

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Finley (Findley) S6843

f24NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

12/26/08 rev'd 7/25/14

[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.]

[p 4]

State of North Carolina Guilford County

Be it remembered that at a Court of Pleas and quarter Sessions begun and held for the County of Guilford at the Court House in the Town of Greensborough on the third Monday of August A.D. 1832. It being the 20th day of said month Present Joseph Gibson, George Nicks & Moses McGready Esquires

The following Declaration was made in Open Court in the following words.

Declaration, In order to Obtain the Benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7th A.D. 1832
State of North Carolina Guilford County: Court of Pleas & quarter Sessions August Term A.D. 1832

On this 20th day of August personally appeared in Open Court before the Justices of the Court aforesaid, now sitting, the same being a Court of Record; John Findley, a resident of the United States, in the County of Guilford, and State of North Carolina, aged about Seventy Seven 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 to wit that he first volunteered & was out a month in some days in the fall, October or November, of 1776 or 1777 on a tour to Fayetteville in the State, After the Scotch Tories, under the command of Captain Forbis [probably Arthur Forbis] and General Davidson [William Lee Davidson], and was discharged on Hay Mount, by Word, no written discharges were given, that when he returned to Guilford whence he had set out he again Volunteered in a Company which was called Minute Men, and rode as horsemen, sometimes under one Captain and sometimes under another, but mostly under Captain John Gillespie (a Volunteer) That in this Company he served as Sergeant -- but does not recollect how many tours but not less than Six -- that in making them he was marched down to the Carraway Mountains or high hills of Randolph County and frequently down in the State as far as Drowning Creek after Colonel Fanning [David Fanning] who who commanded the Tories, that in performing these tours he must have consumed as much as seven months, that in May 1780 in the County of Guilford, he Volunteered under Captain McAdow [sic, McAdoo? perhaps John McAdoo of Guilford County], (a Volunteer) and joined the Militia Troops, under General Davidson, that a Company of Volunteers in which he was sent under the Command of said Davidson into the forks of the Yadkin River after Colonel Brian [sic, Samuel Bryan] of the Tories, and that in this Company he went in the character of Sergeant; but Bryan & his band evaded us; that he with others were marched, under

the Command of Major White back to Salisbury in Rowan County, whence they set out, that he marched in July 1780 from Salisbury, and joined the Continental Army under General Gates [Horatio Gates] near the Cheraw Hills, on Pedee River in the State of South Carolina, and was marched from thence under the Command of General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford], Colonel Alexander [George Alexander], Major White & Captain McAdow, his particular and in the Militia Commanding Officers, and under the Genial Command of General Gates to a place called Rughelies Mill [Rugeley's mill], 13 miles from Camden, that he believes that General DeKalb a French General was there a commanding Officer in the Army, that on the 15th day of August 1780 in the evening General Gates marched to attack the British, who it was said were entrenched at Camden, the British at the same time stealing a march on us: the Armies met about midnight, when the front guards had several skirmishes at daylight the Battle became general and Cannon were used, that in this engagement he had the honor to command a platoon of 16 brave Soldiers assigned to him by Major White, two of whom were killed, and one wounded, that in this defeat his General to wit Rutherford was wounded and taken prisoner, and General DeKalb and many other brave man were killed, that he did not see his General to wit Gates during the battle nor after, but in his retreat and return home about 30 miles from the battleground (which was 7 miles from Camden) he saw on the side the same beautiful Sorrell Horse on which General Gates rode the evening before the battle, which he was told General Gates left there about 10 o'clock in the morning of the Battle; -- That after this defeat he returned home: that in a few days after his return home which was rapid; he volunteered and was marched to New Providence, Mecklenburg County under Colonel Paisley [John Paisley] & Captain Forbis (Volunteers) thence he was driven by the British before whom he retreated under General Greene [Nathanael Greene], over Dan River, to Halifax Court House in the State of Virginia, that the British did not Crossed Dan River, but turned towards Hillsboro Orange County NC and thence up into Guilford and encamped in the New garden Settlement as he understood, that he went to New Providence under the command of Captain Forbis of his own neighborhood a volunteer, that shortly after the Army stopped at Halifax, intelligence came that the Tories were making ravages there Forbis and his Company's neighborhood; that to quell these Forbis & his men were permitted to return home; that on their return Captain Forbis found that the Tories had escaped, and determined to join the General Army again, which he did a very short time after the battle of Guilford [March 15, 1781], that he was not in this battle, but was left by Forbis to go home and get clothing and orders to join him again as soon as practicable which he was unable to do before the engagement Commenced, that he was 12 miles from the Court House when the Battle commenced; and found on his arrival at the battle ground, that he could not join his Company or any part of the American Army, with Certainty or Safety that after the battle he and others of Forbis' Company conveyed their brave commander mortally wounded to his home; that he continued in the Service until he was taken with the small pox, which was three weeks after the battle of Guilford, that as soon as he recovered he was sent by Colonel Paisley belonging still to the many Company, down to the waters of the Alamance in his own County after some Tories, who were drafted to increase the American's Army and refused to serve, that during the latter part of the summer and fall of 1781 until towards Christmas he was always ready with the minute Company to be sent at the command of Colonel Paisley & Captain Robert Paisley, by whom they were sent out on various and different tours consuming at the least one half of his time, that from 1776 to 1781, he was always ready at the many calls of the militia volunteer Officers of his County and that he was out on many other short tours of which he is unable from his memory being greatly impaired to give a Correct Narrative, that for the aforesaid. He was as generally if not on Actual Service

