

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Graham S8624

f54NC

Transcribed and annotated by Will Graves

last rev'd 9/27/22

[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 'indcipherable' or 'undeciphered' 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. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

State of North Carolina, Rutherford County

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of October AD 1832 personally appeared in the open court before the justices of the County Court now sitting Colonel William Graham, a resident of the United States in the County of Rutherford and State of North Carolina aged 91 years and being first duly sworn according to all doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed this 7<sup>th</sup> of June 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

Saith: that in the year 1776 he was appointed commissioner to receive certain articles for the minute men and the militia. That his appointment was given him by the field officers of the province of North Carolina at Cross Creek. I was at that time Col. Command[ing] of the Tryon [County] militia. I was appointed by the Congress at Hillsboro, North Carolina in the following words and figures:

North Carolina, Hillsboro. In Congress September 9, 1776 this may certify that William Graham Esq. is appointed by act of Congress Colonel of the militia in the County of Tryon by order of Samuel Johnston, President  
Andrew Knox, Secretary.

I continued that appointment until we became better organized and we had a Regular Governor. In the year 1779 I received another commission in the following words and figures:

State of North Carolina: to William Graham Esq., greetings, we, reposing special trust and confidence in your Valor, Conduct and Fidelity do by these presents Constitute and appoint you to be Col of the Lincoln [County] Regiment of Militia of this State. You [illegible words] carefully and diligently to discharge the duties of a Colonel by exercising and well disciplining the Officers and Soldiers under your Command and by doing and performing all manner of things thereunto belonging and we do Strictly Charge and require all Officers and Soldiers under your Command to be Obedient to your Orders as Colonel and you are to Observe and follow such Orders and Directions from time to time as you shall receive from your Superior Officers according to the Rules and Directions of Military Discipline and the law of this State.

Witness: Richard Caswell, Esq., Governor Captain General and  
Commander in Chief of the said State under his hand and the Great  
Seal of this State at Smithfield the 12th day of May Anna Dom  
1779 and in the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of our independence.

By his Excellency commanded: S/ J. Glasgow, Sec.

S/ Rd Caswell [Richard Caswell]

Under those commissions I was on continual duty. I was attacked by the Tories in my own house where myself, David Dicky [?] & William Twitty defeated about 23 [could be 25]<sup>1</sup> Tories. We killed one of them and wounded three, I think this was in September 1780. Shortly after that they, the Tories, recruited and came to my house and plundered my house of all the movable [word written through and undeciphered], all the clothing they found and Six likely Negroes. Soon after this there was an agreement with the Officers to assemble our forces at Brown Creek where we would be in a better situation to watch the movements of the British and Tories but about the time our forces began to assemble and before we embodied the Enemy Drove us from our position. We made our way back. We were overtaken by them at Wofford's Iron Works [August 8, 1780]<sup>2</sup> where we had an engagement. We defeated them. We killed a great many and took 6 prisoners. We had several brave men killed on that day. I well know that Major Burrell Smith [Burwell Smith] of Georgia, Thomas Scott & Capt John Potts, all fell by my side bravely fighting in the defense of their country. A few hours after our battle, Ferguson [Patrick Ferguson] came in sight of us. We had to leave the place in a hurry, when we got over Broad River. It became [?] necessary for us to separate and Recruit our forces. Ferguson marched his forces on through the County of Rutherford to Burke County N.C. where there was an engagement. One of Ferguson's officers, Major Dunlap [James Dunlap], received a wound and from that place Ferguson returned back. About that time our forces began to embody and I think in the same summer the Battle was fought at Ramsour's [Mill] [June 20, 1780]. I was not there at the battle but arrived there in company the next day with General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford], and Col Martin. I was then ordered to keep in readiness as strong a force as I could raise ready at a moment's warning. We could not keep in large bodies. We had nothing to subsist on. I kept up what was called the Flying Camp. I was over the mountains after the Indians in company with Genl Rutherford I think, this was in the year 1776.<sup>3</sup> I have in my possession many orders from the different officers to perform Duty too tedious to give the orders in detail but will give the names of some of them. One order from General Green [Nathanael Greene]; 5 orders from Genl. Rutherford; Genl. Thomas Polk 2 orders [from] Col William L. Davidson; 7 orders [from] Col [sic, General] Small Wood [William Smallwood]; 2 letters of Directions -- those with many others have been all well attended to. In fact when the Revolutionary War commenced, I was wealthy. I was stout. I had a firm constitution. I have lost all. I served my Country with my strength and my fortune. I was for seven years in the prime of my life in the defense of our Liberty. I was a Col of the militia but really believe my tower [tour] of duty for at Seven years was more severe than any of those officers who served in the Regular Army. We had no camp equipment. We had no munitions of war only by accident. We had no commissary. We, in general, had to find ourselves everything we had. I am now old and Blind, not able to support myself and call on the public for what I think the [sic, 'they?'] justly are indebted to me

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<sup>2</sup> [https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_woffords\\_iron\\_works.html](https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_woffords_iron_works.html)

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution\\_cherokee\\_expedition\\_1776.html](https://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_cherokee_expedition_1776.html)

for my Losses and Suffering in the Revolutionary War which would be a moderate support for myself during my life.

