

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Witherspoon S3610

Transcribed by Will Graves

f25NC

rev'd 1/24/11 & 1/15/22

[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' or 'undeciphered' 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. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

State of Tennessee, Wayne County: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions: September Term 1832

On this 25th day of September 1832 personally appeared in open court before the Justices of said County now in session, John Witherspoon, a resident of Wayne County aforesaid and state of Tennessee aged 69 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 7, 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated; under Benjamin Cleveland, Colonel; Micajor Lewis [sic, Micajah Lewis?], Major; Captain Moses Guess, this was first tour. 2nd [tour]: Colonel Cleveland as above stated, Major Lewis, the same as above stated, Captain Joel Lewis (who died at Nashville, Tennessee), Lieut. Lawson, Col Campbell [William Campbell], Col Sevier [John Sevier], Col Shelby [Isaac Shelby], Col. Williams [James Williams]. I entered the service in the month of July the latter part in 1780 in the State of North Carolina, County of Wilkes; from there we marched to the Ramsour's Mill in the state aforesaid. The battle was over before we got there. There we joined General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford]; from thence I returned home and then I was marched by our Beverly who took command of us as a Captain but was not commissioned. He marched us to Burke County where we were taken under the command of Major McDowell [Joseph McDowell]; from thence we were marched near the Cowpens where we joined Col Pickens of South Carolina, Genl Morgan, commanded here; I was in the battle at this place. Colonel Howard [John Eager Howard] commanded the Maryland line at this place. From here I returned home for some clothes and went under Captain Joel Lewis from which I was marched to the neighborhood of Hillsboro & joined General Pickens [Andrew Pickens] & Col Lee [Henry Lee, Light Horse Harry Lee]; from here we went to the Haw fields where we defeated the Tories under Colonel Piles [Doctor John Pyle]; from thence I went under Captain Simmons as a volunteer to reconnoiter the British at Hillsboro. We charged on the pickets at Hart's mill near Hillsboro. We took the whole of the grinding & guard prisoners and on the next day I joined Captain Lewis my former Captain. In a few days, we marched to Weitzel's mill on the Reedy fork. Here we attacked part of Lord Cornwallis' Army who was commanded by Col Webster. We were commanded by Col Arthur Williams [sic, Otho Williams] who acted as general in place of Morgan [Daniel Morgan] who was sick. Here I was wounded by a sword of a British dragoon. Major Lewis was here mortally wounded & died the same night after being wounded. From here we marched to the High Rock part of New River. Here we had a [?]. From here we marched to the Shallow Ford on the Yadkin River under General Pickens for the purpose of breaking up some Tories. From thence I returned home to get some clothes and refreshments. Then I joined Captain Gordon & David Witherspoon Lieutenant, Silas Lumpkins Ensign. From here we marched to Camden in the State of South Carolina under the command of Col Locke. Near this

place we joined General Greene [Nathanael Greene]. After this I was put under one Colonel De Malmedy [Francis de Malmedy, Marquis of Bretagne], a Frenchman. I went out on a scout one or two days [before?] the battle of the Eutaw Springs [September 8, 1781]. Here I remained in the Army until I was discharged. I served in all about 15 months & returned home to Wilkes County aforesaid where I remained until the fall of the year 1793 or '94 & from thence I moved to the neighborhood of Nashville, Tennessee & there I remained in the year 1827. I removed to Wayne County in said State where I now remain. I know of no person by whom I can prove the above services & I have no documentary evidence to establish the same. I was born in the state of Pennsylvania, 14 October 1763. I have a record of it in my Bible. I refer to William Barnett & John Craven as to veracity & I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state or territory.

S/John Witherspoon



Sworn to & subscribed in open court the date first above written.

Test: S/ William Burnett, Clerk

[William Barrett & John A. Criner, William Copeland gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

State of Tennessee Wayne County: Court of Pleas Quarter sessions June term 1833

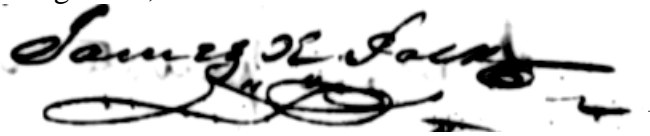
Be it remembered that on this the 5th June 1833 John Witherspoon came into open court and made the following declaration as an amendment to his former declaration heretofore made to wit on the 25th September 1832 and prays that this may be attached to the same & [ink blot] with the original transmitted to the War Department [ink blot] the service as a private soldier [ink blot] after I entered the service I was appointed by Captain Joseph Lewis a Corporal in the Company & in a short period after this I was appointed a Sergeant, in the same Company and served out a tour of three months, I served under Captain Beverly & the above named Lewis a second Tour of four months the time I was under the command of each I cannot precisely state this term of service I was a private soldier, I also served a tower [sic tour] of three months under Captain Guess as a private soldier, I also serve a tower of 5 months as a private soldier under Captain Alexander Gordon in Colonel Locke's Regiment, & transferred to de Malbery [sic, Malmedy's] Regiment. I refer to William B. Lewis, Auditor, the Honorable Hugh L White, Honorable Felix Grundy, Honorable John Bell, Honorable James K Polk, & to the President of the United States who are all well acquainted with him.

S/ John Witherspoon

Sworn to and subscribed in open Court June 5th, 1833

Test: S/ William Barnett, Clerk

[James K Polk certified on August 15, 1833 that William Barnett was the clerk of Wayne



County, Tennessee court.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$60 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 18 months service as a private in the North Carolina militia.]