the officers orders to discharge their man, having now been in service longer than the time called out for I received my discharge and started home our officers marched one day with us towards home and then left us if my memory is correct and I speak from that alone this was the last of September or first of October 1780 I was an actual service this tour including the time I was furloughed some days more than four months.

4<sup>th</sup> In the fore part of the year 1781, there was a call for men again to go to the Army under General Green [Nathanael Greene], in the upper Counties of North Carolina applicant volunteered to serve three months as a private under Captain John Roberson [John Robertson] of Franklin County North Carolina who raised a company of mounted volunteers to find their own horses and serve three months, applicant does not recollect the day or month but knows it was early in the year 1781 he marched in Captain Roberson's company from Lewisburg their County seat to join General Greene's Army then in upper Counties or southern part of the State somewhere in the County of Orange or Guilford N.C. they joined a part of the Light-Horse commanded by Colonel Malmida [Francis de Malmedy, Marquis of Bretagne] a French officer there the company was divided Captain Roberson and a part of the company with him was sent on to join General Greene's Army applicant and a part of the Company with their Lieutenant Joel Ferrell of Franklin County N. C. was left with Colonel Malmedy applicant continued with and under Colonel Malmedy marching and traversing the Country and then about the neighborhood of General Greene's Army, something like a scouting party of two or three companies watching as he supposes the movements of the British Army until the Battle of Guilford [March 15, 1781] commenced when they heard the firing supposes they was 6 or 7 miles from the place of action Colonel Malmedy with his men pushed as hard as their horses would race towards the Battle ground when we got near the Battle ground the Battle was over and we met the wounded and some of the Army our march was continued by Colonel Malmedy to the Battle ground and he kept us round and about reconnoitering the Enemy during the whole of the night after the Battle and about daybreak marched us to the General Greene's Camp four miles from the Battle ground, there Captain Roberson's mounted men was dismounted by orders as I suppose of General Greene and part of the Company discharged to carry our horses home applicant was continued with General to Greene's army under Captain Roberson in pursuit of Cornwallis to Ramsey's Mill then General Greene quit the pursuit of Cornwallis and we was marched with General

Greene's Army to Camden in South Carolina our time of service was about before we reached Camden but as I was informed we was continued in service by General Greene's orders until after we arrived at Camden after arriving there and as I understood He declined attempting to take the place by storm then ordered us to be discharged and applicant received a discharge from his Captain and returned home to Franklin County N. C. he was out in actual service at least four months before he received his discharge, thinks to the best of his Recollection he must have been mustered into service in the first week of January and discharged the last of April or first of May 1781, but will not positively say as to the day.

5<sup>th</sup> As Cornwallis was marching through N. C. by Halifax towards Petersburg in Virginia I think it was in the month of 1781, there was a call upon the State militia for two months man to hang on upon and harass him in his march I had just returned home from serving a tour of duty, volunteered my services again received the appointment of Lieutenant under Captain Swan Trouton of Halifax County N. C. and raised a volunteer company Colonel Brittle [Brickle or Brickell?] of Franklin County N. C. was our Colonel we marched after Cornwallis from Franklin County to Halifax and was stationed there under Colonel Brittle for the defense of that place until orders was received for our discharge Colonel Brittle then discharged us was in actual service this tour as an officer in the rank of Lieutenant two months must as well as I recollect started from our place of rendezvous the seat of Justice in Franklin County North Carolina in the month of May and discharged at Halifax North Carolina in the month of July or August 1781.

