

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Abraham Reed S4052

Transcribed by Will Graves

f18NC [sic, VA]<sup>1</sup>

rev'd 11/18/08 & 8/28/17

[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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[p 4]

State of Tennessee, Monroe County

On the 18<sup>th</sup> day of September 1832 personally appeared Abraham Reed in open Court, before the Justices of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions now setting, said Reed being a resident of said County of Monroe Tennessee & aged 77 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 in the year 1777 he moved from Campbell County Virginia to Clinch River in Virginia. In 1778 (he thinks) he was drafted for one year by order of Colonel Arthur Campbell (he thinks) and marched with about 60 in Company under the command of Thomas Quirk (a Lieutenant if applicant remembers right) to the Main Army under the command of General George Washington stationed on Schuylkill [River] in Pennsylvania. The company he was in joined the 14<sup>th</sup> Virginia Regiment on its arrival at the Army. After remaining with the Army some time and being compelled to eat principally cod-fish and herrings, articles of food to which he was unaccustomed, and which he did not relish, he was taken with the Camp fever, and after being confined with it four or five weeks and greatly reduced, he was taken to the Yellow Spring hospital, where after being confined some time, his disease turned to the yellow jaundice; by which diseases he was not only greatly reduced, but, as he learned, he lost his reason for some time. He was confined at the hospital some months, but his memory was so much weakened by his sever illnesses which all thought would be fatal that he does not recollect what transpired as well as he should otherwise have been able to do. When he was able to march he and several others who had recovered from sickness, under \_\_\_\_ Reed marched to and joined the Army, which was stationed a considerable distance from the hospital at (as he thinks) White Plains, where he staid some length of time, and was then, if he recollects, marched to some place in New Jersey. He went through several towns, but cannot recollect their names. He was then marched, with the Army up the North River and the Army were engaged some time (he thinks) in making batteries on the North River, and there were also floating batteries on the River. After being some time towards the last of the winter of 1778 on the North River (where he recollects seeing General Putnam once) and at some other places which he cannot recollect, there was some occasion for him to go into active service; but his knee was so affected as to render him unable to march and he was sent to a hospital where his ~~knee~~ leg was blistered and after some weeks he became able to walk. About this time, being in the spring of 1779, his term of service (12

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<sup>1</sup> Since the veteran claimed that he initially entered the service in the state of Virginia, under the protocol used by the National Archives for indexing pension applications, this one should have been indexed with the Virginia veterans.

months) expired, he obtained his discharge and returned home. Applicant thinks, he was confined with sickness more than half the time for which he was drafted; which, all together with the circumstances of his mind being for some time deranged and his memory greatly weakened renders him unable to state facts as particularly as he otherwise might.

On the 24<sup>th</sup> day of May 1780 (in this date he is certain because he was planting corn and recollects asking if corn would do there so late) Applicant together with 60 or 70 other volunteered to go to the South to fight Colonel Ferguson's [sic, Major Patrick Ferguson's] Army. He was in no engagement till the battle of Kings Mountain [October 7, 1780], where he fought in Captain Daisey's [probably Capt. James Dysart's] Company (the one in which he volunteered) under the command of which of the Colonels he disremembers [sic], but he recollects that he marched up to the engagement in front between the two wings and fired either three or four rounds, and then he [illegible word, looks like "choked", could he intended "choked"?] his gun and went back to get another along the mountain from where the enemy had retreated. By the time he returned with a gun the enemy were stacking their arms and Ferguson was killed. His men then surrendered and we took them prisoners. After burying the killed, he marched with the Army having the prisoners under guard. Applicant drove a wagon containing the wounded for some distance, the balance of the way assisted in guarding the prisoners. To what place the prisoners were conveyed he disremembers. He then returned home. In this campaign he was engaged at least four months and three quarters.

About the last of February 1781 Applicant then living on the South fork of Holston [River] in Virginia, volunteered under what Captain he disremembers, under the command of Colonel William Campbell and was marched to General Greene's [Nathanael Greene's] Army where he and those with him ~~joined. Before Colonel Campbell~~ expected to join. At Renshower's Mill<sup>2</sup> Colonel Campbell with his men met with the British. Colonel Campbell having some hundred, and the British far more numerous. They met in an old field below the mill, and had a close engagement, in which applicant was engaged. In the morning of the day of this engagement Colonel Campbell came near marching his men into the line of the British, and applicant believes they were only saved by the intervention of a Company of Light Horse, belonging he supposes to General Greene's Army. When the Light horse intervened, Colonel Campbell's Army retreated, and as was said ran seven miles, and were much fatigued when the engagement in the evening came on. Applicant was not at the battle of Guilford [Guilford Court House, March 15, 1781]. In this campaign applicant does not know how long he was engaged but it could not have been less than one month. (In all 17 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> months).

He has lost the discharge he received at the expiration of his 12 months service, and he has no documentary evidence of any of his Services and he knows of no person by whom he can prove any service by him performed.

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.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Abraham Reed



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<sup>2</sup> Josh Howard points out that Reed's description of the events indicates that he is actually talking about the engagement at Weitzel's Mill (Wetzel's Mill, Whitesill's Mill etc., March 6, 1781), an action between American forces led by Col. Otho Williams and British forces under Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton. See, e.g. <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/weitzell.htm> & [http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution\\_battle\\_of\\_weitzells\\_mill.html](http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_weitzells_mill.html)

S/ Wm. L. Callaway, Clk

[Enoch M. Moore, a clergyman, and James Mason gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

State of Tennessee, Monroe County

Personally appeared this 15<sup>th</sup> May 1833 before the Subscriber, an Acting Justice of the Peace for Monroe County, Tennessee, Abraham Reed, who being first duly sworn according to law, deposed and saith that he is the identical Abraham Reed who made the foregoing Declaration, before the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions on September 18<sup>th</sup>, 1832, to which he makes the following:

Amendment

That he was born in Bedford County Virginia in August 1755. He has no record of his age, and never had one. The first time he went into service – being drafted – he lived on Clinch River in Virginia. The second time – when he volunteered he lived on Holston [River] in Virginia. He remained on Holston in Virginia one year after the battle of Kings Mountain, when he moved to Knoxville, where he lived till eight years ago, when he moved to this County where he now resides.

He received a discharge for the first term of service – he forgets by whom signed – which is lost. For the second term he received none.

The following persons are at present his neighbors and can testify as to his veracity and their belief in his services as a soldier of the Revolution – Enoch Moore – Jeremiah Jack – William Mason – James Mason & William Rogers.

Sworn to & subscribed before me the day and year above last written.

S/ Abraham Reed

S/ Preston Starrill, Justice of the Peace

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$59.10 [?] per annum commencing March 4, 1831, for service as a private for 17 months and 23 days in the Virginia Continental line and militia.]