

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Bryan S8089

fn13NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

10/13/10

[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 and any other errors to my attention.]

State of North Carolina Bladen County: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions

On this the 4th day of February 1833, personally appeared in open Court before the worshipful William H Beatty, Alexander King and John J McMillan, Justices of the Peace for the County of Bladen holding the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions of said County now sitting William Bryan a resident of Bladen County in State of North Carolina aged seventy-six years May 14th 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 7th 1832.

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

1. In the year 1776 as well as he recollects, that the time of the year not recollected except that it was in mild & pleasant weather. He volunteered as a Private in a company of Bladen Militia under the command of Captain William Hendon the names of the other officers not recollected. The Company marched from there Company ground at Richard Smith's plantation on Baker's Creek to a branch a short distance above where Miller's Meeting House now stands and encamped there 2 or 3 days, marched thence to Rockfish Creek, where they joined other companies of Militia from Bladen and Cumberland. Went into service against the Tories, who were in considerable form at Cross Creek (now Fayetteville) under the Command of the famous General or Colonel McDonald. Apprehending an attack, Colonel Moore, who was said to be a Continental officer directed entrenchments to be thrown up on the North side of the Creek and below the main road. Captain Hendon's Company was stationed at the mouth of Rockfish about a mile below the entrenched camp to guard the past at that place. The Tories marched down and made a show of attack, but having ascertained the American force and the strength of their position they returned – crossed the Cape Fear at Campbellton and proceeded towards Wilmington, and were shortly afterwards defeated at Moore's Creek Bridge by the Troops under General Caswell. On ascertaining that the enemy had left Fayetteville, Captain Hendon's Company was ordered to descended the Cape Fear in a boat, to the neighborhood of Elizabethtown, where they remained several days – thence marched to Wilmington to protect it from the Tories who were supposed to be making for that place – remained there about a fortnight – marched thence to Jumping Run about a mile below, and afterwards at a place called Caswell's Camps between that place and Wilmington remained there some time and thence were

moved over the Cape Fear, and stationed at a large Mill pond, back of Old Brunswick Town, and at that place completed their term of service, which was for three months, and were discharged. He has no distinct recollection, whether he received a written discharge or not, but believes, he did, as it was the practice to grant discharges for that and shorter periods of service. He further believes that he received several other discharges, but owing to the state of the Country, families were obliged to make frequent removals, and he is of opinion that he lost all his discharges, except the one herewith sent, before the close of the War. There was a considerable force collected at Rockfish, but owing to the circumstance of the Company, in which he served being immediately detached from the main body, he has no distinct recollection of the names of any of the officers, and whether there were one or more Regiments in service.

2. In the fall of the year 1777 (as well as he recollects) he volunteered as a Private in a Company of Bladen Militia under the command of Captain Charles Bullock, and Lieutenant Wm Dye, who were ordered into service by Colonel Thomas Brown commanding the Bladen Militia. The company formed from different parts of Bladen, then including the Counties of Robeson and Columbus, rendezvoused at Fair Bluff, on Drowning Creek, Lumber River, to proceed on an expedition against the Tories who had embodied on or near the line, marched from Fair Bluff to Bear Swamp near the South Carolina line, where they were relieved by another company of Bladen Militia under the command of Captain William Ellis, accompanied by Colonel James Richardson, one of the field officers of the Bladen Regiment. While at Bear Swamp Captain Bullock's company had a skirmish with a body of Tories who, however, after firing two or three rounds precipitously retreated, and never made head again, while the Company remained. He is under the impression that Captain or Major Robert Raiford, who was called a Continental officer was with the Company. He received a written discharge, as well as he can recollect from Captain Bullock or Colonel Brown, and if he did, it has been lost, as he supposes as already stated. On this expedition, he was in service, one month.

3. About the 1st of November 1781 he volunteered as a Private in a Company of Bladen Cavalry, under the command of Captain (afterwards General) John Willis. As well as he recollects he joined the Company at Elizabethtown from which place the Company marched to the South Carolina line in the upper part of Bladen (now Robeson) County where they were employed [indecipherable word or words] as understood in collecting beef cattle for General Greene's Army; collected a number at different points and towards the close of their term of service, drove a considerable number to Belfort, about a mile below Elizabethtown, and about that time received intelligence of the cessation of Hostilities. Having served 3 months, the time for which he engaged he received a written discharge from Captain Willis as will appear from the Original dated the 4th of February 1782 herewith sent. There were no other Troops in service in the expedition above detailed.

