

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Ludwick May, S7169

Transcribed by Will Graves

f27NC

rev'd 7/21/16

[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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

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State of North Carolina, Orange County: SS

On this 1<sup>st</sup> day of September 1832, personally appeared in open Court, before the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions of the County & State aforesaid now sitting, Ludwick May, of the said County & State, age 68 years on the 20<sup>th</sup> of January last, 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 7<sup>th</sup> June 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

He volunteered in Orange County State aforesaid in February 1781, as he thinks, for three months, in the Company of Captain Whitesell<sup>1</sup> – it being the day on which Colonel Lea [sic, Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee] fought the Tories under Piles [sic, Dr. John Pyle] in the Western part of Orange [February 25, 1781].<sup>2</sup> The said of Whitesell was Captain of the Guard placed over the prisoners taken by Col. Lea in his said battle with the Tories: -- the declarant was a few miles from the Field of Battle of Guilford [March 15, 1781],<sup>3</sup> fought by the British & Americans, under the adversary Generals Lord Cornwallis & Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] – guarding the Tory prisoners. After the Battle of Guilford, the said Tory prisoners were discharged on parole -- & the declarant was discharged from the service. Shortly after, he was taken with the Small pox. In the summer, he thinks of 1781, he again volunteered, in the County of Orange, for three months in Captain Rogers' [William Rogers'] Company. He served the whole of the term against the Tories, under Captain Rogers in part – Captain Trousdale [James Trousdale], in part; -- and Captain Gwin [sic, Gwinn]<sup>4</sup> and Colonel O'Neal [William O'Neal]. He was marched within this term, in Orange, Chatham, Cumberland, Moore & Randolph Counties, in order to suppress different collections of Tories. He was at Hillsborough when the Tories took the Town [September 12, 1781],<sup>5</sup> & his then Captain Trousdale was taken prisoner – but the declarant made his escape. The declarant was called into the service of the United States, a few days after the expiration of the said term of service; being a resident in the same section of Country where the Whig officers, Colonel O'Neal & Captain Gwin lived; -- and served as a volunteer, with the

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<sup>1</sup> This MIGHT be a reference to either Henry Whitesell or Tobias Whitesell, both of the Guilford County NC militia. Their surname is variously spelled Weitzel, Whitesall, etc.

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution\\_battle\\_of\\_haw\\_river.html](http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_haw_river.html)

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution\\_battle\\_of\\_guilford\\_courthouse.html](http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_guilford_courthouse.html)

<sup>4</sup> There are three candidates for this officer. Captains Edward Gwinn (Guilford), John Gwinn (Granville) and William Gwinn (Guilford) all are thought to have served at one time or another under Col. William O'Neal of Orange County. See [http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/nc\\_patriot\\_military\\_captains.html](http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/nc_patriot_military_captains.html) and search "Gwinn."

<sup>5</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution\\_battle\\_of\\_hillsborough.html](http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_hillsborough.html)

exception of one, two or three days at a time, until the August of 1782. The surrounding Counties during the aforesaid time, was much infested with Tories – and the Whigs were compelled thereby to be on the alert, marching & countermarching, in order to thwart the designs & suppress the ravages of the enemy. During the whole of the aforesaid period, the applicant have no recollection that he was off military duty three days at a time. In August 1782, he was discharged, & did not again enter the service. If he received written discharges, he has no recollection of it. He has no documentary evidence of his service. He has procured the testimony, in the form of an affidavit, of John Efland,<sup>6</sup> of the County & State aforesaid, who was a soldier in the revolutionary War – which is hereunto affixed, as proof in part, of his service. He is known to Dr. James S. Smith, Major John Taylor and John Ferrell, of his County & neighborhood. He was born, January 20<sup>th</sup>, 1764, in the County & State aforesaid – where he has always resided. -- he hath no certain record of his age. 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, so far as he hath knowledge.  
Sworn to in open Court.

S/ Ludwick May, X his mark

S/ J. Taylor, C.C.

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North Carolina, Orange County: SS

On this the 31<sup>st</sup> day of May A.D. 1833, personally appeared in open Court, before the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions of the County & State aforesaid, it being a Court of record & now sitting, Ludwick May, of the said County resident in the said County & State, age 69 years on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of January last, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration, by way of amendment to the declaration made by him before the said Court, at its August Sessions A.D. 1832 to which this is appended, in order to obtain the benefits of the Act of Congress, passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832. --

