

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Francis Ballard S6553

f17NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

7/9/08 rev'd 8/11/14

[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.]

State of Mississippi, Copiah County

On the 24th day of June 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the Probate Court now sitting in and for the County and in the State aforesaid, Francis Ballard aged about seventy-two years a resident of said County and State, 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 7th 1832.

That he was born in Virginia about seven miles from Petersburg in January 1761 and removed while a child to North Carolina to the County of Edgecomb [Edgecombe] and to that part afterwards called Nash County from which place he entered the service of the United States as a substitute for his brother William Ballard who was a drafted militia soldier about June in the year 1777 and marched with his company commanded by Captain Solomon Carpenter up the Cape Fear River, crossed over the Yadkin and proceeded some twenty miles on the other side in pursuit of the enemy without overtaking them, when they returned, recrossed the Yadkin and encamped near its banks until the expiration of his term of service which was three months. During this term of service Col. Axom [Benjamin Exum] commanded the Regiment in which he served and there was also a body of troops in company with them he believes from Virginia commanded by one Colonel Sowell [Benjamin Seawell]. He also recollects a Captain Richards who commanded a company in the Regiment to which he belonged, but the names of the other officers and of the particular places through which they marched have gone from his memory and he cannot recall them. He was drafted as a private soldier about the year after the term of service above specified, for three months and served in the vicinity of Rocky River more than two months but was discharged a short period before his term of service expired but he was in no engagement nor can he recollect the names of the officers with whom he at this time served, or any places in particular through which they marched [several words of text obliterated] feels confident that he was out on service at the least two months.

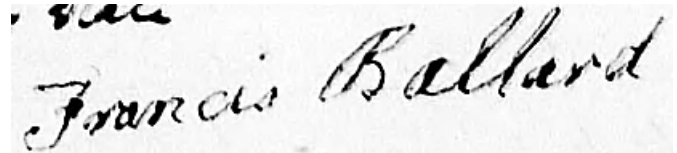
He was a third time drafted in March of the year 1781 as a private soldier for the term of three months and rendezvoused at Halifax on the Roanoke River, and from thence he marched with the Regiment under the command of Col. Linton [William Thomas Linton] and joined the regular Army under the command of General Green [Nathanael Greene] and proceeded to Guilford Court House where an action [March 15, 1781] took place between the American and British Army in which he took a part, but received no injury. After this action he retired with the Army to Hill's Iron Works [sic, Troublesome Iron Works] with the Army, and was one of the detachment selected by order of General Greene to return home with the supernumerary horses of the militia light horse while the remainder of the Army marched on for Camden, at this time he served three months. And he feels very confident that in the whole he served during the war eight months and believes he served longer, but would not state it at more on account of his imperfect recollection of matters that occurred at that distance of time, and his inability to procure any documentary evidence which can cast any light upon the subject. He believes that he received a written discharge at the expiration of his first term of service which has long

since been lost or destroyed and that the other discharges at the expiration of the two other terms were merely oral, but he cannot state positively, nor can he recollect the names of the officers who discharged him on account of the extreme imbecility of his memory occasioned by age and infirmity. He further states that some five or six years after the close of the revolution he removed to Pensacola in East Florida where he resided for about ten years and from thence to Adams County in this State and came to this County about five years ago where he has resided ever since, that he has no record of his age nor has he any documentary evidence by which he can prove the length of his revolutionary services nor does he know of any living witness who can testify to the same or any part thereof from personal knowledge.

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.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Francis Ballard

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Francis Ballard". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, slightly textured paper.

[Jesse Scrivner, a clergyman and Benjamin Kennedy gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

State of Mississippi, Copiah County: Personally appeared in open Court before me the undersigned a Judge of Probates in and for said County Francis Ballard the within named applicant for a pension who being duly sworn according to law upon oath deposes and says that by reason of old age and consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his services, names of officers, places &c, but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned in the within declaration and in the following grades: For eight months, I served as a private soldier, three months of which as a substitute for my brother William Ballard who was drafted, and the other five months under draft of myself. And for such service I claim a pension.

S/ Francis Ballard

Sworn to and subscribed this 24th day of June 1833 before me in Open Court

S/ Thos. Keller, Judge of Probates

[Fact in file: Veteran died October 30, 1833]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$26.66 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 8 months in the North Carolina militia.]