

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Sherwood Fort S8499

f50NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 3/8/12

[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. 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 fails 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 errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of North Carolina Cumberland County

Be it remembered that at a Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for the County of Cumberland on the 1st Monday of September A.D. 1832 Present the Worshipful Justices Duncan McRae, Richard Huckabee and Duncan Buie, Esquires --

At which time and place, personally appeared in Open Court Sherwood Fort a resident of the County of Cumberland, State aforesaid, aged 73 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 he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated.

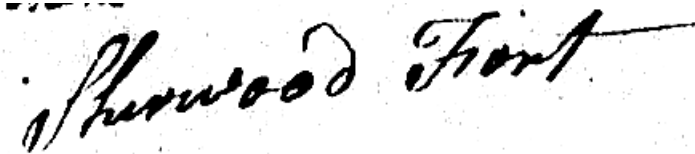
This Declarant states that he was born in Halifax County, North Carolina on the 14th September 1759. The record of his birth was copied by him from a family Bible, about 40 years ago into another Bible now in his possession, which she has ready to produce for the inspection of the Court. He 1st entered into the service of his country in the Fall of 1775 and marched under Captain Michael Little to Long Bridge near Norfolk in Virginia, and was there present in the engagement against Lord Dunmore, that he went on this expedition as a volunteer, and served as a Drummer. He next in the year 1776, entered under Captain Henry Dawson on a tour of 3 months service in a Regiment commanded by Colonel Drury Gee, and Peter Dozier under whom he marched to Wilmington NC where he was stationed; he served at this time from the 12th May 1776 to the 12th August 1776, was in Wilmington on the 4th July when Independence was declared -- and met there at that time, and served in company with the 7th North Carolina Regiment, commanded by Colonel James Moore, in which Regiment Captain Griffith McRee commanded a company -- on his return he received his discharge from Major James Hogan [sic, James Hogun], when he died back to Halifax. On this occasion General Samuel -- commanded the Brigade to which he was attached. --

His next term of service, he entered as a volunteer for a 6 months tour, but actually served 7, before he was discharged, -- He enlisted under Captain Thomas Scurlock who was Captain, in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Thomas Eaton and Colonel Jesse Etherington, and Joseph Clinch was Major. -- He entered in Halifax 10th September 1778. The Regiment rendezvoused at Kingston [sic, Kinston], on Neuse River, and marched thence to Elizabeth in Bladen County where we were joined by Colonel Philip Alston of Chatham County with his Regiment. General Samuel Ashe [sic, John Ashe] commanded the Brigade. From Elizabeth where we encamped about 10 days, we marched into South Carolina to a place called Moncks Corner, near Charleston. -- thence to Augusta in Georgia, where we joined the General Williamson [Andrew Williamson], who commanded the South Carolina Regiment -- Crossed the River at Augusta, and

marched down on the other side of Savannah River, to Briar Creek, in Burke County, Georgia where an engagement took place with the British, in which we were defeated -- Colonel Elbert commanded a Georgia Continental Regiment on this occasion, and fought bravely at the battle of Briar Creek, which was fought on the 3rd of March -- After the Battle we crossed into South Carolina and remained until 10th April 1779, when this declarant was discharged. In this tour he entered as a Drummer and when the Regiment rendezvoused at Kinston, he was appointed Drummer Major of the Regiment, and received a Commission as such from General Ashe -- which character he served during this term of service into South Carolina, and Georgia, and was entitled as such to the pay of a Captain -- During this campaign he served with any Continental Regiment, commanded by Colonel Litell [sic, Archibald Lytle] under General Lincoln, who they met with at Purrysburg South Carolina.