The declarant, by way of explanation of his said former declaration, which was drawn up in the hurry & bustle of the business of Court, now states, that the statement of his services in the war of the revolution contained in said declaration, is true – but general to its character & deficient in its details. He has an abiding recollection of the privations, fatigues & perils he encountered between February 1781 when he entered the service of the United States, and August 1782, when he left it. -- From the latter part of April 1781 until the ensuing August, he remembers well that he was confined at home with the small pox, & was unable to perform military duty. -- From February 1781 until August 1782, the declarant remembers well, that he followed or was employed in no civil pursuit; that with the exception of the period of his confinement at home by the small pox, as above stated, he was not out of actual service as a private in the militia of North Carolina, during the time aforesaid, more than three days at a time. The troubled state of the Country was supposed to require the services of the Militia – and drafts for three months' tours were constantly being made from the militia of Orange County aforesaid, where declarant resided during the revolutionary war. The declarant during the period aforesaid, did not wait to be drafted – but volunteered as a private in the militia for three months' tours, in quick succession, from the latter part of August 1831 [sic, 1781?] until his final discharge August 1832 [sic, 1782?] -- when the internal enemy, the Tories, were completely disarmed. In February 1781, he volunteered as a private in the militia of North Carolina as set forth in his said former declaration: in the latter part of April of that year, he was attacked with small pox & being unable to do service, he was permitted to go home & remained until he should be restored. At the time

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6 [John Efland S6814](#)

of his attack with small pox, he had been in service two months and a half: and in August following he served out the balance of the three months tour for which he volunteered in February of that year – under Captain Rogers. -- Captains Rogers, Trousdale and Gwinn – and Colonel O'Neal – were commissioned officers in the Militia of North Carolina, as this declarant understood & believed, & now believes – And resided in time of the War of the revolution, in the County [of] Orange & State of N. C. and it was under these Officers that he performed the whole of this service he rendered in the revolution except the service of 2 ½ months under Captain Whitesell. In the said month of August 1781, as soon as the half months expired which completed the three months tour for which he volunteered in February as aforesaid – declarant volunteered for another three months tour, & was attached to Captain Rogers' Company at first. The tour expired in the latter part of November 1781: And the declarant volunteered for three tours of three months each, in quick succession as aforesaid as a private each time, in the militia of the State, & was as aforesaid discharged in August 1782. -- During these tours, or rather in each tour or engagement; declarant was marched in pursuit of the Tories in the southern part of Orange County, through Chatham, Randolph, Cumberland & Moore Counties N. C. The declarant cannot remember under what Captain he served a third, fourth & fourth tours, in the order named & performed: he remembers that he served the first tour under Captain Whitesell aforesaid until he was taken sick as aforesaid: that when he volunteered for the second tour in August 1781, he was at first attached to the Company of Captain Rodgers [sic], & afterwards but before the capture of Hillsboro by the Tories, he was attached from Captain Rogers' Company & assigned to Captain Trousdale, who commanded the Guard at Hillsboro N. C. & when Hillsboro was captured as aforesaid Captain Trousdale was taken prisoner, and the declarant having made his escape from the enemy on that occasion, he joined Captain Gwinn's Company & served out the balance of this term of service, under Captain Gwinn's Command. Whether he volunteered for the third tour of three months, under the command of Captain Gwinn or Captain Rodgers – declarant cannot remember; and so of the fourth and fifth tours, for which he volunteered & served as aforesaid. But he remembers, that it was under the command of those two officers that he did serve his said third, fourth & fifth tours of duty. The declarant did not receive any written discharges from his officers. -- The following is a summary of declarant's services aforesaid Viz.:

He served as a private in Militia of N. C. under Capt. Whitesell & Capt. Rogers	2 ½ months <u>½ month</u> 3—months
He served as a private in --" --" under Capt. Rodgers, Capt. Trousdale & Capt. Gwinn	} } } 3 – months
He served as a private in --"--" Capt. Gwinn, Capt. Rogers-- Field Officer Col. O'Neal three tours of three months each	} } } } 9 – months

In all fifteen months

For proof of service, in the absence of documentary evidence, of which he have none – he relies on the accompanying Affidavit of John Efland, the reputation of his neighborhood & the evidence of his own character.

Sworn to & subscribed.

S/ Ludwick May, X his mark

S/ J. Taylor, C. C.

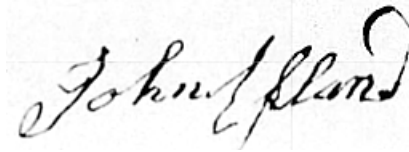
[Alexander Albright, a clergyman, and Nicholas Albright give the standard supporting affidavit.]

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North Carolina, Orange County

John Efland, after having been duly sworn according to law, before me, one of the Justices of the Peace for said County, maketh oath, that Ludwick May served with him in the War of the Revolution, in the service of the United States-- at different times, under Captain Whitesell & Colonel O'Neal

S/ John Efland

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John Efland". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

Sworn to & subscribed the first of September 1832.

S/ J. Taylor, C. C.

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$50 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831, for service as a private for 15 months in the North Carolina militia.]