

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Minnis S9413

f32NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

11/23/08: rev'd 4/22/17

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

[p 4]

State of North Carolina Orange County} SS

On this the \_\_ day of April A.D. 1836, personally appeared before the undersigned an acting Justice of the peace for the County of Orange aforesaid, at his own residence, he being too infirm to attend Court to make this Declaration, John Minnis, a resident citizen of the aforesaid County, in the 82nd year of his age, who being first duly qualified according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed seventh of June, 1832.

That he entered the United States service under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

1. This Deponent states that sometime in the fall of the year 1775, he entered the service of the United States by Enlistment for six months in the Town of Hillsboro in Orange aforesaid -- John Walker was Captain of the Company to which he was attached Abs: Tatum [Absalom Tatum] was Lieutenant and James Moore, Colonel: we were organized in the Town of Hillsboro aforesaid, and were marched to the Town of Wilmington in this State at which place and below Town we were in service till the expiration of our six months duty expired -- when he was regularly discharged by Colonel James Moore -- During the whole of this tour the Declarant acted as Sergeant in the said John Walker's Company -- This tour this Declarant proves by James Hart,<sup>1</sup> whose affidavit is hereunto annexed and the affiant Hart proves that Minnis was Sergeant in said Tour.

2. This Declarant, sometime in the summer (he thinks it was) of 1776 Volunteered in the Service of the United States in a company of militia under the Command of Captain Williams [William Williams], Samuel Thompson Lieutenant Ambrose Ramsey of Chatham, Colonel, the object of this Tour was to Suppress the Cherokee Indians, who had become Troublesome in the Western part of the State -- we organized in the Town of Hillsboro, crossed Haw River at Galbreath's ferry, passed through Salisbury, crossed it [sic, at?] Catawba [River] at the old "Indian Ford," advanced some distance beyond the Quaker Meadows, where we remained some time -- there being no further need for us, we marched back to Hillsboro and were there duly discharged by Colonel Ramsey, and returned home, having served the United States in this Tour, which was one month.

3. This Declarant Volunteered a Second Time in the Service of the United States in the

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<sup>1</sup> [James Hart S9555](#)

Spring of 1778, on or about 1<sup>st</sup> day of March of that year in a Militia tour of three months. We rendezvoused at Armstrong's Mills (General Butler's [John Butler's]). Crossed Haw River, at Armstrong's Mills, went through Randolph, Brushy Creek, Bells Mills, Deep River in Chatham to the Iron Works, and were discharged at Hillsboro by our Colonel: O'Neal. In this tour the Company I was attached to, was Commanded [by] George Hodge Captain – Scobey Lieutenant [Robert Scobey] -- William O'Neal Colonel, & Butler was our Superior officer. Our tour ended on or about the first of June 1778. This tour this Declarant proves by James Williams.<sup>2</sup>

4. This applicant volunteered a third time in the United States Service on or about the 15th day of August of the next year, to wit, 1779, in a Company of Militia, for a period of two months: in this Tour, James Trousdale was Captain, \_\_\_ Steel Lieutenant, O'Neal Colonel and Brigadier John Butler was our Superior Officer. We organized (this declarant thinks) in the Town of Hillsboro. Crossed Haw River at Woody's Ferry, went to Chatham Court House, traversed Randolph County, Sandy Creek -- thence as far South as Moore's -- and Drowning Creek in Richmond County -- our object was suppressing the Tories forces which were now very threatening. We returned to Hillsboro he thinks and were discharged by General Butler verbally on or about the 15th day of October 1779. This tour this affiant proves by Thomas Tate,<sup>3</sup> whose affidavit is hereunto annexed.

