

[Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters](#)

Pension Application of Henry Southall S7574 NC
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 7 Nov 2014.

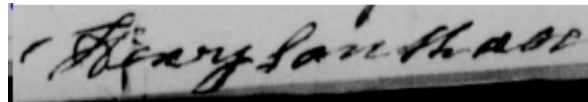
State of No Carolina } Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions
Warren County } August Term AD 1832

On this 29th day of August AD 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of the said Court now sitting – Henry Southall now a resident of the County of Warren and State of No 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 was born in the County of Halifax No Carolina in the year 1764 as he believes, but has no record of his birth. That in the spring of 1780 as well as he can remember he was drafted in the militia service from the County of Halifax on a tour of nine months. Col [Nicholas] Long had the management of the troops while he was in service amounting in number to 79 or 80. He recollects that Col. afterwards Gen Davy [sic: William Richardson Davie] was also frequently present. His Captains name was Tolly Powel [sic: William Ptolemy Powell] who resided in the County of Halifax, but has been long dead. After this affiant was drafted he was ordered with others to assemble in the Town of Halifax as the place of rendezvous at which place he remained in the discharge of many and various duties until his time of service expired. These duties consisted in guarding the magazine in the Town of Halifax, keeping the arms in proper order, preserving the ammuniton a large quantity of which had been there deposited in a dry and undamaged state, and moulding a large quantity of balls from bar led [sic: lead] a continued demand for which existed as long as he remained in service. In the fall of the same year in which he was drafted this affiant after having faithfully served a tour of nine months was regularly discharged and returned home. This discharge has been long since lost or mislaid thinking it would never be of any service to him.

He hereby relinquishes all claims to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any State agency whatever.

Sworn to & subscribed in open Court the day and year aforesaid.



[Southall was granted a pension, but as noted in the following documents and in correspondence not transcribed here, his pension was suspended pending further evidence of service. This decision by the Pension Commissioner was evidently contrary to the pension act of 1832, which allowed that because records of service in the militia were seldom available, applicants would be required only to submit the best evidence available. Pensions were often granted for militia service merely on the oath of the applicant and the certificate of two neighbors that he was honest and was reputed to be a veteran of the Revolutionary War. Southall did not press his claim for 20 years, and the Pension Office refused to reopen the case after such a long delay. See the endnote for further comment.]

State of North Carolina }
Warren County }

On this 6th day of September 1855 personally came before me Thos J Judkins one of the acting Justices of the Peace for the County aforesaid Henry Southall aged about 92 years and a resident of Warren County aforesaid who being duly sworn according to law did upon his oath make the following declaration to wit that he is the identical person who was a Revolutionary Soldier and drafted in the spring of 1780 and actually served nine months at the town of Halifax When he was honorably discharged and by virtue of the aforesaid service he was inscribed upon the pension roll of the United

States at the rate of \$30.00 per annum issued 7th day of March 1833 to commence on 4th March 1831, and was suspended on the 23rd day of February 1835 awaiting further evidence from the Office of Secretary of State of North Carolina. [See endnote.] Which suspension has not yet been removed to the declaration evidence & proceedings had he refers No 6738 now on file in the Department

He makes this declaration for the purpose of obtaining the Bounty Land to which he may be entitled under Act of Congress passed in 1855 3rd March Henry Southall hisXmark

[A letter in the file states that Henry Southall signed with his mark because he had lost the use of his right hand through infirmity and old age.

North Carolina }

Warren County }

On this 6th day of September 1855 personally came before me Thomas J Judkins one of the acting Justices of the Peace for the county aforesaid Allen King a resident of Warren County aged about eighty years who being duly sworn according to law made the following affidavit – towit – that he was born and raised in the county of Halifax and in the year 1797 moved to the county of Warren where he has resided ever since and that he is well and personally acquainted with Henry Southall also a resident of Warren County and has been to his knowledge a resident in this county for the last fifty years. That he knows of his own personal knowledge that the said Henry Southall was a soldier at Halifax about the time Lord Cornwallis passed through that place [on his way to Virginia, May 1781]. It is fixed in his recollection by the fact that his elder brother George King was also with Henry Southall at the town of Halifax and that he cannot state any particular time or length of time farther than that he recollects his brother George and the said Henry Southall were in service at the town of Halifax about the time and after that Lord Cornwallis passed that place He further states that he cannot be mistaken as he and Henry Southall has been acquainted since that time never having lived but few miles apart and that he continues still to live in a few miles from him. Also that the said Henry Southall has always been considered a man of truth by his neighbors generally and that he has never heard his veracity doubted or brought in question and that he as a man or a juror could feel no hesitancy in believing any statement made by him.

