

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Fields S8471

f27NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

7/31/06 rev'd 2/6/15

[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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Virginia, Patrick County

On this 25<sup>th</sup> day of March 1850 personally appeared in open court before the court of Patrick now sitting

John Fields a resident in the County of Patrick and State of Virginia aged 89 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 he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. He states that in the spring of the year 1776 Captain William Bobbitt came up the mountain from Big Reid Island to the County of Surry State of North Carolina, a distance of about twenty miles to raise a company to pursue the Shawnee Indians who had been committing depredations on the persons and property of the neighborhood of Reid Island River. This affiant joined his company as a volunteer; marched from the County of Surry where he then lived [indecipherable word]<sup>1</sup> the Mountains to the County of Botetourt, the Indians having obtained [indecipherable word]<sup>2</sup> of their near approach, took shelter in a cove [or cave] called the Big Cove [or Cave]. Capt. Bobbitt surrounded the cove with the determination to starve the Indians into surrender. He remained encamped at the mouth of the cove forty days. The Indians would not surrender but starved to Death in the cove, all except one which undertook to make his escape and was fired upon and killed. The company marched back to Reid Island, the abode of Capt. Bobbitt and was discharged. He was engaged in this expedition three months. He states that Capt. Bobbitt's company was the only company engaged in this expedition and that he started the expedition on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of May 1776—he states that in the month of August 1776 shortly after his return from the above expedition he entered the service as a volunteer under Captain George Deatheridge [Daughtridge?]; joined a regiment under the command of Colonel Joseph Williams destined against the Cherokee Indians. The regiment rendezvoused at Dobson's Cross Roads in the County of Surry State of N. C. now the County of Stokes. At this place the company became dissatisfied with Capt. Deatheridge and voted in Captain William Dobson under whom this affiant marched from that place to the Cherokee towns a distance of about three hundred miles. On their way they were joined

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1 *currah*

2 *J. Tenn*

by a regiment from Virginia under the command of Col. Christie [William Christian]. They destroyed some of the Indian towns but could not bring them to a fight; agreed on terms of peace; the regiment to which he belonged was marched back to the long Islands of [the] Holston [River]; the larger portion of which was there discharged; the remainder was stationed there to keep the Indians in subjection until the treaty agreed upon could be ratified. This affiant was among the retained who remained there for some time when they commenced their march homeward where he arrived about the first of March having been engaged in this expedition Seven months. This affiant states that shortly after his return from the above tour he joined Captain David Roark's company of minute men for the term of six months during which term Capt. Roark with his company was ordered to march against the Tories who had collected together near the head of the Yadkin River; they marched up the Yadkin [River] to near its head; the Tories hearing of their approach dispersed; they then returned home having been engaged in this expedition 21 days. This was the only time he was called on during his six months engagement, which he believes ended in the fall of 1777. He then joined Captain Joshua Case's company of minute men for six months. During this engagement he believes in the spring of 1778, he was called on to march against the Tories up the Yadkin [River]. They marched up said river nearly to its head not coming in contact with the Tories. They returned home through Guilford County having been engaged forty days. His term of enlistment or engagement under Case having terminated, he volunteered under Captain William Shepherd in the month of June 1778 [sic, 1778] in an expedition against the Tories who it was reported had collected in a body near the Long Swamp down on or near Rocky River. They commenced their march in June 1778; marched to Rocky River to a place called the Stone House and then to the Long Swamp. Before they reached the Long Swamp they were joined by several other companies. They found the Tories collected and engaged them in battle, which continued but a short time before the Tories gave way and fled into the Swamp where it was thought not advisable to follow them. In this battle this affiant was wounded by a rifle Ball passing through his leg but fortunately did not break a bone. Being now unable to ride he was left in the care and under the protection of Captain John Johnson who resided not far off; his captain and the rest of the company returned home, this affiant remained about a month and then returned home having been engaged three months in actual service and one month detained by his wound for which he claims four months. This affiant again entered the service as a volunteer under Captain Joseph Cloud in March 1779; marched to 96 [Ninety Six] in South Carolina; was there stationed for a short time; hearing that a party of Tories had collected together on a river or swamp near Wilmington, they were ordered to march against them. After marching a considerable distance, they came upon a band of Tories; had a reconre [recountre] in which this affiant received a shot through his wrist—they then commenced their march home having been engaged in this expedition at least three months. The next tour of duty this affiant performed was in the year 1780. He volunteered under Captain John Smith in the County of Surry [North Carolina]. Marched under him to join a regiment under Colonel Williams [James Williams] destined against the British and Tories in the South they proceeded to a place called the Cowpens (spelled, "cowpings") near which place they joined Colonel Williams' regiment who had previously joined Cols. Campbell [spelled, "Cambell", William Campbell], Cleveland [spelled, "Cleavland", Benjamin Cleveland] and others and was in hot pursuit of the British under the command of Ferguson [spelled, "Firrgerson", Patrick Ferguson]. They pursued him to Kings

