

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Abner James S7065

f26NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

11/7/15

[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 'indcipherable' 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 7]

State of North Carolina Orange County: SS

On this 26th day of November A.D. 1832, personally appeared in open Court, before the Justices of the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions for the County aforesaid, now sitting, Abner James, a resident of the County & State aforesaid, aged sixty-eight 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, & served as herein stated: That in the winter of 1780 – 81, he volunteered, without limit of time, in the militia of the State aforesaid, at the Shallow Ford on Haw River, in the County & State aforesaid, & was attached to the Company commanded by Captain Gwinn [either Edward Gwinn, John Gwinn or William Gwinn, all of whom served as captains under William O'Neal at some point during the Revolution]; and was engaged in service in pursuit of the Tories, in the adjacent Counties, in part. A few weeks of his service, were in the Troop of Light Horse commanded by Colonel O'Neal [William O'Neal] of Orange aforesaid. A short time before the Battle of Guilford, he was permitted by his Captain Gwinn, to go home to get clothing; & was at home under this parole at the time of that engagement [Battle of Guilford Court House, March 15, 1781]. A few days after that battle, he returned to Captain Gwinn's Company, then in General Green's [Nathanael Greene's] Army in Guilford County. From Guilford the declarant was marched with General Greene's Army to Ramsey's Mills on Deep River – Butler [John Butler] being the Commanding General of the North Carolina militia. From Ramsey's, General Greene moved to Southward; and the declarant under General Butler, was marched to Wake Court House; and thence to Hillsboro guarding some prisoners, British & Tory. At Hillsboro the declarant was discharged, after having served something more than three months. By whom he was discharged, & he received a written or verbal discharge – he now cannot recollect. In addition to the officers above mentioned, he remembers that Lieutenant Gwinn [probably William Gwinn] was one of his Company Officers. –

In October 1781, as well as declarant can recollect, he again entered the service of the United States, for a tour of twelve months, in the Militia of North Carolina, at Hillsboro N. C., under the following circumstances. The Militia of the State were at that time classed into Companies of forty men each & each class was required to furnish a soldier for a twelve month's Tour, with the view of raising a competent force to put down the Tories, who annoyed the Citizens of North Carolina more than the British, perhaps. In the neighborhood of the Shallow

Ford aforesaid, where the declarant resided, the class of forty men, of which he was one he thinks, prevailed on the declarant to volunteer as the soldier for that service, which the Company was bound for. Accordingly he did so, in October 1781, at Hillsboro as aforesaid. – The Company, to which he was attached, was commanded by Captain Jones and Lieutenant Bilberry. The Field Officers were Colonel Long and Major Crafton [possibly either Bennett Crafton or Samuel Crafton]. He was stationed at Hillsboro to Guard the Town and prisoners in Jail, and the General Assembly of the State then in Session in Hillsboro, a good part of the ensuing winter. The declarant remembers distinctly an occasion in Hillsboro that winter. An alarm was given that the Tories were about to attack the Town, one night at a late hour when it was very dark, rainy & muddy. The soldiers were summoned to arms in the Streets, the Mounted men rode to and fro; the members of the Assembly flew to their arms & arranged in battle array – all expecting every moment to meet the enemy. This state of excitement continued for perhaps two hours, when it was ascertained that there was no foundation for the Alarm. – From Hillsboro, the declarant was marched to Chatham Court House, thence to Conner Dowd's Mill on Deep River; thence towards Drowning Creek, & over the neighborhood of the Raft Swamp; & thence to the edge of South Carolina, between Drowning Creek & Little Pedee [River]. While in that vicinity, a scouting party of the Light horse of General Marion [Francis Marion] of South Carolina, and the Regiment to which the declarant was attached, mistook each other to be Tories, & had a sharp conflict of a few minutes – in which one of Marion's men lost his life. The mistake was not discovered until the Troop of horse retreated. The declarant remembers well, that when the Trooper thus slain, fell from his horse – one William Duke,¹ who was a soldier in declarant's Regiment, but of a different Captain's Company from his own – leaped into the saddle from which the dying man had just fallen. The said William Duke now resides in the County of Orange aforesaid east of Flat River – and had previously become known to declarant by his feats of activity as manifested in the march of their Regiment from Hillsboro. Afterwards and while scouring the Southeastern part of North Carolina, the declarant with others, as a Guard, were detached to Hillsboro with a Company of Tory prisoners. He immediately returned to the Army which was employed in scouting parties over the Country, in pursuit of Tories. While engaged in this service, the declarant was taken sick with ague & fever & was furloughed to go home to recruit his health. His health was restored in a short time & then he rejoined the Army at Hillsboro; then & at a Mr. Paul's in the vicinity, he was stationed until the expiration of the twelve months for which he volunteered as aforesaid. Major Lewis [perhaps Joel Lewis] granted him his discharge, at Paul's aforesaid – which discharge is lost. –

