

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Ward S7809

fn43NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

6/14/10

[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 errors to my attention.]

[The digital images of the original pension application filed by this veteran are badly scrambled as filed on Footnote.com. Consequently, I have indicated in brackets the page number of Footnote on which the text of the ensuing transcription can be found.]

[fn p. 5]

State of North Carolina Sampson County: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions August Term 1832

On this the twenty first day of August in the year while Lord 1832, personally appeared in open Court before William Kirby, Archibald Monk, Barrel Dawson, Ben. Phillips, Henry Godwin & David Dawson Esquires, Justices of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, aforesaid now sitting William Ward, a resident of Sampson County in the State of North Carolina aged seventy-eight 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

That he entered the service, a minute man under the command of Captain James Love, David Cannon Lieutenant, John MacKann Ensign, that he does not recollect the day, but it was in the year 1775, -- thinks it was in the month of September, that he thinks this term of service expired in the month of March 1776, that he rendezvoused first, at a place called Duplin old Court House, that when he entered the service, he was residing in Duplin County North Carolina, on Goshen; that he engaged [fn p. 6] in his first term of service for six months, that from Duplin old Court House, he marched to upper Rockfish Creek in Cumberland County NC about eight miles below where Fayetteville now is, then called Cross Creek, that soon after his arrival at this place the Duplin militia came about 250 or 300 in number, whose officers he does not recollect, except Thomas Hooks, who he thinks was Lieutenant, that he served with a company of regulars at Rockfish, commanded by Captain Henry Dickson [sic, Henry Dixon], Tilman Dickson [sic, Tilghman Dixon] Lieutenant, about 300 in number; that there was a company of volunteers there also, commanded by Ashe & called Ashe's volunteers, that from thence he marched to Elizabeth Town, Bladen County NC; that at Elizabeth Town there was a company of minute men commanded by Thomas Bludworth as Captain and Thomas Devane Lieutenant, that the company to which he was, took boating at Elizabeth Town, went down Cape Fear, to its Junction with

Black River, thence up Black River to the mouth of Moore's Creek, thence up Moore's Creek to Moore's Creek bridge, where he landed 3 or 4 days before the battle at that place, that from thence he marched to Long Creek bridge, that while in Long Creek bridge, an express came from General Caswell to march back to Moore's Creek bridge and make entrenchments, that he then marched back to Moore's Creek bridge, and had made a short piece of entrenchment near the bridge, when another express came to march up to Corbett's ferry on Black River, that he then marched on towards Corbett's ferry, and got as far as Calvin's Creek, when another express arrived ordering them back to Moore's [fn p. 17] Creek bridge, to make entrenchments, for, the Tories had crossed Black River; that he then marched back to Moore's Creek bridge; that he arrived there the day before the battle; that a company of minute men commanded by Captain Richard Clinton, Patrick Stewart Lieutenant, met us there; that they then commenced making entrenchment a little further off than the first they had made; that that evening General Caswell with his Army arrived, (having a few pieces of Artillery), on the West side of Moore's Creek bridge, that curiosity had attracted him to go over the Creek to see the artillery as he had never seen any, that while viewing the artillery, a flag was brought to General Caswell from the Tories by a Mr Haburn bearing a paper; that a Captain Vance passed General Caswell if he might killed the bearer of the flag, and General Caswell shook his head; that then General Caswell and his Army crossed over the bridge and encamped on the East side of the Creek; that after General Caswell & his Army crossed over, the bridge was partially taken up; that the artillery was fixed that night and pointed to the bridge; that by break of day next morning, the enemy was firing at us across the Creek, that they attempted to cross some sounding the bottom of the Creek, to ascertain, as was thought, if they could ford it, & some, to pass over the bridge, in which latter, for men succeeded, & among them Colonel McLeod and Captain Campbell who were killed, and the enemy defeated; that the American officers at that place he recollects were General Caswell, General Lillington, Captains Love, Clinton, Bludworth, Ingram and Captain Vance of the artillery, that he knew but few of the officers belonging to General Caswell's Army; that the Tories [fn p. 18] were commanded by General McDonald & Colonel McLeod; that after the battle at Moore's Creek bridge, he marched to Wilmington NC; that soon after, a company of minute men commanded by Captain French from New River in Onslow County, arrived there, that he remained in Wilmington a short time, and from thence marched to Lockhart's or Lockwood's folly, a Creek in Brunswick County NC; that it was said there was a body of Tories stationed there, that when he arrived at Lockhart's folly, there were no Tories there, that four companies marched from Wilmington to Lockhart's folly with him, viz. Captain Love's, Clinton's, French's & Bludworth's; that from thence he returned to Wilmington; that on his return march to Wilmington this term of service expired, that after he arrived at Wilmington, which was about the first of April, he was discharged; that he was a volunteer in this tour of service; and that he thinks he can prove this term of service by William Taylor<sup>1</sup> now residing in the County of Duplin in said.

