

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Richard Whitaker S3596

f17NC

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 Lincoln County:

On this 16th day of October in the year of our Lord 1832 personally appeared in open Court before T H Shaw, Jacob E. Waggon Gentlemen Justices of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for the County and State aforesaid now sitting Richard Whitaker a resident of the County of Lincoln and State of Tennessee aged he believes seventy 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.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. He volunteered in Halifax County State of North Carolina this applicant cannot say positively what year he entered the Service as at that time he was young and illiterate and did not paid that attention to the year and time that he would have done had he been older and literate for the term of three years his Captain was Richard Kerney his Lieutenant was Robert Brantley his Ensign was John Turner -- his Colonel was Stephen Kerney afterwards General Kerney Jesse Powell was Major at the time this applicant entered the service he was living in Halifax County North Carolina they marched through several counties in the State of North Carolina this applicant cannot now recollect all of the names of those Counties they marched through they were sent to several little towns in North Carolina as spies to watch and see if they could learn the movement of the British and also as guards to keep the British from taken [taking] possession of said towns. They marched through almost every part of the State of North Carolina in pursuit of the Tories for the Tories at that time were very troublesome and were doing a great deal of mischief in the State of North Carolina. This applicant states that he was in several Tory skirmishes and continued to chase them and watch for the British until his term of service expired and about the time his term expired the war broke up he never received any written discharge for the term he served. This applicant says that he was born in Halifax County North Carolina he believes from the best information it was in the year 1762 he has no record of his age. After the war he moved to Rowan County North Carolina where he lived until he moved to Lincoln County Tennessee where he now lives. And that he has no documentary evidence. And that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service.

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 in the United States.

He is known in his present neighborhood to the Reverend Georgia Martin, Thomas

Gartheridge [?], Ambrose Timmons & William Timmons who can testify as to his character for veracity and of their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution.
Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Richard Whitaker, X his mark

[Cumberland Wilson, a clergyman, and Robert Buchanan gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

State of Tennessee Lincoln County: Personally appeared before me George W. Jones an acting Justice of the peace for the County and State aforesaid Richard Whitaker a resident of the County and State aforesaid for the purpose of amending his declaration for a pension heretofore made by him wherein the War Department has adjudged it insufficient places name on the pension roll who being first duly sworn according to law deposeth and saith that he volunteered in Halifax North Carolina for the term of three years in the latter part of the month of March 1781 it was a few weeks after the great battle that was fought at Guilford N.C. they [the] troops to which he belonged were raised to join the American Army and the commander of the American forces had determined to follow the British and wanted all the force that could be raised they were ordered to parade instantly at Brantley's Tavern in the lower part of Halifax County they did so and marched to Halifax Court house where they met a large body of the American troops the officers held a consultation and thought it would not be politic to carry all the Army out of North Carolina and leave the state defenseless they thought that it was likely that the British Army would divide and first [?] go on through the State of Virginia and a part would take a short excursion route and come back and occupy the ground they had left and so they would have the American Army surrounded the troops to which he belonged it was thought most advisable to send them about in the adjoining Counties (to wit) Halifax, Edgecombe, Nash & Guilford because they were all from these counties and were better acquainted with the general locality [?] of that section of the country and at this time it was a heavenly [?] harvest for the Tories and traitors to country all the men were from home and the women & children were left in a wretched condition and nothing to hope for but mercy from the unmerciful we marched as spies to Edgecombe County to see if we could learn the movements or the course the British had taken we remained there some time and ascertained that the British had gone out of the State news came that the Tories were playing a high handed gamon [gammon?] in Halifax County. They were ordered to march to Halifax County to suppress the Tories and to defend the women, children & property at that time the Tories were robbing, killing and stealing doing more serious mischief to the country than [than] the British when their Army arrived at Halifax they found it full of Tories they had several skirmishes they chased them and whipped and drove them out of that County news came that the Tories were playing the same game in Edgecombe we were ordered there and when we arrived we found a large company of them we commenced fire against, chased them all around the County a good many of our men wounded we had several Battles but thank God we were always to [too] Jolly [?] for the rascals. By the time we got them quiet we learned that they were in Nash & Guilford Counties we had orders to march there we done so and found [them] at their old trick my officers then concluded to take up the line of march and to keep traveling and pursuing the Tories until we killed them or subdued them we kept continually marching first from one County to the others and then back and around until the close of the war. The Tories soon left the land after that joyful news was heard I served my term out which was three years and was discharged in the latter part of March or first of April 1784 as to the officers whom I served under said my declaration and that during the above named three years this affiant was actual in the field and was not employed in any civil pursuit. The reason

why his recollection is better now than when he made his declaration is that he talked with men who were in the revolution and reflected on the Struggles for liberty at the Battles that were fought which he has ascertained the year the [they] were fought in.

He said he has served his country three years on the field for which services he claims a pension.

Sworn to & subscribed before me this 27th of March 1833

S/ G. W. Jones, JP

S/ Richard Whitaker, X his mark

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