

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Zachariah Prewit (Pruett?) S5952

f30NC [VA]

Transcribed by Will Graves

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

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State of Virginia, To Wit:

On this Seventh day of January 1833 personally appeared before James McWilliams, Jr, Justice of the Peace for Pittsylvania County Zachariah Prewit a resident of the said County and State aforesaid, aged Seventy-four 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 the 7th 1832, that he was drafted into the Service of the United States in the month of April 1776 and marched from the County of Pittsylvania in the State of Virginia (where he then resided) in a Company of militia which was commanded by Captain John Donalson [John Donaldson]¹ Ensign Moses Hutchings² and Lieutenant Henry, went through the County of Franklin, crossed New River at English's Ferry and marched on direct to the Islands of Holston River, where we entered a Fort and were stationed there for some time, Captain Donalson, myself and fourteen or fifteen others, left the said Fort and traveled entirely through the woods and cane breaks in search of the Indians for fifteen days but not being able to find them we returned to the said Fort, and joined our Company again and remained there until our term of Service expired. I was discharged at that place (about 300 miles from home) in the month of July 1776 by Captain John Donalson, the time of service rendered on this tour, including the time of traveling home was at least 4 months, my discharge is lost and cannot be found, but the Service rendered on this tour is proved by Moses Hutchings who was an Ensign and commanded in the Company to which I was attached.

In the year 1780 I moved from the County of Pittsylvania in the State of Virginia, to Sullivan County in the State of North Carolina, and on the 2nd day of November 1780 I again entered the Service of the United States as a volunteer, and marched from the said County of Sullivan in a Company which was commanded by [Lt.] Colonel Joseph Martin. No Captain was with us, direct to the Indian Nation and Towns on Tennessee River, and continued in said Nation, searching for, and killing the Indians, many of them were taken as prisoners, we burnt their Towns and reduced them to poverty, which forced the most of them to come upon friendly terms with the white people. Such as continued hostile, went further down said River, Our services not being no longer required, we were discharged by Colonel Martin, late in the month of February 1781, the time of Service rendered on this tour including the time of traveling home was at least 4 months, my discharge is lost or mislaid and cannot be found. I have no documentary evidence,

¹ This officer's surname is spelled variously in the records as Donelson, Dollison, Donalson, Donaldson etc.

² [Moses Hutchings S8742](#)

and do not know a man living that was in that service with me.

In the month of September 1781, I again entered the service of the United States as a Volunteer, in a Company of Mounted Infantry under the Command of Captain Cavit [Moses Cavett], Lieutenant John Carnes, and Ensign Moses Luney [Moses Looney], on the 10th day of October 1781, we were attached to Colonel Shelby's [Isaac Shelby's] Regiment of Mounted Men, and marched from the said County of Sullivan director crossed the Yellow Mountain into the State of South Carolina and joined General Greene's [Nathanael Greene's] Army at the high Hills of Santee, we remained with him one day, and was ordered to join General Marion [Francis Marion] who had taken up winter Quarters near the Swamps of Santee, we continued under his command, riding in various directions, not being long at any one place, the British were then in Charlestown, we took about 100 prisoners near Moncks Corner [Moncks Corner #4, October 16, 1781], our term of Service having expired, we were discharged by Colonel Shelby near the Swamps of Santee in the State of South Carolina in the month of December 1781. The time of Service rendered on this tour was three months my discharge is lost or mislaid, and cannot be found. I have no documentary evidence, and do not know, a person living that was in service with me at that time,

In the month of September 1782 I again entered the Service of the United States as a Substitute for Peter Easley and marched from the said County of Sullivan in the State of North Carolina in a Company of Mounted Infantry commanded by Captain George Russell, in the Regiment which was commanded by Major Anderson and Colonel John Sevier, we went to the Indian Nation passed the number of their towns in pursuit of the hostile Indians that refused to come upon Terms with the white people in the arrangement or treaty made with many of their tribe in the winter 1781 we employed a friendly Indian to go with us as a pilot. We marched down the Tennessee River about 150 miles through the woods & traveled over that wilderness Country in various directions for some time, the hostile Indians were so dispersed and scattered through wilderness, we left the pursuit of them, and returned home, I was discharged by Colonel Sevier at an Indian town called Chota on Tennessee River in the month of December 1782, the time of Service rendered on this tour was 3 months. My discharge is lost, and cannot be found. I have no documentary evidence, and I do not know a person living that was in Service with me at that time.