6 The day after applicant got home from serving the foregoing tour of duty, there then being a call for mounted men to serve two months in the upper Counties of North Carolina against the Tories applicant volunteered again Raised a Company and was chosen and appointed Captain to command this Company against the Tories at the Head of his Company of upwards of sixty men mounted armed and equipped at the their own Expanse with Lieutenant William Ely marched off from the seat of Justice in Franklin County North Carolina under Colonel Hardin Griffin [Hardy Griffin] of Nash County who was our Colonel to command the Regiment, first marched to Nash Court House we remained not more than two days there before we marched off for the Tory Country, first marched to Tarborough in Edgecombe County then turned up through Granville crossed Tar River at Dickinson's Bridge continued and marched through Wake County into Chatham on Haw River near Stroudes [?] Ford and there camped to protect the surrounding against the Tories and keep them in awe, from this place we [indecipherable word]<sup>1</sup> to send out scouting parties to harass the Tories and prevent their collecting to distress or injure the Whigs and to protect the well disposed people of the Country while camped at this place one Tory by the name of John Watts was taken prisoner mounted on a horse of a Whig that he had taken by some act of [?] the place of the owner of the horse when brought into camp He by orders of our Colonel was hanged by the neck until he was dead while encamped at this place a number of Tories to the amount of 16 came into camp and surrendered themselves to us accept the terms of parole we then offered them as I suppose by the Governor of the State and as they came in the Colonel gave them certificates of their surrender and submission and suffered them to depart in Peace we marched from this Encampment near Stroudges Ferry down the river and encamped near the fork of Deep and Haw Rivers we only laid there a few days before we received our discharges and returned home. I served this tour as Captain commanding a company of mounted men in this and every other case was called into service by the proper and legal Authority of the State of North Carolina was in actual service two months this tour.

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<sup>1</sup> *apud*

Applicant has no documentary Evidence to show any of his services He knows of no living witness by whom he can prove his services except Benjamin Perry whose statement is here appended and who lived a neighbor to him during the time of the Revolutionary War.

Applicant as before stated was born in Franklin County formally Bute, North Carolina the 18th of May 1757 Has a Record of his age now in his possession which he took from his Father's Bible. When called in the service he lived in said County of Franklin North Carolina from which place he moved to Jackson County Tennessee where he now lives and has lived for the last 26 years Volunteered in all his Tours except one when he substituted for Thomas Arnold or Arrendell as above stated cannot state more of the officers & General circumstances than the above Had but little intercourse with the Regulars or their Officers He received regular discharges as before stated but believing them to be of no value never preserved them and they have been lost for many years He never received a commission from any officer for his office of Lieutenant or Captain more than a certificate from the Colonels which appointments he held and served as before stated.

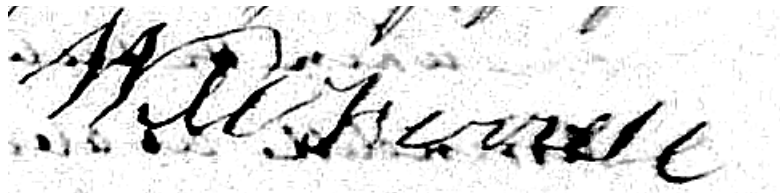
The Reverend Simon Carlisle and Colonel James W. Smith are his neighbors and will Testify to his character for veracity and the belief in the belief of his service as a Revolutionary Soldier. Benjamin Perry who has made a statement of his services lives in an adjoining county of a few miles distance and is his neighbor.

Applicant cannot state to a day the precise time of his services, but can safely say he served as a captain in the Revolutionary War two months as a Lieutenant two months and as a private soldier 15 months & 20 days and for such service he claims a pension.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declares of his name is not on the pension roll of the Agency of any State except the present.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ Will Ferrell

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Will Ferrell", written over a faint, illegible background.

S/ William Galbriath, Clerk

[Simon Carlisle, a clergyman, and James W. Smith gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 25: Benjamin Perry, 69, gave a supporting affidavit saying he lived as a neighbor to the applicant and knew of his service in the Revolution even though he did not service with him; knew of his serving as a substitute for Thomas Arnold or Arendel. Perry's affidavit is dated May 16, 1833 and was given in Jackson County, Tennessee.]

[Fact in file: veteran died April 3, 1841.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$65 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831, for service as a private for 19 ½ months in the North Carolina militia.]