After his return home to Halifax in the Fall of 1780 he came out to Cape Fear [River], Bladen County, NC to a sister who was settled in that County. Here he furnished his own Horse, and equipments, and was enrolled as a Volunteer, in a company of Horse commanded by Captain Peter Robinson, and formly [sic, formed a ?] part of the command of Colonel Thomas Brown, Colonel of the County, which was employed constantly, off and on, for 18 months, in protecting the Country against the depredations of the Tories. He was regularly enrolled, and liable to be called out, at a moment's warning -- In this capacity he was in several engagements with the Tories. On one occasion they routed a party of them from Drowning Creek which had just before, attacked, and plundered the House of Colonel Owen. On another occasion we attacked, and surprise a large party of Tories, consisting of about 150 men, who were assembled at Elizabeth town, and entirely dispersed them. After this he married and returned to Halifax, where he again enlisted as a volunteer in Captain Theophilus Thomas' Company, under Colonel William Brittle, for a tour of duty. Under whom he marched into Virginia, and arrived at Little York, the day after the surrender of Cornwallis. He remained a short time there when he returned to North Carolina, where he finally disbanded. He received regular discharges, at the end of these respective tours of duty, who has lost the whole of them.

S/ Sherwood Fort

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S/ Sherwood Fort". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Sworn to & subscribed in open Court

Test: S/ D. McDiarmid, Clk

The Court then proceeded to put to the Applicant the interrogatories contained in the Pointed Instructions from War Department, numbered 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, & 7 respectively, to which the following answers were returned

1. In Halifax County NC 19th September 1759
2. In a Testament now in my possession, and copied about 40 years ago from a Family Record & which is now produced in Court for their inspection
3. In Halifax aforesaid, where have since lived, in the Counties of Halifax, Bladen and Robeson, and now live in Cumberland
4. Entered on each Location as a volunteer
5. Colonel Moore, Captain Griffith McRee, of the North Carolina Continental Blind -- and others more particularly set forth in my Declaration

6. I did receive a discharge, from each term of service as set out in my declaration, say Major Hogun, &c, which are lost

7. Jonathan Evans, Esqr., Col. Black, Sheriff, Isham Blake,-- and the Justices holding the Court, Rev. John H. Pearce.

[Rev. John H. Pearce, a clergyman, and Isham Blake gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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Declaration (Supplemental to the one now on file in the War Department) of Sherwood Fort, of Cumberland County, State of North Carolina, claiming a Pension under the Act of Congress June 7, 1832

In the original Declaration of Sherwood Fort compensation is claimed for services rendered during the Revolutionary War, and by a communication from the Pension Office, dated May 1833 [could be 1835] addressed to my agent Duncan McRae Esquire it appears that exception is taken to that part of the claim founded on services rendered as a private in a Troop of Horse commanded by Captain Peter Robeson of Bladen. The words of the Chief of the Pension Office, J L Edwards Esquire in the communication referred to are these "There were no doubt many very patriotic men who in the words of the applicant were always ready and willing, and frequently did turn out voluntarily to suppress the Tories, and perform other meritorious services, but such service is not recognized as serving under the provisions of the law of June 7, 1832."

From this statement I am induced to believe that the nature of the services as rendered by me, has not been understood by the Department for although the service was in one sense of the word voluntarily rendered, yet it was as regular in the form of the requisition [?] and obligation on my part to perform it as any other military service rendered by me during the war. -- it was in "regularly embodied corps" -- "called into service by the constituted authorities;" and the "actual service in the field" rendered

In the year 1780 after my return from my tour of duty in Georgia, and the affair at Briar Creek, I came into Bladen from Halifax, my native County -- Colonel Thomas Brown afterwards General Brown, was the Colonel of the County, and had received orders from the Governor to raise 2 companies of Horse for the protection of the County of Bladen, and the surrounding Counties, against the inroads of the common enemy. The Tories, who constituted a large and formidable force, in this part of the Country, it so happened was the enemy that we had to encounter. Under the orders of Colonel Brown, so authorized two companies of Horse were raised, and embodied, the one under Captain Ervin and the other under Captain Peter Robeson, and which when United formed one command. These 2 officers were regularly commissioned, and ordered to enlist men. The company commanded by Captain Peter Robeson was composed of men partly drafted and partly volunteers. I was of the latter number -- I was regularly enrolled, and engaged for 12 months, and was to receive \$12.50 per month on condition that I found my horse. I did furnish my own horse, saddle and bridle, whilst those who were furnished Horses by the State were only to receive \$8 per month. My engagement was by myself and by those under whom I served, and who represented the State considered binding. It was voluntary in as much as I did not stand a draft, but in every other respect I was on the same footing with those who did, the State's claim on my services for the period of 12 months, and my claim for compensation for that term arose from an actual engagement. I remained under the command of Captain Peter Robeson for 12 months and upwards. My continued service in the troop was from June 1780 to the 12th of February 1782. The nature of the service was such that we were not

