

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of Walter O'Neill S7281  
Transcribed by Will Graves

fn22NC  
rev'd 10/23/10

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. Folks are free to make non-commercial use this transcript in any manner they may see fit, but please extend the courtesy of acknowledging the transcriber—besides, if it turns out the transcript contains mistakes, the resulting embarrassment will fall on the transcriber. 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. I welcome and encourage folks to call those and any other errors to my attention.]

State of Pennsylvania, Fayette County

On this 16<sup>th</sup> day of April A.D. 1833 Personally appeared in open court before the Judges of the court of Common Pleas in & for said County Walter O'Neill resident of Spring Hill Township County aforesaid aged Seventy Three years 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 the 7<sup>th</sup> 1832.

That he enlisted in the Army of the United States in the year 1778 with Captain John McDowell and served in the 23<sup>rd</sup> North Carolina Regiment of the Continental line under the following named officers.

That the first of December 1778 he entered with Captain John McDowell for the term of three years attached to the 23<sup>rd</sup> North Carolina Regiment commanded by Col Charles McDowell. Major James Macky. That he enlisted in Burke town, Burke County North Carolina and was marched from thence to Salisbury and from thence to the Savany [sic, Savannah] River South Carolina and from thence to "Long Kane" [sic, Long Cane] (either in South Carolina or Georgia and he does not know which) where he was engaged in a smart skirmish with the British and from thence was marched to the "Cowpens" where he was engaged in a very severe Battle. That the American force was commanded by the General Morgan [Daniel Morgan] in this Engagement. The Enemy was commanded by Tarlton [sic, Banastre Tarleton]. That we captured the most of his troops although Tarleton himself escaped. That this deponent was then ordered to Guilford Court House in Virginia [sic, North Carolina] and was there engaged in a battle, that in which engagement he received a wound in his left thigh a ball flesh wound although the bone was not broken. That his services were principally performed in South Carolina and that he whole term of his service he is confident he was not to exceed three weeks at one place but was kept constantly on the march some times retreating before the Enemy and some times pursuing them that he remembers well of wading the "Santee Swamps" in South Carolina which were said to be nine miles in width.

That his getting wounded at the Engagement at Guilford Court House prevented him from being at the siege of Yorktown Virginia where his company repaired from Guilford Court house. That he remained confined with his wound at Guilford Court house until he was discharged about two weeks after the surrender. He thinks at all counts he was discharged at the cessation of hostilities being about three months before his term Expired having served as an enlisted Soldier two years and nine months. That the whole of this service was under the General command of General Greene [Nathanael Greene], but under the immediate command of General Morgan. That his discharge was signed by General Morgan which was burnt in his father's House a number of years since.

And this deponent further saith on his oath aforesaid that upon his return to Burke County North

Carolina such was the state of affairs on account of the Tories that he volunteered in Captain John Sorrel's Company of militia he thinks in October 1781 for three months and belonged to Colonel Joseph McDowell's Regiment or at least Colonel McDowell was with the troops this man was a relation of Colonel Charles McDowell with whom he served in the regular service. That upon his entering this service the Tories were so strong the troops to which he belonged were obliged to retreat to the West side of the Blue Ridge Mountains where they recruited [sic, recovered] their strength and then pursued the Tories to their encampment on the top of King's Mountain South Carolina where they had a severe battle and killed and captured their whole Army. They were commanded by Major Ferguson [Patrick Ferguson] a British officer who was killed in the battle. That he was then marched to the South fork of Catawba River and there had another battle with the Tories this is called "Ramsour's battle" in this battle we kept the ground but took no prisoners. The Tories were commanded by John Moore. Soon after this engagement his three months term expired and he returned home. This service was performed in North & South Carolina. That in the summer of 1782 he volunteered in Captain James Macky's Company of Virginia militia for three months to go on an expedition against the Cherokee Indians that he does not recollect the name of his Colonel with certainty but thinks it was Blair. That General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford] had the command of the troops. That he was marched into the Indian Country and burned two towns on the Tennessee River cut up their corn and threw it into the River. That they returned from thence to the head of the Catawba River and were stationed to guard the frontiers and continued thus until his three months term Expired upon which he immediately [after] the same volunteered for another three months term under the same officers and performed his tour at the station at the Head of the Catawba River which term Expired he as well as he recollects sometime in April 1783 at the least it was early in the spring of that year. That this was the last of his military services having served in all in the militia nine months which added to his regular service makes three years and six months for which service he claims a pension. That he has no documentary evidence of his service nor does he at present know of any persons by whom he can prove them.

1<sup>st</sup>: He was born in Waxford County Ireland on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of February 1760.

