

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements](#)

Pension application of Theophilus Swinson S9489

fn32NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 2/18/11

[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. 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. I welcome and encourage folks to call those and any other errors to my attention.]

State of North Carolina, Duplin County: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions February Term 1833

On this the 26th day of February 1833 personally appeared in open Court before Robert Middleton, Richard Miller and James Lawson, Esquires, Justices of the Court aforesaid, Theophilus Swinson a resident of Duplin County in the State of North Carolina aged seventy-five years & six months 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 service of the United States under the following named officers & served as herein stated.

1. Under Colonel John Ashe, Colonel James Kenan, Captain Charles Ward, Hardy Holmes, Lieutenant: about the last of January or first of February 1776 in a company of Duplin militia and served a fortnight in the expedition to Moore's Creek Bridge against the Tories; that he resided in Duplin County, N.C. on Goshen Swamp when he entered the service; that he was a volunteer; that he marched from Duplin old Court House to Elizabeth Town in Bladen County; thence to Rockfish Creek in Cumberland County about seven or eight miles below Cross Creek, now Fayetteville, and understanding that the Tories had crossed Cape Fear at Fayetteville and were marching for Wilmington (there being a [British] man-of-war then lying in the River below Wilmington), he marched back to Elizabeth Town at which place he crossed over and marched for Moore's Creek Bridge to intercept the Tories in their way to Wilmington; that the battle had happened at Moore's Creek Bridge before he arrived there; that he arrived there the day after the battle; that he was discharged at Moore's Creek Bridge, the day he arrived; that he served with some Continentals at Rockfish Creek in Cumberland County, N. C.; that the regular officers he knew were John Walker, Kelly Granger, Joseph Rhodes, & Charles Ivey; that he has no documentary evidence and knows of no person by whom he can prove this service.

2. Under General Lillington, Colonel James Kenan, Captain Charles Ward: he thinks in the year 1780, can't recollect the month or season of the year, he served three

months; was a volunteer militiamen; that he marched from the Cross Roads in Duplin County to the Big Bridge in New Hanover County, where he remained about two months; that while he was at the Big Bridge there was an attack made by the enemy on the American Guard stationed there and some of the guard killed; that from thence he marched to Kingston [Kinston] in Lenoir County and was there discharged; that he has no documentary evidence & knows of no person by whom he can prove you his service in this tour.

3. Before the service in the last mentioned tour, he entered under Colonel James Kenan, Captain Charles Ward, Hardy Holmes, Lieutenant (part of this tour) he thinks in the year 1779 or first of 1780 and served a three months tour as a volunteer militiamen and; that he marched from Duplin into New Hanover County and was stationed below Wilmington where he continued nearly all this tour, the enemy at that time having possession of Wilmington; that he was discharged at the station near Wilmington; that he served with no Continental regiments or companies in this tour; that he has no documentary evidence and knows of no person by whom he can prove his service in this tour.

4. Under Colonel James Kenan & Captain Charles Ward in or about the year 1778 or 1779 and served one month, this applicant believes it was more but is content to claim for that period; that he was a volunteer; that his marches were from Duplin to Wilmington; thence to Town Creek in Brunswick County; thence home; that he was in no battle; that he has no documentary evidence & knows of no person by whom he can prove this service; that in all his services he was a private soldier; that although he cannot prove his actual service by any person who served with him yet he cannot procure the testimony of Jesse Swinson to prove that he was out in 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 & him subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/Theophilus Swinson, X his mark

Answers of Theophilus Swinson to the questions propounded to him by the Court prescribed by the War Department:

1. I was born in Pitt County N. C. in August 1757.
 2. I have a record of my age at home in a Bible.
 3. When called into service I was living in Duplin County N. C. where I have ever since lived & now live.
 4. I always volunteered.
 5. The regular officers who were with the troops where I served were Captain John Walker & Kelly Granger. These were some Continental troops at Rockfish in Cumberland County. The militia regiments I remember were General Caswell's, General Lillington's & Colonel James Kenan's; the general circumstances of my service are detailed in my declaration.
 6. I don't recollect to have received any written discharges. If I did, I've lost them.
 7. David Quinn,¹ Robert Sloane,² James Pearsall, Jeremiah Pearsall.
- [fn p. 16: Jesse Swinson gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

¹ [David Quinn W4771](#)

² [Robert Sloane S7523](#)

I Jesse Swinson³ aged 74 years next spring hereby certify that Theophilus Swinson, the aforesaid applicant, was in service during the Revolutionary War; and I know he was absent in service for during his absence I attended to his business at home; how long he served, I can't say; he was at Wilmington and about there also at Town Creek in Brunswick County to my knowledge; I believe he served as he states.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ Jesse Swinson

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jesse Swinson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small checkmark above the first letter 'J'.

[fn p. 25: on February 24, 1833 in Duplin County at the Superior Court, the applicant gave a substantially identical application to that made 2 days later in the Court of Common Pleas. Why the applicant gave to separate applications, the record does not disclose. Peter Carlton, a clergyman, and Robert Sloane, gave the standard supporting affidavit with regard to the veteran's first application.]

[fn p. 28]

On the day & year⁴ aforesaid before the Court aforesaid personally appeared Robert Sloane a resident of Duplin County in the State of North Carolina aged eighty-one years last April who being duly sworn doth on his oath depose and say that while this deponent was in service in the first of the year 1781 under Captain Gillespie he saw Theophilus Swinson the aforesaid applicant in service at the Big Bridge in New Hanover County on several occasions, though he did not serve in the same company with said applicant but this deponent was well acquainted with said applicant and knew him before the Revolutionary War.

Sworn to & subscribed the day and year above written

S/ Robert Sloane, S his mark

[fn p. 29]

On the day and year aforesaid before the Court aforesaid personally appeared Jesse Swinson a resident of Duplin County in the State of North Carolina aged seventy-four years last spring who being first duly sworn doth on his oath depose and say, that he served in the Revolutionary War with the aforesaid applicant Theophilus Swinson in a company of Duplin militia under Captain Charles Ward he thinks in the spring or fall of the year 1776 and this deponent served with said applicant in said company three weeks and was relieved; that he thinks he left said applicant in service; that he marched from Duplin to Wilmington thence over into Brunswick County on Town Creek, thence back to Wilmington he thinks and was relieved either there or at Town Creek. This deponent further deposeth and saith that he served again with said applicant in a company of Duplin militia, he is not certain who was Captain, in a Regiment commanded by Colonel James Kenan he is not certain (as to the date but thinks it was in the spring of the year 1777, a fortnight and left with applicant in service at Jumping Run below Wilmington

³ [Jesse Swinson S7670](#)

⁴ February 24, 1833

this deponent having been relieved at that place. That he marched from Duplin to Wilmington, thence to Jumping Run and there stationed and made entrenchment there – to defend the Town from the assaults of the enemy who were on board ships of war in Cape Fear [River] below and were expected to come up that way to attack the Town.

Sworn & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ Jesse Swinson

[facts in file: Veteran died February 18, 1835; if Jesse Swinson was related to the veteran, that relationship is not stated in the file.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$24.88 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 7 months & 14 days service as a private in the North Carolina militia.]