

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Falls S6834

f32NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

4/3/08 rev'd 1/13/15

[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, Iredell County: November Session A.D. 1832

On this 21st day of November 1832 personally appeared in open Court for a Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions now sitting William Falls a Resident of Iredell County North Carolina aged 69 years who being first 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.

He first served in Cherokee Campaign under General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford], Colonel Locke [Francis Locke] in the Company Commanded by Captain Falls [William Falls] his Father and Lieutenant Neil – Was not old enough to be liable to draft but entered as a volunteer, his Father went to Cathey's Fort on the Catawba River was there Six weeks, and he returned with the Wagons which could go no further through the mountains – Was then a resident of Rowan (now Iredell County) North Carolina in the Summer of 1776. His next tour was three months a volunteer under Captain Falls and Lieutenant Sloan the Company was Stationed at Davidson's Fort on the Catawba River guarding the frontier settlements from Indian invasion which was in the Spring of 1777 he thinks. Was next out in what was called Cross Creek Expedition about Fayetteville against Tories General Rutherford and Colonel Posley [sic, John Paisley?] he thinks of Guilford commanded. Was a Volunteer as before under his Father Captain Falls during the Fall of 1777 or '78. Served six weeks and was then sent an express to Salisbury with Letters.

Was next on a Scouting tour of three months through Lincoln and Rowan (now Iredell) [Counties] on the Catawba River guarding the Fords on said River under Captain Falls and Lieutenant Kerr [James Kerr]. And was in frequent tours of some kind afterwards a few days at a time dates not Recollected.

Was next out about the time of Ramsour's Battle in June 1780 [June 20, 1780], a week or so previous to it was in the Scout through Lincoln and when it was perceived that the Tories was embodied he rode express to General Rutherford between Charlotte & Salisbury who immediately detached Captain Falls and Lieutenant Byers [James Byers] with their Company which he joined as a volunteer – marched to Lincoln by Sherrill's Ford on Catawba River to a Camp on Mountain Creek – went to Ramsour's under Colonel Locke and Major Rutherford was present in the Battle in which his Father Captain Falls was killed, he then came home being in service about 20 days. In the fall of 1780 as well as he now recollects he again Volunteered for three months, was selected with others to furnish the Army with Beef Cattle under the discretion of James Kerr purchasing Commissary. After this he was occasionally a guard on Catawba River under no regular command. On Cornwallis's appearance from South Carolina proclamation was made that all who would furnish themselves with a horse and serve for six weeks might claim service for three months on foot he joined a Company under Captain Byers with Colonel Davidson [William Lee Davidson], Col. Dixon, Colonel McCall and Colonel

Perkins [sic, Andrew Pickens?] – after Cornwallis crossed the Catawba in February 1781, they followed in after his Army to the vicinity of Hillsboro North Carolina and joined Colonel Lee [Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee] of the light horse near Hart's Mills eight miles from Hillsboro. They captured a Company of Tories and a British officer – Tarleton [Banastre Tarleton] came out with 311 men from Hillsboro in pursuit of which Colonel Lee marched us and followed for five days. They came up with Piles [sic, Dr. John Pyle] a Tory Colonel who was said to have 350 men in his attachment. Piles under the belief that it was Tarleton's Horse made no preparation to resist and in consequence the greater part of his men (265 it was said) was killed [Battle of Haw River or Pyle's Defeat, February 25, 1781]. We maneuvered in the neighborhood a few days during which there was a skirmish with a party of British on Alamance – we shortly after joined General Green [Nathanael Greene] and maneuvered with him until our term expired.

A short time before the Battle of Guilford in April 1781 [sic, March 15, 1781]. At other times frequently engaged in Scouting parties but dates can't be recollected. That in addition to these services he was often called out for short periods of time in the service of his County that he honestly and conscientiously believes that he was at the least Eighteen months in actual Service. He was born in the State of Pennsylvania in Chester County on the ninth day of August 1763, as it is recorded in his father's Bible which is now in his possession at home. He was but a few weeks old when his father removed from the State of Pennsylvania to the State of North Carolina Rowan County (now Iredell) where he has lived ever since. That he has no Recollection of having received any written discharge. He refers to Joseph Sharpe & George L. Davidson. He has no documentary evidence and that he knows of no other person at present whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his Service except that attached hereto. 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 Year and day aforesaid.

S/ Wm Falls



State of North Carolina, Iredell County

This day personally appeared William Falls and made oath before me the Subscribing Justice of the Peace in and for said County and being first duly Sworn doth on his oath make the following additional declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision of the Act of Congress passed the 7th June 1832.

That by reason of old age and the consequent loss of Memory he cannot Swear positively as to the length of his Service but according to the best of his recollection he Served not less than the periods mentioned below:

			<u>month</u>	<u>days</u>
His first tour under Rutherford Cavalry as private			1	14
His second tour under Falls	do	do	3	00
His third tour	do	do	1	14
His fourth tour	do	do	3	00
Sundry Short tours, guarding themselves passes of the River (See declaration)			2	00
His fifth tour	do	do		20
His sixth tour	do	do	3	00
His seventh tour	do	do	1	14
			<u>16</u>	<u>01</u>
			\$15	12 [sic]

For which Service I claim a pension and if the last service is allowed according to proclamation

to rate as a three months tour, it will make it 17 months.

He was born in Chester County Pennsylvania in the year 1763.

He has a record of his age in his Bible taken from his father's Bible

He refers to Joseph Sharpe and George L. Davidson

Sworn & subscribed before me this 17th day of May 1833.

S/ J. Campbell, JP

S/ Wm Falls

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We, Joseph Sharpe¹ and George L. Davidson Residing in the County of Iredell State of North Carolina do hereby certify that we are well acquainted with William Falls who has Subscribed and Sworn to the above declaration that we believe him to be 69 years of age that he is reputed and believed in the neighborhood where he resides to have been a Soldier of the Revolution and that we concur in that opinion.

Joseph Sharpe further says that he saw William Falls in the Service of the Country at Ramsour's Mill at the time of the Battle where his father fell, and saw him afterwards in the Service of the Allamine [?]².

S/ Joseph Sharpe



George L. Davidson says that he knew William Falls during and ever since the Revolutionary War, that he has always understood and believes such is the universal belief and has been at all times that he was a Soldier of the Revolutionary war in the Battle at Ramsour's Mill when his father was Slain and in the engagement with the Tories under Piles [sic, Pyle].

S/ George L. Davidson

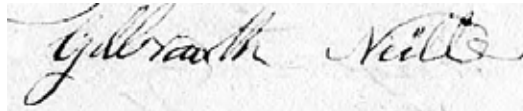


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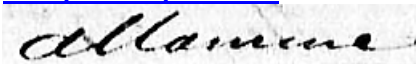
Gilbreath Neil³ after being duly Sworn according to Law Deposeh and Saith that during the Revolutionary War and ever since he has lived a close neighbor of William Falls who has Signed the foregoing declaration that he was with him in the Cherokee expedition commanded by General Rutherford in pursuit of Indians And that he saw him at the Battle of Ramsour's Mill on the 20th of June 1780, when his father Captain Falls was killed that he verily believes he served his Country to the full amount set forth in his declaration that he knows he was frequently in the service of his Country.

Sworn to and subscribed this 21 November 1832.

S/ Gilbreath Neille



1 [Joseph Sharpe S7482](#)

2 

3 [Gilbrath \(Gilbraith\) Neill \(Neil, Neal\) W17400](#)

[Veteran died February 1, 1837. No marriage or family information is in this file.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$64.46 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 15 months and 12 days in the North Carolina militia.]