He entered a second term of service under Captain Daniel Williams, who had been a regular officer, John Armstrong Lieutenant, in the year 1776; that he does not recollect the day of the month, or the month, but thinks it was in the fall of the year, that he was a volunteer light horseman, that he embodied at Duplin old Court House; that he engaged to serve, this tour, for three months; that from thence he marched towards Wilmington; that in his march to Wilmington either in this tour, or his next one, he fell in with part of Captain John Moulten's Company; that British, then, had possession of Wilmington, the infantry under cap major Craig & the cavalry

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<sup>1</sup> [William Taylor S7685](#)

under Captain Gorden; that [fn p. 9] during this tour he was traversing and scouting the country round about Wilmington; that a galley, laden with the enemy, was decoyed ashore, & four of them killed, besides one badly wounded and died the next day, that at the end of this service, he was discharged by his Captain Daniel Williams, at, he thinks, Duplin old Court House, where he first rendezvoused.

That he entered a third term of service under the command again of Captain Daniel Williams, John Armstrong, Lieutenant, that he does not recollect the day, month or year, nor does he remember when he left this tour of service, that he rendezvoused, again, at Duplin old Court House, that from thence, he marched again to the vicinity of Wilmington, that he traversed the country round about Wilmington; that the enemy still occupied that place; that he thinks he remained about Wilmington till this term of service was expired when he was discharged by his Captain Daniel Williams and that he engaged for 3 months as a volunteer light horseman.

That he entered a fourth tour of service under Captain Daniel Williams, Thomas James Lieutenant, that he does not recollect the day, month or year; that he embodied at Duplin old Court House, that he marched from thence on towards Wilmington, the enemy still having possession of that place, that in his march, he fell in with a company of light horsemen commanded by Captain Thomas Wright at, he believes [fn p. 10], someplace above the Big Bridge; that two or three days before he got to the Big Bridge a skirmish had happened at that place, between the New Hanover militia and the enemy in which the former retreated as he understood, that a Colonel Young took command of the companies, after they arrived in the vicinity of Wilmington, that he was with others, forty-two in number, employed for about twelve days & nights almost constantly, upon the enemy's lines reconnoitering them; that in this time, two British dragoons were captured, that Colonel Young ordered Captain Williams, to send a guard with them, who would take care of them; that Captain Williams detached two others and this applicant to guard the prisoners to Captain McClammy's, about fourteen miles from Wilmington on the sound: that the next day after the twelve days service was out, Colonel Young told him that he must go with him (Colonel Young) again upon the British lines; that he (Colonel Young) would not give him (this applicant) and a fellow soldier named John Ward for ten men he did not know; that this applicant was then very much fatigued, and his horse much wearied, very poor and had a very sore back, and didn't think it safe to go upon the British lines in that condition, and told Colonel Young, that if he did go, he Colonel Young must furnish him (this applicant) with a fresh horse to which Colonel Young replied, "that could not be done," that he is applicant then said that if he went he would go confined, unless he had a fresh horse; that Colonel Young then said, he would put him (this applicant) under guard, that he this applicant upon this became [indecipherable word, looks like "vened"], & went to Captain William Dickson, commander of a company [fn p. 7] of Duplin militia, and asked him if he (this applicant) couldn't send his horse home & enter the service of the infantry, in which Captain Dickson said, "I could," that he (this applicant) was then enrolled in the infantry under Captain Dickson and served out this term of three months and was discharged by Captain Dickson, that he was a volunteer in this tour also, and a light horseman at first; that he does not recollect the day, month or year, when he left this service, and that about the time the twelve days service upon the enemy's lines above spoken of was ended, Captain Daniel Williams was promoted to brigade major and Thomas James appointed Captain of the light horse company.

