

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Joseph Russ S7435

Transcribed by Will Graves

f13NC

rev'd 1/24/10 & 11/9/16

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

State of North Carolina Bladen County: Superior Court of Law Fall Term 1832

On this the 11th day of October 1832, personally appeared in Open Court before the Honorable Robert Strange one of the Judges of the Superior Court of Law & Equity for said State presiding in the Superior Court of Law for said County now sitting: -- Joseph Russ, a resident of the County of Bladen, and State of North Carolina, aged 69 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, and served as herein stated.

1. He was drafted in the Spring of the year 1777, as a Private, at Elizabeth Town Bladen County, for a service of three months in a Company of which Joseph White was Captain, and William Jones (called Stuttering Bill Jones) was Lieutenant, and as well as he recollects in the Regiment of North Carolina Militia called the first Regiment; and after having rendezvoused at Elizabeth Town, they were marched to Wilmington North Carolina, where he remained until the expiration of his term of service, and was then discharged. The Troops stationed at that place were under the command of General Robert Howe, who he believes belonged to the Continental Army -- has no recollection of any other Continental officer.

2. In a very short time after the above described Tour of duty (but the month or year, he cannot now recollect) there was another draft of Bladen Militia; when he became a substitute, at Elizabethtown, Bladen County, for one Isham Pitman a Private, for a service of five months, in a Company commanded by Captain John Yates, (the names of the other Officers not recollected). The Company rendezvoused at Elizabethtown and formed a part of the Regiment commanded by Colonel James Kenan of Duplin County; were marched thence to Fayetteville (then Cross Creek), and stationed there until other Companies & Regiments of militia arrived at that place, to hold of whom were subsequently commanded by General Caswell [Richard Caswell], and were marched thence to Camden South Carolina; thence down Santee River to a place called Cedar Creek, where they were joined by a Corps of Continentals under the command of Colonel Buford [Abraham Buford] & Major Washington -- the whole Force being destined to reinforce Charleston, then in a State of Siege; but information being received that that object could not be obtained owing to the place being too closely invested by the British -- they were countermarched to Camden -- where Caswell & Buford with their respective commands, separated. The former, after the Troops under his command had suffered severely from privations & forced marches, returned to Fayetteville. On the march, information of the defeat of

Colonel Buford's Command was received [Battle of the Waxhaws, May 29, 1780]. His term of service having expired, he was discharged, at Fayetteville & returned home.

3. In the summer of the year 1778, about the time of the great Eclipse of the sun, He became a substitute at Elizabethtown Bladen County North Carolina for one William Blackburn, a Private, in a Company of drafted Bladen Militia (the term of service not recollected) -- they were marched to Fayetteville under the command of Captain Ephraim Mulford , where they were attached to the Troops under the command of General Harrington [Henry William Harrington], destined for the South; there were other Troops stationed at that place under the command of Colonel Thomas Owen of Bladen, destined for the upper part of the State: Before the Troops were marched off, he made an exchange with a man in Colonel Owen's Regiment, who had previously been under the command of General Harrington, and wished to go with him; and as Colonel Owen was from his (Russ's) neighborhood, he (Russ) was desirous of going with him. - - the man with whom the exchange was made had four months to serve. From Fayetteville Captain Mulford returned home, and the Troops under the command of Colonel Owen proceeded to join the Troops under the command of General Jones, passing through Hillsboro in Orange County, and on their march were joined by a body of five hundred men, under the command of Colonel Parsley [sic, John Paisley?] -- they marched as far as the Shallow Ford of the Yadkin [River] -- where they had a skirmish [October 14, 1780]¹ with a body of Tories under the command of a man by the name of Bryan or Bryant [Capt. James Bryan, but the overall command of the Loyalists at Shallow Ford was vested in Col. Gideon Wright], the morning after they reached the Ford. The Tories were defeated with the loss of 18 killed & 16 wounded. One of the Americans was killed. They were marched from the Shallow Ford to Salem; thence to Houser Town; and thence back again to the Head Quarters of General Jones; where he remained until he completed the term of service of the man, for whom he was substituted; was then discharged & returned home.

