

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of William Witherington S7953

fn31NC

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 25<sup>th</sup> day of October A.D.1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Hon. Joseph J. Daniel, Judge of the Superior Court of Craven, now sitting, William Witherington, a resident of Craven County North Carolina, aged seventy three 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<sup>th</sup>, 1832. -- That at the instigation of General Caswell who was his neighbor in the forepart of the year 1776, he volunteered in Captain Thomas William's company and repaired to Kinston within five miles of which place he resided, and under General Caswell, they marched through Duplin and Sampson Counties on to Cross Creek (now Fayetteville) and thence to Moore's Creek where General Caswell had an engagement with the Tories under McLeod, McDaniel and Campbell-- the Tories were easily routed as the engagement only lasted about ten minutes. This applicant was not in the engagement having been sent off with others by General Caswell on a scouting party under Lieut. Burwell Mourning and was at the time of the engagement about a mile and a half distant. In this Expedition, Captain Jesse Cobb of Lenoir County commanded a company of minute men. After the affair at Moore's Creek, they retraced their steps homeward, and after the necessary and usual delays reached Kinston, and there [were] discharged. This applicant residing near Genl Caswell never received a formal discharge never having applied for one. -- This applicant served in this tour in the militia between two and three months.

A short time after the discharge of this applicant as aforesaid he again volunteered under Genl Caswell at Kinston and marched in the company of Captain Thomas Williams for the town of Wilmington North Carolina and was stationed there three months. Colonel Jarvis was the Colonel of one of the Regiments; Richard Caswell Jr. was Colonel to this applicant's Regiment, and Burwell Mourning Lieutenant, Jesse Cobb of Lenoir was Captain of one of the companies. Whilst stationed at Wilmington, the independence of the states was declared by Congress on July the 4<sup>th</sup>, 1776, and six weeks after that time, we broke up at Wilmington, and marched home for Kinston, where this applicant was discharged by Genl Caswell – he retained his discharge until sometime after peace was declared but not thinking that it ever would be of any value to him, he did not preserve it, and it is now lost. -- This applicant served in this tour, three months.

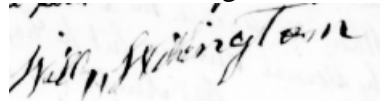
In February 1777, this applicant again volunteered under Capt Samuel Caswell, and was placed under the general command of General William Caswell, to guard the magazine of arms and ammunition in Kinston North Carolina, which was collected there for the use of the troops – there was in all about 60 men upon this duty in which we served three months and this applicant received his discharge at the end of that time from Genl William Caswell, but has lost the same, not deeming it of

any value to him.

In April 1777 this applicant again served as a substitute for John Creech, who was drafted by Captain Menan Patrick, in Kinston and was in Captain Thomas Pasteur's company under General Sumner, Col Richard Caswell and Captain Pasteur they marched from Kinston up through Johnston & Wake Counties Salisbury and Charlotte, into South Carolina. In Charlotte & Salisbury, the light horse belonging to this applicant's Regiment and the British light horse had several engagements but they resulted in nothing of a decisive character. In this campaign, we never met the enemy, and it was therefore not characterized by any active operations, and our time of service being about to expire, we began to retrace our steps back through North Carolina. When we reached the Yadkin River, this applicant was discharged by Genl. Sumner but he has lost the same, not deeming it of any value. --One Knight was adjutant, one Johnson Capt., in some of the companies who were associated in the campaign with this applicant. Jesse Bryan was Lieutenant in this applicant's company and Ephraim Pryor Ensign. -- In this campaign this applicant served in all five months and eleven days.

In August 1782, this applicant again volunteered under General Lillington in Kinston, and marched under his command and that of Captain Matthew Moseley to intercept Major Craig a British officer who was then on his way from the South to New Bern; they met him at Harget's in Jones County, and had a short engagement, the British retreated to New Bridge over Trent River and our picket guard engaged with the light horse belonging to the British who again retreated, and made good their way to New Bern. -- The Americans immediately after their last engagement came on to Trenton in Jones County, where we remained eight days and marched thence under Major William Shepard to Kinston having agreed to serve only ten days, for the special purpose of opposing Major Craig in his march to New Bern. This applicant has no documentary evidence to substantiate the facts herein set forth. -- 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.

S/ Will Witherington



Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/Edward Pauly

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

Interrogatory

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

Answer: In the Lenoir County North Carolina about 5 miles from Kinston on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of July A.D. 1759.

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

Answer: I have, and it is contained in our old family Bible which I have in my possession at home.

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

Answer: When called into service I lived in the County now called Lenoir, about 5 miles from Kinston, and there I continued to reside until within the last thirty years, when I removed into the County of Craven, where I have ever since lived & continue to reside.

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

Answer: three times I volunteered and once I was a substitute for John Creech who was drafted under Captain Menan Patrick in April 1777.

5<sup>th</sup> – 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 Richard Caswell, General William Caswell, General Sumner, General Lillington,

Captain Samuel Caswell, Captain Thomas Williams & Captain Jesse Cobb. I do not recollect the names of any of the regiments and we never were associated with any of the regiments of the line except those we met with incidentally on our marches – we were engaged with the Tories at Moore's Creek as detailed in my first tour of service; stationed at Wilmington North Carolina for three months and guarding the magazine at Kinston under General Caswell three months; in April 1777 and marched through North Carolina into South Carolina & was subsequently engaged in the attempt to intercept Major Craig in his march to New Bern.

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 received a discharge from General Caswell, General William Caswell and General Sumner, but I have lost all three of them not thinking that they would be of any value to me, I did not take any pains to preserve them.

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 of your services as a soldier of the revolution?

Answer – Richard Richardson, Andrew H. Richardson, Joseph Witherington & Solomon Witherington.

S/ Will Witherington

Sworn to before me the day & year aforesaid. S/Edward Pauly

The amended declaration of William Witherington who served during the revolutionary war. Personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the Peace for the County of Craven in the State of North Carolina, William Witherington, who being duly sworn deposed and saith that by reason of old age & consequent loss of memory, he cannot swear positively to the precise length of his service, but he swears most positively he served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following grades: -- first as a volunteer under General Caswell two months and a fraction – second as a volunteer under General Caswell three months – he volunteered under Captain Samuel Caswell & served three months. Fourth, as a substitute for John Creech in which campaign he served five months and eleven days – fifth, he volunteered under General Lillington to intercept Major Craig and served ten days; and for such service, I claim a pension.

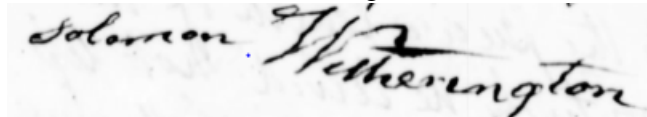
S/ Will Witherington

Sworn to before me the 28<sup>th</sup> day of June AD1833

S/Hardy Whitford, J. P.

Solomon Witherington maketh his oath that he is the brother of William Witherington, that they lived together during the revolutionary war, that he knows of his brother engaging to serve in the revolutionary army and of his leaving home for that purpose three several and distinct times; this affiant and his brother never served in the same Expedition saved the one to intercept Major Craig. -- This affiant recollects well of his marching for Moore's Creek together with his brother James, but he cannot say how long he was in the service.

S/Solomon Witherington

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

Sworn to before me this 28<sup>th</sup> June 1833

S/ Hardy Whitford, J. P.

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of 53 dollars 33 commencing March 4th, 1831, for 16 months service as a private in the North Carolina Continental line.]