

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Marsh S7186

f36NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

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[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 Chatham County: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions November Term
A.D. 1832

On this 14th day of November A.D. 1832 personally appeared in open Court, before the Justices of the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions now sitting William Marsh, a resident of the County of Chatham and State of North Carolina, aged Seventy-three years the 25th 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 June 7th 1832 -- That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers & served as herein stated viz.: --

He declares that in the summer of 1779 to the best of his recollection he volunteered under Capt. Deberry Chapman for three months, as a trooper or light horse man, for the purpose of warring against & suppressing the Tories, who were numerous in North Carolina, & had been become very dangerous & lawless: he was in active service in this way for the space of two months in the three for which he volunteered: he was not in any engagement, & was employed part of his time, in apprehending deserters from the American service, who were skulking about, & secreting themselves in the County of Chatham, & many of them supposed to be favoring the Tory cause. Such as were called he assisted in conducting to Hillsboro for safekeeping. From this service he received no written discharge.

He further declares that about the first of September 1780, he then residing in the County of Chatham, North Carolina, volunteered in the service of the United States under Capt. William Douglas [of Caswell County North Carolina] of the light horse: & at Pittsboro in said County, he joined Capt. Douglas's Company, where there were also assembled five other light horse companies under the immediate command of Major William McCauley & Col. Taylor [Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Taylor]: by whom they marched, in 2 or 3 days, southward, crossing Deep River at Waddell's ferry -- thence to Haley's ferry on the Pedee River, thence by the order of General Arrington of Fayetteville, where they met with General Arrington [probably Henry William Harrington] he then took command of them: thence back to Haley's ferry (15 miles above Cheraw) remaining at each of the above named places about 10 days; from this place General Arrington dispatched the light horse consisting of about 300 men, in the direction of Camden (South Carolina) which was then in the occupation of the British troops: he states that this was a short time after the disastrous defeat of General Gates' Army before Camden [Battle of Camden, August 15-16, 1780], & the consequent dispersion of the American troops under his command; upon which occurrence he hopes of the Americans were greatly depressed; & those of the royalist party or Tories proportionately increased; & the effect was that the Tories rose in

great numbers throughout the Carolinas perpetrating all kinds of the outrages, robbing, burning & murdering, with unrestrained & merciless barbarity; being doubtless prompted to these lawless acts by the confident expectation that the whole country would be forthwith overrun, subdued & prostrated by the British arms; The light horse therefore, to which he belonged, consisting of the six companies above named were sent across the Pedee to over awe & suppress as far as possible all attempts at an organized force of Tories, to prevent their depredations, & to secure the peace & safety & tranquility of the country, & also to give confidence to the Whig party, & afford protection to their property & lives. In this service they were occasionally in the neighborhood of Camden, on the head waters of Lynches Creek, Thompson's Creek &c. When their time had nearly expired they returned to Cheraw & he was discharged sometime in December 1780 by Capt. Douglass having served three months which discharge is lost.

He further states, that he volunteered in Pittsboro, Chatham County, North Carolina, in the same month, December 1780 as he believes, under Capt. William Gholson, of the light horse & were marched into Cumberland County where he was put under the command of General Butler [John Butler], near the Cape Fear River. While here, Capt. Gholson, & Capt. Dougan selected ten men each from their command, of which this affiant was one, for the purpose of reconnoitering, it being suspected that there was a considerable Tory force in the vicinity of Fayetteville. While on this excursion, they took six Tories prisoners by whom they were informed that there was such a Tory force & Capt. Gholson & Dougan, were hastening back to the American Army with one of these prisoners, & were taken prisoners themselves. The rest of this reconnoitering party arrived safe with the other prisoners -- When it was understood that Capt. Gholson was taken prisoner, his company refused to serve further, & secretly withdrew from the Army, & returned home. This affiant applied to Capt. Douglass, who admitted him into his company in which he served the balance of his tour. After this occurrence they marched to the vicinity of Wilmington, at which place lay a British force. In the vicinity of this place also a body of Tories had some Whig prisoners, among whom was Col. John Mebane, & whom it was resolved to rescue -- a skirmish subsequently took place, which was ineffectual in consequence of a misapprehension of General Butler who apprehending that the British troops had joined the Tories ordered his troops to retreat soon after the battle commenced. In this skirmish Col. Robert Mebane of the Continental Army commanded on the left wing, -- & was unfortunately killed [September 1781] on his way home by a Tory. He belonged, as this affiant understood, to the Continental service, & being on a visit to his family in Orange, & learning of his brother's captivity, joined the force under Butler to rescue him. From Wilmington, Capt. Douglass was ordered into Orange County North Carolina to operate against the Tories, when this affiant was discharged, he thinks just before the battle of Guilford, he thinks in the early part of March 1781 by Capt. Douglass -- discharge lost. In this tour he served three months.

In the same month, immediately after the above discharge, he again volunteered in said County, under Capt. Edward Douglass, who was marching on to join Greene's [Nathanael Greene's] Army in Guilford County & had arrived within a mile of the battle ground when the battle occurred [March 15, 1781]. Failing to join the Army before the battle of Guilford, Capt. Douglass thought he could render more efficient service by keeping his company separate from the Main Army -- in scouring the country, in pursuit of Tories; and by preventing the assemblage of parties of Tories who became exceedingly confident, troublesome & numerous, while Cornwallis was in North Carolina. In this way this affiant was employed in Chatham & the adjacent Counties, until his term of three months expired, & he was discharged by Capt. Douglass in Chatham County, -- date not recollected. This discharge he has also lost with the

others not having seen them for the last 20 years. He states that he did not serve with any Continental regiments & knew no Continental officers. He has no record of his service, but expects to [be] able to prove service by John Fooshee¹ of this County --

He was born near Pittsboro, Chatham County, State of North Carolina, January 25th 1757, -- has resided in said County ever since, & now resides in it: had a record of his age, until within a few years past. He declares that the answers to the interrogatories prescribed by the War Department, as far as his recollection enables him to answer them, are embodied in the above declaration. He expects to establish his character for veracity & reputation for military service by his neighbors William Underwood & Stephen Petty.

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 & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ Wm Marsh



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I John Fooshee, residing in the County of Chatham, State of North Carolina, hereby declare that William Marsh who has subscribed & sworn to the above declaration and served as he stated in the tour under Capt. William Douglass -- also under Capt. Berry Chapman, also under Capt. Edward Douglass, also under Capt. Gholson. He certifies that his knowledge of said Marsh's service is derived from the fact that they served together, although not all the time under the same captains. He certifies that he knows said Marsh served 4 tours of 3 months each & believes him to be 73 years of age.

Sworn & subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ John Fooshee, X his mark

[William Underwood & Stephen Petty gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 13: A note in the file indicates that the veteran died November 2, 1854, place not stated. Is also noted that this file contains no family data.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$36.66 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 11 months in the North Carolina militia.]

¹ [John Fooshee S8511](#)