That he entered a fifth term of service under Captain Daniel Williams, he thinks David Bunting Lieutenant & Daniel Clark, Cornet or Ensign, that he does not recollect the day, month or year, that he engaged for three months as a light horseman; that he does not recollect the time

when he left this period of service; that the company rendezvoused at Duplin old Court House; that when the company started on their march, he was so indisposed that he was unable to go with them; that as soon as he recovered he followed on and overtook them in South Carolina and a called the Four Holes, that when he came up with them, they had captured twenty Tories & six British; that this was, he thinks, late in the fall of that year, because pumpkins were ripe, that he, with David Bunting who he thinks was Lieutenant, Samuel Oates & others about ten in number, was detached with the prisoners to New Bern NC; that this term of service being so near expired when this detachment left the company, Captain Williams told them, it would be unnecessary to return to him; that thereupon from New Bern he returned to Duplin & that he was again a volunteer.

That he entered a sixth term of service under Captain [fn p. 8] William Hooks of the Duplin militia that he does not recollect the day, month or year neither does he recollect where he embodied, that he engaged for two months, that he was employed during this tour, in traversing Duplin County and part of Wayne, sometimes in pursuit of a company of Tories on Neuse River commanded by the Dinkins & Hines; that this company killed two respectable young man on Neuse viz. Blackshear & Franks; that their principal object in this tour, was to protect the inhabitants from the cruelties and depredations of the Tories, that he was a volunteer light horseman, that he does not recollect when this tour ended; that he served it out and was discharged by his Captain.

That he entered a seventh term of service under Captain Michael Johnson Kenan, that he does not recollect the day, month or year, neither does he recollect when he left; that he engaged for two months that he was employed during this term in traversing Duplin County in quest of the Tories & in protecting the inhabitants from their ravages & depredations; that he was again a volunteer light horseman; that he served out this period and was discharged by his Captain.

That he entered and a term of service under Colonel Thomas Rutledge, the Captain of his company being Thomas Hooks, that he does not now recollect the day, month or year, that he rendezvoused at Duplin old Court House; that he was then drafted for three months, that the whole company did not serve out this term because dangers had subsided, and they were dismissed as he thinks, but that he was not; that he thinks a part of the company served a little better than two months, that from Duplin old Court House they marched to [fn p. 15] Jumping Run, about two miles below Wilmington; that while there he assisted in throwing up entrenchments; that there, to Frenchman, who were regular soldiers viz. Colonel Malmady [sic, Malmedy] and Major DeBaron, selected seventy men and this applicant among them to go with their mounted infantry seventy in number, and seventy mounted men called Knock-em-down men, armed with pistols and white oak staffs; that from Jumping Run he marched with them to Harrison's Creek which runs into the North East [River], that while at Harrison's Creek he heard that Lord Cornwallis<sup>2</sup> & Colonel Tarleton, with their forces, were in Wilmington, that this was in the spring of the year, before Lord Cornwallis surrendered in the fall; that while at Harrison's Creek, a detachment, under the command of Major DeBaron, marched down to Wilmington to reconnoiter the enemy, that from Harrison's Creek he marched to Rutherford's Mills across Holly Shelter Creek which runs into the North East, that he remained there three days, making entrenchments, expecting Lord Cornwallis and Colonel Tarleton with their Army along that way; that here to Frenchman fell in with them, one an officer Captain Farrowgood, who took command of the artillery, there being two pieces found there when he arrived, that this was not long after the battle at Guilford and that he understood that these Frenchman had been in that

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<sup>2</sup> Lord Cornwallis arrived in Wilmington some time after the battle of Guilford Court house on March 15, 1781.

