

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Flewellin (Flewellen) S3366

f40NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

12/30/08 rev'd 2/20/15

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

[The pages of this file have been badly scrambled and are out of order—I have tried my best to transcribe them in proper order, but I make no guarantee that I have succeeded in that effort. I have indicated in red bracketed notes the pages I believe follow the text of the logically deduced preceding page, although not in sequence in the file.]

State of Tennessee Carroll County

On this tenth day of September 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions held in and for the County of Carroll in the State of Tennessee -- it being the first day of September Term of the said Court now sitting William Flewellin a resident of the County of Carroll in the State of Tennessee aged about seventy-nine years old on the 21st of April next 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 --

This Declarant states that he entered the service of the United States in the year of our Lord 1776 in the months of January or February as a Volunteer private for the term of two years and a half and joined the third Regiment of the North Carolina Continental line Commanded by Colonel Jethro Sumner afterwards General Sumner this Declarant states that he had no sooner joined the Regiment then he was appointed Wagon master and of course became attached to no Company or Battalion. Colonel William Alston was the Lieutenant Colonel the Major was by the name of Lockhart from North Hampton [sic, Northampton] County in said State the Captains were Eaton [Pinketham Eaton], Brinkley [William Brinkley] and Turner [Jacob Turner] the others the Declarant does not now recollect -- This Declarant states that he served out this tour of service and handed over his appointment to the Quarter Master General, Colonel Nicholas Long. This Declarant further states that he was born in the State of Virginia in Prince George County and at the age of about ten years moved with his parents to Halifax County in the State of North Carolina that he joined the aforesaid Regiment at the Town of Halifax in the said County and State and from thence marched to the City of Charleston and was there for about eight or nine months and marched from thence to the City of Savannah General Charles Lee was commander in chief at both places. This was anterior to General Lincoln's Benjamin Lincoln's] command in the South.

This Declarant further states that he was present at the Battle of Sullivan's Island Fort Moultrie [June 28, 1776] but being attached to the staff he did not participate in that Battle --

This Declarant now states that after the expiration of this tour of service he returned

home to Halifax County and raised in the same County a company of volunteer Cavalry of which he took the command as Captain being duly commissioned as such by the then constituted authorities and which commission he has since lost never supposing it would have been of any value to him -- This Declarant states that he commanded this Company for about two years though the privates only Volunteered for three months and as their terms of service expired he would recruit his company with fresh Volunteers -- This Declarant states that his Company was styled the Volunteer Company of the County of Halifax and was under the immediate command of the Colonel of the County who was Colonel John Branch and the Father of the Late Secretary of the Navy and who received his instructions and orders from the commanding General of that district. These orders frequently commanded this Declarant and his company to reconnoiter without the limits of the County and to go whatever the commanding general through the Colonel of the County should order us -- during this term of service this Declarant was not attached to the Regular Army consequently cannot establish his service in this last tour by any officer of the Regular Army -- nor does he know of any living person by whom he can establish the facts set forth in this Declaration nor has he any Documentary evidence by which he can establish the same -- he was in no regular action though in frequent skirmishes with the enemy under this last tour. 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 the Agency of any State. Sworn to and subscribed in open Court the day and year aforesaid.
S/ Edward Gwin, Clerk

S/ Wm Flewellin



[William Redman and Samuel Nesbitt gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

Questions by the Court

1st Where and in what year were you born?

Ans: I was born in Prince George County Virginia on 21st of April 1754

2nd Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Ans: in Halifax County North Carolina -- since the War in North Carolina until 96 when he removed to this State in Robertson County until 1824 since which he has lived in this County.

3rd Have you any Record of your age & if so where is it?

Ans: He has one, which is now at his house in this County.

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

Ans: I was a Volunteered in the North Carolina Continental Line previous to my appointment of Wagon Master

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.

Ans: The Declarant thinks with due deference he has mentioned the general circumstances of his service in his foregoing Declaration, the names of the Regular Officers, Colonel Jethro Sumner, Lieutenant Colonel William Alston & Major Lockhart, and Captain [page out of order (missing altogether from HeritageQuest)][p 36]

William Brinkley in Captains pink Eaton and Captain general Charles Lee were all the Officers whom he was acquainted with.

6th Did you ever Receive a Commission & if so by whom was it signed, and what has become of it?

Ans: Does not recollect whether he did or not. He was appointed Wagon Master by Nicholas Long Q. M. Gen'l but what kind of appointment it was, does not now recollect, after a lapse of so many years.

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.