always what might be called technically in the field. After a return from an expedition, we separated, or were temporarily disbanded and were subject to be called out at a moment's notice. On those occasions those who had homes, went to them, but I who had no home, short of 150 miles, was living on my own expense until summoned to active duty. Between the 2 dates above mentioned, I was 12 months in strictly active service, not merely enrolled, but mustered with the troop: riding and fighting. That period embraced the most trying times that North Carolina experienced during the war. One Robert Johnson,¹ whose name is on file in your office, belonged to Captain Ervin's Company, your applicant is informed has received his pension, for 6 months service rendered in that Troop, under similar circumstances. Zachariah Reeves,² whose affidavit accompanies my original application, served with me in Captain Robeson's Troop, and there testifies to my services. A few years ago I saw in the possession of Major Thomas J. Robeson, late of the United States Army, and a son of Captain Peter Robeson, the actual original muster Roll of the Troop, in which my name was inserted, -- He is since dead, and I have not been able to find the Roll. After the war, those of the troop who were then here, received Certificates of their services, entitling them to pay from the State. I was not then in this part of the State, having returned to Halifax County, as my original Declaration shows, and again enlisted for a tour of duty in Virginia.

In respect to the other part of my services which seems to be sufficiently est. in the opinion of the department, I take the liberty to call the attention of the Head of the Pension Bureau to the fact that whilst serving as Drum-Major, I was entitled to receive the pay of a Captain, according to the military usage which prevailed in this State. I mention the circumstance not knowing (though I suppose it was so) that the pay, and grade was uniform in the different States.

S/ Sherwood Fort

The Amended Declaration of Sherwood Fort

The Declarant states that in the Fall of 1775, when he had just completed his 15th year, then living in Halifax County his native place, he volunteered for a 4 months tour, -- this was in October or November of that year, -- he served as a Drummer, -- and marched with his company into Virginia -- he returned to Halifax in March or April 1776, after having served out his tour of duty. The Company in which he served was commanded by Captain Michael Little of Edgecombe County, and Robert Lowrie was Lieutenant -- There were 2 companies stationed at the Long Bridge, this was near to Batchendor's [?] Mills, and one object was to protect them. -- we had a sort of battery or entrenchment of dirt thrown up -- One of these companies was Virginia militia, under the command of a Captain whose name this Declarant does not remember with distinctness, but it sounded like Corbles [? could be Corbly]. Little got to be a Major before we came back. And from him I received my discharge at old General Hogun's [James Hogun's] muster ground, -- that is, he was old General Hogun afterwards, but he was Major then. Lowrie was killed on the same evening of the battle of Long Bridge, and that very [[indecipherable word or words] we were in an old field, and the enemy was firing from there vessel that lay off, when Lowrie attempted to stop a spent Ball with his foot, it shattered his thigh, and the bone ran up into his bowels and he died that same night.

S/ Sherwood Fort

¹ [Robert Johnston \(Johnson\) S7092](#)

² [Zachariah Reaves S41973](#)

As to the services rendered in 1780, which are mentioned in my original declaration, where I was enrolled in Captain Peter Robeson's troop of Horse in Bladen. -- This was a service rendered as a volunteer and for which I never received a cent of pay -- We were employed in hunting for the Tories, and resisting their depredations -- during the first 12 months, we were almost constantly out -- We went into the upper part of Cumberland, Moore and Chatham, in this State and several times, into South Carolina, into Darlington and Marion district -- I was not engaged in any farming or other business during that time, nor could I be, for I never could stay at home a week at a time during that year. The Tories were very troublesome -- after we had dispersed them, and thought we had an given them enough to satisfy them, they would come again & write their objections in red ink, and we had it all to do over again.