5. This Declarant, Volunteered a fourth time in the Service of the United States, about the first day of May 1781, in a Company of Horsemen Commanded by Captain Hodge, Dudley [Guilford Dudley] Colonel: Commandant. We volunteered for a period of three months, rendezvoused in the Town of Hillsboro -- soon after I engaged in this tour of duty I was selected with other Soldiers by Colonel Dudley to carry Captain Holloway a distinguished Tory officer, to Halifax Jail for safe keeping, which duty I performed, and joined my Regiment promptly, which I now found at Bell's Mills on Deep River, in Randolph County; -- the object of the Regiment was to suppress the Tories -- while at Brushy Creek (this Declarant thinks it was) he was again selected by the Colonel Commandant with other Soldiers to go to Botetourt County in Virginia for one William Gorton an infamous Tory who was confined in the Jail at Botetourt, but when we reached there, we found Gorton had escaped from prison -- when we got back to Orange, I think the tour then expired and this Declarant was regularly discharged by \_\_\_ having served three months and finding his own horse all of said three months tour. This Declarant proves this tour by John Dolley.<sup>4</sup>

6. This Declarant says he volunteered again the Service of the United States in a Company of Militia -- under Colonel William McCauley and ~~Colonel Dudley~~, the length of this tour he cannot now remember but thinks it Commenced in the spring of 1780. Trousdale he thinks was Captain it was probably three months long -- this Declarant was in [this] tour a "Horseman" -- and proves this tour by James Williams.

7. On or about the 15th of September 1781 (in a day or two it was after the capture of Hillsboro by Colonel Fanning<sup>5</sup>) this applicant Volunteered again in the Service of the United States, in a company of Militia -- the Company to which he was attached was commanded by Captain George Hodge, Scobey Lieutenant -- William Moore Colonel: Brigadier General Butler was our Superior Officer. The object of this tour was to recover the Governor (Burke [Thomas Burke]) and the other officers and Soldiers that the enemy had made, when they surprised and

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<sup>2</sup> [James Williams R11585](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Thomas Tate S7675](#)

<sup>4</sup> [John Dolley S6802](#)

<sup>5</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution\\_battle\\_of\\_hillsborough.html](http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_hillsborough.html)

captured the said Town. We followed the retreating Enemy to near the Town of Wilmington, we fell in with Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford] near Wilmington and remained with him some time and that Section of the Country, and returned to Hillsboro and was regularly discharged by General Butler after having served a tour of three months and two weeks. This Declarant proves this tour by John Dolley.

And the said John Minnis further states upon his oath, that by reason of old age and the consequent attendant loss of memory, he cannot state with more precision the dates and periods of his respective tours of duty, that he has already done in the foregoing Declaration: -- And he is under the impression that he was in other tours in the Service of his Country, but from the great lapse of time cannot now specify them. This applicant further states that through the perilous days of the Revolution, That but a poor man, he frequently abandoned his plow in the busiest Seasons for the Army and whenever there was call for the militia his love of Liberty prompted him to the defense of the Country, and he hopes that he may be permitted to say without egotism, That he has devoted as much time and made as many Sacrifices to promote the establishment of the freedom of the Country as any other person in this Section of the Country.

That about ~~twenty~~ forty years ago he had the misfortune to lose his sight and is now entirely blind -- in consequence of this misfortune and the fact of his having served the United States liberally & patriotically in the War of the Revolution, the State of North Carolina, gave him a gratuity, as "Invalid" -- and upon inquiry this Declarant learns his present application for a pension from the United States will not conflict with the gratuity given him by the Legislature of his own State, and therefore makes this Declaration.

And this Declarant further states upon his oath, that in each of the foregoing tours of duty he was in legally organized Corps and called into Service by Competent Authority

That he was born in the State of Virginia

That he has lost the record of his age, but has always understood that he was born on the 11th of February 1755.

That he was living in this County when he entered the service.

That he has lived in the aforesaid County ever since the year of 1763.

That when he entered the service in 1775, he Enlisted.

That subsequently he volunteered.

That for his first tour (six months) he received a discharge from Colonel James Moore.

That for the Indian tour he received one from Colonel Ramsey.

That for his third tour he got a discharge from Colonel O'Neal.

That the fourth tour he cannot recollect of receiving a written discharge and is under the impression General Butler verbally discharged them.

That for his fifth tour, he received a discharge from Colonel McCauley.

That for the Tour under Colonel McCauley, he thinks he was verbally discharged by Captain Trousdale. & that his discharges are now all lost.