Mountain on the top of which place we battled [October 7, 1780] and the combined forces of Williams, Cleveland and Campbell attacked him on the Mountain. A dreadful Battle ensued in which the combined forces of Williams, &c. proved successful in this battle. Col. Williams was killed and also the British commander in the battle. Your affiant received three wounds from the bayonet of the enemy, one in the thigh, one in the hip and one in the left breast but not so as to disable him. This affiant was retained a few days after the battle to aid guarding prisoners. His three months having expired, he was discharged and returned home. He entered service again under Captain William Lewis of Surry [?] County; marched under him to join General Morgan [Daniel Morgan] who at that time was in imminent danger being as it so was said surrounded by the enemy; they reached him in time to be engaged in the Battle of the Cowpens [January 17, 1781] in which general Tarleton [Banastre Tarleton] was defeated; he remained with the army until the expiration of his tour which was three months; was discharged and returned home about the first of March 1781. In this battle at the Cowpens this affiant received a blow on the head with a sword from one of the enemy which felled him to the ground, the scar of which as well as the scars from other wounds above mentioned are now visible. He states during the war he performed several other short tours against the Tories but has neglected to mention them in their proper place. One of those short tours was under Capt. Bland, Capt. Case and Capt. Blackburn, all in company, after the Tories in Chesnutt Ridges in Surry County [February 1781]. This engagement did not last more than two weeks. In this expedition they killed four Tories and recaptured property that they, the Tories, had robbed [from] the citizens of Fork Town, Fork is a branch of [the] Dan River. The other small tours he declines claiming for; he states he received discharges for the regular tours performed by him signed principally by the captains under whom he served, with one exception which was signed by Col. Leadbetter, all of which has long since been lost or destroyed; that he has no documentary evidence of service and knows of no person living by whom he can prove service except by Edwin Hickman<sup>3</sup> of Stokes County North Carolina and Thomas Ayres of Surry County same State by whom he can prove part of his service if they are living and he has not heard of their Death -- he will endeavor to procure their affidavits and forward them. He states that he was born in the County of Bedford, Virginia on the first day of October 1761 according to a transcript of his age now in his possession taken from a register of his age in his mother's Bible. He stated that his father moved to Roan [Rowan] County State of North Carolina when this affiant was about five years old this County being divided and Surry taken off, he resided in Surry during the Revolution from which Stokes County was formed out of Surry where he resided until about 15 years past. He took up his abode in Patrick County State of Virginia where [he] now resides, Patrick and Stokes Counties joins one on each side of the State line—state the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify to your character for veracity and their belief of your service as a Soldier of the revolution and the name of the clergyman of your neighborhood if any there are. Answer—there is no clergyman in my immediate neighborhood. Edmond Collins and Joseph Brown and Martin Cloud who are the only persons present in Court from my neighbor[hood].

This affiant be interrogated [as to] why he had not made earlier application for a pension stated that he was always been of [the] opinion that no man, notwithstanding he may have fought for liberty, should apply to his government for support so long as he is

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<sup>3</sup> [Edwin Hickman S8712](#)

able to support himself, but that he has now become so infirm that he is not able to procure a living by his labor—and having nothing to support himself upon, he deems it now right and proper to apply for and demand the provisions made by the government for those who served their Country in the Revolutionary war. 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 & year aforesaid.

