

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Elisha Evans S6830

f29NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

revised 8/3/08 & 10/14/14

[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, County of Caswell

Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions: October Term 1832

On this 8th day of October 1832 personally appeared in open Court before James Rainey, John P. Harrison & James McMullin the Courts of Pleas and Quarter Sessions of Caswell County now sitting: Elisha Evans, Sr., a resident of the Said County of Caswell in the Said State of North Carolina aged Seventy two years on the Second Day of December next who being first duly sworn according to Said doth on his Oath make the following Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress June 7th 1832.

That he entered the Service of the United States under the following named Officers and Served as herein Stated. To wit: "That Sometime, I think in the month of October 1778 I (This applicant) was drafted in the militia of the County of Caswell and State of North Carolina in Captain Whites [William White's] Company in the regiment Commanded by Colonel James Sanders [James Saunders], in this Company or Regiment George Moore was our Major. That we were marched through our State into the State of South Carolina. That at Salisbury we joined Genl. Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford], Commanding the North Carolina Militia that we were marched by a Variety of places as far as Purysburg [Purrysburg] in South Carolina. We had some little Picket Guard fighting across the River as we also had at other places but of not much Consequence. While in South Carolina I was discharged after serving a tour of five months or more, my discharge I have lost. Think I received it of Capt. William White. A part of the troop had a Severe fight at a place on Brier Creek [March 3, 1779] But I was not with them at the time, being at that time stationed on this side of the River. We were discharged sometime in April 1779 - At the time I was drafted I lived in Caswell County and State of North Carolina, where I have resided since.

Sometime during the Summer of 1780, I substituted myself in the place of one James Sergeant who I always believed was a Coward or something worse (Tory) under Captain John Graves [John Herndon Graves], in the Company Commanded by Colonel Paisley [John Paisley] - we were marched again into South Carolina, and as far as Camden, where meeting with the enemy, near Camden, we fought the memorable action commonly called Gates' Defeat [August 15-16, 1780]. Genl. Gates [Horatio Gates] being our Maj. Genl and Commanding officer. In this action we suffered a disgraceful defeat by the mismanagement or Cowardice of General Gates. From this place in confusion we retreated and the most of us reached home not having any place appointed for rendezvous. I came home, our time not yet being out, we were transferred (I hear) to Captain John McMullin's Company of Light Horse

and went under Colonel James Williams, of South Carolina. The Said Colo. Williams at that time resided at a place called Ninety Six in South Carolina. Being driven away from his home & Country by the Tories he applied to the Governor of North Carolina for assistance which was granted, and myself under Capt. John McMullin was one who went out with him. We were marched to a place called the Cowpens, where we were joined Colonels Campbell [William Campbell] Colonel Cleveland [Benjamin Cleveland] and I think Colo. Sevier [John Sevier]. With them we were marched to King's Mountain where we met the Tories whom we were in pursuit of. The enemy were Commanded by a Major Ferguson [Patrick Ferguson]. At Kings Mountain we had a severe engagement [October 7, 1780] and totally defeated the enemy. This Battle I think we fought in October 1780. From this place we were marched to a place called the Moravian Town in this State and were there discharged after serving (as I call it) Two Tours, amounting in all to some little upwards of four months.