2<sup>nd</sup>: He has no record of his age.

[3<sup>rd</sup>.] He lived in Burke County North Carolina when he entered the service that after the war he went to Kentucky and from thence he removed to Fayette County Pennsylvania where he still lives.

4<sup>th</sup>: By Enlistment and volunteering.

5<sup>th</sup>: The names of his officers or mentioned in his declaration. Generals Greene & Morgan are the principal General officers he can now recollect together with the officers of his own Regiment. The circumstances of his services are detailed as accurately as he can now recollect.

6<sup>th</sup>: His discharge was signed by General Morgan. He never received a written discharge for his militia services.

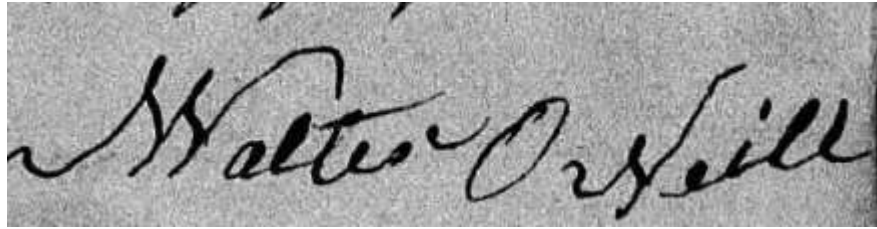
7<sup>th</sup>: Thomas Brownfield and Charles Brown will certify as to his reputation. That he is acquainted with the Reverend Mr. Patton [?] a Baptist clergyman to whose church he belongs but he is so very old that he cannot conveniently travel to Union Town but the above gentlemen are his neighbors and know of his questioned [?] character.

He hereby relinquishes every pension or annuity whatever except the present and declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of the agency of any state.

Sworn & subscribed in open court 16<sup>th</sup> of April 1832.

S/ H. W. Beem, Prothy.

S/ Walter O'Neill

A black and white photograph of a handwritten signature in cursive script, which reads "Walter O'Neill". The signature is written on a light-colored, textured paper.

[Thomas Brownfield and Charles Brown gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

Lafayette County: SS

On the 18th day of April 1834 Personally appeared before me the subscriber a Justice of the peace in and for said County Walter O'Neill who upon his oath makes the following statement in order to obtain his pension from the US. That he cannot say anything in addition to what he has stated in his declaration. That he performed the services therein stated and served the time therein mentioned he again most positively & solemnly [indecipherable word or words] under oath, that as to the kind of service whether it was Continental or militia he cannot positively say – his object was to serve his country more than to inquire particularly into the kind of service. The officers he has mentioned in his declaration he served under and that for the time he has stated. That he does not know of any additional proof he can obtain to establish his services – but with think hard after the service he had performed for his Country to be turned off with anything short of a full pension – he therefore hopes the Department will except [sic, accept] of this in addition to his declaration and grant him a full pension. In addition to this he would refer the Department to the Honorable Andrew Stewart<sup>1</sup> for information respecting his character.

Sworn & subscribed before

S/ Walter O'Neill

S/ James Lindsay,

April 18, 1834

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$50 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for one year and three months service as a private in the North Carolina militia.]

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<sup>1</sup> STEWART, Andrew, (father of Andrew Stewart [1836-1903]), a Representative from Pennsylvania; born near Uniontown, Fayette County, Pa., on June 11, 1791; received a good education; taught school; was graduated from Washington College (now Washington and Jefferson College), Washington, Pa.; studied law; was admitted to the bar in 1815 and commenced practice in Uniontown; member of the state house of representatives 1815-1818; was appointed by President Monroe as United States attorney for the western district of Pennsylvania and served from 1818 to 1820, when he resigned; elected as a Republican to the Seventeenth Congress, reelected as a Jackson Republican to the Eighteenth Congress, elected as a Jacksonian to the Nineteenth Congress, and reelected as an Adams candidate to the Twentieth Congress (March 4, 1821-March 3, 1829); elected as an Anti-Masonic candidate to the Twenty-second and Twenty-third Congresses (March 4, 1831-March 3, 1835); unsuccessful candidate for reelection in 1834 to the Twenty-fourth Congress; was elected as a Whig to the Twenty-eighth, Twenty-ninth, and Thirtieth Congresses (March 4, 1843-March 3, 1849); chairman, Committee on Manufactures (Thirtieth Congress); declined to be a candidate for renomination; affiliated with the Republican Party; unsuccessful candidate for election in 1870 to the Forty-second Congress; largely interested in building and real estate until his death in Uniontown, Fayette County, Pa., July 16, 1872; interment in Union Cemetery.  
<http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=S000899>