

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Withrow S7945

f37NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 1/24/11 & 2/18/18

[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.]

[p 4]

State of North Carolina, Rutherford County }

On the 23rd day of October AD1832 personally appeared in Open Court before the Justices of the County Court now sitting Captain James Withrow a resident of the United States in the County of Rutherford and State of North Carolina aged 86 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 the 7th of June 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named Officers and served as herein stated.

My first Tower [tour] was a volunteer under Col. Andrew Hampton to join General Moore at the Battle that was fought at Moors Creek Bridge [Moore's Creek Bridge, February 27, 1776] in the winter [of] 1776, I think. We did not reach the ground where the battle was fought before we were ordered back. When we returned home we found the Tories were gathering and mustered [in] full strong [strength?] for us. We were what were called minute men ready at every call. There was scarcely a month but what I was called out on duty. Our duty was a twofold one. We had the Indians in the West, a quite formidable enemy; the British on the South East too strong for us and the Tories in the middle of us. We were at that time the weakest party and at all times on our guard. The Tories did not embody in any large number but swept through the settlements for the purpose of plunder until Ferguson [Patrick Ferguson] came into the country. We had many forts in our County that we had to guard. In fact we were in constant service. I was appointed a Captain and under the command of Col. Andrew Hampton at the Battle of Black Stocks [sic, Blackstock's Plantation, November 20, 1780]. This Battle was fought under the command of General Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter]. From that place I returned home. I was a Captain and commanded a company at Kings Mountain [October 7, 1780]. I think the wing that I was in was commanded by Col Cleveland [Benjamin Cleveland]; Richard Singleton was our Major. After this I returned home. Shortly after my return, I made a tour over the mountains after the Indians. I had the command of the tour myself. We killed several Indians & took some prisoners, burned and destroyed much of their property & returned home. I am old and my memory very much failed. It is not in my power to give the date of my services accurately. As for the commissions, we only had them from one or the other [of] the officers as generally [the officers were] elected by the men and commissioned by the next [higher ranking] officer. I do not think I have any of them in my possession but one thing I do know that I spent seven years of the prime of my life in the service of my Country. Our services

were remarkably severe [Actual sentence reads: "our Service was Remarkable severe."]. We had to find ourselves everything we made use [of]. I am now old and infirm and call on my Country for a Small pittance to support me in the Decline of Life. He hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension except the present and declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of the Agency of any State whatsoever.

Question by the court

1st: Where and in what year were you born?

Answer I was born in the State of Virginia, the County not recollected, in the year 1746.

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

Answer: I have a record of my age at home and a Bible, family of my father.

3rd 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 within a few miles of where I now live in Rutherford County North Carolina where I have lived or this last 40 years.

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

Answer: I was a volunteer from the year 1775 to the end of the war.

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: At the Battle of Kings Mountain there was no general officer. The colonels [were] Cleveland, Campbell [William Campbell], Sevier [John Sevier], McDowell [Joseph McDowell] and others. There was at the Battle at Blackstock's, General Sumter. I was very little with the Regular Army.

Question: Did you ever receive a commission, if so by whom was it signed?

Answer: I received a commission. I am [not] certain by whom it was signed, but believe it was signed by Colonel William Graham. I know I was under his command but it is lost or mislaid so that I cannot lay my hands on it.

State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood, and who can testify to your character for veracity and good behavior and your services as a Soldier of the Revolution.

[No response noted]

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ J. Withrow

S/ Thos. T. Burchett, Clk

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Withrow". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "J".

[John Padgett, a clergyman, and Jonathan Hampton gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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State of North Carolina Rutherford County

Personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the Peace James Withrow who being duly sworn deposeth and saith 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 six months as a Lieutenant under Captain Robert Porter and after his service as Lieutenant I served as a Captain as stated in my Declaration two years or upwards commanding a volunteer Company in the revolutionary War with Great Britain and for which service I claim a Pension.

Sworn to and subscribed the 10th day of April 1833.

S/ William Davis, JP

S/ James Withrow

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State of North Carolina Rutherford County: This day personally appeared before me the under[signed] Subscribing Justice of the peace for said County Richard Ledbetter¹ and after being duly sworn deposeth and saith that in the time of the Revolutionary war with Great Britain he the said Richard Ledbetter volunteered himself as a soldier under Captain James Withrow in defense of our Independence (but cannot recollect the date) but some time after he joined Captain Withrow's company they were marched to South Carolina and joined General Sumpter's Army a few days before the battle at Blackstocks in which engagement there he thought as a soldier under Captain James Withrow and that he believes that Captain James Withrow was an active and brave officer throughout the revolutionary war. Sworn to and subscribed before me this 5th day of April 1833.

