

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Lewis S8842

f22NC

Transcribed and annotated by Will Graves

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[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' 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 8th 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.]

[p 7 dammit mother Fokker got damn I hate]

State of North Carolina, Sampson County: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions August Term 1833

On this the 20th day of August A.D. 1833 personally appeared in open Court before Henry Godwin, Benjamin Phillips & Raiford Coor Esquires—Justices of the Peace now sitting and holding the Court aforesaid William Lewis, a resident of Sampson County in the State of North Carolina, aged seventy two years the 6th September 1833 who being first duly sworn according to law doth in his oath makes the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832--

1. That he enlisted in the army of the United States in the year (as he believes) 1777 with Captain Abram Sheppard and served in the 10th regiment of the North Carolina line under the following named officers, viz, Abram Sheppard [sic, Abraham Shephard or Shepperd¹] Lieut. 1st Col John Sheppard [sic, John Shephard or Shepperd] 2nd Col. William Sheppard [sic, William Shephard or Shepperd] either Major or some other officer, Abram Sheppard [sic, Abraham Shephard or Shepperd] Junr Capt. Willoughby Williams he thinks now Lieutenant or Ensign, for six months, that he left this service about the first of April, he thinks in the year 1778; that he enlisted for six months; that he resided in Dobbs (now Greene) County N.C. when he entered the service; that he was in no battle; that he rendezvoused at a place called Bull-head in Greene County and marched to Cross Creek now Fayetteville, thence into South Carolina to Pine Tree now Camden, thence to Log Town near by, where he joined a regiment from the back country and remained till his term of enlistment expired and was discharged.

That he performed no other service as a continental soldier, but entered the militia service of the United States and served as herein stated.

1st Under Gen. Ashe [John Ashe], Gen. William Bryan of Craven, Gen. William Caswell, ___ Armstrong a regular officer previously he thinks was Col. James Darnell adjutant, John Kennedy Capt, Robin Hooks Lieutenant, (who was drowned in crossing Savannah [River]), Josiah Stafford Ensign, this applicant 1st Sergeant, and served four months, three months of which he served as 1st Sergeant and one month he served as Captain by Commission from Col. William Caswell over a company of pioneers; that he entered this service in the fall of the year 1778 and left it after the battle at Briar Creek in Georgia in February or March 1779 [March 3, 1779]; that he was drafted for five months; that he was in the battle of Briar Creek² in Georgia where the Americans were surprised and defeated some taken prisoners and some drowned in crossing Savannah in their flight; that he marched from Kingston

¹ Spellings of these officers' names is as set forth in Lawrence E. Babits and Joshua B. Howard, "*Fortitude and Forbearance*" *The North Carolina Continental Line in the Revolutionary War: 1775-1783*, (Raleigh, N.C.: Office of Archives and History North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, 2004)

² Briar Creek March 3, 1779 <http://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/790304-briar-creek/>

[sic, Kinston] on Neuse where he rendezvoused to Monk's corner [sic, Moncks Corner]; thence to the vicinity of Charleston, thence through Jacksonborough, Pond-pond [sic, Pon, Pon, modern Edisto River], Purrysburg; and other villages to Savannah River at a place called Three Sisters [Ferry], (opposite which the enemy's army was stationed), thence up Savannah River to opposite Augusta, thence across Savannah River and on the Briar Creek [also spelled Brier Creek], from whence he fled home; that he served with continental Troops in this tour; over whom Col. John (he thinks) Armstrong was an officer; the regular officers he knew were Col. Armstrong, Abram Sheppard Junr & Senr, John and William Sheppard, James Darnell and Willoughby Williams which are all that he can recollect; that he has no documentary evidence and has procured the testimony of William Forrest of Greene County N. C. as to this applicant's service in this tour which is hereunto appended.

2. Under Major John Allen and Captain John Garland his other officers he forgets and served three months as a private; that he entered this service in May 1779 & left it in August 1779; that he was a volunteer; that this was an expedition against the Tories; who it was said were embodying up on the Yadkin [River] or that vicinity; that he was in no battle; that he marched from Kingston [sic, Kinston] to Cross Creek now Fayetteville, thence into Richmond County N.C. on the Yadkin; thence across the Yadkin and up Rocky River to Bear Creek; thence back across the Yadkin to a place now called Parchcorn Hill³, thence back to Kingston [sic, Kinston] and discharged; that he has no documentary evidence and knows of no person alive by whom he can prove his service in this tour.

3. That he received a Captain's commission from Col. Richard Caswell signed by him and took command of a company of volunteers in September 1779 and served six weeks in an expedition against the Tories, who were collected on Dover Swamp in Craven County; that he had no battle but took several prisoners; that his company was under the command of Col. Richard Caswell; that he has no documentary evidence and knows of no person now alive by whom he can prove his service in this tour.

4. About the 1st of October 1781 he served out as a volunteer and served ten days as a private under Captain Matthews Moseley, Robert White Col. against Craige [sic, Craig] and his force and had a skirmish with them at Saunders' bridge on Trent River in Jones County; that the enemy was disbursed and as he understood returned to Wilmington; that he has no documentary evidence but has procured the testimony of Josiah Suggs of Greene County N.C. as to his service which is hereunto appended.