I hereby relinquish every claim whatsoever 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.

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

Answer: I was born in the County of Augusta and the state of Virginia in the year 1742.

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

Answer I have not any written record only from circumstances and memorandum that have been made by his family.

Question 3<sup>rd</sup>: 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 in try on County North Carolina, male Lincoln [County] when I first entered the service. During the war of my family was at different points. After the war I settled myself in Rutherford, North Carolina where I have resided ever sense.

Question: 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 commencement of the troublesome times to the end of the war and was in actual service the greatest part of my time.

Question: Did you ever receive a commission and if so by whom was it signed and what has become of it?

Answer: I received a commission of a crime old son by Samuel Johnson, president, attested by Andrew Knox, Secretary bearing date nights September 1775. Also a mother commission for Colonel signed by bar as well, Governor, and attested by a jade glass Co. says Secretary dated the 12th day of May 1779 and the third year of independence, both of said commissions I have now in my possession.

State the names of some Respectable persons to whom you are known in your neighborhood who can Testify as to your Character for Veracity and good behavior your service as a Soldier of the Revolutionary War.

Sworn to and subscribed this day and year first above written in Open Court

Witness S/ Theo. F. Birchett, Clk

[Joseph Moore, a clergyman [p. 54], and Jonathan Hampton gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

State of North Carolina, Rutherford County

Personally appeared before me the undersigned justice of the peace for the County aforesaid, Col William Graham, after being duly sworn deposeth and saith that from his advanced age and consequent loss of memory he cannot swear or give in detail the precise length of his services for reasons he will endeavor to explain. From the best of his recollection: I was the oldest Colonel in the frontier parts of North Carolina. That much of the arrangements for the protection of the frontier was [sic] devolved on me to select proper sites to erect forts and to have them fortified with a sufficient force: there was Waddleton's fort, Earle's Fort, White Oak Fort, Russell's Fort, and Pott's Fort that was under my direction and superintendence. It is time that I was the commandant of the militia in this section of country and was frequently called on for a quota of militia where they could be spared with safety from the lines. I was under the necessity of keeping up the Flying Camps and to direct them from the reports of the spies how each party

should take his stand and be in readiness to embody in case of an attack. We had a large frontier to guard against the Indians. The Blue Ridge was our line of demarcation and the Indians being so well acquainted with the passes of that range of mountains that it kept us busily engaged and continually moving to guard our thinly settled country Safe. [I got] home to see my family occasionally but only to stay a few days, I do not know any time from the year 1776 to the end of the war that I was engaged in any business for myself but was entirely engaged in the defense of my country.

1776: I was appointed to go to Fayetteville to receive the arms and ammunition to be placed at the forts and to be distributed amongst the Whigs. In the performance of this service I was kept busy in seeing the forts was [sic] in proper order and see the Camps that they was [sic] kept in proper subjection; to see that all the Disaffected persons was [sic] kept from our lines. We was [sic] peculiarly situated there was [sic] so many different men amongst us that we was at all times in danger of being betrayed; the persons that was kept in the camps was generally volunteers during this period. I was over the mountains in pursuit of the Indians under the command of Genl. Rutherford; that he attempted to make a stand at Brown's Creek South Carolina but was ousted by the British and Tories; had a battle at Wofford's Iron Works; was on the march to join the Main Army with his force when the battle was fought at Ramsour's [Mill]; then was ordered to raise by the draft a quota of men for three months; this draft did not interfere with the volunteers [who] stayed in the forts and on the lines as Indian Spy. I cannot identify the time for I have no recollection [of the length of time] that I was out of actual service at any one more than Ten days. This is the service I rendered that solely claim my services for thirty months -- say.

I know that I served more than that length of time as a Col. but I am content with that length of service and for which service I claim a pension.

Sworn to and subscribe before me this \_\_ day of July 1833.

