

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Finley S6838

f13NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

12/26/08 rev'd 2/11/15

[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 County of Guilford

On this 23rd day of August 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the Court of pleas and quarter Sessions for the County and State aforesaid now sitting James Finley a resident of the County & State aforesaid now in the seventy second year of his age, 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 was born on the plantation on which he now resides in the County of Guilford and that he has resided all his life in said County that from an entry made in his father's family Bible he was born on the 10th day of October 1760

About the middle of August 1780 he entered the service of the United States as a volunteer under the command of Colonel John Paisley -- Captain Arthur Forbis and Lieutenant Gilmore and soon after marched from Martinsville in the County of Guilford to joined the forces of General William L. Davidson [William Lee Davidson] in the County of Mecklenburg -- that before he marched into Mecklenburg County the forces with which he marched from Martinsville were stationed for two weeks on the Yadkin [River], at which time he formed a member of a company of three hundred volunteers under the command of Colonel John Paisley & Captain Arthur Forbis to attack a party of Tories under the command of Captains Burk [Ben or Benjamin Burke] and Bryant [James Bryan] who had been committing depredations near the Shallow Ford of the Yadkin and that they arrived just as the Tories were defeated and routed by a body of Whigs by whom they had been attacked [Battle of Shallow Ford, October 14, 1780]. After returning from the scouting party and again forming the Main body he was marched into the County of Mecklenburg where General Davidson took the command after remaining there for some time he was marched under the command of a Captain Wilson [James Wilson] from Caswell County and joined some forces under command of Colonel Davie [William Richardson Davie] the close who was stationed on the Catawba River for the purpose of watching the movements and keep in check the British forces under the command of Lord Cornwallis which were encamped on the other side of the River Shortly after this he joined the Main Army again under the command of General Davidson & remained with them until he was discharged which took place in the month of November 1780 on the Yadkin River. He received a discharge at the time aforesaid signed by General Davidson and Captain Arthur Forbis which discharge has been lost or destroyed.

General Morgan [Daniel Morgan] & Colonel Washington [William Washington] were frequently at the head[quarters] of General Davidson where he frequently saw them

And the aforesaid James Finley further states that shortly after the battle of Guilford [March 15, 1781] from the scarcity of money and from the great depreciation of the money then in circulation, that it was a matter almost of impossibility to employ persons to act as public agents for the procurement of provisions for the military stores which it was necessary to keep up in that country to supply the armies, and officers who were passing from one part of the Country to another -- That it was necessary for persons to be employed in this service as Soldiers and to be considered as such, and paid and discharged as such. That he entered into this service under the command of Major Rutherford and was stationed at Martinsville and continued in it for the space of three months at the end of which time he received a discharge from Major Rutherford which discharge he has likewise lost. And at the same time he received a certificate from Major Rutherford that he had performed service an equivalent to a three months tour and that he was entitled to the same pay with those who had served for that length of time

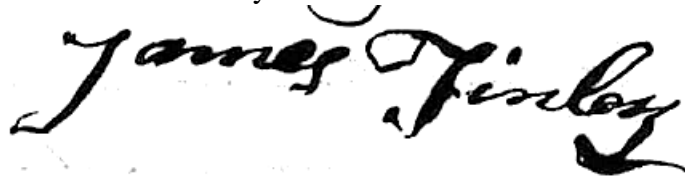
In addition to the foregoing Services he was subject to a call at any time as a minute man, whenever the inroads of the Tories or any other threatening danger threw the Country into a state of alarm, He was marched down to Deep River under Captain Bell [Robert Bell] for the purpose of attacking a parcel of Tories who were disturbing that section of Country, after the dispersion of the Tories he returned home and was discharged by his Captain he is not certain as to the particular time of this service but believes it to be a short time before Gates defeat as a part of the force after the dispersion of the Tories went on to join the Southern Army

In the spring of 1781 at the time General Green [Nathanael Greene] was retreating before Cornwallis he was again called out under Captain Bell and marched to Martinsville where he remained for the space of a week for the purpose of protecting the records of the County from destruction, but from the great destruction of property which was going on through the country at that time he was discharged together with the rest of the militia there assembled in order to conceal their property from the plundering and pillage of the British and Tories. He is known to William Maxwell¹ who has been acquainted with him all his life and by whom he can prove his service in his first tour under General Davidson, they both being discharged in returning home at the same time

He is likewise well known to the Reverend William D. Paisley and has been for a number of years likewise to Joseph Denny who are well acquainted with his character and standing in society 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 to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ James Finley

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James Finley". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "S/ James Finley".

[William D. Paisley, a clergyman, and Joseph Denny gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

William Maxwell maketh oath that he is well acquainted with James Finley whose name is subscribed to the foregoing declaration and that he knows he was in the service of the United States during the revolutionary war under the command of General Davidson and that he was discharged after the expiration of his term of service and returned home with him.

¹ [William Maxwell W5329](#)

Sworn to and subscribed in open Court the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Wm Maxwell

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Wm Maxwell". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background. The letters are fluid and connected, with a prominent "W" and "M".

North Carolina Guilford County

Personally appeared before me William Adams an acting justice of the peace for the County & State aforesaid, James Finly [sic], who being duly sworn deposeth and saith that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following grades

For three months and 1780 I served as a private under the officers and in the company mentioned in my declaration

For three months I served as a private in 1781 (Spring)

For one week I served as a private in an expedition against some Tories on Deep River

For two weeks I served as a private, about the time of the battle of Guilford

In all: for six months & three weeks I served my country in the war of the revolution and for such service I claim a pension.

Sworn & subscribed before me

S/ William Adams JP

S/ James Finley

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$22.33 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 6 months and 26 days in the North Carolina militia.]