

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of Jonathan Starkey S7612
Transcribed by Will Graves

fn 24NC
8/3/08 rev'd 3/9/11

[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.]

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State of North Carolina, County of Caswell: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions October Term 1832

On this Eighth day of October in the year of our Lord 1832 personally appeared in open Court, the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions of the County and State aforesaid before James Rainey, John P. Harrison and James McMullin esquires now Sitting Jonathan Starkey a resident of the County of Caswell and State of North Carolina aged 72 years on the 11th day of March 1833, 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 7th June 1832 -- “That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers & served as herein stated to wit

That he entered the Service of the United States, in and with the militia of the State of N. C. some time in the month of October 1778 under Captain White in the Company Commanded by Colonel James Sanders & in which Company, George Moore was Major, that, at that time I resided at or near the place where I now live in Caswell County, State of North Carolina; and was drafted in the Company aforesaid, when he was but little over 17 years of age; I was marched with the militia of North Carolina to Hillsborough in this State; and from thence through the State by Guilford to Salisbury where they joined General Rutherford and his troops: from thence we marched to Camden in South Carolina, and thence through that State to Charleston; from thence we were ordered to Purrysburg [Purrysburg] on Savannah River to watch the movements of the enemy, and so continued our march, watching and harassing the enemy until we got near to Augusta in Georgia; In Augusta, we joined General Ashe and his brigade; and had some little fighting across the River; we drove the enemy from Augusta to a place on Briar Creek, where we took possession and in a few days, we were surprised by the enemy and defeated; not on account of cowardice of our Troops, but I as I always did and do now believe on the account of the misconduct of General Ashe, from thence we recrossed the River, and were marched to a place on the Savannah River called the Two Sisters [ferry] where we remained until the 18th day of April 1779, when I was discharged, after serving a tour of about or near six months; It is here proper to state, that we were swindled out of three months of our Time; for when we entered the Service it was understood and so expressly stated that we had but three months to Serve; but when we were in South Carolina we were held in service and kept as our officers stated for fear of an attack, and for fear of the enemy doing too much injury, and there was no chance of getting out of Service without running away which I scorned to do so long as the enemy was in the field. My discharge which I now have it is in these words.

“April 18, 1779 Jonathan Starkey being drafted for the
aid of South Carolina, hath Served his time & is

therefore discharged.

S/ George Moore, Majr.”

On the 24th day of December 1780 he was drafted again in Captain Spilsby Coleman's Company Commanded by Colonel Farmer of Hillsboro & Major Archibald Murphey of this County, he (Jonathan Starkey) still a resident of Caswell County in said State of North Carolina, was marched to Salisbury in said State and from thence to Cowan's Ford on the Catawba River. There we met the enemy under Lord Cornwallis, and endeavored to prevent their crossing the River at this place we had some hard fighting and our commanding officer, one of the bravest officers of the Revolution, was killed (General Davidson). We were driven back and retreated to a place called Torrens Lane [sic, Tarrant's Tavern] where the enemy overtook us, here we again had some severe fighting, and were defeated and retreated towards Salisbury and before we reached Salisbury we overtook General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] and his Troops whom we joined, and retreated through our State, along the road by the door of my own house and over across the Dan River into Virginia. Where we were reinforced by the Virginia troops and made a stand; the enemy finding we were reinforced turned their Course by Hillsboro and up to Guilford Court House we pursued them and followed on as far as a place called the high Rock, where my term of Service expired and I was here discharged – after serving a Tour of three months – my discharge has been lost directly afterwards not recollecting to have seen it since about this time & About this time I was much troubled in my mind owing to the most inhumane and brutal Capture of my old Father by the Tories and British and the unheard of and cruel Treatment which he received from them and which resulted in his death. I am induced to believe that my Situation about this Time was the reason & cause why I neglected to take that care of my discharge which, under over circumstances, I would have done. -- I think as well as I now recollect, I got home about the first of April or the last of March 1781. -- Some short time afterwards and I think about the last of July, I was promised, that if I would find my own the horse and Gun and would volunteer my services in defense of my Country, and continued in Service for two months that, in consideration of finding my own horse and Gun and serving the said two months that it should be considered as a Service of a tour of three months; and that I should have all the benefits and advantages of having served the tour of three months as aforesaid – accordingly, I volunteered in Captain Herndon Haralson's Company of Light Horse and was marched by him through North Carolina and as far as Camden in South Carolina where we joined Colonel Lee's Company of Cavalry, from thence we were marched to the Eutaw Springs where we found the enemy; here we had an engagement; and perhaps the hardest fought battle in the Revolutionary War; we fought like men ought to fight. We drove them, and as I think we finally cleared them out of South Carolina; by this signal action. It was our success here that in some degree I was comforted and consoled for the hardships and the troubles which I had felt during our Glorious Revolution; Some short time afterwards my time expiring, I was discharged after serving a tour of actual service of two months, though, for which I claim a tour of three months for the reasons before stated --

