

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension application of John Rounsavall S9091

fn71NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

1/21/10

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. Folks are free to make non-commercial use this transcript in any manner they may see fit, but please extend the courtesy of acknowledging the transcriber—besides, if it turns out the transcript contains mistakes, the resulting embarrassment will fall on the transcriber.]

[fn p. 5 family record]

Phebe Rounsavall was born July the 7 in 1783

Sarah Rounsavall was born January the 13 [could be 18] in 1786

Josiah Rounsavall was born in August the 10 in 1788

Susannah Rounsavall was born September the 27 in 1790

Elizabeth Rounsavall was born September the 27 in 1792

John Rounsavall was taken sick on August the 7 1840 and Died the 13 of the same 1840

Sally Rounsavall was taken sick on August the 8 and Died on the 17 of the same

[entry obliterated] was born August the 10th 1847

State of North Carolina Iredell County: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions February Term A.D. 1832

On this 2 day of February A.D. 1832 personally appeared in open Court being a Court of record John Rounsavall resident in said County aged seventy-five years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the provision made by the acts of Congress of the 18th of march 1818 and the first of May 1820, that he the said John Rounsavall enlisted for the term of nine months in the month of January in the year 1779 in the State of South Carolina on the Continental establishment in the company commanded by Major Armstrong in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Sumner in the line of the State of North Carolina, that he continued to serve in the said Corps until October or November 1779 when he was discharged from the service in Charleston in the State of South Carolina that he hereby relinquishes all claim whatever to a pension except the present, that his name is not on the roll of any state except North Carolina and that the following all the reasons for not making earlier application is that he did not know of the provisions of the Act of Congress so as to avail himself of them until this time –

And in pursuance of the act of the first of May 1820, I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift, sale or in any manner whatever disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provision of an act of Congress entitled “an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the revolutionary war” passed on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 1818, and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property, or securities, contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed viz. one hundred 62 acres of land worth \$.75 per acre a mare and colt 10 head of cattle 9 head of

hogs 6 or 7 sheep some articles of household furniture and but little -- That since the 18th day of March 1818 the following changes have been made in my property. I have bought a horse which has since died I do not recollect any other change except occasionally selling a little of the annual produce of my farm. The declarant further states that his only occupation is that of a farmer that on account of age and infirmity he scarcely can make a support, that his wife aged about 74 and a daughter named Susannah aged about 33 live with him but on account of the age & infirmity of the former and a small value of the labor of the latter they are able to contribute but little to his support.

S/ John Rounsavall

Sworn to and declared on the day of [indecipherable word or words] before  
S/ J. Campbell, Clerk

State of Alabama Jackson County: On this 23rd day of September 1835 personally appeared before me Thomas H. Kirby an acting justice of the peace in and for said County John Rounsaville [sic] aged seventy-five years who being first 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 United States service under the following named officers & served as herein stated --

That in the year 1777 he entered the war in an expedition against the Cherokees. He was commanded by Captain Joseph Cunningham -- Major James Smith & Colonel Matthew Locke. He served faithfully in that for 4 months --

He then reentered the war in 1778 under Captain Joseph Cunningham & Major James Smith in this campaign he served 10 months -- he was in no engagement -- but always ready to do business as a soldier -- He has no documentary evidence, and that he knows of no person (in the State of Alabama) who can testify as to his service --

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.

I was born in Rowan County North Carolina on the 24th of January 1758.

I have a record of my age in a large Bible belonging to my sister in North Carolina --

I was living in Rowan County North Carolina when called into service -- I lived in Rowan & Iredell County North Carolina until I removed to Jackson County Alabama where I have lived ever since.

I entered the service as a volunteer --  
Colonel Archibald Lytle -- Major John Armstrong & General Davidson were some of the regular officers under whom I served --

I received a discharge from Captain William Lytle -- which I gave up to Colonel A. Lytle upon condition that he would see me paid \$40 which he promised -- he was taken shortly after insane & I have never seen or heard from either discharge or money since --