That for the Tour in the fall of 1781, he got a discharge from General Butler and the Town of Hillsboro at the expiration of their Service -- & it is lost --

In number seven Tours, and making an aggregate of twenty-one months and two weeks --

That he was appointed in his neighborhood with the Reverend Mr. Christie and Colonel Thomas Jones, who can testify to his character &c

He knew Colonel Moore, Colonel Nash, Colonel Dudley, O'Neal, General Butler, Brown & others:

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present &

declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the Agency of any State.  
Sworn and subscribed the 7th day & date first above written before me.  
S/ W. F. Jones, JP

S/ John Minnis, X his mark

[James H. Christie, a clergyman, and Thomas Jones gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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State of North Carolina Orange County

On this the 24th day of February 1836, James Hart Senior a resident citizen of the aforesaid County, now in the 80th year of his age personally appeared before me who being first duly qualified according to law, maketh oath that in the War of the Revolution he served as a Continental a six months tour as private in the United States service. John Walker was Captain, Ab: Tatum Lieutenant Thomas Clarke Major James Moore Colonel we were marched to Wilmington in this State -- where we remained till our six months expired -- this tour was, this affiant thinks in 1776. And this affiant says he well remembers that John Minnis now an applicant for a pension from the United States was with us all of said tour and acted in the Capacity of Sergeant

And in conclusion this affiant says he has always understood said John Minnis was a good Whig and served the United States faithfully in said War.

Test: S/ Samuel Strayhorn, JP

S/ James Hart



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State of North Carolina Orange County} SS

On this the 16th day of March 1836, personally appeared before the undersigned an acting Justice of the peace in and for the County aforesaid James Williams a resident of said County, about 74 years of age who being first duly qualified maketh oath that in the War of the Revolution he knew John Minnis of said County and saw said John Minnis in the United States Service in Hodge's Company, under Colonel Dudley, the length of the tour this affiant does not know, but recollects they were on an excursion to the South after the Tories and were "horsemen" This affiant remembers of seeing said Minnis a second time in the Service at General Butler's. Hodge was Captain, Scobey Lieutenant and O'Neal Colonel -- this was, this affiant thinks, in 1778.

Said John Minnis was reputed to be a good Whig and to have served the United States in the War of the Revolution.

Sworn to and subscribed this 16th day of March, 1836 before me

S/ Thomas Moore, JP

S/ James Williams, X his mark

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State of North Carolina Orange County} SS

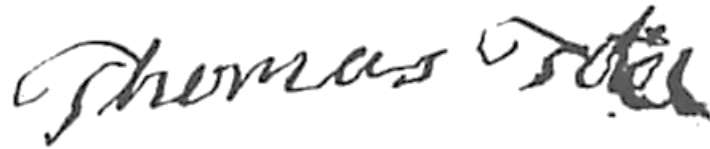
On this the 15th day of March 1836, personally appeared before the undersigned an acting justice of the peace in and for the County aforesaid Thomas Tate Senior a resident

Citizen of Orange County aforesaid about eighty-one years of age, who being first duly qualified according to law maketh oath that in the War of the Revolution he was a private in the Militia in the United States service, and recollects of Serving a tour in Company with John Minnis of said County we were under command of Colonel O'Neal the time of this tour was in the year of 1779 and commenced about 15th of August & ended 15th of October 1779, as well as this affiant now remembers: and the said Thomas Tate in conclusion says, that John Minnis aforesaid was a man of truth & veracity and is reputed to have served in the War of the Revolution, and that said Tour was two months long.

Sworn and subscribed this 15th day of March 1836 before me

S/ Thos. Tate, JP

S/ Thomas Tate

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas Tate". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.

[signatures of the two "Thomas Tates" are different]

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State of North Carolina Orange County} SS

On this the 17th day of November, 1835, personally appeared before the undersigned an acting Justice of the Peace in and for the County aforesaid, John Dolley, a resident Citizen of the aforesaid County, now in the eighty-third year of his age, who being first duly qualified maketh oath, that as private he performed a tour of duty in the militia in the Spring and Summer of 1781, and remembers seeing John Minnis of Orange aforesaid some time that Summer at Bell's Mills on Deep River in the militia Service of Colonel Dudley's Regiment.

