

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Presnell S8978

fn22NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

9/22/09: rev'd 5/10/20

[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' 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.]

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State of North Carolina Burke County} This day personally appeared before us the undersigned Acting Justices of the peace in and for the County & State aforesaid John Presnell Sr who after being duly sworn upon the Holy Evangelist in order to obtain the benefit of an Act of Congress approved June 7th 1832 for the Relief of Certain [undeciphered word] Officers & Soldiers of the Army of the Revolutionary War doth on his Corporal oath say. That he entered the service of United States under the Command of Captain John Knight & Lieutenant Manning Bookshier [sic, Manning Brookshire] & Lieutenant Thomas Williams as a volunteer for three months against the Cherokee Indians during which service we were ordered to Cathey's Fort in Burke County North Carolina by General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford] at which place we remained until we was ordered to march against a Detachment of Tories commanded by a British officer by the name of Fanan [sic, David Fanning] in the Counties of Randolph, Guilford & Chatham North Carolina. And continued his service until he was honorably discharged which service was rendered either in the year 1779 or 1780. Said Presnell further swears -- that immediately after the expiration of the aforesaid time of service he again entered in the service of United States as a Substitute for Samuel Trogdon -- for three months under the aforesaid Captain John Knight in Colonel Belfor's [Andrew Belfour's] Regiment of Cavalry and that he served the aforesaid time and was honorably discharged. Said Presnell furthers swears that he was drafted in the Cavalry & served three months under the aforesaid Captain Knight in the aforesaid Colonel Belfors Regiment No. of Regiment forgotten, said Presnell further swears that during this term of service he was kept traveling mostly through the Counties of Guilford, Randolph, Chatham, Montgomery & Rowan to annoy the Tories until the expiration of his term of service which was shortly before the death of said Colonel Belfor.¹ Said Presnell further swears that he received a discharge as aforesaid for the three tours he served and he believing the same would never be of any service to him have either lost or mislaid the same and does not now know where they are and that he is not now nor never has been on the pension Roll of the any [of] the State Governments or the General Government and hereby relinquishes all claims except the present. Sworn to and subscribed before us this 10th day of January 1834.

Attest:

S/ H. Turner, JP

S/ John Presnell, Sr, X his mark

S/ J. E. Bradburn, JP

¹ Balfour was killed at his plantation on March 11, 1782 by Colonel David Fanning and his Loyalist militia

After which the following Interrogatories were propounded to said Presnell which he answered as follows, viz. -- When & where were you born

Answer I was born in the State of Virginia though I do not recollect the name of the County in as much as I was removed from Virginia when a child to North Carolina

Question 2nd -- Where did you live at the time you Entered the service of your Country as a Soldier. Answer in Randolph County North Carolina

Q 3rd Where do you now live

Ans, in Burke County NC

Q 4th by whom were the 3 discharges given for the 3 tours you served

Answer my first discharge was given by Captain Edward Williams. The 2 other discharges were given me by the aforesaid Captain John Knight.

Q 5th Name some of your principal officers under whom you served. Answer General Rutherford, Colonel Colyer [Collier], Colonel Dugin & Colonel Belfor under whom I mostly served.

Q 6th in what year were you born. Ans. On the first day January 1751.

Q 7th how old were you when you entered the service. Answer I think I was either in my 27th or 28th year of my age.

Q 8th Why did you not go before one of the Courts of your County to make your Declaration. Answer because owing to the distance I am living 30 miles from our County Seat and owing to my infirmities I am unable to travel a much less distance being almost entirely blind and am barely able to visit my nearest neighbors.

Q 9th Can you prove your Services by any person now living. Answer I can prove a part of my services by Martin Vuncanon Esqr [sic, Martin Van Cannon?] Whose deposition you can now take, he is the only person now living in my knowledge by whom I can prove any part of my services.

Sworn & subscribed before us this 10th day January 1834

Attest

S/ John Presnell, Sr., X his mark

S/ H. Turner, JP

S/ J. E. Bradburn, JP

[William P. Swanson, an ordained minister of the "Gospell" in the ancient Baptist Church, gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

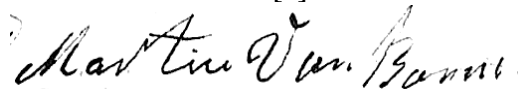
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State of North Carolina Burke County

This day personally appeared before us the undersigned Justices aforesaid Martin Vuncanon Esqr. who after being duly sworn according to Law Saith on oath That he new [knew] John Presnell who has maid [made] the foregoing declaration and that he new him during the Revolutionary War and new him to be gone same two or three towers [tours] but how long he served he does not know and said Presnell has generally & alwas [always] reputed to be a true Whig & good friend to Liberty.

Sworn to & Subscribed before us this 10th day of January 1834

S/ Martin Van Bann [?]



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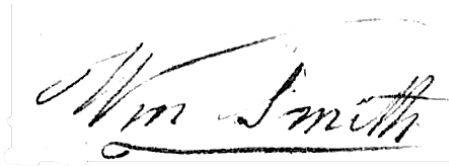
State of North Carolina Burke County } SS

This day personally appeared before us the undersigned acting Justices of the peace in and for the County & State aforesaid William Smith Esquire who after being duly Sworn according to law Saith on oath that he knew Captain John Knight who was reputed to be a Captain in the Calvary [sic, cavalry] of the North Carolina troops in the Revolutionary War & that Captain Knight said to said Smith that said John Presnell was of his Rangers and that he was a true Valiant Soldier and an honest Whig said Smith further Swears that he thinks he has known said John Presnell for about forty-three years and that he has always heard said John Presnell reputed as a Soldier in the Army of the North Carolina troops in the Revolutionary War. Sworn & subscribed to before us the 10th day of January 1834.

S/ H Turner, JP

S/ J.E. Bradburn, JP

S/ Wm Smith

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Wm Smith", enclosed in a rectangular border.

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$35 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 9 months in the North Carolina militia.]