

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Joshua Ford S3368

f18GA

Transcribed by Will Graves

1/19/09 rev'd 3/9/15

[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.]

State of Tennessee Rutherford County: Circuit Court all which Term 1832

On this 4th day of October 1832 before James C. Mitchell one of the judges of the Circuit Courts in & for the State of Tennessee now sitting for said County of Rutherford at Murfreesborough, personally appeared in open Court Joshua Ford, a resident of said County of Rutherford & State of Tennessee, aged about 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 act of Congress passed June 7th, 1832.

Applicant entered the service of the United States in Richmond County, Georgia, in the fall of 1777 as well as he can now remember, the precise time he cannot state, in a company of about 100 men under Capt. Blair, Daniel Marshall Lieut. They marched to Mr. Lane's ponds, afterwards called Newsom's in Wilkes County, Georgia against the Indians. When we arrived at the ponds, he saw the bodies of 6 or 7 Indians, & there was said to be more, which had been killed a few days before by a party of Whigs. Blair's Company built a Fort a few days before a few miles from the ponds on a Sabbath day. They remained there several weeks & returned to their homes without any skirmish. It was understood that they were called home by Col. Few [Benjamin Few] to go against the British & Tories at Savannah. The men were allowed to return to their homes merely to get clean clothes & provisions. In 2 or 3 days they again rendezvoused on a hill near Capt. Stump's in Richmond County to the number of about 600 commanded by Col. Few. There was no acting Major as he recollects. He lived on the dividing line between the companies of Captains Phelps & Stump which created a contention between them to which he belonged. He served part of the time under one & part under the other of these Captains. The Lieut. in Phelps Company was Cunningham or Cummins. From the place of rendezvous, they marched to Augusta, by the Indian spring thence on the Main road towards Savannah, crossing the creek made by the Indian springs about 3 miles from Augusta where they halted a day & 2 nights, & repaired some of the gun locks. At Burke County Court house they overtook Lieut. Col. Ingram with about 200 men who had been detached before by Col. Few. They remained there expecting reinforcements, none came, & in about 2 weeks they were attacked just at day light by a detachment of the enemy from Savannah. The Detachment was repulsed, but the Whigs made a hasty retreat the same evening, having lost 5 or 6 men. They were pursued to Augusta, & had some light skirmishing on the way & at that place. Georgia was then considered a conquered country.¹ Few's Regiment was broken up and dispersed. Many went to their homes,

¹ Lt. Col. Archibald Campbell commanded a British force which took savanna Georgia on December 29, 1778. He then marched his troops up to Augusta and took possession of that town but That only a short time before marching

but dare not remain there, & continue true to the American cause. Applicant returned to his father's, but remained there only a few minutes. He then went on horseback, and met with about 50 of his fellow soldiers at Wrightsborough [Wrightborough] in Wilkes County, he thinks in February or March 1778. They called themselves refugees. They were sometimes in the settled country, & sometimes in the mountains. They were successfully commanded by Wooten, Garnett, Alexander & others whose names are not now remembered, as circumstances allow. They were often scattered in small companies, sometimes no more than 2 or 3 together. Applicant continued in this situation, sometimes routing the Tories, & sometimes routed by them, but without any skirmish worth naming, until the spring of 1780 as well as he now remembers, when he went with 5 or 6 others to Augusta where they joined the Army then employed in the siege of that place [May 22-June 6, 1781]. General Twiggs [John Twiggs]² was said to be the chief commander of the militia, but applicant remembers only to the seen Col. Elijah Clarke. He was in the company commanded by Capt. Alexander who was the same that was leader to his party of refugees. The militia were stationed on the South side of Fort Brown [sic, Fort Cornwallis] & the regulars on the North side of it. The siege lasted about 8 weeks.³ The militia raised batteries 25 or 30 feet high, mounted cannon upon them, & in a few days compelled the Fort to surrender. The night before the surrender, the enemy threw out their power & put fire to it. The prisoners marched out & stacked their arms, between a line of militia on one side, & a line of regulars on the other. They were then marched to Grayson's Fort [sic, Grierson's Fort] about 1/4 mile off, & there guarded. On the same day one James Alexander, brother to the Capt., shot Grayson [sic, Col. James Grierson] did while he was eating his dinner in the Fort, as was said & understood among the soldiers. It was said that Grayson was a very unprincipled Tory, that he had given up several Whigs to the Indians to massacre, & that he had once taken James Alexander & intended to use him in like manner, but Alexander made his escape. He also escaped when he killed Grayson. The next day Col. Clarke with part of the militia started up the country. Alexander's Company, in which applicant served, parted with the rest of Clarke's forces about 3 miles from Augusta, & went to the neighborhood of Wrightsborough, where they were permitted to return each to his home, but to rendezvous again in a few days. They did so to the number of about 100 men. They unanimously chose Robert Spurlock, Capt. & Josiah Avan, Lieut.. They were employed in guarding the frontiers against the Indians & Tories. While thus employed, a party of the enemy came in the night & shot their sentinel. Applicant with about 20 others headed by Col. Josias Dun [sic, Josiah Dunn?] the next day pursued the enemy, & Dunn put fire to one or 2 houses of the Tories. Shortly after, a detachment brought in 5 or 6 Tories some with their families, who had been among the Indians. One attempted to escape by running & was shot. The Tories had some Negroes, horses & other property with them which was sold to the soldiers, but the greater part of the property was returned to them on their proving to be pretty clever fellows. Not long after this affair, applicant with about 30 others under Capt. Spurlock were detached to join forces collecting at Briar Creek below Augusta to aid in retaking Savannah. When they got to Briar Creek they heard that Savannah had surrendered to the Americans & French & returned to the balance of their company in Wilkes County where they

back to Savannah. The events being described by the veteran appeared to me to be related to these events.