He further states that it was customary in the County of Warren for many years after the Revolution to give a complimentary dinner on every fourth of July to the Revolutionary Soldiers which custom was continued for many years at many of which this affiant was present and contributed to the funds to defray the expenses of the dinner and that the said Henry Southall was frequently present and was always considered a soldier & took his place at the table among the Revolutionary Soldiers a position that was never doubted or questioned but was always acknowledged and awarded him and farther this affiant saith not

Allen hisXmark King

[Certified by Robert N. Harris, also called Robin N. Harris, about 70.]

State of North Carolina }

Warren County }

On this 15th day of November 1855, personally appeared before me Thos J Judkins one of the acting Justices of the Peace for the County of Warren aforesaid Henry Southall aged about ninety three years who being duly sworn according to law made the following declaration as supplemental and explanatory to one made in the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions for the county of Warren in the year 1832 to wit that the declaration aforesaid was prepared and the necessary affidavits attended to before the Court by his attorney Thomas Bragg then a practicing attorney at law at the said bar and now Governor of North Carolina that this declarant cannot now recollect the several allegations and facts deposed to at that time farther than the description of his services generally as advised by his said attorney to be necessary under the Regulations of the Department to establish his claim under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 7th June 1832 when he was according ly inscribed upon the Pension Roll at the rate thirty dollars per annum which he received regularly until the year 1835 when he was informed that his case was suspended until evidence of service could be had from the Office of the Secretary of State of North Carolina but whether the necessary search was made at the Secretary of States

Office he does not know [see endnote] – his said attorney Thos Bragg having in the mean time removed to a differen part of the state he the said Southall employed another agent M Montgomery to inquire the cause of suspension and to prepare and forward the required additional testimony but whether he ever discovered the cause of suspension this applicant does not now know, he too the said agent Montgomery is since dead,

He now declares to the best of his recollection that he was drafted in the Count of Halifax not many miles from the place where he now resides, some time prior to the battle of Guilford Court House [sic] he knows it from the fact that he was at Halifax town when the Brittish army passed there in its retreat north he remembers it well for the company stationed at that place were ordered to retreat across the River where they remained until Cornwallace passed, on towards Yorktown.

He states that he served two terms one of six months and the other of three months. That Halifax was their headquarters but that detachments were frequently sent out to quell the tories That he was several times in these expeditions that they the tories were several times conquered by these expeditions sent from Halifax in several of which this declarant was present he states that they had a severe running fight with them towards cross creek and also towards Wilmington That he has been frequently ordered on these expeditions that some part of the time there were two Officers at the Camp he cannot now recollect their names but they were called recruiting officers who held themselves in readiness with a sufficient force to pursue and disperse any collection of tories which were frequent in the cross creek country and also towards Wilmington. He the said Southall often was detailed upon this duty – he also states that he received two certificates of service one for six months and the other for three months – he thinks to the best of his recollection that his father used them by way of paying his taxes

Henry hisXmark Southall

NOTES:

The file contains certificates from the Secretary of State of North Carolina stating that there were no rosters of militia soldiers in his office.

On 25 Sep 1855 Drew Harris, about 64, stated the following: “Southall has held places of trust among his fellow citizens. he knows of his having served as public Auctioner until by reason of old age he abandoned it – that he always acted as juror and other public stations usual in a County. He further states that for many years it was customary to give dinners on the 4th of July at some public and convenient place, the funds voluntarily contributed by the citizens generally in such amounts and description of funds as they might see fit some in money others in kind such as lambs shoats and such like as would suit the taste and conv [sic] to the respective donors. that the Revolutionary Soldiers that might happen to be present were always entitled to an received especial attention on such occasions. That he knows of Henry Southalls having received this notice and attention and a station and honor that was never questioned or doubted but was cordially awarded by the citizens generally on such occasions.”

The injustice of the suspension of Southall’s pension was recognized by an employee of the Pension Office who compiled a typed summary of Southall’s record dated 14 April 1931 and added the following penciled comment: “The dropping of the name from the pension roll was a quibble, as none of the militia soldiers furnished record proof of their services the rolls were so incomplete, testimony of comrades was generally accepted, and therefore I omitted any mention of pension claim entirely & only mentioned the allowed claim that for bounty land which showed that it was accepted that he was in the service. everything did not agree & length of service”

A letter dated 14 Feb 1856 refers to Henry Southall “and his large family.”