S/ Sherwood Fort

My last tour of service which is mentioned in the original declaration under Colonel William Brittle, in Captain Theophilus Thomas' Company, this was in 1782, or whatever year it was that Cornwallis surrendered. I volunteered for a 4 months service in June of that year, but the time was not to run, until we rendezvoused. We assembled in July, in Halifax, and remained embodied, until the 1st of October, when we were marched to Little York in Virginia, and after the surrender we were marched back to Halifax and discharged. This wanted a few days of the 4 months being out, but the jig was up, and there was no use in keeping us any longer together -- I went in the capacity of a Drummer, expecting as I had a right, to be appointed a Drum-Major; but there was one Nathan Hall, who came out of Bertie [County], who got in with Colonel Brittle (for ressing [sic, ?] went by favor in those days, pretty much as it does now) and he was appointed -- But no good came of it, for the rascal ran away, before 3 months was out, and no other Drum-Major was appointed

S/ Sherwood Fort

State of North Carolina Cumberland County

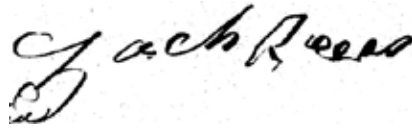
Personally appeared before me this 19th of April 1833 Sherwood Fort, who in my presence swore to, and subscribed the within Amended Declaration: and which I certify as Justice of the Peace for the County of Cumberland, and Chairman & Presiding Judge of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for said County.

S/ Benjamin Robinson, Chairman

Also personally appeared in Open Court, Zachariah Reeves [Zachariah Reaves, Reves] aged 76 years, well known to the Court, and a resident for many years of the County [of] Cumberland, who being duly sworn in due form of law, deposeth and saith that he is well acquainted with the applicant Sherwood Fort, that he lived in Halifax, when a boy, and next saw him in the town of Wilmington, when he was a drummer in the Brigade commanded by General Ashe -- that this affiant was at that time stationed in Wilmington, and was a soldier and the 7th Continental Regiment, commanded by Colonel Moore, and belonged to the Company under the command of Captain Griffith McRee.

He afterwards knew the said fort in Bladen and served with him, upwards of 12 months at least in that County, in the troop of Horse commanded by Captain Peter Robeson, under the command of Old Colonel Thomas Robeson and Colonel Brown -- that during this period which was in the years 1780 and 1781 as he believes they were engaged [in] frequent tours of duty in supressing the depredations of the Tories.

S/ Zach Reeves



Sworn to & subscribed in Open Court
Test: S/ J. McDiarmid, Clk

The Declarant the said Sherwood Fort doth hereby relinquish 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 -- and that he has never received any compensation, in nature of a Pension, except the annual sum of 50 dollars from the State of North Carolina for the last 5 years, -- upon the Certificate of the County Court that he is old and infirm -- and which is as near gratuity, that the Legislature are under no obligation to continue from year to year -- and even this he relinquishes upon receiving a pension under this Act.

S/ Sherwood Fort

State of North Carolina Robeson County: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions August Term 1832

Be it remembered that at a Court begun and held for the County of Robeson on the 4th Monday of August A.D. 1832 (the same being a Court of record) present the Worshipful Justices appointed to hold the same --

Personally appeared in Open Court Sherwood Fort of Cumberland County State of North Carolina, for the purpose of establishing, and perpetuating testimony of the services by him rendered in the Militia, during the Revolutionary War, to be used on an application to be made to the County Court of Cumberland, in support of his Declaration entitling him to the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7, 1832, entitled "an Act supplementary to the Act for the relief of certain surviving officers and soldiers of the Revolution" -- At which time and place also appeared Nazarei Mitchell,³ a citizen of Robeson County, aged 74 years, well known to the justices holding said Court, who upon his being sworn in due form of law upon the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God to testify the truth the whole truth and nothing but the truth concerning what he made no respecting the services of the said Sherwood Fort deposeth and saith as follows --