battle; that at this place he thinks there was a company or part of a company of militia from Duplin when he arrived; that [fn p. 16] from thence he marched to Limestone bridge which is across the North East; that he remained there two or three days, that he had been promised to be discharged here, as the three months for which he had been drafted were about to expire, but was not, the officer saying they would discharged the companies after they had marched them to Kingston [sic, Kinston] in Lenoir County NC, that from thence he marched to Kingston and was discharged on the 29th of April of that year, that soon after his return from Kingston, Cornwallis and his Army passed through Duplin; that about fifteen days after his return aforesaid, hearing that a body of Tories, consisting of 152 foot soldiers, and 13 light horseman, were in Cohara [Coharie], about two miles from Sampson Court House, he rode all night collecting a company to go against them; that seventy-two light horseman collected and embodied at Sampson Court House or rather where Sampson Court House now he is & were commanded by Daniel Williams & David Dodd, that General Kenan, Major Abraham Moulton and Carter Ivey who had been an officer in the regular Army were in the company; that from thence he marched to Mehan's Bridge [sic, Myhand' Bridge] on Coharie where he came upon the trail of the Tories, pursue them and fell in with them at Postivient's race paths[sic, Portevent's race paths], where there was a skirmish<sup>3</sup> in which we had two wounded, they retreated, we pursued them, and overtook them at Robinson's swamp where there was another skirmish, that they retreated, and we pursued them on across Black River just below where Newkirk's bridge now is, where they escaped from us; that this service was for about five or six days, that he was a volunteer

[fn p. 11]

Interrogatories propounded to William Ward an applicant for a pension on account of revolutionary services, as a volunteer and in the militia of North Carolina.

Question 1<sup>st</sup> Where and in what year were you born?

Answer. I was born in Pitt County in the State of North Carolina, between Tar River and the Roanoke [River], on the 20th of December 1753.

Question 2<sup>nd</sup> Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

I have a record of my age at home in a large Bible.

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

Answer. When called into service, I was living in Duplin County on Goshen. Since the revolutionary war I lived on Goshen; & near Duplin old Court House, not far from the line now dividing Duplin from Sampson at which place his I lived till about thirty years ago, when I removed to where I now live which is Sampson County NC, not far from the Duplin line.

Question 4<sup>th</sup> How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer [fn p. 12] or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom?

Answer. I volunteered every term except the last, when I was drafted; I never served as a substitute.

Question 5<sup>th</sup> 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. The regular officers as I understood who were with the troops where I served were Captain Henry Dickson, Lieutenant Tilman Dickson, Colonel Malmedy & Major DeBaron; I recollect the North Carolina Continental Regiment that marched as I understood to Philadelphia

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<sup>3</sup> May 16, 1781. <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/portevent.htm>

and were inoculated with the smallpox fought at the battle of Brandywine and were commanded by General Francis Nash; General Caswell commanded as I understood 600 men; and General Lillington 300 that I recollect, in the militia, whether they were regiments or not I don't know. The Continental Regiment above alluded to was called the first Regiment of North Carolina, the general circumstances of my service are detailed in the preceding declaration.

[fn p. 13] Question 6<sup>th</sup> 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 don't recollect of ever having received a written discharge and if I ever did I took no care of them; I have examined among my papers and confined 9; we generally got a ticket for our services.

Question 7<sup>th</sup> 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. John Bryan, William Robinson Esquire, Dickson Sloan, Major James Mathes, David Rogers, Robert Marley and others I could mention of Sampson County, and the Reverend William Wales, Reverend Samuel Stanford, Reverend Peter Carlton, William Stokes, Gibson Sloan, Robert Sloan, John Ensign & others I could mention of Duplin County.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name [fn p. 14] is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state. Sworn & subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ William Ward

[David Rogers, a clergyman, of Sampson County, and William Robinson gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[fn p. 19]

