

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Simon S. Stepto (Stipto, Steptoe) S3992

f11NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

3/11/11: rev'd 10/2/21

[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 8<sup>th</sup> 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, Humphreys County

On this 22nd [unclear, could be 27th] day of October 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions for the County aforesaid, Simon S Stepto aged seventy two years who being first duly sworn according to law do on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. That in the year 1778 when a Citizen of Halifax County in the State of North Carolina, entered the service of the United States as a volunteer in Captain Hales [sic, Jonathan Hale's] Company under the command of Colonel Thomas Eaton and Colonel Etherton [sic, Col. Edwin Ethington?] of said State of North Carolina and marched to the City of Charleston in the State of South Carolina, and then in a few days to Augusta in Georgia, and then also in a few days started to Savannah when on the way at the mouth of Brier Creek had an engagement with the British and were defeated,<sup>1</sup> at this defeat we were under the Command of General Ash [sic, John Ashe] – That his term of Service of five months having expired (the time he volunteered for) he returned home. That in the year 1780 he was drafted and entered the service for a three months Tour and was attached to and served in Captain Dickson's [sic, Jesse Dixon's] Company under the command of Colonel John Branch of the North Carolina militia and was marched to a place called New Providence about seven or eight miles from Rutledge's Mills [sic, Rugeley's Mills] during which time Colonel Washington [William Washington] of the Dragoons took said mills<sup>2</sup> by stratagem with a pine log, his term of service having expired he was discharged and returned home.

In the month of March 1781 he again entered the service as a volunteer for a two months Tour in Captain Samuel Crowell's Company under the command of Colonel Reed [sic, James Read] of the North Carolina State Militia and was marched to and was in the battle of Guilford<sup>3</sup> and after he served his time for which he volunteered he was discharged and he returned home. In the month of October following he entered the service as a volunteer in the State Troops of North Carolina in Captain Howell Tatum's Company, was marched to Bleauford's Bridge [Buford's Bridge]<sup>4</sup> and remained in service until after Lord Cornwallis was taken [Yorktown,

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<sup>1</sup> Briar Creek March 3, 1779 <http://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/790304-briar-creek/>

<sup>2</sup> December 4, 1780 [https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_rugeley\\_mills\\_2.html](https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_rugeley_mills_2.html)

<sup>3</sup> March 15, 1781 [https://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution\\_battle\\_of\\_guilford\\_courthouse.html](https://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_guilford_courthouse.html)

<sup>4</sup> J D Lewis notes: "The bridge was a recently constructed "swing bridge" that was built by a man named Mr. Buford in the early 1770s. But, by the late 1770s, it had been purchased by a Mr. Heron and everyone in the vicinity knew it as Heron's Bridge - primarily because he strengthened it considerably and made it much more reliable. But, the "old

October 19, 1781. That he received Regular discharges from service each time but that they are long since lost or destroyed and that he has no documentary evidence in his possession whereby he can prove his service nor does he know of any living witness or person whose testimony he can procure at this time to testify of his service. 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 any Agency of any State.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year before written.

Test S/ D. P. Hudson, Clerk

S/Simon S Stepto, X his mark

Questions propounded by the Court

Q. 1<sup>st</sup> Where and in what year were you born?

Ans. I was born in Dinwiddie County in the State of Virginia in the year 1761

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

Ans. I have the Record of my age at home

3<sup>rd</sup> Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Ans. I lived in Halifax County North Carolina when I was called into service. Since the Revolution I have lived in the State of Georgia for 20 years (in Burke County) from thence moved to the State of Tennessee in Sumner County, from thence I moved to Humphreys County Tennessee where I have lived ever since being about 18 years.

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

Ans. The first time I was drafted, the second time drafted & twice I was a volunteer.

5<sup>th</sup> 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. Regular Officers, except Captain Tatum, Lieutenant Hart – which had been Regular officers but afterward while I was a volunteer commanded as militia officers. I cannot recollect the names of any of the Regiments.

6<sup>th</sup> Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

Ans. I received regular discharges from each Tour, and sold them shortly afterwards. I think I sold one of them to Colonel Bradford, the others I have forgotten.

7<sup>th</sup> 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. John McSwine [[John McSwain?], Joshua Williams, John Thompson, John Bracket and many others

[Barton Coats, a clergyman, and John Thompson gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Note: In his attestation of the documents in this file, the County Clerk referred to the veteran as "Simon Steptoe."]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$33.33 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 10 months service as a private in the North Carolina militia.]

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timers" still called it Buford's Bridge." [https://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution\\_herons\\_bridge.html](https://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_herons_bridge.html)