

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements](#)

Pension application of William Rutledge S4171

fn21NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 2/15/11

[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.]

[fn p. 11]

State of Tennessee, Wayne County: September sessions of the County Court of said County for the year 1832

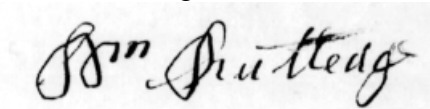
On this 25th day of Sept. 1832 personally appeared in open court before the justice of said county now sitting, William Rutledge, a resident of said County & State aged seventy six years since June last, in his being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath swear the following declaration 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 & served as herein stated. That is to say—He volunteered & entered the above-named service in Rowan County in the State of North Carolina early in the Revolutionary War, under the command of Capt. David Caldwell in General Griffin Rutherford's Brigade [sic, Griffith Rutherford]. He marched on this tour down on Cross Creek in North Carolina for the purpose of keeping down the Scotch Tories in that quarter. He was then discharged at the expiration of his term of service which was three months. He next volunteered & entered the service in said County of Rowan for the term of three months. He was marched through Burke County over the mountains & crossed near the head of the Catawba River, & from thence over to the head of Tennessee River against the Cherokee Indians under the command of Captain Joseph Dickson [sic, Dixon?] in General Rutherford's Brigade. On this expedition the troops with which applicant was associated drove the Indians from their settlements & towns, burnt their towns, huts, & wigwams & destroyed everything before them. He was then marched back to Rowan County where he was discharged at the end of his term of service. He next volunteered & entered the service, again for the term of three months under Capt. Joseph Dickson, who was the highest officer in Command on this expedition. He marched down to Pinetree [sic, Pine Tree, later known as Camden] in South Carolina for the purpose of quelling & keeping down the Scotch Tories, & was again marched home & discharged at the end of his term of service, which was one of three months. Applicant then went to live up in Wilkes County, State of North Carolina where he went again into service as a volunteer under Major Micajah Lewis, & marched near to Haw River, thirteen or fourteen miles from Guilford Courthouse, where he & his associate troops defeated the Tories under the Command of Col. Piles [sic, Dr. John Pyle]. They killed in this engagement a number of the Tories, in full nearly all that were in the action & took no prisoners. Col. Pickens

[Andrew Pickens] was their General on this occasion on the side of the United States troops. Col. Lee [Henry Lee, a/k/a "Light Horse Harry Lee"] was also in this engagement. About this time the said Applicant was sent in Company with Capt. Robert Cleveland with an express from the Moravian towns to General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] at Guilford Courthouse. Which express was to inform Genl. Greene that the British were at the Shallow Ford on the Adkin River [sic, Yadkin River] advancing towards his quarters. This was a short time before the battle fought at Guilford Courthouse. This was the last service that applicant performed except being afterwards engaged in several scouting parties.

He has no documentary evidence & he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service except Col. John Witherspoon¹ of said County of Wayne State of Tennessee. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.

S/ Wm Rutledge



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

Test.

S/ Wm. Bennett, Clerk

[fn p. 14]

Questions put by the war department

Question 1st Where and in what year were you born?

A: I was born in the State of Pennsylvania near the town of Carlisle in the year 1756

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

A: I think I have at home a record of my age on a small piece of paper in my father's own handwriting.

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

A: When first called into service I lived in Rowan County North Carolina but afterwards in Wilkes County during the Revolutionary War -- I came from Wilkes County NC to Tennessee something like forty [?] years ago, -- lived in Williamson County where I resided until I moved to McNairy County where I lived until 3 years last past since which time I have resided in Wayne County Tennessee where I now live.

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

A: I volunteered in all the expeditions set forth in my declaration.

5th 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: This question I have answered as well as I am able in the above declaration.

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

¹ [John Witherspoon S3610](#)

A: I received discharges one from Captain Caldwell, two from Captain Dickson, and another from Major Micajah Lewis, but I have lost or mislaid them all.
7th 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: I am known to Squire Henry Rayburn, General John Rayburn, Colonel John Witherspoon, Robert Thompson, Colonel Galliher, James Johnson, Samuel Johnson and others all of whom can testify both as to my character for veracity & the reputation of having been a Revolutionary soldier in the neighborhood where I now live.

He further states that he was under General Rutherford at the battle fought at Ramsour's Mill where Captain Galley Fawks [sic, Galbraith Falls] was killed -- where the United States troops & the Tories had a very considerable gagement [engagement] -- a number were slain on both sides, but the Tories were completely routed -- some taken prisoners & the rest driven from the field.

He also states that the said Major Lewis was mortally wounded in the engagement at Whyleside Mill [sic, Weitzel's Mill², March 6, 1781?] on Reedee fork [?, Reedy Fork Creek?] of Haw River & then he was carried off the field & died the next day.

S/ Wm Rutledge

[William Baker, a clergyman, and Henry Rayburn gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

State of Tennessee Wayne County: September Sessions of the County Court of said County for the year 1832. This day being the 21st [?] day of September 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of said Court John Witherspoon aged about 69 years next October & after being duly sworn according to law, on his oath made the following statement -- That he was personally acquainted with William Rutledge, who has subscribed and sworn to the above declaration in the Revolutionary War. That he knows said Rutledge was in the United States service in the militia for some part of said war and he states that he also knows the said Rutledge [illegible word or words] he was in the service under Major Micajah Lewis at the defeat of Colonel Piles and that he well remembers, that said Rutledge was at that engagement -- he has known the said Rutledge ever since the Revolution both in North Carolina & in Tennessee, in Williamson County & also in Wayne County -- and that he has no doubt that the said Rutledge performed the service in said war as stated in his declaration & that he has always been believed & reputed in the neighborhoods in which he has lived, as well as in the neighborhood where he now lives, to be a soldier of the Revolution. And that this said Rutledge is a man of veracity.

S/ John Witherspoon

Sworn to and subscribed in open Court the date first above written
Test S/ William Barnett, Clerk

[fn p. 7]

State of Tennessee Wayne County: March the 11th 1834

² http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_weitzells_mill.html and <http://gaz.irshelby.com/weitzell.htm>. The name of this mill is variously spelled, the variations including the following: Whitesell's Mill, Wetzel's Mill, Wetzall's Mill and, no doubt, others.

On this day personally appeared before William Hawk an acting Justice of the peace in & for said County & State aforesaid William Rutledge aged about seventy-seven years who being duly sworn deposeth & saith that by reason of old age and 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 for nine months as mentioned in his former Declaration including the three first terms of service mentioned in said Declaration he served as a private Soldier in the militia he thinks he served two weeks as a private soldier in the militia in the scouting parties mentioned in said Declaration his service making in all nine months and 2 weeks & for such service he claims a Pension.

S/ Wm Rutledge

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$20 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 6 months service in the North Carolina militia.]