The declarant hath no documentary evidence of his service – and knows of no person by whom he can prove his service, except Isaac Griffith² of Orange aforesaid, who was a soldier with him in the twelve months' tour, for some months – whose Affidavit is hereunto appended. He was born in Lancaster County in the State of Pennsylvania, in the year 1763, as he supposes: he hath no record of his age. He was removed from Pennsylvania to Baltimore; & thence, when about nine years of age, to Orange County in the State of North Carolina, where he hath ever since resided. – 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, as far as he hath knowledge.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid

S/ J Taylor, CC

S/ Abner James, O his mark

¹ [William Duke S6808](#)

² [Isaac Griffith S6918](#)

[p 16]

State of North Carolina Orange County

Isaac Griffith having appeared before me one of the Justices of the Peace for the County aforesaid, and after having been duly sworn according to law, maketh oath that he knew Abner James, now of the County and State aforesaid, to be a Soldier in the War of the Revolution, in what was called a twelve month service, in the Militia of North Carolina, under the command of Colonel Long, Major Crafton & Captain John Mebane. How long the said Abner James served as a soldier, this affiant doth not know.

Sworn to & subscribed, this the 24th day of November A.D. 1832.

S/ Isaac Griffith, X his mark

[p 3]

State of North Carolina Orange County: May Term of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for the County aforesaid

Personally appeared in open Court on This 31st day of May 1833, Abner James a resident of Orange County, now about 69 years of age who being first duly sworn according to law, doth upon his oath make the following Supplementary declaration in order to obtain the benefits of the Act of Congress passed the 7th day of June 1832.

That he entered the Service of the United States as a Volunteer in the year 1780 or 81, as stated in his original declaration – and without any specific agreement as to time In the militia under Captain Gwinn, and served as stated in his original declaration as a private – that after he had been in the service as aforesaid two months he engaged as a substitute for a Soldier in the militia – whose term of service had in part Expired, and he served one month in the capacity of a substitute, making a full Service of three months as a private (as more particularly detailed in his original declaration[]).

This deponent entered the Service again in October in the year 1781 for the period of twelve months: as a private: and Served as detailed at large in his original declaration and was at the expiration of his time discharged by a Major Lewis.

This Declarant did not produce the evidence of a Clergyman, by reason of the sickness of the Clergyman to whom he was best known.

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

S/ Abner James, O his mark

[William Montgomery & Jesse Gantt gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 5]

Interrogatories answered by declarant

1st He was born in Lancaster County Pennsylvania about the year 1764.

2nd Has no record of his age – and knows his age only by tradition

3rd. To each he answers "in Orange County North Carolina. ["

4th first as a Volunteer & served two months, 2nd as a Substitute & Served one month – 3rd by enlistment for twelve months

5th He Served with General Green [Nathanael Greene], Butler [John Butler], Colonels Lee [Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee] & Washington [William Washington] – Colonels Lytle [probably Archibald Lytle] and Long & Colonel Thomas – Majors Lewis & Crafton – Captains – Gwinn, Jones, Trouten – Mebane for answer to balance, see original declaration.

6th. Did receive a discharge from the twelve months service signed by a Major Lewis – but have

lost it.

Sworn to in open Court & subscribed

S/ Abner James, O his mark

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$52.50 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 15 months in the North Carolina militia.]