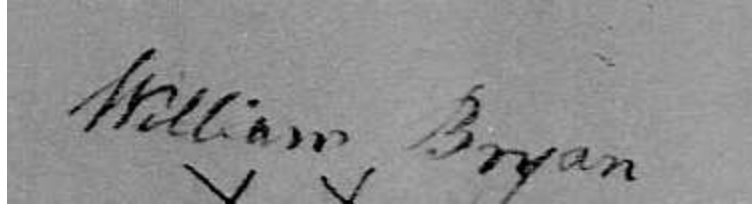
He served 2 or 3 months longer, and various short tours of duty, but has no recollection of time or circumstances so as to the particularize them. He has no documentary evidence except the discharge herewith sent, and no living witnesses of his services except whose testimony he can procure except Josiah Singletary¹, whose affidavit is hereto annexed.

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 and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

S/ William Bryan

¹ FPA W6064

A close-up photograph of a handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William Bryan". There are two checkmarks below the signature.

Answers to the Interrogatories prescribed by the War Department, as propounded to the Applicant by the Court.

1. On the Brown Marsh in the County of Bladen May 14th 1757
2. I have a record of my age in my Father's family Bible now belonging to me
3. In the County of Bladen, and have lived there ever since.
4. I was a volunteer in every instance.
5. For answer, I beg leave to refer to my declaration.
6. For answer, I beg leave also to refer to my declaration.
7. [1 line of names illegible] William J Cowan, Ithamore Singletary, and others if necessary to name them.

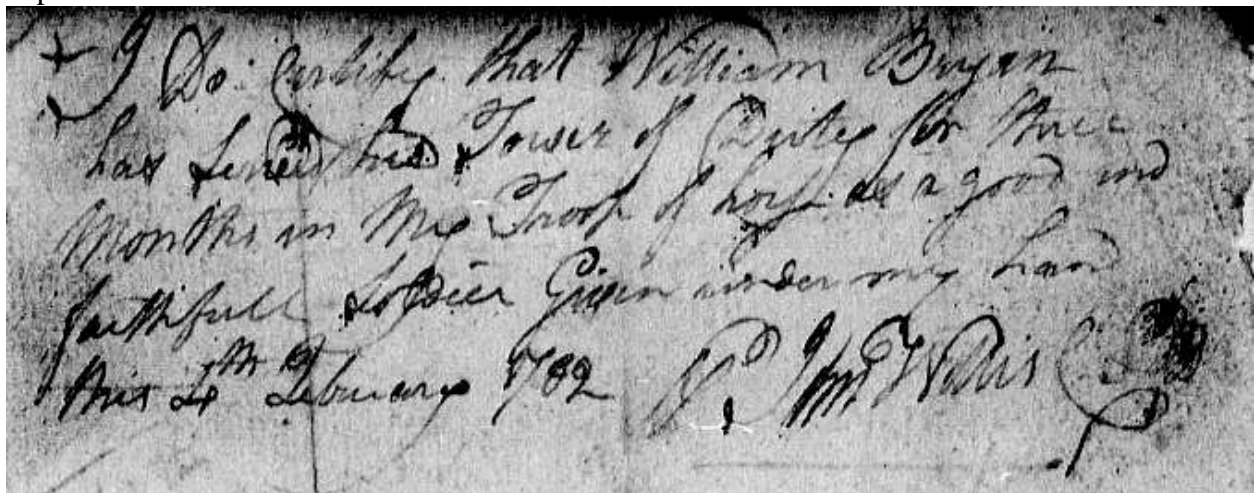
[Richard M Lewis, Senior and Robert Lyon gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

State of North Carolina Bladen County: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions – February Sessions 1833

Personally appeared in open Court, this the 4th day of February 1833, before the Worshipful William H Beatty, Alexander King and John Iver McMillan Justices of the Peace, holding said Court for said County – Josiah Singletary, who after being duly sworn according to law deposeth and sayeth – That he served one month's Tour of duty during the Revolutionary War, with the Declarant William Bryant [sic], in an expedition to Drowning Creek, and the South Carolina line, under the [text too faint to discern] Capt. Charles Richards and Lieut. William Dye; and that after they had performed their tour of duty, they were discharged.

S/ Josiah Singletary, X his mark

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A photograph of a handwritten affidavit in cursive script. The text reads: "I Do Certify that William Bryan has Served his Tower of Duty for three Months in My Troop of horse as a good and faithfull Soldier Given under my hand this 4th February 1782". The signature "R. M. Lewis" is visible at the bottom right.

I Do Cartify that William Bryen has Served his Tower of Duty for three Months in My Troop of horse as a good and faithfull Soldier Given under my hand

this 4th February 1782

S/ John Willis

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$30 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 9 months service in the North Carolina militia.]