And this affiant further states upon his oath, that in the fall of the same year, to wit, 1781, he served a tour in the militia of three months and two weeks in Captain Hodge's Company, and that John Minnis aforesaid was a private in our Company all of said Tour.

Sworn and subscribed the day and date first above written before me

S/ WF Jones, JP

S/ John Dolley, X his mark

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Supplemental or Explanatory evidence to the Original Declaration of John Minnis for a Pension State of North Carolina Orange County} SS

On this the 28th day of April 1836, personally appeared before the undersigned an acting Justice of the peace in and for said County John Minnis, a resident Citizen of the aforesaid County, now in the 82nd year of his age who being first duly qualified according to law, doth on his oath make the following explanatory statement to his Original Declaration for a pension, now on file, in the Pension Office, War Department (Vidilic ?)

1. As to the question from the War department why so long delayed in making application for Pension under the Act of June 1832? This Declarant answers, That soon after the passing the said act of 1832, he made inquiries as to his chance to make application under said act, but was informed he could not in consequence of his being on the "Invalid Roll" of North Carolina, as there was a clause in said act of 1832 (as he was told) that would bar him from of availing himself of the provisions of that fact; nor was he in possession of correct information on this

subject to the present Spring, when at an early day he was informed that the fact of his own state giving him an annual gratuity would not Conflict with his making claim from the United States for pension under the act of June, 1832, and accordingly at an early day made his Declaration.

2. As to this Declarant Second Tour, known as the Indian Campaign, he knows no person now living that served with him -- In the long period of 60 years, this Declarant says that nearly all his revolutionary Companions, have either died or removed from this Section of the Country. He therefore aware of this fact, procured the affidavit of Colonel Thomas Jones & Reverend Mr. Christie, both of whom are known This Declarant presumes to the Honorable William Montgomery Representative of this Congressional District -- in this Certificate of the Reverend Mr. Christie & Colonel Jones, this Declarant procured in Compliance with the regulations of the act, 7<sup>th</sup> June, 1832, where, living witnesses could not be produced to prove the actual Service of the affiant this Certificate this Declarant hopes may be satisfactory in supplying defects in proof of some of the Tours.

3. As to the tour in 1780, not definitely enough stated -- this Declarant upon further reflection states that in that tour, Hodge was his Captain & Robert Scobey Lieutenant -- This tour commenced this Declarant thinks on the first April 1780, and at the expiration of his tour was discharged as he before stated in his first Declaration, by his Colonel.

4. As to his acting in the Capacity of Sergeant in 1775 -- '76 -- this Declarant has to state, that neither in the Continental, nor militia as he ever understood was a written warrant given as authority to the Sergeant to act in that office. This applicant states that the following was the mode and in his appointment -- Viz. when the Company to which he was attached was organizing, his Captain (John Walker) selected him as Sergeant for his Company, gave him the "muster roll" of said company, saying at the same time, John Minnis, I appoint you First Sergeant in my Company -- he took the roll, and acted as Sergeant all of the said six months and received his discharge for said six months as Sergeant -- and while Sergeant be called the rolls night & morning reported the company &c portioning out sentries -- drawing & weighing provisions for messes (Commonly C[?] in each mess) and frequently when stationed near Wilmington I was sent with 12 men, sometimes more, to spy out the movements of the Enemy &c -- these & others were my duties as first Sergeant in Captain John Walker's company in 1775 -- 76. In proof of his Serving this tour and as Sergeant, this Declarant produced the affidavit of James Hart, who was private in said company -- the affidavit of said Hart was forwarded with the Original Declaration and proves that said Minnis , "acted as Sergeant all of said tour."

This Declarant in conclusion says he has been at no little pains in collecting all the testimony he could; to make his Declaration accord as nearly as he could to the act June 7, 1832, and hopes that this Supplemental or explanatory Statement may be satisfactory, & that he could not make any further proof.

Sworn & subscribed the day & year first above written before me.

