

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Pleasant (Pleasants) S8963

fn34Va.

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 10/27/12

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

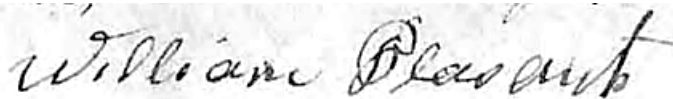
State of North Carolina Caswell County: Court of Pleas & Quarter sessions January Term 1833

On this 9th Day of December 1833 personally appeared in open court before the Justices of the [Court] of Pleas & quarter Sessions all law for the County and State aforesaid now sitting William Pleasant a resident of the County and State aforesaid aged 77 years who being duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. That he was enlisted by Capt. Charles Perkins for one year and held in readiness to obey the call and commands of the officers of the United States Army of the revolution during one year commencing in December 1775 and called into immediate Service and remained in readiness to obey his officers during the time and to guard the shores of James River in Surry County in the State of Virginia in which he performed duty and was denominated and called the minute Service, we were attached to no particular Regiment, but to guard the shores of James River. That he was in service in December 1776 at Williamsburg in the State of Virginia aforesaid where he was discharged by Gov. Patrick Henry personally, that in the year 1779 in the Spring the British landed in Portsmouth at which time I volunteered myself under Capt. Thomas Howard and marched to Smithfield in Isle of Wight County in the State of Virginia where we remained 2 or we joined the Regiment commanded by Col. Lawson and Col. Richardson and marched to Suffolk and found that burnt and the bridges, and the enemy retreated to Portsmouth and we returned with speed back to Smithfield and remained there till the costs [sic, coasts] were clear of the enemy and then discharged. And in the year 1780 he was drafted and was attached to a company commanded by Capt. William Gay in January 1781 we were called to the mouth of Pagans Creek in Isle of Wight County where he was in a sharp skirmish with the enemy where the enemy was driven back to their vessels and he was informed 14 of the enemy was killed. From the mouth of Pagans Creek Isle of Wight County in Virginia then marched to McKey's Mill [Mackey's Mills?] where we reinforced and Col. John C. Wells took the command the next morning the British appeared in considerable force a skirmish commenced our ammunition being exhausted, our Army retreated (leaving the British in possession of the ground) and our Army retreated to Woodard's Mills and the British continued their route to Portsmouth, our Army in a few days was reinforced and we marched on to Suffolk in a little time after we joined General Lafayette and Muhlenberg took the command of the Army and marched towards Portsmouth on the British lines where we continued to reconnoiter on the British lines until about the month of April 1781 when Lafayette and Muhlenberg left us under the command of Col. Josiah Parker and John C. Wells till the last of November 1781 after the surrender of Cornwallis we leveled all the breastworks that were thrown up by the British while lying in Portsmouth by the orders of

General Washington, these orders were performed and returned to McKey's Mill where the arms was stationed, and he was discharged by the orders of Col. Wells and entered into private life in the County of Isle of Wight where he remained until the year 1787 at which time he emigrated to the County of Caswell and State of North Carolina where he has resided ever since that he was born in the County of Surry and State of Virginia on the 5th of January 1756 as he has been informed and believes. I do hereby relinquish every claim whatever to any pension or annuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the pension roll of any agency or State. The preceding declaration is Sworn & subscribed to in open Court, this the 9th Day of January 1833

Test: S/ Paul A. Haralson, Clerk

S/ William Pleasants



Questions by the Court 1<sup>st</sup> Where and in what year were you born?

Answer This I have stated in my declaration

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

Answer I have none my mother told me the day & year that I was born and I had written down as she told me.

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 When called into the service, I was living in the County of Surry State of Virginia, & afterwards moved and lived in the Isle of Wight County in said State, I then removed to the County of Caswell State of North Carolina and have resided there ever since.

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

Answer I first enlisted in the minute service, and was after my time of enlistment expired was drafted.

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

Answer In addition to those named in my declaration, I remember the names of Col. Blount, Col. Matthews, Capt. Mills Lawrence & Capt. William Blount

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

Answer I never received any written discharge, but it was the custom of the officers under whom I served to discharge the in person.

7<sup>th</sup> 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.

Answer I am acquainted with the Rev. Richard Hensley, Thomas Pendergrass & others, but I know of no one residing in this section of country nor of any particular individual now alive by whom I can prove my services.

Sworn & Subscribed in open Court the 3rd day of January 1833

Test: S/ Paul A. Haralson, Clerk

S/ William Pleasants

[Richard Hensley, a clergyman, and Thomas Pendergrast gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

State of North Carolina Caswell County: the first of February 1833

This day William Pleasant who signed the above declaration personally appeared before me Quentin Anderson a Justice of the peace in and for the County aforesaid and made oath in due form of law that he performed actual service as a private in the Army of the Revolution as stated in his declaration at least 18 months probably more.

S/ Q. Anderson, JP

S/ William Pleasants

[On April 25, 1840, John Pleasant, Polly Pleasant, Lucy Pleasant, Dolly Pleasant, Martha Pleasant, Arris Pleasant, Frances Pleasant, Tygnil Pleasant, William Pleasant, James B. Pleasant, & Louisa Pleasant, all of Caswell County, executed a power of attorney in favor of Elijah Fuller to pursue claims for arrears of pension due to them from March 4, 1836 to July 19, 1836.]

[Facts in file: Veteran died July 19, 1836 leaving no widow but survived by the above named children, all of legal age.]