² There is no evidence that John Twiggs but dissipated in the siege of Augusta. The primary Whig officers involved in that engagement were Andrew Pickens, Henry Lee [Henry "Light horse Harry" Lee] and Elijah Clarke.

³ The applicant appears to be describing his experience at the second siege of Augusta (May 22-June 5, 1781) although there had been an earlier, unsuccessful siege led by Elijah Clarke in September 1780. Brown's Fort [also known as Fort Cornwallis] and Fort Grierson were not taken until the second siege.

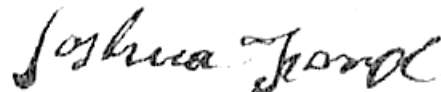
<http://gaz.jrshelby.com/fortcornwallis.htm>

continued to guard the frontiers until some time after they had learned that Cornwallis had been taken [October 19, 1781]. Applicant was in a detachment of about 100 men from Capt. Spurlock's & Alexander's Companies, commanded by Capt. Jackson, in the pursuit of some Indians who had killed a man in the neighborhood by the name of Harry Golden. They overtook them on the west bank of the Oconee River where Milledgeville [Milledgeville] now stands, as he has since been told. They killed 8 or 10, took one prisoner & a number of horses. The prisoner was shot. This affair was after Cornwallis was taken. They continued to guard the frontiers till the spring of 1782. From the time applicant first entered the service of the United States to the Spring of 1782, he was never at home more than a few days at a time. He served always as a volunteer, never had any written discharges & knows of no person now living by whom he can make direct proof of his Services in the revolution. He refers to the Rev. John Warren, Henry Trott Esquire, Charles Parks, Benjamin Creach, Major Lewis Bivins, William Hunt, & Chapman Reeves his neighbors, who will testify as to his character for veracity & their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolutionary war.

Applicant was born in Maryland near Baltimore in the year 1756 as he has been told by an older brother who had his father's record of their ages. He has no record of his age & does not remember ever to have seen one. His father moved from Maryland to North Carolina, thence to South Carolina on the Savannah River in what is now called Edgefield district when he was about 8 or 10 years old where he lived one or 2 years. Thence about 18 miles over in Georgia in Richmond County where he resided with his father when he entered the revolutionary service. Near the end of the war his father moved to Wilkes County, Georgia, resided there one year & returned to his place in Richmond County. He made his father's house his home until he left Wilkes County. After that till his discharge from service he considered his home at his sister Miller's in Wilkes County. He then lived with his father 3 or 4 years in Richmond County. He then married in Edgefield district South Carolina where he resided till about the year 1807. Hence he moved to Barron County Kentucky, lived there 3 years, then moved to Sumner County Tennessee, lived there 2 years, thence moved to Rutherford County, Tennessee, lived in this County 2 years, moved then back to Barron County Kentucky, lived there 2 years, moved then back to Sumner County (Tennessee), lived there 2 years Thence back to Rutherford County where he has ever since resided. 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 the agency of any State.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ Joshua Ford



S/ Wm Ledbetter, Clk

[John Warren, a clergyman & Henry Trott gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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And the said John Warren⁴ further certifies that he has been acquainted with the above applicant about 15 years, that he has always believed him to be a soldier of the revolution; that he the said Warren was among the regulars at the siege of Augusta or Fort Brown spoken of in applicant's declaration, & from various conversations with applicant, he is fully of the opinion that he was at

⁴ [John Warren S3458](#)

the siege as he has stated above in his declaration.

S/ Jon Warren

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jon Warren". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "S/ Jon Warren".

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State of Tennessee Rutherford County Circuit Court April Term 1833

On this first day of April 1833, before me James C. Mitchell one of the judges of the circuit Courts in & for the State of Tennessee, now sitting for the County of Rutherford, personally appeared in open Court Joshua Ford who being duly sworn, deposed & saith, that by reason of old age, & 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 & in the following grades. For one month I served as a private in Capt. Blair's company, Daniel Marshall Lieut.; For two months I served as a private under Col. Few, part of the time in the company commanded by Capt. Phelps & part of the company commanded by Capt. Stump; For eight weeks I served as a private in Capt. Alexander's Company, being the campaign in which Augusta was besieged; For twenty months I served as a private in Capt. Spurlock's Company as an Indian spy. I was always considered as belonging to Spurlock's company, but was occasionally detached under other officers as stated in my original declaration. I hereby further declare that I have no documentary evidence and know of none such by which to prove my service as a soldier in the revolution, & that I know of no person whose testimony I can procure, who can testify to my service.

Subscribed & sworn to before me this 1 April 1833.

S/ Joshua Ford

S/ William Ledbetter, clerk

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