Attest

S/ John Bradley, JP

S/ Richard Ledbetter



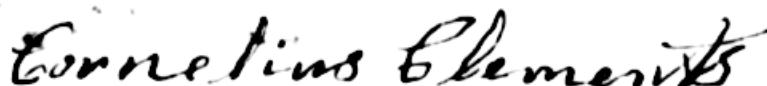
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State of North Carolina Rutherford County

Personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the peace for said County Cornelius Clements and after being duly sworn deposeth and saith that he was called into the service of the United States in the revolutionary war with Great Britain by Captain James Withrow in the fall season of 1780 but in consequence of old age length of time and the loss of memory cannot state the exact time of service and in the year 1781 he served under Captain James Withrow one or more tours as a soldier at which time we pursued Cornwallis near the northern boundary of North Carolina but for the above reasons assigned do not recollect the precise time of service but believes that Captain James Withrow was a brave officer during the revolutionary war. Sworn to and subscribed before me the 12th day of April 1833

Attest: S/ Hugh Watson, JP

S/ Cornelius Clements



¹ [Richard Ledbetter \(Ledbitter\) S26204](#)

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State of North Carolina Rutherford County}

Personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the peace for the County and State aforesaid James Withrow and after being duly sworn according to law depose and saith in amendment to his former Declaration and amendment he can only say that old age and consequent loss of memory places my service out of my power to give anything like a full history of my services as a Soldier of the Revolutionary War but to the best of my recollection I served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following grades for which service I claim a pension.

[Year]	[Description of service]	[Length of Service]
1776	My first Tour was a volunteer Lieutenant under Captain Robert Porter, Andrew Hampton Colonel Commandant to Moore's Creek bridge against the Scotch this tour was	2 months
	Between 1776 and 1779 I was engaged in several Tours but am not now able to give any particular time of my service	
1779	A Captain under General Charles McDowell to South Carolina called the Stono Expedition this service was	3 months
1780	A Captain two tours each tour three months in and of which Tours I commanded in the memorable Battle at Kings Mountain	6 months
1780 or 1781	A Captain at Battle at Blackstocks this Tour was	2 months
1781	A Captain in pursuit after Cornwallis this Tour was	1 month
1781	A Captain in pursuit of the Indians into the Cherokee nation this service was	3 months

This only makes my services as a Lieutenant 2 months and as a Captain 15 months I know I served a much longer service then I have stated but my memory will not justify made to make a further statement.

We was differently situated here from any part of the United States we had no Regular Army to defend us but the young men was continually under arms for the safety of the aged and infirm.

Sworn to and subscribed to before me this 29th day of August 1833

S/ William Davis, JP

S/ J. Withrow

[p 8: Polly Carson on June 28, 1856 in Rutherford County North Carolina executed a power of attorney in which she states she is the daughter of James Withrow, a pensioner of the United States at the rate of \$326.66 for his service in the revolution; that her father died leaving no widow but several children [not named in her power of attorney]. She signed this document with her Mark.]

[p 10: On July 23, 1852 in Rutherford County, Maryan Oliver and Mary Carson signed a power of attorney saying they are the daughters of James Withrow who was a pensioner of the United States up to the date of his death on December 5, 1838. Both signed with their respective marks.]

[p 11: On February 27, 1854 in Rutherford County North Carolina, Mary Carson, widow of General John Carson, deceased, 81, filed an affidavit stating she knew James Withrow who was a Captain in the revolution for 2 years and upwards and served a short time as Lieutenant Colonel and served with Colonel Brannon & General Sumter; that he lived in Rutherford County until his death. She signed with her mark.]

[p 13]

State of North Carolina Rutherford County

On this 28th of February 1854 personally appeared before me James M Spratt one of the acting Justices in and for said County Cornelius Clements² a resident of said County aged 96 who after being duly sworn according to law deposeth and saith that he knew James Withrow while he was in the service of the United States for he served under Withrow himself one tower and he states that he knows very well that the said Withrow served two years and upwards as Captain while he was in the Revolutionary war. Sworn to before me the day and year above written, and he states that he is disinterested.

S/ James M. Spratt, JP

S/ Cornelius Clements

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$326.66 commencing March 4th, 1831, for 17 months service as a Lieutenant & Captain in the North Carolina militia.]

² [Cornelius Clements S8218](#)