Thus in the whole time of Service in which he was engaged including the three Tours as mentioned above, amount in all to 11 months actual Service rendered what may be considered of in the last Tour as mentioned before and which fact I submit to the generosity of my Country --

I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the pension Roll of the agency of any State and if any he has no knowledge of it

Interrogatories propounded by the Court

1st When and in what year were you born?

Answer – I was born in Baltimore County in the State of Maryland, on the 12th day of March 1761.

2nd Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

Answer – I have, a record of my age in my possession. It is the Family record of my family. Commencing with the age of my Grand Father, who was born in England and the 17th Century --

3rd Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Answer – at the Time I was called into Service, I was living at or near the place where I now live in Caswell County and State of North Carolina – where I have lived ever since, and where I expect to live as long as I duly of --

4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom?

Answer – In the first tour which I served I was drafted in Captain White's Company. In the Second Tour, I was drafted in Captain Coleman's Company and in the last tour I was a volunteer in Captain Herndon Haralson's Company of Cavalry or mounted militia.

5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Answer – I could State the names of a Great many regular officers, & will content myself with naming Captain Lytle, Captain Donoho, Major Nelson, Colonel Henry Dixon, Colonel Archibald Lytle, Colonel Malmedy, Colonel Lee, General Lincoln, General Greene, General Pickens, General Marion and the Brave Baron De Kalb. I was well acquainted with Colonel Lytle's Regiment, I think it was the 42nd or 44th I forget the names and numbers of the other regular regiments: Colonel Dixon's I don't think the number of, nor do I that of Colonel Malmedy's & Colonel Lee's : only that they were Cavalry regiments: -- These were no regular Regiments. The Militia regiments, that I knew you were Colonel Farmers, Colonel Sanders, Colonel Locke's & a great many others --. The general Circumstances of my Service, I have in some degree before detailed: I suffered much from cold, hunger & fatigue, and fought not for money (for that I got very little of) But for my Country alone which was the only feeling that fired my bosom, and revenge for the inhumane murder (by the enemy) of my poll old father.

6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

Answer: I received discharges from my officers for every Service which I Served. The first I received from Major Moore which is now in my possession and a copy of which is stated in this my declaration --; The next I received from General Butler, which I lost in the Revolution. The last I received from Captain Herndon Haralson, which I lost with my pocket book, together with a good many other valuable papers, Soon after I left the service.

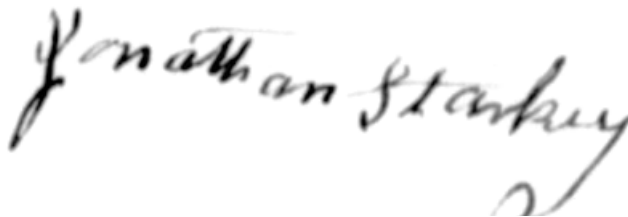
7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

Answer – I am known generally to the Citizens of my County & to everybody in my neighborhood I will name James Rainey¹ Esq. our presiding magistrate, General Barzillai Graves, Elisha Evans,² Sr., Robert Martin,³ Rev'd Richard Martin, many or all of whom will testify as to my veracity and good behavior; and Some of whom will also testify as to my service in the revolution.

Sworn to and Subscribed, the day and year aforesaid.

Test: S/ Paul A. Haralson, Clerk

S/ Jonathan Starkey



[Richard Martin, a clergyman, and John McAden gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

1 [James Rainey S35599](#)

2 [Elisha Evans S6830](#)

3 [Robert Martin W1907](#)

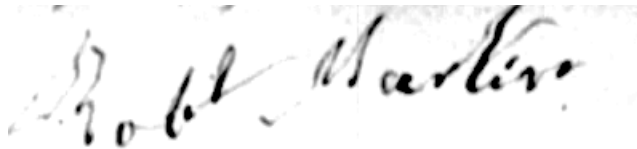
[fn p. 14]

State of North Carolina, Caswell County: Court of Pleas and Order Sessions October Term 1832

