

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Witherspoon S7901

f13NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

1/24/11: rev'd 9/14/20

[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 Mecklenburg County } Court of Pleas & Order Sessions August Term
1832

On this the 31st day of August A.D. 1832 personally appeared before said court William Witherspoon a resident of the County & State aforesaid, aged seventy-four years, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to attain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June the 7th 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein after stated – Your Declarant states that he was born in the State of Pennsylvania in the year 1758¹ – has no record of his age that can be procured. That he was living in the County of Mecklenburg & State of North Carolina when called into service – and have lived in the same County & State ever since – That he was drafted in some campaigns & volunteered in others. He received a discharge from Colonel Davie [William Richardson Davie] for two months service he does not recollect of receiving any other discharge from any other person. Your Declarant further states that the first campaign in which he served was called the Cherokee Campaign² – That General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford] was the Commander in chief of the Army. Adam Alexander was the Colonel Commandant of the Regiment to which he belonged – that Neel Morrison was Captain – Was with no continental Troops – he does not recollect the year that he entered on that Campaign. The object of the Tour was to quell the Indians in no battle – marched from the County of Mecklenburg & State of North Carolina into the State of Tennessee [sic, then western North Carolina: the state of Tennessee was not formed until 1796] – has no documentary evidence by which he can prove the fact – Served about three months. The second Campaign – your Declarant was drafted – Colonel Davie was the commandant – with no Continental Troops

¹ The War Department promulgated regulations governing pension application format and requiring the following 7 interrogatories to be put to each applicant for a pension:

1st Where and in what year were you born?

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

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

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

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

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

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.

² https://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_cherokee_expedition_1776.html

– engaged in no battle – cannot recollect the year in which he entered the service – In service four months marched from Mecklenburg County North Carolina, into South Carolina ranged about through the northern part of that State – has no documentary evidence by which he can prove his services. The third Campaign – volunteered his services – Sumpter [Thomas Sumter] was the General of the Army – marched into South Carolina – was at the Battle of the Eutaw Springs [September 8, 1781],³ and Strawberry Plains [probably the action at Strawberry Ferry, July 16, 1781]⁴ – was in service with the Continental troops of which General Greene was commander in chief, the rest of the officers your Declarant cannot recollect in consequence of his great infirmity & failure of mind – In service about ten months – has no documentary evidence by which he can prove the fact. He refers to William Shutts, Isaac Alexander, Richard Springs, to authenticate his services.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of the Agency of any State.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

Test S/ Jos. H. Wilson

S/ William Witherspoon



[Matthew Miller & William Smith gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

State of North Carolina, Mecklenburg County }

On this the 3rd of June A.D. 1833, personally appeared before me Robert Kirkpatrick an acting Justice of the Peace, for the County & State aforesaid, William Witherspoon, a resident of the County & State aforesaid, aged seventy-five years the 26th day of February A.D. 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 June the 7th 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, & served as herein after stated. Your Declarant states that he was born in the State of Pennsylvania in the year 1758 – Has no record of his age – That he was living in the County of Mecklenburg & State of North Carolina when called into service, and has lived in the same County & State ever since – That he was drafted in some tours & volunteered in others. Your Declarant states that the 1st campaign in which he served was called the Cherokee Campaign – cannot recollect the period when he entered service – was drafted – General Rutherford, Colonel Adam Alexander & Captain Neel Morrison were the officers – was with no Continental troops – The object of the tour was to quell the Indians – In no Battle – Marched from the County & State aforesaid into the State of Tennessee – Received a discharge, but, in consequence of his advanced age & consequent mental infirmity, cannot recollect who he received it from – Has it not in possession, nor can he recollect what has become of it – Engaged in no Battle – In service three months. The second campaign – Your Declarant was drafted – Cannot recollect the period when he entered service – Colonel Davie was commander cannot recollect the names of the other officers – With no Continental Troops – Engaged in no Battle – Marched from the County of Mecklenburg in the State of North Carolina into the State of South Carolina – Ranged about through the northern part of that State – Received no discharge – In service four months – the object of the campaign was to subdue the Tories. The third campaign – volunteered his services – cannot recollect the period when he entered the service – General Sumter, Colonel Polk [William Polk], Captain Martin [Nathaniel M

³ https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_eutaw_springs.html

⁴ https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_strawberry_ferry.html

Martin] were the officers of the Army – Marched from the County & State aforesaid into the State of South Carolina – was at the Battle of the Eutaw Springs & Strawberry plains – Was in service with some Continental Troops, of which General Greene was commander in chief, the rest of the officers your Declarant cannot recollect – In service ten months – Received no discharge – Has no documentary evidence by which he can prove any of his services. The whole length of service set forth by your Declarant, & for which he claims a pension is seventeen months. Your Declarant states that in consequence of his bodily infirmity, he is unable to attend Court – He refers to the affidavit of William Smith to prove the services set forth in the first & third Campaigns, the services set forth in the second campaign, he is unable to prove by any person. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of the Agency of any state.

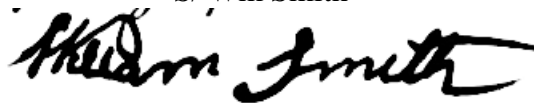
Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ William Witherspoon

I William Smith of the County of Mecklenburg & State of North Carolina, maketh oath that I am seventy-five years of age – That I am well acquainted with William Witherspoon who has subscribed and sworn to the above Declaration – That I was with him during the Cherokee campaign – That he served three months during that campaign – That I was also with him during the ten months campaign & know that he did the service therein set forth – That his narrative of the circumstances incident to each Campaign, are true.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid

S/ Wm Smith⁵



[Samuel Williamson, a clergyman, and Thomas downs gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$56.66 commencing March 4th, 1831, for 17 months service as a private in the North Carolina militia.]

South Carolina Audited Accounts⁶ relating to William Witherspoon AA3
Audited Account Microfilm file No. 8695

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[p 2: Printed form of indent No. 2064, Book X, dated December 12, 1787 & deliver to Mr. William Witherspoon this our Indented Certificate for the Sum of Three pounds Eighteen Shillings Sterling Arrears of Cloathing for Services in Sumter's Brigade per Certificate from Commissioners for Adjusting Claims against said Brigade.”]

[p 3: Reverse of the said Indent bearing endorsements by Jonas Clark and George F Newman. How these men acquired an interest in the indent is not disclosed by the documents in this file.]

⁵ [William Smith R9878](#)

⁶ The South Carolina Audited Accounts (AA) are now available online at <http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/>. To find the AA for a specific person, click on the [Just take me to the search page](#) link, then enter the person's surname first in the “Full name” box followed by a comma and the person's Christian name.