Ans: I can state the names of Samuel P. Nesbitt and Mr. John Morgan, my neighbors; besides many others

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State of Tennessee Carroll County: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions at September Term A.D. 1833

On this 10th day of September 1833 personally appeared in open Court William Flewellin age 79 years on 21st of April last past -- who being first duly sworn doth on his oath make the following Amended Declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7, 1832

In the furtherance of the Department of War's investigation of the former application made by this Applicant William Flewellin, he begs leave to state: 1st That at the Town of Halifax in North Carolina, (being then in his 22nd year) he volunteered in the service of the United States; for the period of 2 years and 1/2, and at this place Colonel Nicholas Long Q. M. Gen'l (neighbor of his) immediately conferred the appointment on him of Wagon Master, To the Regiment to which he belonged to wit Colonel Jethro Sumner's -- He further states that he left Halifax in January -- February 1776 -- Wilmington, this Declarant in command of the baggage wagons, and six cannon, double fortified sixes, from New Bern North Carolina to Wilmington, same State; where they safely arrived the Regiment (3rd) Continental line, lying there under the command of Colonel Jethro Sumner, to which he was attached. From Wilmington he states that the Regiment proceeded to Charleston South Carolina, under Command of Colonel Sumner, Lieutenant Colonel William Alston, Major __ Lockhart, and Captain William Brinkley and Captain Pinck Eaton & Captain Jacob Turner, & others; and that they arrived at, [p 34] Charleston, a few days before the Battle of Sullivan's Island. There they fell under the command of General Charles Lee. Shortly after they arrived here the Battle of Sullivan's Island took place and part of the Regiment was engaged in it but this Declarant was not. The declarant states, that the part of the Army to which he belonged, lay here during the summer and part of the fall; And after that proceeded to Savannah (Georgia); from thence they proceeded to Halifax County NC) - - and after serving his time two years & six months in the duties of his Office he returned home.

He further states that sometime in the year 1779 He was elected by a General Court Martial in the militia, in Halifax County, to the Command of a company of Cavalry for that County; and received the appointment conferred on him. His Colonel Commandant was by the name of John Branch, under Captain Brigadier General Allen Jones. He states that he was engaged in reconnoitering the British Lines at various times, and in active duty against the Tories -- always acting, under the orders of Colonel Branch from Brigadier General Jones. In the years 80 & 81 he commanded in eight tours of three months each, and had to recruit very often to keep

his company up. He states that in the latter part of the year 1781 just before the surrender of Cornwallis he was taken prisoner by a party of British & Tories, after having been wounded by a Sabre on the head. He was paroled, returned home, and the close of the war, October 1781, put a period to his services.

He has now stated his different services to the United States but will again mentioned them with precision, as follows Viz. His first Tour as a Wagon Master under Colonel Jethro Sumner, from February 1776 until August 1779 -- amounting to two years & six months. -- And from the time of his appointment to the command of the Cavalry in Halifax County NC as Captain under Colonel John Branch & Brigadier General Allen Jones -- from the [p 8] time he was elected to the rank of Captain until October 1781, amounting to two years service. The two campaigns added to together making in all four years and six months service, for which he claims a pension. He now again will respectfully, state that He has no documentary evidence and that, he knows of no person now living of the third Regiment and see Continental Line who has a personal knowledge of his services -- nor of the troops whom he commanded in Halifax County North Carolina. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the Agency of any State. There is no clergyman residing near him nor none that he can procure.
Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

S/ Edward Gwin, Clerk

S/ William Flewellin

S/ by Tho. A. Hawkins, D. C.

[Sam'l J. Nesbitt and John Morgan gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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Questions by the Court

1st Where and in what year were you born?

Ans: In Prince George County Virginia in 1754

2nd Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

Ans: It is now at my house in this County --

Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Answer I was living in Halifax County North Carolina I moved to Robertson County in this State and afterwards to Carroll County my place of abode

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.

Answer -- I volunteered as before stated and joined the third Regiment of the North Carolina Continental line commanded by Colonel Jethro Sumner afterwards General Sumner the Regular Officers were 1st William Alston the Lieutenant Colonel -- the Major was __ Lockhart, the Captains now recollected were Eaton Brinkley and Turner -- in his second tour of service he States that his orders proceeded from John Branch the Colonel of the County of Halifax the same being communicated to this Declarant from the commanding General through him -- the Circumstances of my service are fully detailed in the body of this Declaration --

Attest

S/ Wm Flewellin

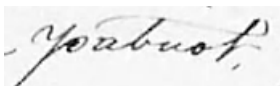
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Additional Amendment, to the application of William Flewellin, an applicant for a Pension, under the act of Congress passed June 7th, 1832:

State of Tennessee Carroll County

On this 13th day of March A.D. 1834 personally appeared before me Amos Lewis, an acting Justice of the Peace in and for the County and State aforesaid William Flewellin, an applicant for a Pension, under the Act of Congress of June 7, 1832, who being first duly sworn, deposeth, and saith:

That, in order to facilitate the War Department, in the investigation of his claim, and in obedience to instructions received from said Department; by JL Edwards, Commissioner of Pensions, making the requisition, "that unless the applicant, can prove that he served as Captain and Wagon Master he can only be allowed for pay of a private," he will respectfully state, that knowing of no person, at the time as he imagined living, by whom he could prove, "his service, and the time and manner of his leaving the same, as well as the Regiment, company and line, to which he belonged," -- except, an aged yoabuo¹, of the Revolutionary War, and who belonged to the same Regiment to which this affiant belonged, Ethebred Dance,² by name who resided in the State of North Carolina, Ashe County, and with whom this affiant had corresponded since the Revolutionary War and John Cone, a resident now, of Robertson County, of this State, who was, at the time when this applicant was attached to General Sumner's Regiment as Wagon Master a resident of Halifax County North Carolina; That immediately upon his receiving the communication of the War Department, he addressed a Letter to Ethelred Dance, Ashe County North Carolina requesting his affidavit, as to his knowledge of affiant's services, in the revolutionary war, in General Jethro Sumner's Regiment 3rd North Carolina Continental Line to which said Dance belonged; that after a lapse of some weeks he Received an answer, in said Letter, from Henry Dance, son, to the said Ethelred Dance, stating that his father had been dead 9 or 10 years. Also, that his Agent Jesse Benton Junior has addressed a Letter to Clerk of Ashe County Court, making inquiries, about Ethelred Dance, and to procure his affidavit; and that A. Whitfield the clerk of Ashe County Court stated, in answer to said Letter that said Ethelred Dance was dead. This affiant hereby annexes those letters to him from Henry Dance, marked exhibit A. & B. And the letter from A. Whitfield to his Agent "Jesse Benton Junior or William Flewellin," marked as B. Thus this affiant is unfortunately precluded from the testimony of Ethelred Dance who was one of his fellow soldiers, and who served in the same tour of affiant. He further states that he has received the Affidavit of John Come properly authenticated as to his services in General Sumner's Regiment of North Carolina Continental Line, which is hereto appended. This affiant further states that he again addressed a Letter by his Agent Jesse Benton Junior to John Hutchinson Robertson County Tennessee, making a further inquiries of John Cone as to the affiant's services as Captain of a volunteer Company of mounted men in Halifax County North Carolina in the year 1779, 80 & 81 under the orders of Colonel John Branch of said County and Brigadier General Allen Jones. He states that he has since received an answer from John Hutchinson and John Cone who states that he always understood from information, that said affiant was in service as Captain; but said Cone has not sent his affidavit, owing as affiant presumes to the Rule of the War Department which says "That the witness is required to set forth in his affidavit the time of claimant's entering the service, and the

¹ 

² Sic, [Etheldred Dance W19148](#)

time and manner of his leaving the same" -- which Rule affiant apprised said Cone of in his Letter to John Hutchinson. Said letter is hereto appended as marked [indecipherable word] exhibit C. This affiant further states that he has used his best endeavors to procure testimony to prove his services in the Revolutionary War, and from the information of the Death of Ethelred Dance he is precluded from his testimony, which he mainly relied on; and that he now knows of no person, living by whom he can prove his services. And further this deponent saith not. Sworn to and subscribed before me this 13th day of March A.D. 1834.
S/ Amos Lewis, JP

S/ Wm Flewellin

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State of Tennessee Robertson County

Personally appeared before me John Hutchinson a Justice of the peace in & for the County aforesaid John Cone a resident Citizen of said County who being first duly sworn depose and say that he resided in the County of Halifax and State of North Carolina in the year 1776, 1777 & 1778 and that he was personally acquainted with William Flewellin who resided in that County & State in the year 1776 and previous thereto and that to his knowledge the said William Flewellin entered the service of the United States in the Revolutionary War that he cannot state positively that time that he entered the service but from the best of his recollection he has reason to believe that he entered the service in the early part of the year 1776 in Halifax County North Carolina in the third Regiment of North Carolina Continental line under General Jethro Sumner and that said Flewellin was appointed by Colonel Nicholas Long of said Regiment Wagon Master to the same said Flewellin as I understood was enlisted for 2 1/2 years and that said Flewellin served a good portion of said time but what length of time precisely he served he cannot recollect he recollects that said Flewellin was permitted honorably to return home to Halifax County North Carolina and he believes served as much as 18 months and perhaps longer but cannot say in the positive and that said Flewellin was believed to be a true friend to his Country and further this deponent saith not --

Sworn to & subscribed or me this 21 December 1833

S/ John Cone

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Cone". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the printed name "S/ John Cone".

S/ John Hutchinson, JP

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 2 years in the North Carolina Continental line.]