Robert Martin of Lawful age appears in open Court and being Sworn according to Law, deposeth and saith as follows to wit; That he was a Soldier and an officer in the Revolutionary War, and was well acquainted with Jonathan Starkey in the said War: That he the said Jonathan Starkey was a volunteer in the Company commanded by Captain Herndon Haralson. This company being mounted militia, or what was at that time called Light Horse, in which Company this Affiant was Lieutenant. That the said Starkey Served in the Tour which went out to the South under the aforesaid Captain and belonged to the troops who went to and fought the Battle of Eutaw Springs; That so far as the conduct of said Starkey came to the Knowledge of this Affiant, he was an active and faithful Soldier: always ready and ever willing to be present when and where his duty called him. This affiant also States that he understood and believes that the said Starkey was also in Service at other Times and under other officers, during the revolution; has heard that he was in the South and at the Battle on Briar Creek.

Sworn to and subscribed in open Court this 8th day of October A.D. 1832.

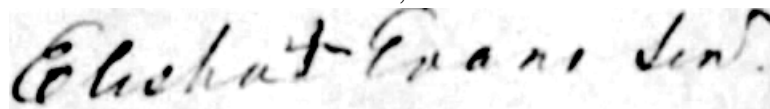
S/ Robert Martin

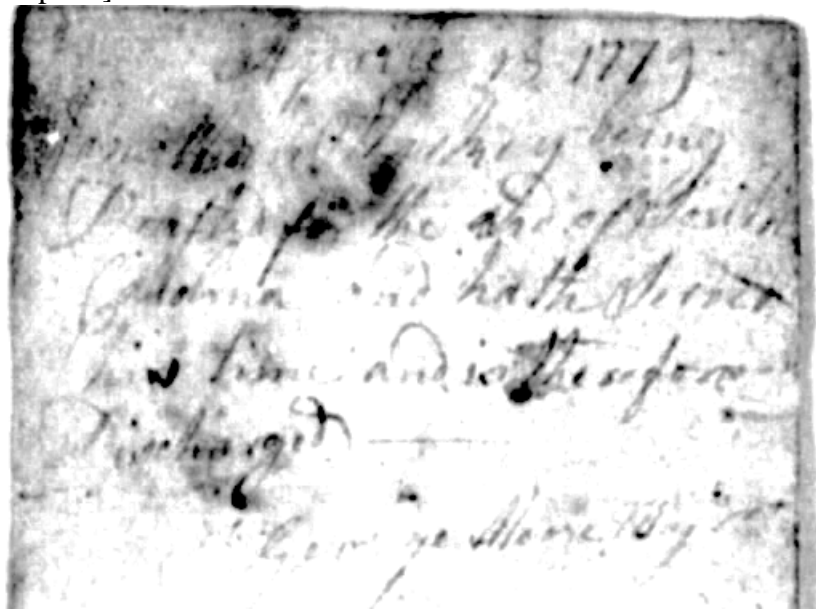
A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Robert Martin". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and somewhat slanted to the right.

State of North Carolina, Caswell County: Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions October Term 1832

Elisha Evans Senior of lawful age; Personally appears in open Court; and being duly Sworn according to law Deposeth and Saith as follows; That he was a Soldier of the revolutionary War, and well recollects that Jonathan Starkey was in the Service and served with him, that the said Jonathan Starkey he was drafted in Captain White's Company, was marched in South Carolina was with him at Purysburg; that he was with the troops at the Battle on Briar Creek near Augusta, and Served this tour out; This Affiant being in the same Campaign & Tour with the said Starkey --, He also states that the said Jonathan Starkey was also drafted in Captain Coleman's Company of the North Carolina Militia, that he was marched to the Catawba River, that he was at the Battle on the Catawba River, was also at the Battle at Tarrances' lane [Tarrant's Lane], & that he served out this Tour or Campaign. This Affiant being also in the same Company with the said Starkey – These facts this Affiant well recollects and knows of his own knowledge. This Affiant also states, that he has heard and believes that the said Starkey was a Volunteer in Captain Herndon Haralson's Company of Light Horse, and was with the troops who fought the Battle of Eutaw Springs; This fact this affiant does not know of his own knowledge, But from report & information which he has received, he believes it to be true; -- And he further states that so far as the conduct of said Starkey he came to his Knowledge he was an active, Brave & faithful Soldier.

S/ Elisha Evans, Senr.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Elisha Evans Senr.". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and somewhat slanted to the right.



[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$39.33 commencing March 4th, 1831, for 11 months service as a private in the infantry & cavalry of the North Carolina militia.]