

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Blanton S6653

f34NC

Transcribed and annotated 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' or 'undeciphered' 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. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

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State of North Carolina Duplin County: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions May Term 1833

On this the twenty eighth day of May A.D. 1833 personally appeared in open court before Stephen Graham, James Lawson and Robert Middleton Esquires, Justices – now sitting James Blanton a resident of Duplin County in State of North Carolina aged sixty nine years and some months, 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 entered the service of the United States under the following named officers & served as herein stated.

That he entered the service under Capt. Isham Shuffield [Isham Sheffield] that he does not recollect any of the other company officers, that he was under no field officers, as his company belonged to no Regiment, that he does not recollect the day, but he thinks it was in February 1780, that he left this tour of service, this applicant thinks in March 1780 that he engaged, as he believes for no particular period, that when he entered the service he resided in Duplin County N.C. that he was drafted for this tour and served six weeks, that he was in no battle, that he joined this company at a place called Hickory Hill near Rockfish bridge, and marched from thence to the little bridge about two miles from Wilmington: where he encamped about a fortnight, that from thence he marched to Jumping Run about two miles below Wilmington where he remained about four weeks and was then dismissed, that while he was at Jumping Run, he guarded the Magazine in Wilmington, in his turn, that he served with no Continental regiments or companies, that he has no documentary, and knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to this part of his service.

That he entered the service again under Col. James Kenan, Captain Aaron Williams, David Williams, he thinks, was Lieutenant and Joseph Williams Ensign, that he does not recollect the day or the month that he entered the service, but that it was in the fall and he thinks in November 1780, and that he left it in March or April 1781, that he then still resided in Duplin County NC that he, when he first entered this tour, turned out or was a volunteer that after he had served six weeks, there was a draft or division of his company, one of which divisions was to serve three months, then the other division to serve three months, that he was drafted in the first division, and served the first three months, that during this term he was in a sort of a battle at the Big Bridge¹ in New Hanover County, in which the Americans were compelled to retreat on the

¹ Heron's Bridge January 30, 1781 https://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_herons_bridge.html

East side of the River, but those on the West side maintained their ground; that his company rendezvoused at John Williams's in Duplin County, but that he fell in with them just after they started their march at Mrs. Fussell's plantation, not far above Rockfish bridge, being in the neighborhood where he resided, that he marched on from thence to a place called Camp branch, three or four miles above the Big Bridge, that from thence, to the Big Bridge, where he remained till sometime after the battle, that from thence he marched, across the North East [River] at White's ferry on Rocky Point, to Rutherford's Mills on Holly Shelter, from thence to Limestone bridge on the North East, from thence to Kingston [sic, Kinston] on the Neuse [River] in Lenoir County to which place he guarded & conducted some prisoners, who were there put into the charge and custody of other troops; that he does not recollect that he served with any Continental regiments or companies, but that there were some regular officers at the Big Bridge, viz. Benjamin Williams, Robert Bannerman and he thinks Joseph Rhodes was there, that while he was at Rutherford's Mills a company of light dragoons under the command of Col. Malmedy [Francis de Malmedy, Marquis of Bretagne], marched up to that place, that he thinks this company for the most part were Frenchmen, that at that time the enemy had possession of Wilmington, that while he was stationed at the Big Bridge, he was detached, under the command of Capt. James Gillespie upon an expedition called Fatigue against the inhabitants on the sound along the seaboard who had been paroled by the British, that he was eleven days employed in making prisoners of those parole man, that he also captured some of the British as prisoners in their excursions out of Wilmington, then about the termination of his eleven days service aforesaid Capt. James Love, a bold and intrepid militia officer, was killed by the British at Rouse's eight miles from Wilmington, on the sound & on the public road, where some others were also killed, that he thinks he served in this tour four and a half months, that he has no documentary evidence to show his services in this tour, but thinks he can prove this service or part at least by Jacob Wells of New Hanover County and by Joshua Blake of Duplin County. This applicant further states that on his return from Kingston, Cornwallis and his Army were marching through the country from Wilmington on towards Virginia and that some of the company to which he belonged were taken prisoners by them.

