

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Pierce Godwin S6902

f12NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

8/16/08 rev'd 3/19/13

[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. 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 fails 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 errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of North Carolina, Columbus County: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions – February Term 1833

On this the 12th day of February AD 1833 personally appeared in open Court, before the Worshipful Bythel Haynes, Josiah Nye, and Robert Ward Justices of the Peace for the County of Columbus holding the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for said County, now sitting – Pierce Godwin, a resident of the County of Columbus, and State of North Carolina, aged seventy-three years; who after being 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.

About the year 1776, shortly after the commencement of hostilities and this part of the Country, he volunteered in a company of Bladen militia commanded by Captain Thomas Amis, Lieutenant John Yates, the Ensign not recollected. The Company joined the Bladen Regiment at Elizabeth town, commanded by Colonel Thomas Robeson, where there were other Troops, and he believes some Continentals, all under the command of General James Moore who was said to be a Continental Officer, they marched to Rockfish Creek, seven miles below Fayetteville, then Cross Creek, for the purpose of driving the Tories, from that place, who had collected in considerable force under McDonald and McLeod – General Moore on arriving at that place apprehending an attack from superior numbers of the Tories, threw up entrenchments, on the North side of the Creek, and below the Main Road. The Tories however crossed the Cape Fear at Campbellton, now Fayetteville, with the intention it was said of surprising Wilmington; upon which General Moore marched down the South West side of the Cape Fear until he arrived within a few miles of Wilmington, where he heard of the defeat of the Tories at Moore's Creek bridge by General Caswell. Upon which he discharged the Militia under his command – but Captain Amis was ordered by Colonel Robeson with his Company to Drowning Creek, and the South Carolina line for the purpose of collecting the Tories in that quarter, and requiring them to take the oath of Allegiance. He was engaged in the service above described, at least one month – and at the expiration of his time, he received a verbal discharge from Captain Amis—he then resided in that part of Bladen now called Columbus.

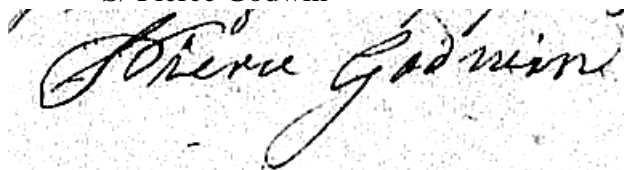
In the month of May or June 1776, he volunteered for two months in a Company of Bladen Militia Commanded by Captain Thomas Amis, Lieutenant John Gates, and Ensign William Oliphant--the Company rendezvoused at the Marsh Castle in Bladen now Columbus County – marched thence to Wilmington – on their way, they joined another Company of Bladen Militia under the Command of Captain Josiah Hendon; at Wilmington joined to Companies of Duplin Militia, who together with Amis' & Hendon's Companies were commanded by Colonel Thomas Brown of Bladen – General Moore having the principal command – They remained at Wilmington two weeks, and were removed down to Jumping Run, two miles below, where they remained until the Bladen & Duplin Militia were relieved by other Militia Companies from the same Counties. He completed his term of service, and received a written discharge from Captain Amis – but has been long since lost or destroyed.

In the Spring of the year 1778 or 1779: There was a draft of three men in each Captains' District throughout the County; he was drafted in Captain Amis District, together with John Russ and Hugh McDugald. In obedience to orders from Captain Amis, they repaired to Campbellton, in order to join Colonel Armstrong's Regiment, who it was said were to reinforce General Gates Army – On arriving at Campbellton, Colonel Armstrong with his Regiment had marched. They were stopped at that place by Daniel Mallet, Assistant Commissary – he placed them, as he said by direction of Colonel Armstrong, on Fatigue duty – and were employed in boating up and down the Cape Fear, between Fayetteville & Wilmington, for the purpose of supplying the American Troops with salt, rum &c. He served three months, and at the expiration of that time received a written discharge from Mr. Mallet – but it has been long since lost or destroyed. He does not recollect that any Troops other than 15 men who were employed on fatigue duty were stationed at Fayetteville. He resided during the Services above detailed in Bladen, now Columbus County. He has no documentary evidence, and no living witness who can testify to his services except Captain Absalom Powell,¹ whose affidavit is hereunto annexed.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present, and declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of the Agency of any State.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ Pierce Godwin



Answers to the interrogatories prescribed by the War Department, as propounded to the applicant by the Court.

1. I was born in Johnson [sic, Johnston] County North Carolina – February 17th 1760.
2. I have a record of my age in a Psalter at home
3. I resided in Bladen (now Columbus) from the time I was 10 years old
4. I volunteered in the two first tours that I served and was drafted in the last period
5. I received two discharges in writing – but have lost them or they have been destroyed long since.
6. I have no recollection of any Continental Officers except General Moore – or of any Continental Regiments; or Militia Regiments except those in which I served.
7. Everett Nichols, Elias Nichols, Richard Williamson, Joshua Williamson (Sheriff), Lot Williamson, George Parker, Aaron Hill, David Dodd when & Matur Branton, & Col. Caleb Stevens.

[Caleb Stephens and Averit Nichols gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

State of North Carolina, Columbus County: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions February Term 1833

On this the 12th day of February 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the Worshipful Bythel Haynes, Josiah Nye and Robert Ward Justices of the Peace of the County of Columbus holding the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for said County Absalom Powell Senior and after being duly sworn according to law – depose and saith as follows: That he was Sergeant in a company of Bladen militia commanded by Captain Thomas Amis, & John Yates Lieutenant, in which Company the Declarant Pierce Godwin was a Private and served with the Company in the expedition to Rockfish, Drowning Creek, and Jumping Run. He further swears, that the Declaration of the said Pierce Godwin has been read to him – that the facts and circumstances set forth in relation to said expeditions are

¹ [Absalom Powell R8401](#)

substantially correct, and that to the best of his recollection the said Pierce Godwin did serve three months, while engaged in said expeditions – Further this Deponent saith not.

Sworn to and Subscribed in open Court the day & year aforesaid.

S/ A. Powell Senr.

S/ Wm J. Cowan
Elizabethtown, NC

[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.]