That he the applicant and this affiant served together in the Militia of North Carolina in the year 1778 and 1779, as well as he recollects dates being an unlettered man -- that the said Fort belonged to Captain Thomas Scurlock's Company, in a Regiment commanded by Colonel Thomas Eaton, and Colonel Jesse Etherington, and forming the command of General Ashe; that they rendezvoused at Kingston, on Neuse River, on or about the 10th of September 1778 -- that said Fort entered the service in that company at that time a Drummer; at which time & place he was appointed and commissioned as Drum-Major of the Regiment in which character he acted until they were discharged on the 10 April 1779. That they marched from Kingston to Elizabeth town in Bladen, where they joined Colonel Alston's Regiment from Chatham, from thence into South Carolina, and Georgia; and the said Fort, and this affiant were present together at the affair at Briar Creek which took place about the beginning of March of that year between the British and the Americans. That this affiant has since the war, continued to know the said Fort

³ [Nazareth Mitchell S8897](#)

intimately, and his claim to revolutionary services has been notoriously admitted, and so far as this affiant is informed and believes, has never been questioned.

S/ Nazarai Mitchell, X his mark

Sworn to and Subscribed in open Court 27th of August 1832

S/ A. McEachin, Clk

[p 45]

State of North Carolina Cumberland County

Be it remembered, that at a Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions (the same being a Court of Record) held for the County of Cumberland, at the Court House in Fayetteville, on the 1st Monday of December A.D. 1833, before the Worshipful the Justices appointed to hold the same, personally appeared Sherwood Fort a citizen of the County and State aforesaid, and swore to and subscribed the following Declaration, Supplemental & explanatory, to one heretofore certified from this court, at its September Sessions 1832, and to which Original Declaration, which is accompanying authentications, (now produced by him,) reference is hereby made and which with this, is intended to form one whole.

The Declaration(Supplemental and Explanatory) of Sherwood Fort, made by him, claiming the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7th A.D. 1832.

I Sherwood Fort, was born in the County of Halifax, State of North Carolina, on 19th September 1759, and entered the service of the United States in the year 1775.

First: I enlisted as a Drummer, on the 2nd of October 1775 in the County of Halifax in the Company of Captain Michael Little, Lieutenant Robert Lowrie and Ensign Dickens, for 4 months, -- we were marched out by Colonel Nicholas Long, but he did not command us -- we marched to a little town on Chowan River, called Winston, from thence to Summerton in Virginia from there to Batcheden's Mills, a small distance from the Great Bridge [Long Bridge] where our Company, and Captain Corbett's, was stationed to guard the mail. We continued there as a Guard until 2 days before the battle of the Great Bridge -- we were marched there, and took our part in the battle. 2 days after we went back, and took up our Stationed at the Mills. I served out my term of service, and was discharged on 4 February 1776, by Major, afterwards General Hogan [sic, James Hogun], after my return to North Carolina old I served this tour, as I did through the whole war as a volunteer, and never stood a draft. Of this service, I claim 4 months, with the pay of a musician.

Second: On the 10th day of February 1776, the same month that I was discharged, and only 6 days after my return home from the Great Bridge I enlisted, for 3 months, as a Drummer, under Captain John Whitaker, Lieutenant Cary Whitaker, Ensign William Noblin, under the command of Colonel Nicholas Long: we marched from Halifax to Tarborough, from there to Whitfield's Ferry on Neuse River; from there to Moore's Creek in New Hanover County, on Cape Fear River. On the 27th of February 1776 the Tories were defeated at Moore's Creek Bridge, by Governor Caswell 2 days before we got there. We stayed there 2 days, and were marched back to Halifax-town, and were discharged on the 12th day of March by Colonel Nicholas Long by whom we had been ordered out. For this tour of duty, I claim one month and 2 days service, (say from 10th October to 12th March) with the pay of a Musician.