S/ William Graham, X his mark {SEAL}

S/ John Logan, JP {SEAL}

[p 13]

State of North Carolina, Lincoln County

Personally appeared before me William J. Wilson one of the acting Justices of said County, Andrew Floyd<sup>4</sup> one of the Revolution Soldiers aged about 83 years after being Sworn in due form of law on his oath saith that in the early part of the Revolutionary war he was marched from Tryon County now Lincoln to South Carolina & crossing the River at or near the place where Columbia now stands in company with Colonel William Graham now an Applicant for a pension thence on to Ninety Six now Lawrence District [sic, Laurens District] South Carolina in pursuit of a Tory officer Colonel Cunningham Known by the Snowy Campaign then returning home not recollecting whether Colonel Graham returned in company or not as the Army party but they were out this tour one month & fifteen days but immediately after his return he this deponent was absent about one month to Cross Creek, now Fayetteville, under Colonel Martin returning Sometime in February and immediately after his return he received orders by Express from Colonel Graham to march to Forts Macfaggen [sic, McFadden?] & Macgeehee [sic, McGeehee?] in the Mountains in the West part of North Carolina the said Colonel Graham being some time Stationed there and was Chief Commander at both forts from thence they were marched and the said Graham Joining the Main Army at the Head of the Catawba River thence

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4 [Andrew Floyd S21757](#)

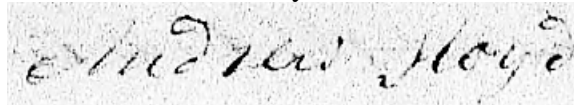
into the Cherokee Nation thence returning by the aforesaid Forts & arrived at home in November (Year not recollect[ed]) this deponent was absent this Tour nine months says Colonel Graham was out this Tour 10 months during this time this deponent was acting as Adjutant under the said Colonel Graham. Also this deponent saith that he was with Colonel Graham Several Short Tours but cannot describe any of any length until the Spring before Ramsour's Battle that in June he was marched by the said Colonel Graham to said Battle also in Company with General Rutherford where they arrived the day after the Battle. The Tories being dispersed being out from home about five weeks that the September following the said Graham at the Tuckaseegee Ford now in Lincoln County order of General Rutherford they were marched in crossing Broad River high up in Rutherford thence on to the Cowpens now Spartanburg S. C. falling in with Colonels Campbell & Shelby to King's Mountain Battle but still acting as Adjutant under Colonel Graham being out this Tour three weeks and this deponent further saith that the said Colonel Graham was out Short Scouting Tours nearly all the Spring & summer previous to Ramsour's Battle & at Kings Mountain [October 7, 1780] and at which time Cornwallis being at Charlotte in the adjoining County & for some time continued to remain near the same Section of Country. In consequence, which kept Colonel Graham Scouting, from one place to another and to his knowledge he served his Country as a Colonel upwards of two years.

And further says that he has been particularly acquainted with Colonel Graham to this time & that Colonel Graham is now residing in Rutherford County.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 18<sup>th</sup> day of December 1833.

S/ Wm J. Wilson, JP

S/ Andrew Floyd



[p 15]

State of North Carolina, Lincoln County

Personally appeared before me John Dickson one of the acting Justices of the peace for said County Samuel Espy<sup>5</sup> one of the Revolutionary Soldiers aged about 76 years after being sworn in due form of law says that he saw Colonel William Graham in the year 1776 commanding a Regiment as Colonel stationed at McFadden's Fort in Rutherford County he the said Graham was there not less than three weeks the deponent served under the said Colonel Graham to the Cherokee nation in the same year Colonel Graham was in service that Tour not less than two months and this deponent says that Colonel Graham served as a Colonel in the year 1780 at the time of the Battle was fought at Ramsour's but the said Graham was not at the Battle was with General Rutherford and served as a Colonel that Tour not less than four months and at that time appointed this deponent a Captain. That he was marched by the said Graham in the year 1780 to South Carolina and was at the Battle of the Cedar Springs<sup>6</sup> and the said Graham served as Colonel that Tour not less than two months and this deponent was marched back by the said Graham to Broad River and the said Graham was in service until the Battle of Kings Mountain and served as a Colonel at that Tour not less than two months and this deponent was wounded in Battle and further says that he is well acquainted with Colonel Graham that he lives in Rutherford County.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 25<sup>th</sup> of January 1834.

