

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of William Poplin W10231
Transcribed by Will Graves

Lucy fn37NC
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State of North Carolina, Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions Montgomery County,
October Sessions 1832.

On the first day of October 1832 personally appeared in open court before David Burton, John C. Atkins and Aulay McAulay the County Court of Montgomery now setting William Poplin a resident of the County and states as age eighty three years who being first duly sworn according to Law makes the following Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June the 7th 1832 who states that he was born in February 1749 and that when he entered the service of the United States he lived in the County of Chatham in said state. He states that Col. Philip Alston raised a troop of horsemen in the County of Chatham who engaged to serve three months and that he this affiant entered the service under him. That Alston and his company marched into South Carolina to join Genl Ashe's [John Ashe] Army which was then South Carolina not far from Charleston that they joined said Army near the Santee River in South Carolina This Affiant states that after he had joined Ashe's Army he was placed under the Command of Col Alston and one Captain Welsh who came from Taylorsville North Carolina or its neighborhood. From this place Ashe's Army moved crossing the Santee at Nelson's Ferry leaving Charleston about nine miles to the left and thence up the Savannah River to the town of Savannah Town in Georgia where a part of the British Army were at that time stationed from Savannah Ashe and his Army moved to Augusta and from thence to Briar Creek in pursuit of the British who when they came to Brier Creek [sic, Briar Creek] to one of the bridges and the American Army halted there for a week or so That the British marched up on the other side of Creek and recrossing it attacked Ashe's Army in their rear and defeated them and took over hundred and thirty of the American prisoners one of whom this affiant was, that the prisoners, that the prisoners [sic] were taken down about fifteen miles to Savannah Town where they were a week or ten days confined in large houses built for a church from there carried down to the mouth of the Savannah River and put on board a prison ship that was laying there. This affiant states that he was there confined for about six months as a prisoner where he was induced from a fear of starving to death to enlist in the British services. He states that during his imprisonment he was allowed a pint of Rice a day and 3/4 lb of fresh beef a week This affiant states that he left Col. Alston a prisoner on board the same ship that he was in That after he had enlisted he was then carried up to Savannah where he was kept at work on the fortifications for four or five weeks That at the time Savannah was surrounded at one side by the American

Army under Genl Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln] and on the other side by a British by whose command he does not recollect That he found an opportunity and made his escape to Lincoln and made known to him the situation and obtained a pass from [him] to go home to Chatham County where he lived. That he was escorted as far as thirty or forty miles to Cumber River by a guard who was sent with him and others in his situation That from thence he made the rest of his way home after having been gone about twelve months. This affiant states that he lived in Chatham about twelve months after his return and then moved into Moore, a county adjoining where [he] lived 3 or four years and then moved into Georgia and lived there two years and then moved to Montgomery where has since lived for thirty years past That there are no persons living that he knows of who can testify to his services as a soldier of the revolution except Hudson Taylor whose certified affidavit is herewith transmitted. That the said Hudson Taylor lived in the County of Chatham when he entered the service under Col. Alston. He thinks an Nicolas Nalls knows the same but he cannot tell as he has not seen him in a great while The affiant now states that the permission given by Genl Lincoln to go home has been lost and he can give no account of it. This applicant 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 in open court

William Poplin, M his mark

S/ JB Martin

Questions propounded by the Court to the applicant

1. Where and in what year were you born? Answer. I was born in the County of Chatham in North Carolina in the month of February 1749
2. Have you any record of your age and if so when is it A. I have no record of my age nor do I know whether there was ever one kept of it or not but I have always kept my age by my recollection -and what has been told me.
3. Where were you living when called into service where have you lived since the revolutionary war and where do you now live. A.3 I lived in Chatham County North Carolina I lived three or four years in Moore an adjoining County two years in Georgia and since that time in the County of Montgomery where I now reside.
4. How were you called into service? Were you drafted did you volunteer or were you a substitute and if a substitute for whom? A.4 I volunteered under Col. Philip Alston who raised a company in Chatham County -
5. State the name of some of the regular officers who were with the troop where you served such Continental and Militia Regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service A.5 I recollect only those officers who were my immediate commanders and the Genl who commanded the army Col. Alston. Captain Welsh and Genl Ashe. As to the names or number of the Continental or militia regiments I have no recollection for the general circumstances of my service see my declaration they are more fully detailed ---
6. Did you ever receive a discharge from the Service and if so by whom was it given and what has become of it A.6 The only discharge w which I received was a pass from Genl Lincoln after I deserted from the British and that I have long since lost
7. State the names of persons to whom you are known in your neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief of your service as a soldier of the Revolution? A.7 I am known to James Crump Daniel Early and

Col. Reuben Kendall who can speak as to my character for veracity and their belief of my service as a soldier of the Revolution.

Sworn to in open Court.

S/ William Poplin, X his mark

S/ J Martin

The Amended Declaration of William Poplin in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832

State of North Carolina, Montgomery County

Personally appeared before me the undersigned a justice of the peace in and for the County & State aforesaid William Poplin who being first sworn deposes & saith that by reason of old age and consequent loss of Memory, he is unable to swear as to the precise dates of his Service but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below: Viz. That he entered Colonel Philip Alston's Company as before stated for three months Service and continued in that service until the battle of Briar Creek which happened about three days before the three months had expired for which the affiant had engaged to serve, that at the Said Battle he was taken prisoner and Kept a prisoner by the enemy for six months, before his was discharged as stated in his first declaration making the whole time of his Service for which he claims a pension – 9 months, although it was 11 months before this affiant reached home. This affiant [states] that when his first declaration was Drawn up & sworn to in Court, he was not at that time able to procure the testimony of a clergyman and another respectable witness to prove his reputation as a soldier of the revolution as there were no persons present who could make the necessary proof: but that he is able now to supply that Defect in his testimony and he herewith transmits the affidavit of a clergyman and one of his neighbors who is certified to be a respectable citizen.

Sworn to & subscribed before me this 10th day of April 1833.

S/ Solomon Efird, JP

S/ William Poplin, X his mark

[supporting affidavit given by George Whitley, Clergyman and George Efird, neighbor.]

[fn p. 8: Lucy Poplin, 89, widow, filed for her pension as such April 25, 1840, in Montgomery County, NC; she married him, as best she can compute in 1767 or 1768; they had 3 children before the war; they were married in Chatham County by Simon Poe, JP.; that her husband died June 2, 1835.]