

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Adkins S6469

Transcribed by Will Graves

f21NC

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

State of North Carolina County of Caswell: SS

On this 6<sup>th</sup> day of May 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the Honorable Thomas Settle Esq. Judge of our Superior Court of Law and Equity of the County and State aforesaid now sitting – William Adkins Senior a resident of said County of Caswell and State of North Carolina, aged Seventy five years on the first day of April 1833 – 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<sup>th</sup> 1832.

That he entered the Service of the United States under the following named officers, and Served as herein Stated.

Some time in the month of October 1775 as well as this Declarant now recollects (for as to the day he cannot with any degree of Certainty Speak, he can only Speak as to the time of the year and he well recollects it was in the fall, and he thinks it was in the month of October) he volunteered under Captain Jesse Sanders [Jesse Saunders] in the County of Granville and State of North Carolina in the Company or Regiment commanded by Colonel Joseph Taylor and was marched to Hillsboro N. C. and from thence down to a place called (then) Cross Creeks [sic, Cross Creek] which is now Fayetteville in pursuit and after the Tories who were very numerous and troublesome in that section of the State. The Tories being of Scotch extraction – about this period of our history and just before Independence was declared, it was believed that they would not join the Whigs and friends of Liberty, and it was thought necessary to Keep up a force there, to awe them into duty and keep them in Subjection – This declarant was stationed with the rest of the troops and force at Cross Creeks watching and guarding the Country and occasionally taking some of the Tories, and guarding them until his time of service expired which was three months – In this expedition, a great many of the Tories, came in and Submitted to the Laws and regulations of our Congress and others were captured and brought in and forced to Swear, as was the Custom in those days. This Declarant was discharged at Cross Creeks and he thinks it was perhaps in the month of January 1776, he thinks he received his discharge from Captain Jesse Sanders and then returned home in Granville County State of North Carolina. He (this Declarant) resided in the County of Granville at that time. His discharge he has long since lost or destroyed, for he has no recollection of having seen it for several years.

This Declarant Continued at Home in Granville County North Carolina until March following his return home (for he got home in January 1776, he thinks) when he enlisted in the United States regular or Continental Army under one Captain William Glover and was marched to Hillsborough and there rendezvoused for a short time recruiting, when he was again marched to Wilmington North Carolina, and was there when Independence was declared, he continued at that place on duty until about the first day of December 1776, when he was taken ill with the fever and ague, from exposure in that low and Sickly Country, and he received a parole to return home until he recovered, or until the troops marched northwardly – when this Declarant returned home he finding that his health was bad &

that if he again went in the Army it would be at the risk of his life -- He hired one Reubin Williams [Reuben Williams] to take his place and serve out his tour, which was for two years & a half from the Time this Declarant first enlisted. He (this Declarant) gave an extraordinary and a very extravagant price for his Substitute, and he (being Sick) got Captain Jesse Sanders to take the said Reuben Williams down to Wilmington, and have him put in his place which was done. The officers received the said Reuben Williams in the place of this Declarant and sent him a written discharge or release, during the War.

The discharge this Declarant has long since lost or destroyed, never expecting it would be of any use to him after the War. Thus this Declarant served his country, one tour of three months in the Militia and about eight months & a half in the regular or Continental Army, making in all Eleven months and a half, for which he claims a pension and trusts in the generosity of his Country for Compensation. This declarant was under the following named officers in the regular Army, to wit Captain William Glover, Lieutenant Caleb Parker & Ensign John Glover – in the Regiment Commanded by Colonel William Taylor – the Major he has forgotten and cannot now recollect – He thinks that the Regiment was the Second Regiment but of this fact he cannot now positively State.

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 the agency of any State that he knows of.

The following Interrogatories propounded to the applicant by the court and his answers:

1<sup>st</sup>: When and in what year were you born?

Answer: I was born in the County of Richmond in the State of Virginia on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of April 1758 as I had been told & do believe.

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

Answer: I have no record of my age. I know my age only from what my father & others have told me & which I believe to be true!

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?

Answer: I was living in the County of Granville in the State of North Carolina when I was called into Service and before the War ended I moved to the County of Caswell and State of North Carolina where I now live!

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

Answer: When I went into Service first volunteered to go against the Tories in the Militia -- & I afterwards enlisted in the United States Army as I have before stated!

5<sup>th</sup> State the names of some of the Regular Officers who were with the troops where you served, such Continental and Militia Regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Answer: I know Colonel William Taylor & if my memory is correct I think he commanded the Second Regiment. I know Colonel Henry Dixon & I think he commanded the First Regiment & I knew Colonel Archibald Lytle & I cannot remember what Regiment he commanded -- & others of the regular Army. I know Colonel Joseph Taylor's Regiment which was the Granville Regiment & Colonel William Moore's Regiment, which was the Caswell Regiment &c. The general Circumstance of my Service, I have before endeavored to detail.

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?

Answer: I received a discharge from the Service both times first I think I got from Captain Jesse Sanders and the other was sent me from the regular Service after I had procured a Substitute in my place & which was brought to me by my friend (Captain Sanders under whom I first served) and who carried down my man for me to Wilmington but both of which discharges I have long since lost or destroyed. I forgot who signed my last discharge, But I think Colonel William Taylor did it.

7<sup>th</sup> State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood, and who can

testify to your character for veracity and good behavior and your services as a Soldier of the Revolution.

Answer: I will name the Revd Richard Martin: Paul A. Haralson; Captain Henry Howard & others all of whom together with many others I am willing to submit my character before. I have long lived here & am generally known in the County & I would willing trust to any man who knows me.

Sworn to & Subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

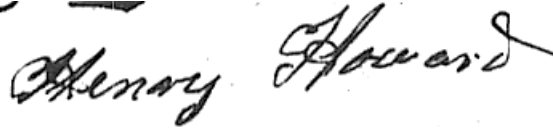
Test: S/ Jeremiah Graves, CSC

S/ William Adkins, X his mark

[Richard Martin, a clergyman, and Paul A. Haralson gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

I Henry Howard of the County of Caswell and State of North Carolina do hereby Certify that I have known William Atkins for sixty years, and that he has been a regular member of the Baptist Church ever since and before the revolutionary War; and a man whose character stands high for honesty industry and piety – I also Certify that I do believe & no he was in the War of the Revolution, and enlisted soldier, & also in the militia service, though I was not with him, yet I was his neighbor & no the fact as he has stated them in his declaration to be true. Sworn to and subscribed this the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Henry Howard<sup>1</sup>

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Henry Howard". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.

State of North Carolina County of Caswell

Personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the peace of the County of Caswell and State of North Carolina William Adkins who being duly sworn deposeth 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, but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following grades – "For three months I served as a Soldier in the Granville Militia North Carolina – For eight months I served as a regular or Continental Soldier in the Regular Army of the United States making in the whole Eleven months, and for such service I claim a pension. These Services were performed in the years 1775 and 1776 as has been stated in my declaration, and the circumstances of my services are there set forth to which reference is made. I know of no man (other than the testimony I have already adduced) by whom I can prove my Services, and have to rely upon my own oath."

Sworn to and Subscribed before me this 15<sup>th</sup> day of August 1833

S/ Thomas D Johnston, JP

S/ William Adkins, X [his mark]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$36.66 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831, for service as a private for three months in the North Carolina militia and for eight months in the North Carolina Continental line.]

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<sup>1</sup> [Henry Howard R5277](#)