

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements](#)

Pension application of William Leech (Leach) S4528

fn27NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 4/11/10

[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.]

State of Tennessee, County of Carroll: Circuit Court

Personally appeared in open court this the 17th of October 1832, William Leech age Seventy one who made oath in due form of law and files the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

States that he was a resident of the county of Rowan [County North Carolina] at the commencement of the war of the revolution and previous to the year 1780 he was called out in several excursions against the Tories, and on the 17th of July he volunteered for a tour of three months in the company commanded by Capt. William Stewart in the corps commanded by Col. Davie [William Richardson Davie]. Maj. James Rutherford was his major and who was afterwards killed at the battle of Eutaw Springs and that he served out his tour of three months as will appear by his discharge herewith filed. During the first part of this service, the corps to which he belonged were ranging on the south fork of the Catawba River in North Carolina for the purpose of keeping down the Tories until after the British Army under Cornwallis moved from South Carolina to Mecklenburg County North Carolina. They were then marched in the neighborhood of the British for the purpose of keeping down pillaging and plundering parties of the British army in which service he was engaged until he was discharged. In this service he was in no regular engagements. Further states that again in the year 1781 he was drafted for a term of three months under Capt. Thomas Morrison & Col. Loftins' regiment, the whole under the command of Gen. Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford]/ During which tour he served three months as will appear by the affidavit of one of his fellow soldiers which is hereto amended & who is too infirm to ride this far to court. In this service he went on what was called the Wilmington campaign, then in the possession of the British army. After the surrender of Cornwallis the town was evacuated & shortly afterwards they were marched home & discharged. In this tour he was in no regular engagement nor out of State. This service closed the war or nearly. So further he states that he has no documentary evidence except his discharge as above stated to prove his services and has no living testimony that he knows of except Henry Thomas¹ who has certified as above stated that in the excursions before his regular service were very numerous & for short periods of time but he verily believes he was engaged as long in those excursions as the whole of his regular tours.

He hereby relinquishes any claim to a pension except the present and that his name is not on the pension roll of any state. Sworn & subscribed in open Court this 17th Oct. 1832.

S/ William Leech

S/ James H. Gee, Clerk.

[B. M. Burrow & John Stewart gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

Questions by the Court:

1. What year were you born?

¹ [Henry Thomas S1596](#)

Ans: Rowan County N. Carolina, can't recollect the year but will be seventy one the 6th [could be 4th] of December next.

2. Record of birth?

Ans: I believe not.

3. Where have you resided since your service?

Ans: As before stated, in Rowan County, North Carolina; after the war the county was divided & he fell in Iredell where he continued until about thirty seven years ago, he came to Tennessee, Sumner County, afterwards moved to Wilson and from there to Illinois where he resided for seven years and from thence to this county where he now resides.

4. How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or a substitute & if so for whom?

Ans: This question is answered in his declaration.

5. State the names of some of the regular officers with whom you served; such continental & militia regiments & the general circumstances of his service.

Ans: As well as recollects, he never was with any regular officers, a Major Hogg joined them in the Wilmington campaign, he was said to be a regular officer; and on their route to Wilmington they were joined by Gen. Butler's Brigade of Militia. The balance of this question will be found answered in the body of this declaration.

6. Did you receive a discharge & if so, what has become of it?

Ans: This is also answered in his declaration.

7. State the names to whom you are known in your present neighborhood who can testify as to your character for veracity & their belief in your revolutionary services.

Answer: I am well acquainted with Banks M. Brown & John Stuart [sic, "John Stewart," is how this witness signed his name], Esqr.