Some Time in the Same Winter of the same year (1780) I was again drafted under Capt. Spillsby Coleman for the Company Commanded by Colo. Farmer [Thomas Farmer] in which Company Archibald Murphy and Thomas Harrison were Majors. We were marched to the Catawba River, to a place Called Beatties Ford or Cowan's Ford here we met the enemy [February 1, 1781] under Lord Cornwallis and endeavored to prevent their Crossing - here we had a fight and our Commanding officer, Genl. Davidson [William Lee Davidson] killed. We were driven back and retreated. In our retreat we overtook Genl. Green [Nathanael Greene] near Salisbury and retreated through our State and our County across Don River and over into Virginia. When Genl. Greene meeting with reinforcements we made a Stand. The enemy finding we were reinforced Turned their Course. We followed Them and Continued our pursuit toward Guilford, as far as to a place called the High Rock, where I was discharged (my Term of Service there expired) Some four or five days before the Guilford Battle [March 15, 1781] was fought after Serving a tour in this Campaign of Three months my discharge is lost but from my recollection of it now I think it was dated in March 1781. -- In this Campaign I omitted to mention, that after we were driven from the Catawba River, we were overtaking in a lane called Tarrance's Lane [Tarrant's Tavern, Torrence's Tavern, February 1, 1781] and here we had a sharp engagement and were defeated and retreated and in our retreat we overtook Genl. Green as I have before stated.

Some time of the latter part of August or the first of September of the same year I Volunteered in Capt. John McMullin's Company under Colo. William Moore and Major Dudley Reynolds. We were marched to the Lower part of our own State (North Carolina) for the purpose and with the view of retaking our Governor [Thomas Burke was taken prisoner by forces commanded by David Fanning, September 12, 1781] who sometime just before this was Captured by the Tories and British. We followed the enemy to place near Wilmington called the White Marsh. Here we overtook the enemy & had an engagement in which we were driven back, we from thence were marched to Fayetteville and from thence back again to near Wilmington and from place to place under Genl. Butler [John Butler] (in whom I never had Confidence as an officer) always avoiding an attack until we had the news of the capture of Lord Cornwallis at York - and afterwards until my term of Service expired and I was then discharged - after Serving a tour of Three months.

He hereby relinquishes any 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 if any he has no knowledge of it.

And it is here proper to state that in the Tour which I (This applicant) Served when at King's Mountain - that though I served but Two months yet I was promised that if I found my own horse and gun and Serve Two months that it should be considered a tour of Three months & that I should have all the advantages of having served such Time though this matter is left for the Judgment, consideration and generosity of my Country.

In all my time of Service including all the tours which I have mentioned in this my foregoing declaration amounts in all to fifteen months and upwards besides what may be considered of in the Tour of King's Mountain as mentioned above.

Interrogatories propounded by the Court and answers:

1st Where and in what year where you born?

Answer - I was born in the County of Nottaway in the State of Virginia - In the month of December 2d day in the year 1760.

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

Answer - There is a record of my age now in the possession of my Brother Samuel Evans in Person County in this State. - Recorded in my Fathers family Prayer Book.

3d Where were you living when called into Service, where have you lived Since the Revolutionary War, where do you now live?

Answer - When I was called into Service I lived in this County (Caswell County) and State of North Carolina - I have lived in the said County during, and ever since the Revolutionary War. I now live still in Caswell County where I hope to live so long as I do live.

4th How were you called into Service? Were you drafted, did you Volunteer, or were you a Substitute & if a Substitute for whom?

Answer - The first tour of duty which I served I was drafted in Captain White's Company as before stated - The next tour I Substituted myself in place of James Sergeant who was drafted; from which place I Voluntarily was transferred to Capt. McMullin's Company of Horse. In the 3d tour I was again drafted in Capt. Coleman's Company & In the last Tour I was a Volunteer in Capt. McMullin's Company of mounted militia on light Horse. 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?

Answer - There were a great many Regular officers who were with the troops where I Served - among them were Capt. Thos. Donoho [Thomas Donoho] who was afterwards Major; Colo. Arch Lytle [Archibald Lytle], Genl Green (sic, Greene), Genl Gates and Baron De Kalb. The Continental & Militia Regiments & the general circumstances of my service, I have mentioned before in this my declaration.

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

Answer - I received discharges for every Tour of duty which I served and I received them from the officers of my Companies But from which one I cannot now recollect my discharges I have lost long since not expecting ever to have a use for them.

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 good behavior, your Services as a Soldier of the Revolution?