I was born in the State of Maryland in the year 1758.

My Age was recorded in a family Bible, that was carried to the State of Georgia some years ago by my Brother

I lived in the County of Pittsylvania in the State of Virginia when I entered the Service of the United States in the Revolutionary War, in the year 1776, I lived in the County of Sullivan in the State of North Carolina when I entered the same Service in the year 1780, 1781, 1782. In the year 1783 I moved back to the County of Pittsylvania in the State of Virginia and have lived in that ever since.

I was drafted when I was called into the Service in 1776. I volunteered twice, and last was a Substitute for Peter Easley

The names of the Officers that I served with, and the Circumstances of my Service are stated in my Declaration.

I received 4 discharges from the Service, first one was given to me by Captain Donalson. The 2nd by Colonel Martin. The 3rd by Colonel Shelby and the 4th by Colonel Sevier they are all lost or mislaid and cannot be found.

Joseph Smith, William Stamps, and many others can testify as to my Character for veracity and

their belief of my Services as a Soldier of the revolution. There is not living near to me a clergyman or any other minister of the Gospel whose Certificate I can with convenience obtain.

I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or Annuity except the Present, and declare that my name is not on the Pension Roll, of the Agency of any State.

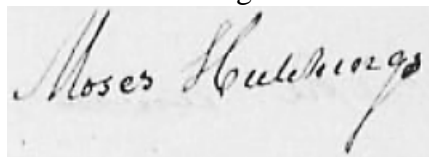
S/ Zachariah Prewitt, X his mark

[Joseph Smith and William Stamps gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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I Moses Hutchings of the County of Pittsylvania and State of Virginia do hereby Certify, that in the year 1777, I held the Rank of Ensign and acted as such in a company of Militia, that marched from the County of Pittsylvania and State aforesaid to the Islands of Holston River under Captain John Donalson to defend the frontiers of Virginia against the attacks of the Indians and that Zachariah Prewit of the said County who is an applicant for a Pension was a private in said company under our command and served his tour faithfully and was honorably discharged from the Service of the Revolutionary War at the Islands of Holston by order of Colonel Shelby in the month of July 1777 having served between 3 and 4 months. Given under my hand this 11th day of December 1832.

S/ Moses Hutchings

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Moses Hutchings". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

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Virginia Pittsylvania County to wit

Personally appeared before me, the undersigned a Justice of the peace for the County aforesaid, Zachariah Prewit who being duly sworn, deposes and saith that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory, he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service (that is today) but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned in his declaration made on the 7th day of January last, The is he entered the service in the Revolution in the month of April 1776 or 1777 and served as a Private under Captain Donaldson 4 months under Colonel Evan Shelby -- in the year 1780 he entered the service under Colonel Joseph Martin and served with him as a private -- 4 months, in the year 1781 he served 3 months as a private Dragoon with Captain Cavit under Colonel Isaac Shelby, in the year 1782 he entered the service again and served 3 months as a private Dragoon with Captain Russell under Colonel Sevier making the whole time of service rendered one year and 2 months, for which I claim a pension, that the troops to which he was attached were regularly embodied and called into service by competent authority, that he will was either in the field or in camp and for the time during which the service was performed he was not employed in any Civil pursuit --. Given under my hand this 14th day of May 1833

S/ J. M. Williams Junior, JP

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$48.33 per annum commencing March 4, 1831, for service as a private for 13 months in the Virginia and North Carolina militia.]