

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Cuthbertson (Culbertson) W17680 Rachel fn43NC
Transcribed by Will Graves 12/23/10

[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. 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 Burke County: Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions October Court 1832

On this 24th day of October 1832 came personally into open Court before the Justices of the Court now in session William Culbertson Senior a resident of Burke County and State of North Carolina aged 92, 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 the 7th June 1832.

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

The first service he performed in the South was as a private in a company of Captain Oliver Wiley in the County of Mecklenburg North Carolina in the year 1775 or early in the year 1776 just as the Patriots of Mecklenburg had declared themselves independent of the British Government. They were of Colonel James Harris' Regiment of militia – the next service that he recollects was in the service of the United States under Major Joseph Dixon who commanded a Battalion of volunteers from the time the enemy of Tories & British were ranging the upper part of North Carolina – they were mounted men and were called minute men, he was in this service for upwards of two years. They served whenever called on, were often permitted to go home, but called on when any danger appeared, at one time he thinks in the year 1776 he had leave from his commander to go home for a week to take care of his harvest for one week: he had been there but six days when on the night of that day his house was surrounded by seven Tories & taken out of his bed in his shirt only and marched off by them towards their camp: & in the night whilst they were marching him on foot through the woods before them often on foot – they had become careless & he made his escape by jumping behind a rock on the side of the path & made his escape although they shot at him: he again joined his Troop and continued to serve until Lord Cornwallis was taken at Little York just before the battle of the Cowpens he was ordered off to join the American Army under General Morgan was under Captain Martin of Major Joseph Dixon's Battalion of mounted men, but did not join them until after the Battle of Cowpens was fought. He was never regularly discharged for when Lord Cornwallis retreated from Charlotte he was then under the command of Major Joseph Dixon when in close pursuit of the enemy after they had crossed Rocky River in the State of North Carolina when in close pursuit of the Enemy he received a kick from a rough shod horse on the leg that disabled him & Major Joseph Dixon

ordered him home until he should get well & be called on again – he got well but was never called on again & the war ending soon thereafter he thought not of asking & obtaining a discharge. His house was in the County of Mecklenburg within 10 miles of Charlotte and was out in the Service under Joseph Dixon Major regularly the whole time Cornwallis lay with his Army in Charlotte acting as a scout to prevent the enemy's obtaining supplies of Provisions that he lived in Mecklenburg until the year 1800 – I know of no man by whom I can prove my service nor have I any documentary evidence of my enlistment Service or discharge:

I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the pension list roll of any agency of any state.

Questions by the Court

1st Where and in what year were you born?

Answer. In the County of Tyrone in Ireland.

2nd Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

I have none for the children have pointed out of my Bible.

3rd Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

I was in Pennsylvania when the Ship of War in the British Navy called the Roebuck came up the Delaware to Wilmington and served a few days there then I removed to Mecklenburg North Carolina in 1775 or early in 1776 from which place I embarked into the first of my regular Service I lived there (or my family did for I had a wife) until 1800 when I moved to Burke & have lived here ever since.

4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom?

I was a volunteer.

5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

I cannot recollect that we were ever under the immediate command of any Continental officer unless General Davidson who was killed at Cowans Ford was one for I was often under his command – he ordered me off under Captain Nathaniel Martin of Major Joseph Dixon's mounted Battalion when we went to reinforce General Morgan & who met us just after the Battle of Cowpens & turned us back. Colonel Washington was then along with Morgan & drove Tarleton into the Congaree but Harris ordered us up under Captain Rea to reinforce the Whigs just before Ramsour's battle, but we got there also after the battle was fought – once when I was out on a scout I took two men who looks suspicious & who were unarmed and drove them to where Dixon was marching his troops & when I took them to Dixon he knew them to be Tories: at another time whilst out with our true on the scout we fell in with seven Tories & after a little fighting we killed five out of the seven Tories; at another time we met with Tarleton's Legion who retreated for the purpose of drawing us on, but Major Dixon saw their object was to draw us into an ambuscade as he learnt it from a deserter; & was on his guard. I recollect all these facts but cannot possibly remember dates.

