

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Philip Mason S8994

f18NC

Transcribed 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' 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.]

State of North Carolina, Guilford County: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions February Term 1834

On this 18th day of February 1834 personally appeared in Open Court before the Court of Pleas & Quarter sessions before the County aforesaid now sitting Philip Mason a resident of Guilford County and State of North Carolina aged eighty one years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to attain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June the 7th 1832-- That he entered the Service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated --

That he was enrolled in a Company of militia in the County of Wilkes State of North Carolina which Company was commanded by Captain Benjamin Hardin [Benjamin Harden] in the Regiment to which said Company was attached was commanded by Colonel Benjamin Cleveland of Wilkes County North Carolina. That said Company was mustered in March 1779 in Wilkes County North Carolina and informed by the Captain the said Benjamin Hardin that he was required by his commanding officer to draft a large part of his Company for immediate service against the Tories or Royalists but he hoped his men would manifest their devotion to their Common Country by Volunteering their services to serve as minute men and be always ready for service. Almost the whole Company & this declarant among the number immediately Volunteered as minute men to serve at all times when called on by their Commanding Officers – and marched in a few days after under the said Captain Hardin & joined their Colonel the Gallant Colonel Benjamin Cleveland of Wilkes County North Carolina. Colonel Cleveland in the latter part of March 1779 marched with two Companies of Infantry commanded by Captain Hardin & Captain Allen from Wilkes County North Carolina, crossed the Blue Ridge at the Flower Gap into the State of Virginia in pursuit of the Tories, in this expedition many Tories were killed and a great many were taken prisoners and that part of the Country relieved temporarily from the depredations of the Tories. This declarant was in actual service in Camp at this time between two and three months as he believes and is fully satisfied that he served his Country at this time at least two months. That he returned home about the last of June 1779 as well as he recollects & remained at home about six weeks when he was again ordered out as a private by the said Colonel Cleveland and marched under Captain Hardin & Colonel Cleveland into Ashe County North Carolina & Carter County (now in the State of Tennessee) and the surrounding Country in pursuit of the Tories & was engaged in dispersing and arresting large bodies of Tories who had collected in these mountainous & unfrequented regions and from there descended on the adjoining Counties for the purposes of robbing and murder. This declarant states that he was at least one month in Camp at that time last mentioned before he was discharged. That he belonged to the minute men a kind of troop erected [?] and recognized by an Act of the General Assembly of North Carolina and was bound to march whenever required by the Col Commandant of the County where he resided. That during the year 1779 & the first part of the year 1780 he was very frequently called out for terms of 2, 4 and 6 weeks against the Tories who had taken refuge in the mountains on the borders of North and South Carolina but from age

and the great lapse of time he cannot now pretend to state with accuracy either the length of each term of service or the particular time at which it was performed but he is certain that he was in the field against the Tories in the year 1779 & the first part of the year 1780 at the least four months & he verily believes much longer. That about the first of June 1780 he was ordered to rendezvous at Wilkesboro with several other Companies of militia in order to be in readiness to join the expected Northern Army as soon as they arrived. This declarant was placed in a Company commanded by Captain Bowman and the several Companies so collected at Wilkesboro were placed under the command of Major Micajah Lewis a Continental Officer. This declarant marched under Major Lewis & Colonel Cleveland from Wilkesboro and joined General Gates' [Horatio Gates'] Army in the upper part of North Carolina a short time for Gates' defeat at Camden [August 15-16, 1780]. This declarant was in the battle. After Gates' defeat this declarant marched with his Company near the Cheraw Hill and from thence in the direction of Fayetteville North Carolina where they were ordered to go but before they reached Fayetteville, they were ordered to return home – and this declarant got home about the middle of September 1780. After remaining at home only a few days this declarant was again ordered by Colonel Cleveland to take the field against Major Ferguson [Patrick Ferguson]. This declarant immediately marched under Captain Hardin & Colonel Cleveland and joined Colonel Campbell [William Campbell], McDowell [Joseph McDowell] and others who were associating themselves together for the purpose of attacking Major Ferguson. This declarant participated in all the hardships, privations & sufferings attendant on that memorable association, was in the battle of King's Mountain [October 7, 1780], and returned to Wilkes County with Colonel Cleveland and the troops from that County about the 20th of October 1780. This declarant remained at home until about the first of December 1780 when he marched under Captain Hardin & Colonel Cleveland & joined General Morgan [Daniel Morgan] in South Carolina – remained with General Morgan's Army & was in the battle of the Cowpens [January 17, 1781] & some weeks after the battle was discharged and got home about the middle of February 1781. That he immediately joined his old Company of minute men and was almost constantly in the field against the Tories who seemed to increase in the mountains of North & South Carolina and required the unusual [?] vigilance of the various Companies of minute men to keep them in subjugation & to these Companies of minute men the sole protection of the Western part of North Carolina was entrusted. And such was the constant round of duty that this declarant had to perform throughout the year 1781 and the early part of the year 1782 that he could follow no peaceable employment.

This declarant states that he faithfully served his Country four months in the year 1779 & the first part of 1780 as before stated. That from the first of June 1780 to the middle of September in 1780 he served three months & a half as before stated. That from the middle of September 1780 to the 20th of October in the same year he served one month as before stated. That from the first of December 1780 to the middle of February 1781 he served two months and a half as before stated. That from the middle of February 1781 to the end of that year he served 10 months as he has stated. That his said service against the Tories was continued until the spring of 1782 when the Tories lost all hope of success by the Royal troops evacuating South Carolina and it was not until the spring of 1782 this declarant was permitted to return home & follow peaceable pursuits. This declarant believes he served his Country more than three months against the Tories in the year 1782 which Service against the Tories was the most dangerous & harassing [?] service of any others – as they had collected in large numbers in the mountainous regions aforesaid from the States of North & South Carolina, Virginia and Georgia and were constantly committing every kind of depredations on the inhabitants in the Counties of Wilkes & Surry & Rowan and required the minute men to whom the defense of the Country was entrusted to be constantly on the alert & almost continually in the field.

This declarant verily believes he served his country faithfully two years & more for which he claims a pension.

That he does not know of any person now living who can prove his services, his officers being

all dead. That he was born in the County of Amelia State of Virginia on the 26th day of October 1752. He now has no record of his age the same having been burnt in his brother's house many years since in the State of Virginia. That he has no written discharge never having received a discharge in writing. That he always served as a private soldier. That he lived in Wilkes County State of North Carolina when he was called into service. In the year 1785 he removed from Wilkes County to Orange County North Carolina where he resided until the year 1828 when he removed to Guilford County. That he is known to ___ among many other respectable man in his neighborhood who can testify to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution. 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 and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Philip Mason, X his mark

[David Thomas & George Chrisman gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$43.33 per annum for service as a private for 13 months in the NC militia.]