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I do hereby certify that William Leach did serve 3 months in the Revolution War in the year 1781 -- and Colonel Loftin's Regiment in the Corps commanded by General Rutherford

Given under my hand and seal this 13th day of October 1832

S/ Henry Thomas

State of Tennessee Carroll County: June Sessions 1833 of the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions

Be it remembered that on this day the 11th of June 1833, personally appeared in open Court William Leach Senior a resident citizen of said County of Carroll, and who after having been duly sworn agreeably to law, made the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832,

That at the commencement of the war of the revolution he was a resident of Rowan County North Carolina & that previous to the year 1780, he was called out in general excursions against the Tories and on the 17th of July he volunteered as a private for a term of three months in Captain William Stewart's Company & under Major Rutherford & Colonel Davie, Major Rutherford was afterwards killed at the Eutaw Springs, he states he served out his tour & received a discharge which is herewith filed. In this campaign the Corps to which he belonged were ranging about on the South fork of Catawba River in North Carolina, for the purpose of keeping down the Tories until after the British Army should evacuate South Carolina, & when Cornwallis marched to Mecklenburg North Carolina, they were then marched in the neighborhood of the British for the purpose of keeping down the plundering and pillaging parties of the British Army in service he was engaged until he was discharged.

And again in the year 1781 he was drafted for another tour of three months under Captain Thomas Morrison in Captain Loftin's Regiment the Corps under General Rutherford, and served three months as will appear by his discharge & also the affidavit of one of his old fellow soldiers, this last

discharge he has found since the filing of his former declaration, his witness is too old & infirm to ride this far to court, as he lives in another County. In this campaign he went in what was called the Wilmington Campaign, then in the possession of the British Army, after the surrender of Cornwallis the town was evacuated & they were shortly afterwards marched home & discharged in this tour he was in no regular engagement nor out of the State of North Carolina. He further [state] that in his excursions against the Tories before his regular tours were very frequent and numerous, and frequently very short periods of time, at this length of time he cannot give any satisfactory details of the same, but he is confident he was in the service of his country as a soldier against its enemies in these excursions 6 months; making the whole of his service as a soldier of 12 months, for which he asks a pension. He has no documentary evidence except his discharge to prove his services, nor can he prove the same by any living witness except one tour I Henry Thomas as above stated. He states that his name is not on the pension roll of any State, and he hereby [relinquishes] every claim to a pension except the present. Sworn to & subscribed in open Court June 11th 1833

S/ Edward Givin, Clerk

S/ William Leech

Questions by the court, where & in what year were you born

Answer. In Rowan County North Carolina, I can't recollect if I was ever told the year, but from the best information I have, I will be 70 to the 4th of December next.

Questions 2nd Have you any record of your age & if so where is it

Answer. I believe not.

Question 3. Where were you living when called into, where have you lived since the revolutionary war & where do you now live

Answer as before stated, in Rowan County, North Carolina. After the war of the County was divided I fell into Iredell where I continued near 30 years, when I removed to Tennessee, Sumner County after removed to Wilson County in the same State, then I removed to Illinois where I lived 7 years when I moved to this County where I now live

Question 4th. How were you called into service, were you drafted, did you volunteer or were you a substitute & if so for whom.

Answer. This question is answered in the body of his declaration.

Question, State the names of some of the regular officers with whom you served, such Continental & militia regiments as you may recollect, and the general circumstances of your service.

Answer, As well as he recollects, he never was with any regular officers. A Major Hogg joined them on their way to Wilmington, he was said to be a regular officer, and they were also joined by General Butler's brigade of militia (the balance of this interrogatory is answered above)

Ques: Have you received a discharge & if so what has become of them

Answer. I did two for my regular tours & they are hereto attached².

Question

State the names of persons in your present neighborhood who can testify as to your character for veracity & their belief in your revolutionary services --

Answer, I am well acquainted with the Reverend WH Bigham and John Stewart Esquire

[W. H. Bigham and John Stewart gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[fn p. 9: there is a document dated April 28, 1854 indicating payments were made to the administrator of William Leach to the date of September 4, 1852 which I would assume to be the date on which he died but there is no definitive statement to that effect in this file that I found.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$20 per annum commencing March 4, 1831 46 months service in

² The discharges referred to as being attached to his application are not contained in the footnote.com file.

the revolution.