

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Baldwin S6565

f10NC¹

Transcribed by Will Graves

2/21/08 rev'd 8/9/14

[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 North Carolina, Ashe County: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions August Term 1832

John Baldwin a resident of Ashe County appeared in Court and made the following declaration on oath this 28th day of August A.D. 1832 – To obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress June 7, 1832 – I, John Baldwin of Ashe County, do declare that I am about Seventy-two years of age of which however there is no written evidence in his possession. That his parents during his infancy settled in Burke County of this State where he resided during the whole of the revolutionary war. The first service he performed as a soldier in the cause of the Americans was a volunteer against the Cherokees – under Captain Alexander Smith [Robert Alexander] he served as a guard against these Indians for six months at Edmonson's Fort a station was situated at the head of Catawba River in Burke County, the precise time of this service cannot now be stated by this declarant nor the precise time of any Tour of his revolutionary services, in is much as his discharge which he received on the expiration of each term of service was destroyed by the burning of his house. Another Term of Service for twelve months antecedent to the above mentioned term was performed as a volunteer by him under Captain Smith at a station called Davidson Fort still higher up the Catawba than Edmonson's Fort where they were stationed to watch the Cherokee Indians & prevent their depredations upon the Settlements. This as well as he can now recollect was about the year 1777. After this he believes the next year he as a volunteer entered the service under Captain Smith, Lieutenant Brown, with a considerable body of Militia under Colonel Joe McDowell [Joseph McDowell] of Burke County against the Cherokees Towns of Sowe & Cowee on Little Tennessee River, their towns were destroyed, in the former town the Indians were defeated & the latter towns they deserted after their defeat. Another Term of three months he served under Captain Alexander Erwin [Alexander Irvin] in a Rifle Company & with Colonel Joe McDowell during this Tour he was at the battle of the Cowpens and bracket January 17, 1781] where General Morgan [Daniel Morgan] Commanded, at the commencement of this battle the attack was first made on the militia, he recollects that McDowell told his men to take aim when they fired, and as they retreated to divide to the right & left & form in the rear – Morgan defeated the British with his regulars, after they concluded the Americans were all running. The British as he understood lost 900 prisoners and a great many Tories were taken – after this battle he returned home – and soon after entered the service as a Substitute for his Uncle John Baldwin in the North Carolina Militia under the same Captain Erwin and Joined a body of Militia for the purpose of preventing Cornwallis from crossing the Catawba River. He was present when Cornwallis crossed at Beatties Ford² & saw General Davidson [William Lee Davidson] when he was shot [February 1, 1781] & fell from his horse & the Americans were compelled to retreat. This declarant with a party of men retreated to one Mr.

1 This application is mistakenly filed with the New Hampshire applications in the Fold3.com version. HeritageQuest has it properly indexed.

2 Cornwallis met the forces commanded by William Lee Davidson at Cowan's Ford, not Beatties Ford, as stated by this applicant.

Torrances³ where were deposited some public Stores & here they were soon attacked [February 1, 1781] & dispersed by a parcel of British Dragoons. This term was also a three months. His discharges were given by McDowell, Smith, Alexander & Erwin. He has no documentary evidence by which he can establish the facts herein stated. There are persons living in Burke County by whom the same might be proven, but on account of the distance, his age & poverty, he must experience much difficulty in endeavoring to procure their affidavits.

I the said John Baldwin 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 or Territory.

S/ John Baldwin, X his mark

Sworn to and subscribed in open Court this 28th day of August A.D. 1832

S/ T Callaway, Clk

By S/ R. Gentrey, D. Clk

[Drury Senter, a clergyman, and Joshua Carr gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 2 years in the North Carolina service.]

3 Tarrant's Tavern (also spelled Torrence, Tarrance, Torrence, and Torrance)