

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of John Secrest S3875

fn23NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 2/3/11

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. Folks are free to make non-commercial use this transcript in any manner they may see fit, but please extend the courtesy of acknowledging the transcriber—besides, if it turns out the transcript contains mistakes, the resulting embarrassment will fall on the transcriber. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading fails to catch all misinterpretations. I welcome and encourage folks to call those and any other errors to my attention.]

[fn p. 5]

State of Tennessee, Williamson County

On this 9<sup>th</sup> day of October, 1832, personally appeared before us Nicholas Perkins, Jabez Owens and Wright Stanley, Justices of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for Williamson County, Tennessee, now sitting, John Secrest a resident of said county and state aged 75 years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of an Act of Congress passed on June 7<sup>th</sup>, 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated: I volunteered about the month of March, 1780, a short time before Charleston fell into the possession of the British, while residing in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, and in Capt. Neal Morrison's company, which was attached to Col. Hagan's regiment. After rendezvousing at Charlotte in Mecklenburg County we marched from that place by Col. Hagan to the Six Mile Creek where we lay a short time. Thence we were marched to the Waxhaw Creek; the British lay at Major Bartley's [name partially obstructed] about 15 miles distant from our camp under Col. Tarlton [sic, Banastre Tarleton]. While we lay here we were patrolling the whole time watching the maneuvers of the British. Our army amounted to between 3 and 4 hundred men. After some maneuvering Tarleton crossed over on the west side of the Catawby [sic, Catawba River] and took up his march for Guilford Courthouse about which time my tour of three months expired for which I got a discharge signed by Col. Hagan, which discharge is lost. I returned home and immediately volunteered into Capt. Polk's company of horse troops under Major Graham and Col. Smith. I continued in this scouting until about the month of December 1780. The Tories in Mecklenburg and the adjoining Counties were continually ravaging the country and it required active forces to keep them down. During this time I was under Capt. Foster, and we had several skirmishes with them. We were some times in South Carolina nearly as low down as Camden and near the British.

In December, 1780 while residing in the County of Mecklenburg I was drafted to serve a three month tour. I entered Capt. Foster's company. I do not recollect the regiment to which this company was attached, General Polk commanded us. He marched us over into South Carolina we passed through Lancaster County and encamped at Achmin's [sic, Ancrum's]<sup>1</sup> place on the Congaree river where Wade Hampton lived. The British lay on the opposite side of the river and they being much superior to us we could only watch their maneuvers, and throw every obstruction possible in their way. We remained at this place until my three month tour expired and I received a discharge which is lost. I then returned home and volunteered into Capt. Foster's scouting company in which I was in several slight skirmishes

---

1 <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/ancrum.htm>

with the Tories and scouting parties of the British. I was sometimes under Capt. Foster and sometimes under Capt. Oliver Wiley. It was under the latter in a skirmish with the Tories that I received a rifle ball in my right breast, which striking against my breast bone and lodged a few inches below, where it remains to this day. I remained in these scouting parties until Cornwallis having maneuvered in Virginia marched his forces towards Yorktown, there was a call for men to aid in the attack which was expected to be made on the British, when about the month of July I volunteered in Capt. Charles Polk's company of horsemen and marched to Col. Smith's troops, Joseph Graham was Major. We marched from Mecklenburg on towards Salisbury leaving Salisbury to the left going down to Cross Creek, thence to Wilmington which was then in possession of the British. We encamped near the town. On the opposite side of the river there was a body of our militia infantry posted. While at this place a party of about forty or fifty men, including myself, under Capt. Polk were sent out against a body of Tories who lay near the Brown Marsh<sup>2</sup> and they killed one man and my horse. I returned to Wilmington, soon after arriving there my tour of three months expired and about the same time the news of Cornwallis' defeat and surrender arrived and the British in Wilmington getting through left the place in the night and the militia entered Wilmington. I got my discharge which with the other two is lost. This was some time after the middle of October 1781, and consequently it was about the month of July in that year I volunteered for my last three month tour. I was born in Culpeper County, Virginia. Three years afterwards my father with his family including me moved to Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, where I lived until 1816 when leaving Mecklenburg I settled in Williamson County, Tennessee where I have lived ever since and yet live. I have no record of my age, other than that in my mother's bible which I presume is in North Carolina. I have no documentary evidence of my services except those above named which are lost. I was born in the year 1758. I know of no persons living except David Ray<sup>3</sup> now in North Carolina, and Robert Cook<sup>4</sup> now in Kentucky and Aaron Wilson, Robert Ausburn<sup>5</sup> of William[word cut off] of Maury County, Tennessee, who can prove my services, all of whom served the third tour of three months. Who saw me while in the service and were with me in the expedition against the Tories where my horse was killed. I am acquainted with Thomas L. Douglass, Robert Ausburn & Dickson McCloud who can certify to my character as having been reputed a soldier of the Revolution and as to my veracity.