Considered a Soldier of the revolution, that he has no documentary evidence of his revolutionary services, that there are two persons in the balance of his Knowledge who can from their personal knowledge testify to his Services to wit Isaiah McBride¹ and William Smith, who are from old age and decrepitude unable to come with any convenience to come to court, that he was born in Frederick County of Virginia of which a Record is made in his father's Bible: that with his father he moved in 1771 to Guilford NC that he has lived in Guilford ever since except five years or thereabouts he spent in Williamsburg Township in the State of South Carolina, that he never had a written Commission, but Served as a Sergeant, Quarter Master and Forage Master, that he is known to the Reverend William D. Paisley, Reverend Eli W. Caruthers, Reverend John Cox, Colonel Walter McConnell, Captain John L. Gilmore, Joseph Gibson Esquire, Findley Shaw, James Thom, Joseph Hanner, John Paisley & David McAdow Esquire and many other respectable Citizens of his neighborhood who can and are willing to testify to his veracity and their belief of his Services as a Soldier of the Revolution

He the said John Finley 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 day and year aforesaid.

S/ John Findley²

S/ A. E. Hanner, Clk

[William Paisley, a clergyman, Findley Shaw & Joseph Gibson gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[fn p. 19]

State of North Carolina Guilford County

On this 18th day of December A.D. 1832 personally appeared before me Jedediah Smith one of the acting Justices of the County Court of Guilford William Smith³ and made oath in due form of law, that he has long known John Finley [sic], who he is informed has made application to his Government for a pension; and knows that he was often out on service during the revolutionary war.

Subscribed and sworn to

S/ William Smith

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William Smith". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the printed name "S/ William Smith".

S/ Jh. Smith, JP

State of North Carolina Guilford County

Be it known that on this 18th day of December A.D. 1832, personally appeared before me Jedediah Smith one of the acting Justices of the County Court of Guilford John Finley and made oath in due form of law that the declaration here with transmitted contains a History of his revolutionary services that Isaiah McBride mentioned therein died a few weeks ago -- that he still cannot give a precise account of the time he was out but believes he can say on his oath from the best of his recollection that in the six tours mentioned in his declaration he served as much as

¹ [Isaiah McBride S7206](#)

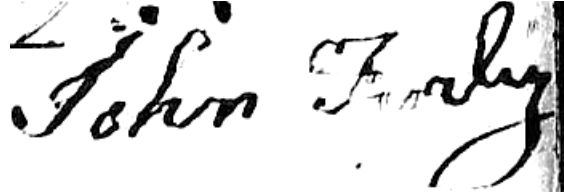
² the signature is unlikely to be the actual signature of the veteran since the hand writing is identical to the body of the document to which it is attached.

³ [William Smith S7555](#)

seven months as Sergeant -- that from May 1780 until spring 1781 he must have served as much as 10 months as Sergeant -- that he served as Sergeant in all not less than two years and four this service he claims a pension -- and for more satisfactory statements as to service refers to his declaration.

Subscribed & sworn to

S/ John Finley [sic]

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Finley". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background. The letters are connected and fluid, with a prominent "F" and "y".

S/ Jh Smith, JP

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$120 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a Sergeant for 2 years in the North Carolina service.]