

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of Solomon Witherington S7936

fn28NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 1/24/11

[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.]

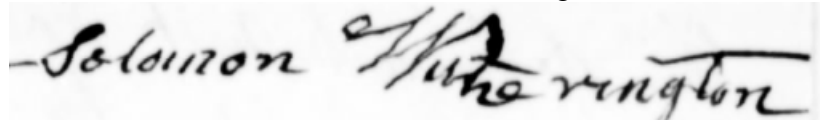
State of North Carolina, Craven County

On this 25th day of October AD 1832 personally appeared in open Court before Joseph J. Daniel, Judge &c of Craven Superior Court, now sitting, Solomon Witherington, a resident of Craven County, North Carolina, aged Seventy one 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 7, 1832. -- that when about fourteen years of age he served as a substitute for John Dismal who was drafted by Captain Menan Patrick at Kinston Lenoir County North Carolina but at what precise time this applicant entered the Service he is unable to state, being now advanced in years, and very young when he enlisted – That they were ordered to rendezvous at Kinston, and thence under the command of General William Bryan, Colonel William Caswell, Captain John Stringer McIlwaine, Lieutenant Thomas Shute, together with Blamey Harper Ensign Isler Kilpatrick first Sergeant, James Cowan second Sergeant and Elijah Johnson corporal, they marched through North Carolina and South Carolina without the occurrence of any occurrence worthy of mention, until they reached a place called the White House, on the Savannah River which divides the State of South Carolina from Georgia – at that place they discovered a party of British soldiers on the opposite side and thereupon immediately fired upon them, they then marched to Augusta Old Field, about a mile below the town of Augusta, and lay there one week, until the British evacuated Augusta, whereupon the Americans entered the town. After remaining at Augusta a very short time, we marched from the town of Augusta, to Brier Creek in Georgia, where we engaged with the British. --The engagement took place between one and two o'clock and resulted in the defeat and dispersion of the American forces – our light horse fared very badly, and were nearly all destroyed. -- this applicant in the general dispersion which ensued fell in with sixteen of the American forces, and they agreed to make James Noble, one of their number, captain of the Sixteen; after wandering about in the woods for some time, on their way home they reached the Savannah River, where it was quite broad, and found in the River an old raft of plank, all of the Sixteen immediately got upon it, but they were unable to carry it across the stream – this they therefore abandoned, and perceiving an old canoe on the opposite side of the river, they all agreed to give Dick Johnson, one of their number, one hundred dollars, to swim across and bring over the canoe; after some hesitation he agreed to make the attempt, and pulled off his clothes, and jumped into the stream, but after swimming twenty or thirty yards, he returned to the same bank, whence he started, and refused to go. --All the surrounding country being alarmed by the victory of the enemy and our situation growing more and more dangerous, this applicant, swam across the River, obtained the canoe, and thus the whole party gained the opposite bank; after reaching this side of the river, we traveled upon the banks of the same, until we came to a house called the Two Sisters [Two Sisters Ferry] which

was occupied by two women, and where there was a ferry. --They informed us that the British had just passed, and gave us some Hominy, of which we partook very heartily. -- We then retraced our steps down the River, and ultimately reached the White House, where we found our baggage, wagons &c , of which we took possession, nobody having them in charge, and remained there three days – on the third day, the remnant of our light horse came up; and on the fourth day the brigade came up and we marched down to a small place called Purryburg [sic, Purrysburg], where we continued to remain until our time was out. -- Colonel William Caswell, here took command of our Regiment and under him we marched on to Charleston, thence through Georgetown, and Wilmington (North Carolina) to Kinston in North Carolina having served five months, which added to the time consumed in traveling home, made five months & eighteen days. -- This applicant, never asked for, nor received a discharge from any person, being at that time very young, fond of the service, anxious to see the world, and ambitious of distraction. -- About two years after the discharge of this applicant, (when he was 16 years of age) at Purrysburg in So Ca, he was drafted at Kinston North Carolina, as well as applicant can recollect under the command of Genl Richard Caswell, Col. Benjamin Axum [Benjamin Exum], and Col Richard Caswell, he marched to Cross Creek (now Fayetteville) thence up to Hillsboro, and from the latter place, they took up their line of march for South Carolina, they crossed the Yadkin River, and near Lynches Creek were joined by Genl Gates [Horatio Gates]; under the general command of Genl Gates they proceeded on to Camden, but before they reached the latter place, they were met by the British, and an engagement took place, which resulted in the complete discomfiture of the Americans. -- This applicant was not present in the engagement but was left a short distance from the battleground on the road, quite sick – the first person he saw after the defeat was “Tory John Cox,” as he was afterwards called, he informed this applicant, of the complete overthrow of the American Army; this man was a very valiant soldier, and much attached to the camp of the Whigs, but subsequently became a rank Tory. -- Col. Benjamin Axum came up and informed this applicant that all was lost, and he must take the best care of himself that he could, and this applicant accordingly made his escape, and after a long and tedious journey finally succeeded in reaching Kinston in North Carolina. -- Upon this tour of duty, he served three months. -- This applicant never received a discharge as the troops were completely dispersed, the remnant of them never was called together afterwards, and the declarant never applied for a discharge. -- This applicant was engaged, as a substitute afterwards, for Christopher Taylor, to guard the magazine of arms & ammunition which was kept in Kinston, under Captain Samuel Caswell and Genl William Caswell, and served three months; he has no data by which he can fix upon the time of his service, and never made any endeavor to pursue any memorandum, or anything else, by which his memory might be aided and refreshed upon the matter, as he never expected to receive any compensation, at a future day for the same, and could not anticipate any possible advantage, that might arise from it. -- This declarant next volunteered in August 1780, under General Lillington, and marched with Captain Matthew Mosely and Major William Shepard from Kinston, to intercept Major Craig, who at the ahead of some British forces, was reported to be on his way from Wilmington to New Bern North Carolina. The Americans fell in with him at Harget's in Jones County, and after a smart brush, he retreated & came to New Bridge over Trent River, where on picket guard, engaged with his light horsemen, they again retreated, and finally succeeded in reaching New Bern without any further molestation. This applicant, then went to Trenton where after serving the 10 days out for which they enlisted, they were relieved and marched back to Kinston under Major Shepard. -- This applicant never received any formal discharge for this service. -- This applicant again served as a substitute for Nathan Witherington, who was drafted by Captain Ezeriah Moore, and ordered to rendezvous at Kinston; thence under the command of Captain Thomas Gatlin, they marched to Wilmington, and whilst on their way, having received the news that peace was proclaimed between this and the mother country; they were disbanded & returned home. -- This declarant has no documentary evidence, by which he can support the facts herein contained. -- 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.