That soon after his return from Kingston, about eight or ten days after, he entered the service again under the command of Col. James Kenan, Capt. Aaron Williams, David Williams, he thinks was Lieutenant, and Lewis Lanier Ensign, that he is not certain who was his Major, but thinks probably Abraham Moulton was, that he entered this service about the first of May 1781 and left it about the first or middle of August 1781, that he still resided in Duplin County, that he was a volunteer in this service, that he was in a sort of the battle or skirmish at Rock fish bridge² just above South Washington in New Hanover County, that the enemy was said to have been commanded by Craig [James Craig] that the enemy's dragoons crossed over Rockfish above the bridge at Turkey Point and made an attack about the same time with the infantry upon the American Army, that the Americans were defeated, that in this tour he was a light horseman, and marched and traversed the counties of Duplin, New Hanover & Bladen, that he was almost constantly on the march in pursuit of the Tories, and occasionally on the British lines as a spy or reconnoitering them, that on one occasion he rendezvoused at Capt. Richard Clinton's plantation now in Sampson County but then Duplin, that his company was there reinforced by a company called a Knockemdown company commanded by a Captain Hawkins; that at best time there was a company of Tories encamped in a place called Bear Marsh, wherein was an island, about fifteen miles above Clinton's plantation, that there were several companies of light dragoons

² Rockfish Creek August 2, 1781 https://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_rockfish_creek.html

embodied at the plantation aforesaid, viz. Capt. Bluford's, Capt. Gillespie's, Capt. Hawkins's, Capt. Williams's and probably is not certain, Capt. Robert Merrill's; that these companies marched against the Tories encamped in Bear Marsh, that for some days previous to our march against them and on several occasions a flag was brought from the Tories, that the last time it was brought, the bearer of the flag was detained and made to conduct our troop to the Tories' encampment – that our companies surrounded their place of encampment on all sides; but when they came up the Tories had all dispersed, leaving some of their horses, provender baggage and provisions; that he served with no Continental regiments or companies in this tour except Capt. Hawkins and that his company were, who were in uniform and well mounted, that the regular officers whom he knew were Joseph Rhodes, Curtis Ivey, Benjamin Williams, Robert Bannerman, Col. Malmedy if he was one and Capt. Hawkins if he was one, that he has no discharge or documentary evidence to prove this service, but thinks she can prove it by Joshua Blake of Duplin County NC.

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 & subscribed the day & year aforesaid

S/ James Blanton, X his mark

In order to state more precisely the length of his service and his grade, the aforesaid applicant swears that in his first service in the first of 1780 he served six weeks as a private, in his second tour commencing in November 1780 he served four and a half months as a private and in his 3rd tour of duty commencing in May 1781 he served three months as a private.

Sworn to & subscribed as amended the day & date above.

S/ James Blanton, X his mark

Answers of said applicant to the questions³ propounded to him by the Court as prescribed by the War Department

1st. I was born in Cumberland County near Cross Creek now Fayetteville the 15th of March 1764

2nd. I have no record of my age now.

3rd. When called into service I was living in Duplin County NC near where I now live. Since the Revolutionary war I lived in Onslow, New Hanover & Duplin Counties. I now live in Duplin County.

4. I refer to my declaration

5. I beg leave to refer to my declaration

6. I never received a written discharge.

7th. Joseph Newkirk, Daniel Alderman, Alfred Ward, Neill MacMillan, Henry Menin & others I

³ The War Department promulgated regulations governing pension application format and requiring the following 7 interrogatories to be put to each applicant for a pension:

1st Where and in what year were you born?

2nd Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

3rd Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

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

5th 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.

6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

could name.

[Alfred Ward and Henry Menin gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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State of North Carolina Duplin County}

On this the 19 day of September A.D. 1833 before me John Linton one of the acting Justices of the Peace in and for said County personally appeared Joshua Blake a resident of said County in the State aforesaid aged ninety eight years who being duly sworn doth on his oath depose and say that he is acquainted with James Blanton the above named applicant, knew him and served with him in the Revolutionary War two and a half months in a company of Duplin militia under the command of Captain Aaron Williams, David Williams, Lieut., Joseph Williams Ensign in a Regiment commanded by Col. James Kenan, that they entered the service together in November or December 1780; that they marched from Duplin to the Big Bridge in New Hanover County, and were stationed on the West side of the River to prevent the enemy from crossing; that there was a skirmish with the enemy on the East side of the River North East and the Americans defeated, during this service, That this deponent having been taken sick in this tour was discharged after having served two and a half months and left said applicant in service and this deponent further says that he knows nothing of said applicant's service under Captain Aaron Williams commencing in May 1781 which said applicant expected he could prove by this deponent.