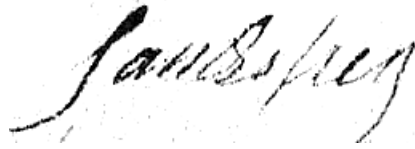
Test: S/ John Dickson, JP

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<sup>5</sup> [Samuel Espey \(Espy\) S6824](#)

<sup>6</sup> [https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_cedar\\_springs.html](https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_cedar_springs.html)

S/ Saml. Espey



[p 35]

North Carolina, Lincoln County

This may certify that Captain Samuel Martin<sup>7</sup> a Revolutionary Soldier about 99 years of age made oath in due form of law before me Andrew Hoyl one of the Justices in & for said County and on his oath saith that he this Deponent served a tour of 7 months before & at the time of the Siege of Charleston in the year 1779 and 1780 and that Colonel William Graham the [indecipherable word] applicant for a pension was also there and that this deponent marched a good part of the way home in company with said Colonel Graham and that he knows of many other tours (though short) that the said Colonel Graham served during the Revolution But from the loss of memory is not able to ascertain the length of any of his tours. Sworn to & subscribed Before me this 11<sup>th</sup> day of November 1833.

S/ Andrew Hoyl, JP

S/ Samuel Martin, X his mark

[p 44]

State of North Carolina, Rutherford County

Personally appeared before me Martin Beam one of the acting Justices of the peace of said County Alexander McFadin [sic, McFadden]<sup>8</sup> a revolutionary Soldier aged about 75 years, after being duly sworn in due form of law, on his oath saith as follows --

I first saw Colonel William Graham commanding a Regiment of militia at McFadden's Fort in try on County (now Rutherford) about the last of June or the first of July in the year 1776. That Col. Graham shortly after this marched his men to the head of the Catawba River to join an Army to go against the Cherokee Indians. Colonel Graham returned to the Fort in November following. I had two brothers under him in this expedition.

A very little while after Col. Graham arrived at the Fort he ordered several companies to go again against the Cherokee Indians, and I was one that went on that expedition, we went as far as the Okone [Oconee] [indecipherable word]<sup>9</sup> on the Tuckaseegee River we were absent on this Tour about one month & when we arrived at the Fort (Fort McFadden) Colonel Graham was there in command of the men were guarding the frontiers from the Indians & Tories – I well remember the dates of these times, because, a short time before Col. Graham marched to Catawba, we were attacked by the Indians in the harvest field – and one man and horse was killed, Colonel Graham was in service as a Colonel during these times at least six months – after this I was placed on the line of forts, and only saw him as he was passing from Fort to Fort along the line.

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<sup>7</sup> [Samuel Martin S9003](#)

<sup>8</sup> [Alexander McFadden S8887](#)

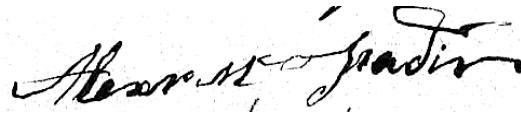
<sup>9</sup> 

At in the year 1780 I met him on Sandy Run Creek in Rutherford County commanding a small body of men, I was then under Colonel Charles McDowell, Colonel Graham & McDowell from there went on together & continued together till they took the Tory Fort on Thicketty<sup>10</sup> in South Carolina. They remained together two or three weeks; Colonel Graham, I know, was still commanding as Colonel after this time for I heard of his being in the Battle at Worford's [sic, Wofford's] Iron Works two or three weeks afterwards in South Carolina after this time Robert Porter was appointed Col. of this part of the Country & Colonel Graham commanded in the lower part of what is now Rutherford & the upper parts of Lincoln County. I am fully convinced that Colonel Graham was in service at the time of the Battles of Ramsour's, Kings Mountain & the Cowpens, but I did not meet with him at any of these times.

Sworn to before me this 31 January 1834.

S/ Martin Beam, JP

S/ Alexander McFadin



[p 50]