S/ W. F. Jones, JP

S/ John Minnis, X his mark

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State of North Carolina Orange County

On this the 12th day of August 1836, personally appeared before the undersigned an acting Justice of the peace, in and for the County of Orange aforesaid, John Minnis Senior now in the 82nd year of his age, who being first duly Qualified according to law, doth on his oath make the following Supplemental or Explanatory Statement to his Declaration for pension (viz.)

That he enlisted in the month of September 1775, for the period of six months, That he was marched to Wilmington, North Carolina under Captain John Walker of Colonel James Moore's Regiment -- That after being marched to Wilmington, he received no pay till he had been there some 30 or 40 days: That the money was struck in Halifax NC to pay said troops, nor did any come to hand till they had been there on duty upwards of a month: when he made his first draw. -  
- That he got his pay at several different times, and cannot account for the entry on the pay roll of his Company that he "was paid for but 35 days." Except the record was reference to one of the payments alone that he received;

This affiant has been at no little pains to procure testimony confirmatory of his statement, and submits with this explanatory statement the several affidavits marked A. B. C.

And the affiant, John Minnis, states upon his said oath, that he enlisted as above stated for six months, was duly appointed Sergeant in said Company, and in that capacity served all of said period of six months as Sergeant, and received full pay as Sergeant for said six months & was duly discharged at the end of said six months and not before.

Sworn and subscribed the day and date first above written before me

S/ Saml. N. Tate, JP

S/ John Minnis, X his mark

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State of North Carolina Orange County

On this the 28th day of April 1836, personally appeared before the undersigned an acting Justice of the peace in and for the said County, Samuel Nelson, now in the 80th year of his age, who being first duly qualified according to law maketh oath, that he has read the foregoing affidavit of John Minnis, touching his serving as Sergeant in 1775, 76 in Captain Walker's [company] and coincides altogether in opinion with said Minnis as to the appointing of first Sergeants & has no remembrance of a Captain's giving a Sergeant a warrant to act and that Capacity.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and date first above written before me.

S/ W. F. Jones, JP

S/ Saml. Nelson



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State of North Carolina Orange County} SS

On this the 8<sup>th</sup> day of July 1836, personally appeared before the undersigned an acting Justice of the peace in and for the County aforesaid, Samuel Thompson<sup>6</sup> a resident Citizen of the aforesaid County, now in the 87th year of his age, who being first duly qualified maketh oath in due form of law, that some time in the fall of the year 1775 (in the month of September he thinks it was) he enlisted in the United States service for six months, -- Alfred Moore was Captain, Larry Thompson was Lieutenant, James Moore Colonel: Frank Nash [Francis Nash], Lieutenant Colonel -- was marched to Wilmington under the above officers: the object was to guard that point of the State from the Enemy -- In this Service, this affiant states that he recollects John Minnis of the aforesaid County, that he was Sergeant in Captain Walker's company remembers of

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<sup>6</sup> [Samuel Thompson W4605](#)

seeing Sergeant Minnis frequently and his understanding always was that said John Minnis enlisted for six months, and served as Sergeant in Walker's company the whole of said period of six months.

This affiant further states that some time in the year 1776: say the summer of that year, he served the tour in the militia -- our object was to suppress the Cherokee Indians we rendezvoused in the Town of Hillsboro -- William Williams was Captain. This affiant served as Lieutenant not commissioned -- Ambrose Ramsey was Colonel -- in this tour this affiant remembers that John Minnis aforesaid was private in Captain Williams' Company all of said tour -- the precise length he does not now remember, but would say it was at least two months.

In conclusion this affiant states that John Minnis aforesaid as the reputation of being a soldier in the War of the Revolution, as he states, and is a man of truth & veracity.

Sworn and Subscribed, the day and date aforesaid before me.

S/ J. D. Hughes, JP

S/ Samuel Thompson

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Samuel Thompson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'S' at the beginning.

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$61.55 per annum commencing March 4, 1831, for service as a Sergeant for 6 months in the North Carolina Continental line and as a private for 9 months and 14 days in the North Carolina militia.]