S/Solomon Witherington

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Solomon Witherington". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Sworn to, and subscribed, the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Edward Paul [?]

Interrogatories:

1st – where and in what year were you born?

Answer – In Lenoir County North Carolina Kinston on the fourth of October A.D. 1761.

2nd – have you any record of you are age, and if so, where is it?

Answer – Yes, in the family Bible, which is now in the position of my eldest brother who is now living in Craven County North Carolina.

3rd – how were you called into service where were you living when called into service; where have you lived since the revolutionary war, and where do you now live?

Answer – I was living when called into service near Kinston in Lenoir County North Carolina. I served as a substitute three times, viz: for John Dismul, Christopher Taylor, and Nathan Witherington, was drafted once, and volunteered once.

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.

Answer – General William Bryan, Colonel William Caswell, General Richard Caswell, General Lillington, General Gates, & Colonel Benjamin Axum.

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 never did, for I never applied for one.

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

Answer – Richard Richardson, Andrew H. Richardson, Caleb Horten [could be Hooten], Joseph Witherington & William Witherington.

S/Solomon Witherington

Sworn to and subscribed the 25th day of October AD1832.

S/Edward Paul [?]

[Richard Richardson & Caleb Hooten gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

The Amended Declaration of Solomon Witherington for a pension under the act of Congress of 7 June 1832. -- personally appeared before me, the undersigned, a Justice of the Peace for the County of Craven, in the State of North Carolina, Solomon Witherington, who being duly sworn deposed and saith that by reason of old age, and the consequent loss of memory, he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his Service, but according to the best of his recollection, he served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following grades: first as a substitute for John Dismal & went through South Carolina & Georgia he served in all five months and eighteen days. Served under Caswell & Gates three months – third as a substitute for Christopher Taylor he served three months – fourth under Genl Lillington to intercept Major Craig he served 10 days – fifth as a substitute for Nathan Witherington he served a short time, how long this applicant cannot say; and for such Service, I claim a pension.

S/Solomon Witherington

Sworn to before made this 28th June AD 1833.

S/ Hardy Whitford, J. P.

William Witherington make his oath that Solomon Witherington and his brother James left home in 1779, and went with the Army to get Brier Creek, in Georgia, and was absent at least five months; immediately upon the return home from said defeat at Brier Creek, the said Solomon, informed this affiant, that General Ashe was completely defeated by the superior management and maneuvering of the British officers and of his escape and privation. -- This affiant knows that the said Solomon was in the main Army at Camden, as this affiant, was marched to reinforced the said Army, but his time of service had not expired when the said Solomon returned home, & he cannot therefore say how long he was absent from home on this tour. -- This affiant further states that he knows that the said Solomon served three months in the town of Kinston, guarding the magazine & and he knows of his being in the Expedition to intercept Major Craig on his way to New Bern.

S/ Will Witherington

Sworn to before me the 28th June 1833.

S/ Hardy Whitford, J. P.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Will Witherington". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and somewhat slanted to the right.

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$37.76 commencing March 4th, 1831 for 11 months & 10 days service as a private in the North Carolina militia.]