Sworn to & subscribed before me this 23rd September 1835

S/ Thomas H. Kirby, JP

S/ John Rounsavall

State of Alabama Jackson County: Personally appeared before me Thomas H. Kirby an acting justice of the peace in and for said County John Rounsaville [sic], who makes oath that he applied to the War Department of the US for a pension, he believes in 1832 -- and proved his

service by Robert Hair & William Woodside.<sup>1</sup> He was allowed \$30 per annum on his application. He was advised by Samuel King Esquire of Iredell County North Carolina to amend his declaration, and that by so doing he thought the department will allow him an additional amount -- as there had been an omission in his first statement -- He did renew his application or rather amended it with proof as aforesaid -- & was advised as aforesaid to accompany his renew application with his pension certificate, which was done for him by Mr. King -- and which he believes, has been lost or mislaid. He drew 2 years and a half on his certificate he sent it to the Department. He further states as a reason why he sent on his certificate of pension to the Department that his messmates in the war received a much larger some for their services -- & he was advised that it was [indecipherable word or words] to be mistake that he did not get his full [indecipherable word].

Sworn & subscribed before me the 23rd September 1835

S/ John Rounsavall

S/ Thomas H. Kirby, JP

[fn p. 33]

State of North Carolina Iredell County: Court of Pleas & quarter Sessions August Sessions 1832

Personally appeared Robert Hair<sup>2</sup> resident in said County and made oath according to law that he was acquainted with John Rounsavall in the Revolutionary War and served with him for many months in South Carolina near Charleston Purrysburg and upon the Savannah River, was in the same Company and mess: They belonged to the North Carolina line. They first enlisted for 9 months but when their enlistment had expired they were not discharged but retained and remained in the service. He is certain that Rounsavall completed 9 months and more in the service at that time.

S/ Robert Hair, X his mark

Sworn & subscribed to in open Court 25th day of August A.D. 1832

S/ A. Simonton, Clk

[fn p. 53]

[the handwriting of the scribe of the following document is extremely challenging—use the following with more than normal care]

State of Alabama Jackson County: On this 11th day of July 1840 personally appeared before the County Court of Jackson County in this State in open Court appeared John Rounsavall a resident of said County aged eighty-three years, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. That he volunteered in the Army of the United States in June 1773 [last digit unclear] from the County of Rowan North Carolina & placed himself in the Company commanded by Captain Joseph Cunningham against the Cherokee Indians & marched from thence to the head of Catawba River, where they joining the forces under the command of General Rutherford, Colonel Locke & Major James Smith & from thence took up the line of march to the Cowee & Valley Towns & and the towns on the head of Flint passing on by where Asheville now stands then crossing the mountains to the Pigeon & French Broad Rivers to the first mentioned Town, which they destroyed by fire and from there they marched to the Valley Towns & finding those Indians there they destroyed those Towns also -- from thence they

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<sup>1</sup> FPA S7960

<sup>2</sup> FPA S9567

crossed to the head of the Flint where they suspecting the Indians to be embodied & their finding a good many Indians, had a skirmish with them, routing them without loss of any lives, taking fourteen Prisoners amongst them two white man Hooks & Scott with their Indian wives, burnt their towns, destroyed their crops & took off their stock: From this place they took the line of march for home 3 months by the same route they had marched out having been out in this expedition 4 months. For this service he had a certificate which has long since been lost or destroyed.

Again in May 1777 he enlisted for 9 months in the Continental service from the County of Rowan North Carolina & was ordered to rendezvous at Salisbury; for which place he took up the line of march & got as far as Hicks ferry on Dan River where [one or more indecipherable words] a dispatch from General Washington to General Sumner stating the uncertainty of the British movements & we were ordered to return 3 miles & in camp on Moved Creek, where he remained for 3 months, under the command [several indecipherable words] of Major Armstrong, at the end of which time all the soldiers were furloughed home & ordered to hold themselves in readiness at an hours notice to join the Army, where he remained until the 15th of November of that year, when he was ordered to rendezvous at Salisbury again, & was there placed under the command of Captain David Cowan, & took up the line of march against the British at Savannah, passing through Charlotte & crossing the Santee River at Nelson's ferry & from thence on to the 10 mile house & [indecipherable word or words] there until wagons were sent into Charleston to bring out arms & ammunition & from thence we passed through Dorchester to Purrysburg where rejoined the Continental forces under the command of General Moultrie, [indecipherable word or name] he was put under the command of Captain Donoho and went into what was at that time called winter quarters, but shortly thereafter were ordered to scattered down the River to prevent the enemy from crossing in this service they had several skirmishes across the River but no regular battle. From this place his company with a number of others were ordered to Galphin's Mills: where they had been about one week when 330 [indecipherable word or words] picked men were ordered to march to Charleston to aid in guarding that point; he was of the number & was placed under the command of Colonel Harris & Major Holstien & marched off to that place; shortly after reaching this place the Army was paraded & a guard of 70 was detached & detailed to guard the Magazine, he was one of that guard & placed there under the immediate inspection of General Moultrie himself -- in this duty he continued for the space of 3 months at the expiration of which time he was [indecipherable word or words] to rejoined his company at Bacon's Bridge which he did but a short time before the expiration of his whole term of service at the end of which the Militia from North & South Carolina became [indecipherable word or words] for the discharge having been kept over their term: this being about to [indecipherable word or words] the force so much his Captain persuaded with him & others of the Company to continue until the Army could be reinforced by another detachment of Militia then about being raised he & others of his company consented to do so & remaining in the service 2 months longer. Here he would remark by way of explanation that shortly before he was ordered from Charlestown to join his company at Bacon's Bridge the British made [one or more indecipherable words] in the suburbs of Charleston & were forced to retreat therefrom at the approach of General Lincoln's Army in the direction of Savannah. He the declarant further states that under this engagement he served the full eleven months when he was paid off & Honorably discharged by William Lytle & this discharge which fully testified all these things has long since been lost or mislaid by him so that he hath now no documentary evidence of any kind whatever showing his services nor does he know of any human being living by whom he can prove them or any part of