Sworn to and subscribed before me the day & year aforesaid and I hereby certify that said deponent is well known to me and entitled to full faith & credit

S/ John Linton, JP

S/ Joshua Blake, X his mark

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State of North Carolina Duplin County: Superior Court of Law Spring Term 1835

On this the 24th day of March A.D. 1835 before the Honorable Robert Strange one of the Judges of the Superior Courts of Law & Equity in & for the State of North Carolina now presiding in the Superior Court of Law for the County of Duplin personally appeared James Blanton a resident of Duplin County in the State of North Carolina aged seventy 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 7th 1832 –

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

1st. In a company of Duplin militia under Captain Isham Shuffield [sic, Isham Sheffield], his other company officers he forgets, in January 1780 and served two months as a private and was a drafted soldier – ordered out by Col. James Kenan the acting Colonel of the County for a draft and after having been drafted met by appointment at a place called Hickory Hill near Rockfish & marched thence to within about a mile and a quarter of Wilmington & encamped there a fortnight, thence to Jumping Run below Wilmington & there stationed and remained six weeks – and discharged. – While stationed at Jumping Run the British were expected to arrive in Wilmington but did not – was employed in guarding the Magazine and keeping sentry at the camp. The Magazine being in the town – was in no battle. At Jumping Run there was four or five hundred militia under Col. James Kenan, Abram Moulten [sic, Abraham Moulton] Major has

no documentary evidence; but thinks he can prove this service by William Bevan⁴ of Bladen County.

2ndly. In a company of Duplin militia under Captain Aaron Williams, Joseph Williams Lieutenant & David Williams Ensign in November 1780 and served six weeks as a private. The whole company of militia belonging to the district in which he lived were peremptorily ordered out by Col. Kenan for the purpose (as he understood at the time), of driving the enemy (who had just taken possession of Wilmington) out of the town, but apprehending it too dangerous an undertaking, waited a while under arms for an accession of force from the upper Counties and after being joined by the militia from the adjoining Counties marched to Camp branch, remained there a fortnight or ten days, thence to the Big Bridge, which, having been previously destroyed by the British, was then rebuilt. The enemy were daily expected to come up the River in floating batteries – was in no battle – has no documentary evidence and knows of no person alive by whom he can prove this service except Jacob Wells⁵ of New Hanover whom he thinks was in this tour, to whose affidavit among the papers of his other application he begs leave to refer. –

3rdly. At the expiration of the above tour, it being deemed unnecessary by the officers to continue the whole of the militia then out in service a draft was ordered and this applicant was drafted & continued in service under the same officers as in the last mentioned tour viz. Capt. Aaron Williams, Lieut. Joseph Williams, David Williams Ensign, James Kenan Col., Abram Moulton Major and served three months as a private, commencing in January 1781 or perhaps February. The draft took place at the Big Bridge where he continued two months. While there he was detached in a company under Capt. James Gillespie upon an expedition called fatigue, to go upon the British lines, reconnoitering – & while out in this expedition Capt. James Love a bold & intrepid officer was killed at the eight mile house, by the British in the night. This applicant left the place the morning before the massacre to return to join his company at the Big Bridge – thence across the North East River at Rocky Point then called White's ferry – to Rutherford's Mills where we were reinforced by a troop of Horse under Col. Malmedy [Francis de Malmedy, Marquis of Bretagne] a French officer and stationed a while – thence to Jamestown Bridge on said River – thence to Kingston [sic: Kinston] on Neuse [River] and carried with us three pieces of Artillery – one nine feet long. During his station at the Big Ridge a skirmish took place on the opposite side of the River and Col. Brown [Thomas Brown] of Bladen [was] wounded. The cannon were fired at the enemy from our side. We were entrenched -- upon our fatigue expedition we took some British prisoners. At Kingston he was discharged and upon his return home he narrowly escaped being taken prisoner by Cornwallis's troop on their march from Wilmington – has no documentary proof and knows of no person now alive (as Joshua Blake⁶ is dead) by whom he can prove this service.