Third: I again enlisted on the 10th or 12th day of May 1776 in Halifax County, for 3 months, as a

Drummer under Henry Dawson, Captain William Noblin Lieutenant, and John Champion Ensign, in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Drury Gee, and Peter Dosier, and Major James Hogun. We marched from Halifax town to Tarborough in Edgecombe County; thence to Whitfield's ferry on Neuse River -- thence to Wilmington NC where we were stationed, and where we remained encamped until 10 August 1776, when we were marched back to our County, where we were discharged the 10th of August 1776 by Major Hogun, at his muster Ground -- General Samuel Ashe, commanded the Brigade. -- As for the Continental troops which were at Wilmington I knew but few of them. The 7th North Carolina Regiment of the line was stationed there -- I knew and saw there Zachariah Reeves, who was a County man of mind (and whose affidavit I have heretofore given, and which is annexed to my original Declaration). I also knew Captain Griffith McRee, and Lieutenant Singletary, and Colonel James Moore -- we camped about a mile from Wilmington, near to the said Continental Regiment, among whom there was a great deal of sickness and many deaths. For this tour of service I claim 3 months pay as a Musician (say from 12 May to 12 August 1776)

Fourth. On the 10th day of November 1777, the militia of Halifax was ordered out by Colonel John Whitaker -- on that day, I enlisted as Drummer, for 3 months, to guard the Goal at Halifax that contained some of the Prisoners that had been taken at Burgoyne's defeat -- I served under Captain Kidd Lieutenant Skelton and Ensign Hardin, and was discharged by Captain Kidd at the Goal on the 20th December 1777 as we were not needed longer. For this service, I claim one month and 10 days, with the pay of a Musician.

Fifth. I was next ordered out by Colonel John Gaddey [could be Gadley] of Halifax in the year 1778. I entered on the 10 September 1778 under Captain Thomas Scurlock, Lieutenant William Noblin, Ensign Littleberry Green, for a 6 months tour, at Halifax. I entered as a Drummer. Thomas Eaton and Jesse Ethington was the Colonels and Joseph Clinch the Major. We were under the command of General Samuel Ashe [sic, John Ashe]. We marched to Tarborough, and from there to Kinston on Neuse River where we rendezvoused. It was at Kinston, that I was commissioned Drum-Major, by General Ashe. We marched from Kinston to Elizabethtown, Bladen County, where we joined the Regiment from Chatham, commanded by Colonel Philip Alston. We then marched into South Carolina to a little town called Moncks Corner, from there to the 10 Mile House; thence to Jacksonborough; thence to Dorchester another little town, thence to where Hamburg is now built where we met General Williamson's Brigade. After a few days we crossed the River, as soon as the British left the town of Augusta. In a few days we joined General Elbert [Samuel Elbert], and his Georgia Regulars and Captain Nefie's [?] Artillery, a Frenchman. We marched down the Savannah River to Briar Creek in Burke County, where we had an engagement with the British on the 1st or 2nd day of March 1779 and was defeated and had crossed Savannah River, to the South Carolina side again, to march down to Purrysburg, where we joined General Lincoln. We stayed there a while, and was marched to a place called the Black Swamp where we stayed until the 10th of April 1779 when we were marched back to our own County Halifax and discharged on 30th April. In this tour, I claim for 6 months service (though I actually served 7) as Drum-Major, with the pay, and emoluments of Captain, as was the compensation allowed to the Grade of Drum-Major, in this service at the time.

Sixth. My next tour of service was at Cape Fear River, in the County of Bladen. I came from Halifax County to Bladen, in the month of June 1779: and on or about the 10th of that month as

