

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Darrach S6789

f20NC

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 North Carolina, Bladen County: Court of Pleas and Order Sessions November Sessions 1832

On this the 8th day of November 1832, personally appeared in open Court, before the Worshipful Alex McDowell, John I McMillan & James McDuffie, Esquires Justices of the Peace for the County of Bladen holding the Court of Pleas and Order Sessions for said County, now sitting, John Darrach, a resident of the County of Bladen, and State of North Carolina, aged 75 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.

1. Shortly after the commencement of hostilities (but the year not recollected) He, with other young men, in the neighborhood of Elizabethtown, and on the North West River, we formed an Independent Company and chose Maturen Colvill [Maturin Colville] for their Captain; after the formation of the Company they marched to Fort Johnston below Wilmington, and remained in service at least one month. He has no distinct recollection, who were the Commanding Officers; William Saltar [William Salter] and Thomas Robeson [Thomas Robeson, Jr.] were chosen Colonels, but Saltar declined. He received a verbal discharge from Captain Colvin [sic] & returned home.

2. Shortly after, but the time not recollected, he marched with the same company under the Command of Captain Colvill, on an expedition against the Tories, who had embodied in considerable force under General McDonald [Donald MacDonald] on Cross Creek (now Fayetteville); they proceeded as far as Willis's Creek about 20 miles below Fayetteville, and waited there until General Moore, with some Continentals, came up; when they marched up to Rockfish Creek, and entrenched themselves near the Bridge, where they expected an attack from the Tories. He, with one Edward Jones, were placed upon Sentry, and had not been long posted before they saw a body of men advancing; upon which conformably to the orders they had received, they fired upon them, and retired; upon which the Tories fell back, held (as it was said) a Council, returned to Fayetteville & crossed the Cape Fear River at Campbellton, now Lower Fayetteville, thereupon, General Moore marched back to Elizabethtown on the Cape Fear. At that place, Colvill thinking the movements of General Moore too dilatory, procured some boats, and descended the River to Dollison's Ferry near Wilmington, where he went ashore with his Company: thence they marched to Moore's Creek Bridge, and arrived there the evening of the day, that General Caswell defeated the Tories at that place.¹ While there General McDonald was brought in as a Prisoner. He (Darrach) was in service on this expedition, more than a month; but

¹ February 27, 1776 https://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_moores_creek.html

cannot recollect the precise time. After this, in consequence of an attack of Rheumatism Colvill retired from the command of the Company; and sometimes afterwards became disaffected to the American cause, received the appointment of Colonel from the British and was at last killed by the Whigs.

3. The next expedition in which he was engaged was in the same Company under the command of Captain G. Jones McRee [sic, probably Griffith John McRee], they marched to Wilmington where they remained in service at least one month; and at the expiration of that time received a verbal discharge from Captain McRee. He recollects having understood that General Moore a Continental Officer was stationed with a body of Troops, below Wilmington.

4. The next expedition in which he was engaged, was in a Company of Bladen Militia under the Command of Captain James Shipman, which with other Companies of Bladen Militia under the Command of Col. Thomas Brown, marched to Wilmington, where they joined other Regiments of Militia under the command of General Ashe [John Ashe]. The Company was called out for three months, but after he (Darrach) had remained at Wilmington one month, Colonel Brown, with Captain Shipman's Company was ordered up to Elizabethtown in order to go in pursuit of a body of Tories who had killed a man by the name of Nathaniel Richardson, a distinguished Whig, at the place where Lumberton now stands, when the company arrived at Elizabethtown, he (Darrach) was taken sick & his Father went in his place, and served in his place until the expiration of his term of service. There was a Continental officer called Colonel Buncombe with the Troops under General ~~Ashe~~ Nash stationed below Wilmington who read the Declaration of independence to the Troops under General Ashe.

5. The next service in which he was engaged, was in an expedition to Fair Bluff on Drowning Creek in Bladen County, near the South Carolina line against the Tories, in a company commanded by Captain Daniel Shipman, accompanied by Colonel Thomas Brown of the Bladen Militia; at Fair Bluff, some of the Tories were captured; from that place, they crossed over Drowning Creek; thence to Ashpole in Robeson (then Bladen) County; thence to Rockfish, in Cumberland (then Bladen) County; and thence returned to Elizabethtown, Bladen County. He served four weeks on this expedition – received a verbal discharge from Captain Shipman.

6. The next expedition in which he was engaged was in a body of Bladen Militia under the command of Colonel Thomas Brown on Drowning Creek and Little Pedee [River]; on this expedition they took some Tories prisoners, and collected and drove a number of Cattle to Fayetteville, for use of the American Troops then stationed at that place. He was four or five weeks in service. The Company in which he marched was commanded by Captain James White, from whom he received a verbal discharge.

7. The next expedition in which he was engaged, was in a Company of Bladen Militia, under the command of Captain Thomas Haynes who with his Company joined a Brigade of Militia from the upper part of North Carolina on Black River; thence, they marched to South and Black River, and thence towards the North East River; after various positions had been occupied by the Troops under General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford] near the River, intelligence of the surrender of Cornwallis was received; and a few days after they were marched into Wilmington, and there received a written discharge from Captain Haynes which is hereto annexed. He has no other Documentary evidence & knows of no living witnesses of his service, whose attendance he can procure.

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.

And sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ John Darrach



Answers to the Questions² prescribed by the War Department as propounded by the Court

1. I was born on the 22nd day of September 1757 in Bladen County.
2. I had a record of my age in a family Bible, which was lost during the war – and have a memorandum of it in my own house at this time.
3. I resided in Bladen County, during the Revolutionary War and have resided there ever since.
4. I was a Volunteer.
5. The answer to this Question is contained in the body of my declaration – except that Captain McKee who commanded the Militia Company in which I was in service at Wilmington afterwards became a Continental Officer.
6. I received no written discharge, that I recollect, except the one herewith sent.
7. Hugh McDugald, John Savage, John McPhatter, David Lloyd, Mr. Thomas Smith, Dugald McKeithan, John McKeithan & others, if it was necessary to name them.

[Dugald McKeithan & John McFatter, gave the standard certificate of reputation for veracity, age and believed in the neighborhood of his revolutionary services.]

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This is to certify [sic, certify] that John Darrach has served his Tower [sic, tour] of Duty and is Discharged till further orders.

Elizabethtown November 20, 1781.

S/ Thos Haynes, Capt.

*This is to certify that John Darrach has served his Tower of Duty and is Discharged till further orders -
Elizabethtown November 20 1781
Thos Haynes Capt*

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$20 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831 for service as a private for 6 months in the North Carolina militia.]

² 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.