S/ John Fields, X his mark

[Edmond Collins, Joseph Brim and Martin Cloud gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 11]

State of Virginia Patrick County

This day Thomas Ayres of Surry County State of North Carolina a credible witness who being first duly sworn deposeth and saith that his Father resided on the [2 indecipherable words]<sup>4</sup> in Surry County in time of the revolution, and that a few days after the Battle at Kings Mountain among the soldiers returning from that Battle he saw John Fields the above applicant his attention was particularly drawn to him on account of his being equipped differently from the rest of the soldiers, he carried a large gun on his shoulder [?]<sup>5</sup>, a small one swinging to his buck [?]<sup>6</sup> and a large sword being by his side, that [affiant] heard him converse about the battle and speak of having been slightly wounded – he states that he saw the said Fields at another [time] in the Army when [he] returned from the battle of the Cowpens, that [affiant] has been acquainted with John Fields ever since, that he has frequently heard his Brother speak of having served with the above applicant – this affiant declares that he was about Eleven or twelve years old when he saw John Fields at the times spoken of above.

S/ Thomas Ayres, X his mark

[p 13]

State of Virginia Patrick County SS

The deposition of William Moore Esq. of Stokes County North Carolina aged 76 years taken before me Martin Cloud a Justice of the peace in and for the County of Patrick this 14<sup>th</sup> day of June 1850 to be read as evidence in support of the Claim of John Fields to a Pension the said William Moore being first duly sworn according to law deposeth and saith that [he] became acquainted with John Fields the applicant for a pension when the affiant was about fifteen years of age it was then said that John Fields had been a Soldier in the revolutionary war. [Affiant] Frequently saw Fields in companies where he was [indecipherable word]<sup>7</sup> as a Whig of the revolution, he has heard many conversations

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*Martin Cloud*

5

*Shalown*

6

*Buck*

7

*held?*

held?

between his, this affiant's Brother Samuel (who is now dead) and John Fields in relation to their services together in the War of the revolution they having served in the same tours together, he further declares that he has heard Capt. Joseph Cloud who was a Captain in the revolution and who has been dead many years speak of the services of John Fields he said John Fields served under him and was a willing and valiant soldier and was always willing and ready to serve his Country whenever called on that they had served together as privates at the long Islands of the Holston before he got the appointment of Captain, he used to say that Fields ought to be highly respected for the manly course he pursued in fighting for liberty when his Father and Elder Brothers were Tories, he states that he has been acquainted with applicant for Sixty years or more and he has always bore the name of a Whig of the revolution.

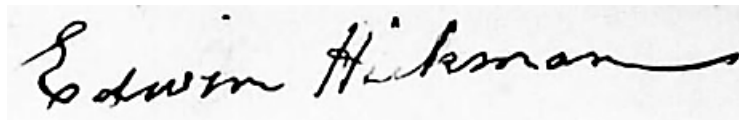
S/ Wm Moore

[p 26]

State of North Carolina Stokes County SS

Be it known that on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of April 1850 before me John W Billing a Justice of the peace in and for said County personally appeared Edwin Hickman of Stokes County aged 88 [?] years a credible witness who being first duly sworn according to law deposeth and saith that he is well acquainted with John Fields of the County of Patrick and State of Virginia. That he was acquainted with him in time of the revolutionary war and since that time, he states that he saw said Fields in the Army a short time before Gates defeat [Battle of Camden, August 15-16, 1780]; that he knows of his being discharged and returning home, said Fields was in the Horse but what officers he was with he does not recollect if he ever knew, he further states he knew many of the officers under whom John Fields states in his declaration that he served [under], his declaration having just been read to him. He further states that said Fields has always been reputed and believed in this neighborhood to have been a soldier of the Revolution, that he declares the said Fields be 89 years of age – this deponent further saith not.

S/ Edwin Hickman

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Edwin Hickman". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid, with a long, sweeping underline.

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$40 per annum for service as a private for 12 months in the North Carolina Continental line.]