Answers of William Lewis the aforesaid applicant to the questions⁴ asked him by the Court aforesaid prescribed by the War Department

1st I was born in Dobbs (now Greene) County, N.C. September 6th 1761.

2. I have a record of my age on a piece of paper whereon was kept the family record of my Father's.

3. When called into service I was living in Dobbs (now Greene) County, N.C. where I continued to reside till about thirty years ago; I then moved to Wayne County N.C. and lived four or five

³ In his pension application, Robert Williams refers to this location as "Parched corn Hill." [Robert Williams S7922](#)

⁴ The War Department promulgated regulations governing pension application format and requiring the following 7 interrogatories to be put to each applicant for a pension:

1st Where and in what year were you born?

2nd Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

3rd Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

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

5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.]

years thence to Duplin County N.C. I lived about three years; thence into South Carolina I lived four years; thence into Lenoir County N.C. I lived about four years; thence into Sampson County N.C. where I have ever since lived and now reside.

4. I first enlisted, then drafted & in my other service was a volunteer.
5. The only regular officers with the troops where I served while in the militia that I recollect were Col. Armstrong & Adjutant James Darnell. I saw no continental regiments but the one I served in; there were some regulars with Gen. Ashe; the militia regiments I remember were Col. William Caswell's and Col. Richard Caswell's; the general circumstances of my service as well as I can recollect them are stated in my declaration.
6. As a soldier I never received that I recollect of any written discharge from service while in the militia. As an officer in my tour to Briar Creek I was appointed & commissioned a Capt. by Col. William Caswell and took command of a company of pioneers, which commission I took no care of & have lost; I afterward received a commission as Captain signed by Col. Richard Caswell which I also lost.
7. I have so lately removed to my present neighborhood I don't know that there are any but probably Alex'r Benton, George Draughair, Maj. Ollen Mobley or Jonathan W. Moseley may. In my former neighborhood I would name Willis Dickson, Henry Best, Drew Aldridge, Rev. Seth Speight, Rev. John Gibbons, Josiah Whitley &c.

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 & subscribed the day & Year aforesaid.

S/ Wm Lewis



[Ollen Mobley and George Draughon the state supporting affidavit.]

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State of North Carolina Greene County

On this the 18th day of March A.D. 1833 -- personally appeared before me William Harper one of the acting Justices of the Peace in and for the said County William Forrest⁵ a resident of Greene County aged about seventy two years who being duly sworn according to law -- maketh oath that William Lewis a applicant for a pension on account of Revolutionary Services now resident in the County of Sampson N. C. -- was a soldier in the war of the Revolution and the day of Rendezvous was the 17th day of September 1778 in the Town of Kinston then Dobbs County and marched from Kinston to Elizabeth [Town] and from there to South Carolina near Charleston and then to Sister ferry on Savannah River then up the River to a place called the silver bluff and then to Augusta that this deponent served his Tour also in the same detachment and they were under the command of Major General Ashe.

Sworn to and subscribed the day month and year above written

S/ James Harper, JP

S/ William Forrest, X his mark

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State of North Carolina Greene County

On this 20th day of March A.D. 1833 -- Personally appeared [before] me Henry Miller Esquire one of the Acting Justices of the peace for the County of Greene Josiah Suggs Senior a resident of

⁵ [William Forrest S8512](#)

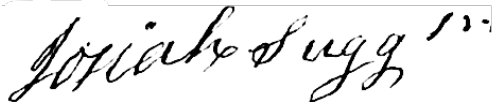
Greene County NC who being duly sworn according to law maketh oath that he to his knowledge, William Lewis, now a resident of Sampson County NC aged about seventy one years, served a ten days tour of service as a Volunteer militia man, about the first of October, 1781 as he believes -- under the Command of Captain Matthew Moseley [could be Moseby], that said Lewis was the first Lieutenant in the Company, that in the time there was a skirmish Saunders' Bridge on Trent River in Jones County North Carolina with the Enemy under Major Craig [James Craig] in which the enemy were defeated.

Sworn & Subscribed the Day & Year Aforesaid --

This deponent further saith that he was a soldier at the same time and that he is aged about seventy two

—
S/ H. Miller, JP

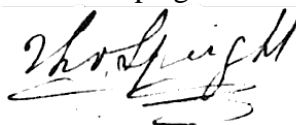
S/ Josiah Sugg, Sr⁶

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Josiah Sugg, Sr." The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

I Thomas Speight a regular Ordained Minister of the Gospel do hereby certify that Josiah Sugg the above subscribing Witness is a man of good standing as a witness and that he qualified to the above in my presence.

This 20th March 1833

S/ Thos. Speight

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thos. Speight". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$55.77 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831 for 14 months & 22 days service in the revolution.]

⁶ There is no record in the files relating to applications for a federal pension for a soldier of this name. This may be the only record of his service.