

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Stevenson (Stephenson) S7644

f32NC¹

Transcribed by Will Graves

9/3/09: rev'd 12/3/21

[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' or 'undeciphered' 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. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

The Declaration of James Stevenson of the County of Johnson [sic, Johnston] -- North Carolina -
- made the 29th of November 1842 -- he saith on his oath that he is now Eighty or Eighty one
years of age -- that he was born in the State of Virginia, but has resided in the County of Johnson
since he was five years of age -- that he entered the service as well as he now recollects in the
year 1779 under Captain John Whitley for a Tour of five months that they marched to South
Carolina -- and were in the battle at Brier Creek [Briar Creek, March 3, 1779] in the State of
Georgia -- that General Ashe [John Ashe] commanded the North Carolina militia -- that the
Americans were defeated in the battle -- that they retreated down the Savannah River and
remained in service something like a month after the battle defending the Country -- that he was
informed at the time the Americans had about 2500 men engaged in the battle & the British
about the same number -- that a number of the men were killed & drowned in the River -- that
they were as far down as near to a town called Purrysburg South Carolina where they were
discharged -- that a Major John Pointer gave him his discharge -- which he kept for many years -
- that the Declarant cannot read, but knew the paper by its looks -- that he was informed by some
persons to which he showed it, that it could not be read & was finally lost or destroyed -- that it
has now been so long ago, he is unable to name any one who ever saw said paper -- that he was
absent from home in going & returning six months, within eight days -- that after his return
home, he went another Tour himself, but he hired a man to take his place in a militia Tour of
three months -- by the name of Abraham Johnson & paid him \$100 and a mare & provisions --
that he himself was called on & went out twice against the Tories -- but he was out but a few
days each time --

That he has no records of his age, he being unable to read -- the Bible in which it was
entered being given to a brother, who died & the Bible has been carried out of the Country --
That he has not made this application before, as the person who was doing business of the kind
told him, the time he served was not long enough & this declarant refused to swear unless as
before stated -- That he knew one Bryant Adams² who was a first Sergeant -- he also knew
Lieutenant Matthew McCullers³ -- all of whom then lived in Johnson County but are now dead.

¹ HeritageQuest's version of the original application is much more legible than the Footnote.com version (even with its image enhancement tools).

² [Bryant Adams S6468](#)

³ [Matthew McCullers W7415](#) [erroneous indexed by Fold3.com under "New Hampshire" applications instead of North Carolina.

He does not at this time know of any one by whom he can prove his actual service, but hopes to be able to do so –

That this declaration is made to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress granting Pensions to revolutionary Soldiers -- all of which has been duly sworn to by me the date above –

S/ James Stevenson, X his mark

[William H. Battle, a Judge of the Superior Courts of NC gave a standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 14]

State of North Carolina Johnston County

On this the 28th day of November A.D. 1843 personally appeared before the Court of Pleas & quarter Sessions of the aforesaid County & State James Stevenson aged 81 years who being 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 -- that he was drafted in the aforesaid County of Johnston -- and placed under the command of Captain John Whitley -- he does not remember the day of the month or year in which he was thus drafted. -- that he marched from Johnston to Kinston -- that he thence proceeded under the command of General Caswell [Richard Caswell] around parallel with the seacoast, to the ten mile house near Charleston -- thence they marched to the neighborhood of Augusta -- which was then in possession of the enemy -- who evacuated in a few days as near as declarant recollects -- thence they marched to Briar Creek where a battle was fought -- Generals Ashe -- Bryant and Colonel Caswell being in command -- this declarant's Lieutenant was named Matthew McCullers (whose widow has been pensioned by government) -- after the Battle of Briar Creek and the forces had been collected they marched in the direction of Charleston, -- some short time after which he received his discharge signed by Major Points [sic] having served five months & eight days -- that he lived in Johnston County when he was drafted near the place now called Smithfield, & the State above set forth, -- does not remember the name of any regiments with which he served having been young and illiterate, -- He has no documentary evidence that he knows of by which he can establish his service. He kept for some time a written discharge being an honorable one given him when he had served even more than his time, by his superior officer, but the ink had so failed that it could with great difficulty be deciphered and it has since been destroyed, -- Nor does he know any one by whom he can prove his said services all of his old companions in arms having died or removed out of his reach & knowledge. Matthew McCullers and Bryant Adams who served with him were the last persons within his knowledge by whom he could prove the above facts that he knows of & they died several years since, & as he learns they or their widows have been allowed pensions, -- The reason why he did not apply before their deaths was owing to his ignorance of the law not knowing that any provision had been made for the soldiers however needy as he states himself to be. He has resided in this County (Johnston) ever since he was discharged from the service -- 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 in open court the day & year above.

S/ Jos. Houlder Clk

S/ James Stevenson, X his mark

[James Lassiter, a clergyman, and Robert W. Stevens gave these standards supporting affidavit.]

[p 20: Certificate dated July 30, 1844 issued by the North Carolina Comptroller's Office

indicating that James Stevenson had received a certificate for £26.8 for military service in the War of the Revolution.]

[p 31: On December 30, 1843 in Johnston County North Carolina Jesse Adams gave an affidavit in support of the claim of James Stevenson in which he states that he has often heard his father Bryant Adams Senior in his lifetime speak of James Stevenson as being with him in the service during the Revolutionary War.]

State of North Carolina Johnston County

On the 28th day of August A.D. 1844 before the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions of aforesaid County of Johnston personally appeared James Stevenson before mentioned and having been duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following Statement supplementary to & in support of his declaration heretofore made to obtain a pension under the act of the seventh of June 1832 that as before stated by him his services in the Revolutionary War amounting to five months & eight days but he did not include the time occupied by him in marching to the rendezvous during which time he was actually under arms or returning home after he received his discharge in South Carolina which time together with the time by him performed or engaged in the Regiment to which he belonged was nearly 7 months and was so considered when he received his final settlement Certificate from the Government. He further states that the certificate of which the Public Comptroller of the State has given him to account is the amount which he received for his service in the War of the Revolution and that the Compensation as before stated was for the time he was engaged in service and returning home from the place he received his discharge in South Carolina as before stated. --

Sworn to & subscribed before me in open Court this 29th day of August 1844.

S/ James Stevenson, X his mark

[Veteran was pension at the rate of \$20 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 6 months in the North Carolina militia.]