4thly. In a company of Duplin militia cavalry under the same officers as above viz. Capt. Aaron Williams, Joseph Williams Lieut., David Williams Ensign in May 1781 and served three months as a private and a volunteer – collected at John Williams's the district muster ground & marched to Rockfish Bridge, and was employed in reconnoitering upon the British lines, they then having possession of Wilmington. The place of encampment and rendezvous was at Rockfish where we made entrenchment preparing for defense against the enemy who were expected to undertake to pass. Detachments of our company would by turns march down to make what discoveries they could of the British and kept sentry below their station. In August

⁴ [William Bevan S6600](#)

⁵ [Jacob Wells W318](#)

⁶ [Joshua Blake S8074](#)

1781 the enemy under Craig & Manson made an attack both in front & rear upon our forces at Rockfish – very unexpectedly on our rear by the Enemy's cavalry & put them to route – There was a considerable force of militia at Rockfish. Col. Bludworth's [Thomas Bloodworth's] Regiment of New Hanover militia – Col. Kenan's of Duplin & others from other Counties, consisting of infantry & cavalry. During this tour he marched on one occasion into the upper part of Duplin now Sampson and joined a company of troop called Knockemdowns under Capt. Hawkins armed with holsters and staffs. In this excursion they took some Tories prisoners – has no documentary evidence and knows of no person by whom he can prove this service – but probably he can by William Bevan aforesaid of Bladen if alive.

Answers of James Blanton to the questions propounded to him by the Court aforesaid

1st. Born at Cross Creek, Cumberland County NC the 15th of March 1765.

2nd. I have no record of my age, had it but it is lost.

3rd. When called into service I was living in Duplin County NC on the iron mine branch – Since the Revolutionary War I lived one year in Onslow & two years in New Hanover & with that exception I have lived altogether in Duplin & I now live in Duplin.

4th. I refer to my declaration

5th. The only regular officers with the troops where I served were Capt. Joseph Rhodes, Benjamin Williams, Daniel Williams, & Robert Bannerman also Curtis Ivey – I never saw a Continental Regiment. The militia regiments I remember were Col. Kenan's, Col. Bludworth's & Col. Mitchell's [George Mitchell's] from Onslow. I saw others but do not recollect the names of their Colonels viz. regiments from Carteret, Wayne & Hyde & Bladen – for the general circumstances of my service I refer to my declaration.

6. I never received a written discharge –

7th. Alfred Ward Esquire – Stephen Williams – Stephen Herring, Daniel Alderman, John W Boney – James Newton & others I could name.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the Agency of any State.

Sworn & subscribed the day & year aforesaid in open Court before me.

S/ James Blanton, X his mark

S/ Jeremiah Pearsall, Clk

[Alfred Ward and Benjamin F. Blanton gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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State of North Carolina Bladen County} On this the 28th day of March 1835 – Before the undersigned a Justice of the peace in & for said County personally appeared William Bevan a resident of Bladen County NC aged seventy seven years who being first duly sworn doth on his oath depose and say that he served with James Blanton in the war of the revolution in a company of horse under the command of Capt. Aaron Williams in Duplin County NC and about the time that Col. James Kenan was defeated at Rockfish bridge & I saw him in the service at the Big Bridge in New Hanover County but how long he served I do not recollect. I know said Blanton was drafted to serve a three months tour at Wilmington on Jumping run I believe said Blanton to have been about fifteen years old when he was drafted, and now an applicant for a pension under the Act of Congress of June 7th 1832.

Sworn & subscribed the day & year aforesaid & I do hereby say that said William Bevan is well known to me and is entitled to full faith & credit

S/ G. W. Bannerman, JP

S/ William Bevan

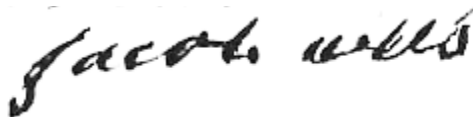


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State of North Carolina New Hanover County

On this the 26th day of October 1833 before me Lewis Thomas an acting Justice of the Peace in and for said County, personally appeared Jacob Wells a resident of said County of New Hanover in the State aforesaid aged seventy five years who being first duly sworn doth on his oath depose and say that he is acquainted with James Blanton of Duplin County in the State aforesaid an applicant for a pension under the Act of Congress of June 7th 1832 aged about seventy years and served with him in the Revolutionary War at the Big Bridge in the aforesaid County about the first of the year 1781, that they were in a Regiment commanded by Col. James Kenan, how long said Blanton served this deponent cannot say, but believes that he was detached on some expedition from the Big Bridge aforesaid. This deponent thinks that he said applicant did not belong to the same company with this deponent.

S/ Jacob Wells



Sworn & subscribed the day & year aforesaid and I hereby certify that said deponent Jacob Wells is well month of may and entitled to full faith & credit
S/ Lewis Thomas, JP

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$31.88 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 8 months 24 days service in the North Carolina militia as a private.]