them -- and he further saith that he has heretofore applied for the same pension at the time he was a citizen of Iredell County North Carolina; but as he then & now believes the person who drew up his application for him there was at the time too deeply intoxicated to understand & explain the nature of this claim & once has made a similar application since he has been in Alabama as he honestly you, his attorney in the [indecipherable word or words] of his business misconceived his case & so states it: but not himself being conversant with such matters, & not paying that careful & critical [indecipherable word or words] to the [indecipherable word or words] and those instances that he should have done; and which has proved so essential to his interest since; their [several indecipherable words] & discrepancies escaping his notice at the time, if indeed from his old age [several words overwritten and illegible] the power was left with him, after great [indecipherable word or words]. He year by year relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity, except the present & he declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of any Agency in any State whatever.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid

S/ John Rounsavall

[Alva [could be Asa] Finley, Robert T. Scott and John Scott gave what appears to be a standard supporting affidavit.]

[fn p. 58-59: appears to be the standard 7 questions put to the applicant and his responses thereto -- since his answers to these questions appeared in an earlier application I did not try to decipher the aggravating and irritating handwriting of this scribe.]

[fn p. 44]

North Carolina Iredell County: This day personally appeared before me Samuel King one of the justices of the peace for the County aforesaid Abraham Hill,<sup>3</sup> aged seventy-eight in January last, and after being duly sworn says he had no personal knowledge of John Rounsavall until he removed in the neighborhood when he lived in Iredell County 30 years ago. That when he became acquainted with John Rounsavall he was assured that he had been on a tour of duty with him in an expedition called the Cherokee expedition, as well as he now recollects in the year 1779 Brigade commanded by general Griffith Rutherford Colonel Francis Locke commanded the Regiment. This deponent is further assured of John Rounsavall being a Soldier in the aforesaid expedition from his general knowledge of the Country of which they marched & divers incidents which occurred in that tour -- two of which he would take the liberty to mention -- when they crossed Savannah or a branch of it, a man by the name of Jonathan Huff proceeded a soldier who in jumping over, his gun fired & killed Huff -- another circumstance that occurred was in kindling a fire at night a soldier, being careless of his power horn kindled the fire on the horn, which exploded & [indecipherable word] the attention of whole Army -- these and many other circumstances [indecipherable word] conclusively that John Rounsavall was in the Brigade -- as no person could have had a knowledge unless he had been present. This deponent further says that John Rounsavall was considered a sober [indecipherable word or words] man, and a man of truth & veracity -- and that he removed to Alabama in the fall of 1834.

Sworn & subscribed May 12th 1836

S/ Abraham Hill

S/ Samuel King, JP

[facts in file: veteran died August 13, 1840 in Jackson County Alabama; his widow Sally died August 17, 1840; in addition to the children listed in the family record above, the veteran and his

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<sup>3</sup> [Abraham Hill S7015](#)

wife also had a son named John who in 1857 was 63 years old and a resident of Jackson County Alabama; according to John his testimony in 1857 he was the only child of his parents surviving as of that date.]