From the time I first entered the service, in March, 1780 until my third tour was out in October, 1781 I was continually in the service. There were five or six months between the expiration of my first three month tour, during which interval I was serving in the scouting parties as above mentioned. At the expiration of my drafted tour, I entered the scouting parties again, and continued in them three or four months, as above stated when I volunteered my third and last tour of three months.

I hereby relinquish every claim to a pension or annuity whatever, except the present and declare my name is not on the Pension Roll of any agency of any state.

S/ John Secrest

Sworn to in open court 9<sup>th</sup> October 1832.

S/ Thos Hardimon, Clerk

[Thomas L. Douglas and Dickson C. McCloud, clergymen gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

The Amended Declaration of John Secrest for Pension  
State of Tennessee, Williamson County

On this 13<sup>th</sup> day of May A.D. 1833 personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of

---

2 <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/brownmarsh.htm>

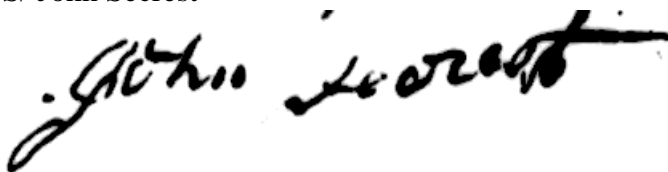
3 Sic, [David Rea S7382](#)

4 [Robert Cook S30963](#)

5 Sic, [Robert Osborne W892](#)

the peace for the County aforesaid in the State aforesaid John Secrest a resident of said County who being first duly sworn deposeth and saith that from old age and 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 and in the following grades that is to say in the first tour mentioned in my declaration (1) For three months I served as a private volunteer. In the second tour mentioned in my declaration commencing soon after the end of my first tour and ending immediately before I was drafted, (2) For five months he served as a private volunteer. In the third Tour mentioned in my declaration, (3) For three months he served as a private drafted [sic]. In the fourth tour mentioned in my declaration (4) For three months served as a private volunteer. In the fifth and last tour mentioned in my declaration (5) For three months I served as a private volunteer making in all 17 months service and for such service I claim a pension. (I know of no other officers who were with the troops where I served except those mentioned in my original declaration.)

S/ John Secrest

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Secrest". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Sworn & subscribed before me the 13<sup>th</sup> May 1833.

S/ H. Maury, JP

[fn p. 20]

I Robert Ausburn do hereby certify that I have been appointed with John Secrest for 50 years and saw him while in the service while under Col. Smith in the horse company. I also served with him in the Wilmington campaign and served a three months tour with him but were with different captains. My Captain was James Ausburn and he [was] in Capt. Charles Polk's horse Troops. I believe him to be a man of veracity and know he was a brave soldier. Sworn to and subscribed this day and year aforesaid.

Sworn to in open court October 9, 1832.

S/ Robert Ausburn, X his mark

S/ Thos. Hardimon

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$64.16 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 8 months service as a private in the infantry and 9 months service as a private in the cavalry in North Carolina service.]