State of North Carolina Sampson County

On this the 27th of July A.D. 1833 before me a Justice of the Peace in & for said County of Sampson personally appeared William Ward the aforesaid applicant who for the purpose of amending the preceding declaration doth on his oath further declare and say that his minute service under Captain James Love was six months as a private; that in his second tour of service under Captain Daniel Williams he served three months as a private, that he has no documentary evidence to prove this service, but thinks he can prove it by John Wright Senior<sup>4</sup> of this County; that in his 3rd term of service under Captain Daniel Williams he served 3 months, that he has no documentary evidence to show this service [fn p. 20] and that he knows of no person by whom he can prove this service, that he is not positively certain whether he can prove his third tour of service under Captain Williams or the second one, by John Wright Senior aforesaid but thinks he can prove either one or the other; that in his fourth term he served three months as a private, that he has no documentary evidence to show this service and knows of no person by whom he can prove it; that in his fifth tour, he served, three months as a private, that he has no documentary evidence to prove it, & knows of no person by whom he can prove this tour, that in his sixth tour he served two months, has no documentary evidence and knows of no person by whom he can prove it; that in his seventh tour he served two months as a private; that he has no documentary evidence and knows of no person by whom he can prove this service; that in his eighth term, he was drafted for three months and served the term out, that he has no documentary evidence & knows of no person by whom he can prove this service.

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<sup>4</sup> [John Wright S7974](#)

Sworn & subscribed the day & year aforesaid before me a Justice above the Peace as aforesaid and I hereby certify that said applicant cannot from bodily infirmity attend court.  
Attest S/ Dickson Sloan, JP  
S/ William Ward

[fn p. 31]

State of North Carolina Duplin County: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions August term 1832

On this the 28th day of August A.D. 1832 personally appeared in open court before Alfred Ward, Robert Middleton and Richard Miller Esquires Justices of the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions of Duplin County aforesaid now sitting William Taylor, of said County, who being first duly sworn according to law, maketh oath and says that William Ward now residing in Sampson County NC aged about seventy-eight years was in the service of the United States in the revolutionary war, to the personal knowledge of this affiant, that he thinks it was in the year 1775 that the said William Ward and this affiant entered the said service under the command of Captain James Love, that David Cannon was Lieutenant, and John McKann Ensign, that it was in the minute service, that they, the said William Ward and this affiant engaged to serve in the said service for six months, and that the said William Ward actually served out the said six months, in which time a battle at Moore's Creek Bridge happened, where the Tories were defeated & McLeod killed. Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ William Taylor

[fn p. 33]

State of North Carolina Sampson County: SS

On this the 6th day of December 1833 before the Subscriber, a Justice of the Peace in and for the said County personally appeared William Ward a resident of Sampson County aforesaid in the State aforesaid aged eighty years the 20th of December instant, an applicant for a pension under the act of Congress of June 7th 1832 -- who being duly sworn doth on his oath, in explanation of his original declaration depose and say, that in his minute service in 1775 -- 76 he actually served six months continued service, except eight days, being furloughed for that time immediately after the battle at Moore's Creek Bridge, and came home, which was the only time he was at home during the 6 months; his entering the minute service was called enlisting; and he was with his company the whole of the above mentioned time in actual service in the Army,

All persons at that time subject to military duty in this section were ordered out by the Acting Colonels of the Counties, and those who did not volunteer early in the service, stood a draft, to force war one half of the militia being required to be raised out of those who did not volunteer -- In all this applicant's services, he volunteered, except twice, one of which was his minute service, and the other, three months service as a private in a company of militia Infantry under Captain Thomas Hooks when he was drafted --

His services as a light horseman, were not entirely against the Tories, but principally against the British, -- four months in tours of two months each he served against the Tories, after Cornwallis and his Army passed through the Country, first under Captain Michael Johnson Kenan & secondly under Captain William Hooks. In his tour under Captain Kenan, he was in a skirmish with the Tories under Captain Mobley amounting to one hundred seventy-two in number, the American cavalry being only seventy strong -- and he considers his service against the Tories as arduous as any he performed and although he was a volunteer he was in constant actual service; and that he is as much entitled to pay therefore as for any service whatever,

His other services as a light horseman were against the British enemy, chiefly upon their

lines; that in this service, each tour of which with its duration is set forth in his declaration he was constantly out in the field, never furloughed in the time, but actually served his several tours regularly through till discharged --

Volunteer companies consisted of fifty-three privates and were raised by orders, he presumes from the Acting Colonel of the respective Counties to the Captains who raised them, it being done at the time a draft was ordered to be made. During no part of his service was he in any civil pursuit.

Sworn & subscribed the day & year aforesaid before me

Witness S/ GW Robinson, JP

S/ William Ward

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831 for 2 years service as a private in the revolution.]