Answer - I am known to almost every man in my County all of whom I presume will testify as to my character for veracity & good behavior. I will name James Rainey the Chairman of our Court, Capt. John McMullen,¹ Jonathan Starkey,² Richard Martin³ & others the most of whom too will prove my services as a Soldier of the Revolution.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ Elisha Evans Senr.



Test: S/Paul A. Haralson, Clk

[Richard Martin, a clergyman, and John McAden gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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John McMullin of lawful age personally appears in Open Court and being duly Sworn according to law Deposeth and Saith as follows – That he was a Captain in the War of the revolution of the Militia; That in the Campaign which the Militia of North Carolina took to the South in the year 1780, Elisha Evans was a Soldier; that he was at the Battle of Camden in Gates defeat; where this affiant was also; That the said Elisha Evans was one of volunteers in my Company which went in pursuit of the Tories in South Carolina and that he was at the battle of King's Mountain bravely fought and faithfully discharged his duty.

That in the retreat of the American Army through North Carolina before Lord Cornwallis's Army, the said Evans was also then a Soldier when the Americans crossed over into Virginia; as this Affiant well recollects; That in the fall of the year 1781, the said Elisha Evans was also again a Volunteer of the Company Commanded by this Affiant, and was marched to the Eastern part of North Carolina; and was at the Battle of the White Marsh, and was in Service at the time of the Capture of Lord Cornwallis.

These facts this Affiant knows of his own knowledge – and this Affiant has heard & believes that the said Elisha Evans was a Soldier on the sometime on the Savannah River in the American Army in 1778 or '79, and was at Purrysburg in South Carolina; -- and also that the said Elisha Evans was at the Catawba River & attempted to prevent the passage of the enemy; and was at the action of the Battle commonly called Tarrens' Lane [sic, Tarrant's Tavern, also spelled Torrence, Tarrence, Tarrance, etc.].

These last facts the Affiant does not know of his own knowledge, but having heard them from such Sources as he can rely upon he states them as matters of belief, which he honestly believes – And moreover this Affiant States; that he said Evans (during all the tours and campaigns of which this Affiant has Knowledge) honestly, bravely and faithfully discharged his duty.

S/ J. McMullin



Sworn to in Open Court

¹ [John McMullin \(McMullen\) W4287](#)

² [Jonathan Starkey R10072](#)

³ [Richard Martin R6944](#)

Test: S/ Paul Haralson, Clk

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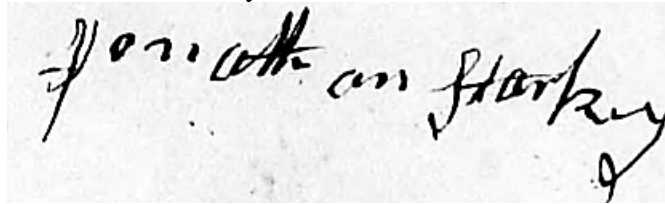
State of North Carolina, Caswell County: Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions October Term 1832

Jonathan Starkey, appears in Open Court and being duly Sworn, States, that he well recollects Elisha Evans Sr in Revolutionary War, that he was a faithful Soldier and Served out his Service, and deserves well of his Country.

That he was one of Captain White's Company which was at Purrysburg on the Savannah River in South Carolina that he, was also on another Tour in North Carolina under Captain Coleman, was at Beatties or Cowan's Ford on the Catawba River in the battle fought at that place, that he was also at the Battle in Tarrant's Lane and was with the troops in their retreat before Lord Cornwallis's Army into Virginia and served out his tour – these facts this Affiant well recollects, being with him in the said two tours.

Test: S/ Paul Haralson, Clk

S/ Jonathan Starkey

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jonathan Starkey". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, slightly textured paper. The letters are connected and fluid, with a prominent initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$52.66 per annum commencing March 4, 1831, for service as a private for 15 months in the North Carolina militia in both the infantry & cavalry.]