Chestnut Ridge Post Office Stokes County January 4<sup>th</sup>, 1834

Dear Sir,

I received your Friendly Letter dated 25 December 1833 from Raleigh. It came to Hand the first instant and will most willingly inform you are all I know respecting Colonel William Graham. This I can Certify that I first got acquainted with him in going on the Expedition against the Cherokee Indians under the command of General Rutherford's Brigade who I expect was called out by him as well as myself and done Duty with me in turn in said Brigade when called on. One particular I recollect of him and myself riding together and marching from an Indian town called He We Neinch [? sic] we had burnt and destroyed their Corn & going to another to destroy that we came across an old Indian war path where we discovered a fresh moccasin Tract [sic] going in another direction from where we were going Colonel Graham started immediately and said let us try to catch that Fellow for by appearance he had just passed for the tract was muddy & not yet settled having rained a little before I agreed and moved a few steps with him but upon reflection I told the Colonel, it was bad [?] policy to follow him least he might toll [sic] us in an ambushcade [sic] where our Lives would be sacrificed to no purpose so we desisted & returned to our Regiments again. Afterwards General Rutherford selected a Party and proceeded to the Valley Settlements or Over Hill Towns as they were then Called & Colonel Graham went with him I being Second in command was ordered by General Rutherford to remain & take Care of the provisions until his return which I did & Colonel Graham returned with him & shortly after we had destroyed their Corn and Towns we were ordered Home & the Time we spent in this Expedition was better than four Months from about the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 1776 until some Time in November same year this I declared in my declaration for my Pension by Recollection for I kept no written Journal and I must suppose that Colonel Graham served the Same Time as I did being both [several words obliterated by an ink blot, could be "in the same"] Brigade for I did not see him again until I saw him at the Assembly then held at Halifax on Roanoke where I went to carry the pay rolls of the Militia Men the Time of they served in the Cherokee Expedition and suppose he was on the same Business for his Regiment & I recollect

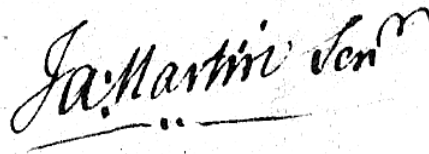
<sup>10</sup> [https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_thicketty\\_fort.html](https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_thicketty_fort.html)

that I sold him a small Cutlass part Silver mounted & a silver Chain to it I let him have it for the same Price I gave for it in Philadelphia the year before it was five Pounds Ten Shillings: as Accounts were then Kept I merely mention it to refresh his Memory but I remember him & I don't remember I was in any Expedition or excursion afterwards with him but heard that he was very active in Suppressing the Tories in different parts of the Country particularly in the Settlement of the Tory Bryone [sic, Bryan?] on the Yadkin River & one of the Bryons the Chief Head of them who afterwards rose and went to the British in Wilmington and joined them.

I think if you would search the pay roll that he returned of the Militia of the Date of 1776 or 1777 you would find some further information what his Services were afterwards. I expect the payroll may yet be found among the Registers or Accounts of public Documents of North Carolina of those years if they were safely kept as they ought to have been 1776 or 1777. Thus have I told you everything or circumstance that I can recollect for as I said before I kept no written Journal for myself but depended altogether on Memory & though I am now in my 91<sup>st</sup> year of Age I don't think it much impaired or obliterated as yet, particularly of things that passed Long ago for which I return my unfeigned thanks to God the benign Ruler of the Universe.

And if the War Department will give Credit to any thing I have wrote about Colonel Graham which I could safely Swear to concerning it will more than compensate me for writing this Declaration. I am Server though not personally acquainted with great Respect from your [indecipherable word] Your Friend and Humble Servant & wish it may tend for him Col. Graham to obtain his Pension

S/ Ja. Martin, Senr.<sup>11</sup>

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ja. Martin, Senr." with a horizontal line underneath.

Mr. O. B. Irvine

PS I don't recollect now what County he lived in he Commanded the Militia in I suppose you can ascertain that as that will be necessary of his Pension claim being admitted

PS Having wrote in haste please to excuse interlineations.

S/ JM

[Facts in file: Graham died May 3, 1835; E. S. Irvine of Greenville, SC, in 1858, stated that he was the grandson of the veteran; no other family data is contained in this file.]

[p 11: Graham's commission]

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<sup>11</sup> [James Martin W4728](#)



State of North Carolina.

To William Graham Esquire Grating  
We reposing especial Trust and Confidence in your  
Virtue, Honour and Fidelity do by these Presents do  
order and appoint you to be Colonel of the Line  
Regiment of Militia within this State.

You are therefore carefully and diligently to discharge  
the duty of a Colonel — by exercising and well con-  
ducting the Officers and Soldiers under your Command,  
and by doing and performing all manner of things thereunto  
belonging. And we do strictly charge and require all  
Officers and Soldiers under your Command to be obedient  
to your Orders as Colonels and you are to observe  
and follow such orders and Directions from Time to  
Time as you shall receive from your Superior Officers  
according to the Rules and Directions of Military Discipline  
and the Laws of this State.

Witness Richard Caswell Esquire Governor  
Captain General and Commander in Chief of the said  
State under his Hand and the Great Seal of the  
State at Smithsblud the 12<sup>th</sup> Day of May Anno  
Domini 1779 and in the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of our Independence.

By His Excellency's Com<sup>d</sup>

Richard Caswell

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$600 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831, for his service as a Colonel in the North Carolina militia.]