4. In the year 1780 (time not precisely recollected except that it was a short time before the surrender of Cornwallis), he was drafted at Elizabethtown Bladen County, as a Private in Captain Ephraim Mulford's Company of Militia for a service of three months -- the Company rendezvoused at Elizabethtown, where he was furloughed for a few days, and joined his company at the Head Quarters of General Butler [John Butler], at Rocky Point, on the North East River. The Troops were marched thence to the Big Bridge, about 20 or 25 miles above Wilmington -- thence to Swan's old Field, remained there 2 or 3 days, and while there received intelligence of Cornwallis' Surrender [Yorktown, October 19, 1781] -- thence crossed the Cape Fear River, and down the same to Cobham's Bluff -- where he was stationed some time and discharged, having served not more than 5 or 6 weeks; but cannot remember with certainty as to the time; it must have been one month at least. That when he entered in each of his terms of service he resided in Bladen County North Carolina, that he has no documentary evidence and that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure, who can testify to his term of service under Captain White.

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/ Joseph Russ, X his mark

Test: S/ Alex McDowell

Answers to questions propounded by the Court to be Joseph Ross the above said applicant, in

¹ http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_shallow_ford.html

compliance with the regulations prescribed by the War Department.

1. I was born in Bladen County aforesaid the 19th of December 1762.
2. I have a record of my age, it is a journal or record of ages kept by John Jones, now in the possession of Mrs. John Brown.
3. When called into service I was living in Bladen County, where I have lived during the Revolutionary War and ever since.
4. Drafted twice, volunteered for two terms of duty, and served twice as a Substitute.
5. It is stated in my declaration what regular officers were with the troops where I served, also such Continental and militia regiments as I can recollect except a Corps of Light Dragoons by whom commanded I forget. The general circumstances of my service are detailed in my declaration.
6. I received four discharges one from Captain Yates, one from Captain Joseph White, one from Colonel Owen & one from General (then Colonel) Brown which I have lost.
7. Thomas Smith & John Lloyd McKay Esquires, Robert Melvin, John Ross & David Lloyd.

[Robert Melvin and John Russ give the standard certification of reputation for veracity, age and service as a revolutionary soldier].

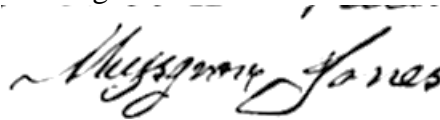
State of North Carolina, Bladen County: Superior Court of Law Fall Term 1832

Personally appeared in open Court this the 11th day of October 1830 2 – Musgrove Jones who after being duly Sworn according to law – Deposeth & saith.

That he served with Joseph Russ, the Declarant during the Revolutionary War in a company of Bladen Militia under Captain John Yates, in a Regiment of North Carolina Militia commanded by Colonel James Kenan – that they marched from Elizabeth town in Bladen County through Fayetteville to Camden South Carolina. That a considerable body of North Carolina Militia were marched to Charleston South Carolina, then in a state of siege-- that after arriving at Cedar Creek on the Santee River in South Carolina, they were joined by a body of Continentals under Col. Buford & Major Washington – but after receiving intelligence at that place that reinforcements could not be thrown into Charleston – the North Carolina Militia under General Caswell marched back to Fayetteville & were discharged. They were called out for five months, and believes that Joseph Russ served the whole time. Further this Deponent saith not.

Sworn to and subscribed in open Court.

S/ Musgrove Jones²



State of North Carolina, Bladen County

Personally appeared in open Court this the 11th of October 1832, Richard Cheshire who after being duly sworn according to Law Deposeth and saith.

That he entered the service in the Revolutionary War, as a private in a Company of Militia, for a tour of six months under Captain Ephraim Mulford – and that Joseph Russ the Declarant was a Private in the same Company – that they marched to Fayetteville together, and remained together at that place two or three weeks – he left the Company & he has no recollection of what became of him afterwards. Further this deponent saith not.

² [Musgrove Jones S7094](#)

Sworn to & subscribed in open Court.

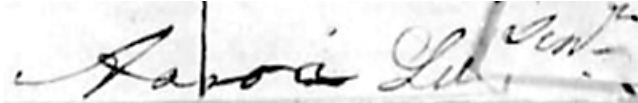
S/ Richard Cheshire,³ X his mark

Aaron Lewis Personally appeared in open Court, this the 11th day of Oct. 1832 who, after being duly sworn according to Law, deposes & saith.

That while serving during the Revolutionary War in a Company of Militia, under Captain Haynes, He recollects seeing Joseph Russ in said Company; he joined the Company at Clayton's Plantation on the [illegible word] recollects seeing him every day until the evacuation of Wilmington by Major Craig [James Craig] -- & he was with us at Cobham's above Wilmington.

Sworn to & subscribed in open Court.

S/ Aaron Lewis Senr.⁴

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Aaron Lewis Senr.", written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

S/ Alex McDowell, C. S. C.

³ [Richard Cheshire W25403](#)

⁴ [Aaron Lewis S16922](#)