nearly as I am able to ascertain, I enlisted immediately after my arrival under the command of Colonel Thomas Brown then the Colonel Commandant of the militia of Bladen County, or Colonel of the County as he was then called, in a troop of Horse, under the immediate command of Captain Peter Robeson as 1st Captain and William G. McDaniel, 2nd Captain, and James Singletary, Lieutenant for the term of 12 months, and found according to the terms and conditions of my military contract, my own Horse and accoutrements. There were in the troop enrolled 105 men and the terms of pay (promised) varied according to the circumstances of the recruit. Those who found their own horse and arms, were to have \$12 and a half a month, and those who was furnished by the State received \$8 a month. In this troop, I enlisted and served as a private. Although I enlisted only for the term of 12 months I continued to serve until the 12th day of February 1781, when I obtained a written discharge from Colonel Thomas Robeson who was at the time the 2nd Colonel. This service although voluntary in one sense, (and as much as in this tour as well as in all the different terms of service which I performed, I was a volunteer, and never stood a draft) was not gratuitous. I entered into obligations to the State to perform certain military service, and her agents acting under her authority, and representing the constituted authorities of North Carolina, entered into agreement with me to pay certain stipulated wages. I was regularly enrolled, was subject to military rule, and was liable to be shot as a Deserter, if I had quit the service before the 12 months had expired, for which I enlisted. There was another troop of Horse, formed in the lower part of the County under Captain Jarrott Irvin, formerly part of Colonel Brown's, and Colonel Robeson's command, with whom we served at times, but more frequently separate. During this period I did not follow or pretend to follow any civil employment whatever. I had no home short of 130 miles, from the Head Quarters of the Regiment which was at Colonel Robeson's Plantation, about 7 miles above Elizabethtown in Bladen County. I was during the time of this service, in 3 several engagements with the Tories, one on the Raft Swamp in Robeson County, another, at Elizabeth, and the 3rd which took place at Colonel Owen's Plantation, on the 2nd of February 1781, 10 days before I received my discharge. I served during this term in field, and was literally out on expeditions 14 months of the 18 of my enrollment. I was during this time, sent on various expeditions in the Counties of Robeson, Moore, Chatham, Cumberland and what is now Columbus and also into South Carolina -- For this service, I claim a Pension, for the full term of 12 months serving as a Private.

Seventh. I returned home to my native County Halifax, immediately after my discharge, when I again enlisted under Captain Grisham Coffield the and Lieutenant Benjamin Coffield and Cornet Rowell for 3 months, under Colonel John Whitaker, the Colonel of the County, who went with us, and commanded us, when we marched to Ramsey's Mills on Deep River in Chatham County, and from thence to Guilford Old Court House, where we arrived 2 days after the battle fought there on the 15 March 1781, -- when we were marched back, and discharged in Halifax by Colonel Whitaker on the 27 -- same month -- on this expedition I found my own Horse, and served as a private. I was in actual service, 26 days for which I claim a Pension, as a private.

Eighth. June 30, 1781. I was ordered out [by] John Whitaker Colonel and I enlisted as a volunteer for 4 months, as a Drummer with the expectation of the Captain drum Major's place, but was disappointed through the Colonel's giving it to Nathan Hall, who ran away before the time was out. I served my time out as a Drummer under Captain Theophilus Thomas Lieutenant Philip Sanders and Ensign Benjamin Barnes we were commanded by Colonel William Brittle. We were marched from Halifax to Richmond, Virginia, near a hundred miles out of our direct

course to Little York, where we arrived the day after the surrender of Lord Cornwallis -- stayed 2 days there and marched back to Halifax where we were discharged on the 27 October 1781 at Halifax town, lacking a few days of 4 months. For this tour of service I claim a Pension, for 4 months as a Musician:

The foregoing to the best of my knowledge and remembrance, is a just and true statement of my services, and there is not one of my companions in arms alive, to my knowledge, except Zachariah Reeves and Lazarai Michell [Nazareth Mitchell], whose affidavits have been heretofore given. My discharges are lost, -- as to what became of them, -- in the year 1804, I and my wife were about to go from Cumberland County to Halifax, on a visit to my mother, when I got Mr. Thomas to take charge of my papers, who took them with him to his House -- they were put in a chest, on which some of the family set a tub of lie, that leaked, and went through a crack of the chest lid, and destroyed the whole of the bundle of papers.

Sworn & subscribed in open Court.

S/ Sherwood Fort

S/ A. McLean, Jr., Clk

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$62.33 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private & musician for 17 months in the North Carolina service.]