

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Ephraim Powers S7332

Transcribed by Will Graves

f19NC

rev'd 3/3/17

[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, New Hanover County

On this the 29th day of March A.D. 1833 personally appeared before me William Usher Jr. one of the acting Justices of the Peace in & for the County of New Hanover aforesaid and the State aforesaid Ephraim Powers a resident of New Hanover County in the State of North Carolina aged seventy-six years the 11th day of February 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 7, 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

1st In a company of militia of Pitt County N. C. under Colonel Simpson, Captain Simon Jones, Charles Caison Lieutenant, Jesse Read Ensign, in March 1775¹ and left this term of service in May 1775 having served a two months tour; that when he entered the service he resided in Pitt County North Carolina; that he was a volunteer and second Sergeant in the company but will only claim as a private as he can make no proof to entitle him to pay as Sergeant; that he was in no battle; that he is embodied in Martinborough now Greenville on Tar River and marched to Wilmington N. C. thence to Jumping Run about a mile and a half below Wilmington, where he encamped and remained till his two months were out; that he was stationed at Jumping Run for the purpose of preventing the enemy, who were said to be at that time, on board their shipping in Cape Fear, below Wilmington, from coming up and taking possession thereof; that he has no documentary evidence and knows of no person now alive by whom he can prove this service.

2nd In a company of Pitt County militia under General Richard Caswell Sr., Richard Caswell Jr. Colonel, Austin Spain [Augustin Spain] Captain, Nathanael Moore Lieutenant, Alexander Whitley one of the Sergeants, his other officers he forgets; in the month of June he thinks the 7th day 1780 and left the service about the middle of October 1780 having served a little over four months, but is content to claim for four months only; that when he entered this service he resided as aforesaid; that he was a volunteer and a private soldier; that he was in no battle, but that the battle near Camden between the Americans under General Gates [Horatio Gates] and the enemy under Cornwallis occurred during this tour where the Americans were defeated [Battle of Camden, August 15-16, 1780] and Baron DeKalb mortally wounded; that he marched from Martinsborough now Greenville in Pitt County N. C. where he rendezvoused, to Cross Creek now Fayetteville N. C. from thence across the Yadkin [River] and on towards Camden, that about 10 days before Gates defeat he was detached with two wagons and a few men to transport some arms to Cheraw Hills, and from thence to a place on Big Pedee [River]

1 Sic, from the service described, this term was probably served in 1776, not 1775 as stated by the applicant.

called Mars Bluff to take in some rum and salt to carried to the Army, that on his way to the Army he heard the firing of Cannon soon after daylight and in a few hours afterwards received intelligence of the defeat of the Americans and retreated to Drowning Creek at Cole's Bridge in N. C. where he joined the American Army or part thereof under Colonel Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter] and remained a few days from thence to Ramsey's Mills on Deep River, from thence he came home, having been discharged at Ramsey's Mills; that he served with Continental troops under General Gates in South Carolina, having joined them in that State; that he personally knew no regular officer but Captain Joseph Rhodes, but expects he saw some regular officers in SC. That Gates defeat happened in the month of August; that he understood there was no difference of opinion between General Gates and Baron DeKalb as to the plan to be pursued; that he has no documentary evidence and knows of no person whose testimony he can procure to testify to this service.

3^{rdly} In a company of Pitt County militia in an expedition against Major Craige [sic, James Craig]; under Captain George Fortner his other officers, he does not recollect, in the spring of the year and supposes it was in the year 1781 and served a tour of 16 days; that he was a volunteer in a private soldier; that he was in no battle; that the company to which he belonged took Major Craig's commissary and two other of his men prisoners at a mill and being destitute of ammunition & having but few men, he & his company retreated or retired to Martinsborough now Greenville and was there dismissed; that he has no documentary evidence and knows of no person by whom he can prove this service.

4^{thly} Under William Shepard [William Sheppard] Major, William Reaves Captain, Joseph Matthis 1st Sergeant, ___ Walder 2nd Sergeant his other officers he forgets in the fall of the year 1781 in an expedition against Major Craig, and served a tour of 26 days; that he was a volunteer and a private that he was in no battle; that in his 16 days tour his marches were entirely confined to Pitt County; that in his 26 days tour he marched from Martinsborough now Greenville on near to Wilmington N. C. in pursuit of Major Craig and his forces from thence he marched on towards home and was disbanded before he arrived at Greensville; that he has no documentary evidence and knows of no person whose testimony he can procure to testify to this service.

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.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

Test: S/ William Usher, JP

S/ Ephraim Powers, X his mark

Answers of Ephraim Powers the aforesaid applicant to the interrogatories propounded to him by William Usher Jr. the aforesaid Justice of the Peace as prescribed by the War Department To the 1st I was born in Pitt County N. C. the 11th of February 1757

To the 2nd I have no record of my age at my own home, it was recorded in my father's family Bible and Pitt County N. C. whether it is now in existence or not I don't know.

To the 3rd When called into service I was living in Pitt County NC. Since the revolutionary war I lived about 10 years in Pitt County N. C., from thence I removed into New Hanover County where I have ever since lived and where I now live.

To the 4th I always volunteered.

To the 5th General Gates & Baron DeKalb; the only Continental troops I recollect were those under General Gates from the North, the militia regiments, I recollect, were Colonel Axum's and Colonel Richard Caswell's, there were other militia regiments and General Gates Army but I don't recollect the names of the colonels. The general circumstances of my service are stated in the preceding declaration.

To the 6th I don't remember to have received any written discharge. If I ever did, it is lost.
To the 7th Shadrach Stallings, Reverend Hiram Stallings, William New, William Usher Jr., a Esq.,
Patrick Usher, William J. Love, Richard Saunders and a great many others I could name.
Test: S/ William Usher, JP

S/ Ephraim Powers, X his mark

[Hiram Stallings, a clergyman, and Patrick Usher gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$24.88 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for
service as a private for 7 months and 14 days in the North Carolina militia.]