State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

None here but as to veracity.

Sworn to in open Court 25th October Term 1832

S/ Tes: J. Erwin, Clk

S/ Wm Cuthbertson

[fn p. 38: Isaac T. Avery and Charlie McDowell gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[fn p. 42]

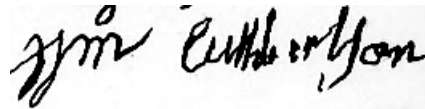
State of North Carolina Burke County: 24th of August 1833

Personally appeared before me, the undersigned a justice of the peace for said County William Culbertson Senior who being duly sworn, deposed & saith, that by reason of old age, and the consequent loss of memory, he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service: but according to the best of his recollection, he served not less than the periods mentioned below, and in the following grades and under the following circumstances, early in 1776 under Captain Oliver Willey [Wiley] for five months, under Captain Walker for upwards of three months: under Major Joseph Dixon in 1776 & 1777 for at least 12 months – in 1781 under Captain Martin of Major Joseph Dixon's Battalion for three weeks on way to join General Morgan at the time he fought the battle of the Cowpens always a private & mounted man, the last tour served at least three months before he was kicked as in his declaration described; in the service when General Cornwallis was taken but cannot now tell the date, always discharged. –

Sworn to and subscribed the date above.

S/ Tho. Walton, JP

S/ Wm Cuthbertson



[James G. England, a clergyman, and Nathaniel Cuthbertson gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[fn p. 35]

State of North Carolina Burke County: This day came before me William B Rust one of the Justices of the Peace in and for said County William Cuthbertson Senior and on his oath deposed and saith that he served under Captain Harris at one time three months as a drafted soldier and at another time under Captain Wiley he served three months as a drafted soldier and at another time he served three months under Captain Martin & a second time of service under Colonel Harris three months and a third time under Colonel Harris three months and at another time under Major Joseph Dixon four months &c all of the above stated is sworn to and subscribed to before me and that the above services was rendered in and between the dates of 1776 and 1779

As a justice of the peace witness my hand and seal January 25 1834

NB and that the above services was rendered in County of Mecklenburg North Carolina &c as he can not see to another Reed or right &c.

S/ Wm Cuthbertson, Sr., X his mark

S/ Wm B. Rust, JP

[fn p. 14: On April 10, 1843 in Burke County North Carolina, Rachel Cuthbertson, 87, filed for a widow's pension under the 1836 act stating that she is the widow of William Cuthbertson ; that she married him in January 1772 in Tirone [Tyrone] County, Ireland; that she and her husband left Ireland in May 1773; that her husband died April seven, 1838 and that she remains his widow; that when she and her husband left Ireland they received a letter of dismissal from the Presbyterian Church of Ireland.]

[fn p 17: On August 12, 1843 in Mecklenburg County, NC, Hannah Monteath, 77, gave

testimony in support of the widow's application stating that she was well acquainted with the veteran and his wife (natives of Tyrone County, Ireland as she understood from her relatives who knew them there) in Mecklenburg County, NC; that they came into Mecklenburg from Pennsylvania shortly after her father died in 1775; that they were brought from PA by her uncle, Nathaniel Monteath and brought to her mother's house with their two small children, Thomas and Sally; she understood that Thomas, the oldest child, was born in Ireland; that the Cuthbertsons lived in the eastern part of Mecklenburg for some 30 years before moving to Burke County; they raised a large family in Mecklenburg County; that affiant's uncle, Nathaniel Monteath attended the wedding of William and Rachel Cuthbertson in Ireland.][fn p. 18: on the same day, William Monteath, 72, gave a substantially identical affidavit to that given by Hannah Monteath, and referred to Nathaniel Monteath as his uncle;] he likewise referred to his father as having died in Mecklenburg County in 1775.]

[fn p. 21]

ANOTHER REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIER GONE.
DIED, on the 7th day of April 1838, **WILLIAM CUTHBERTSON, Sr.** at his residence in Burke Co. N. C., 15 miles West of Morganton, at the advanced age of 98 years and 24 days. He was born in Ireland in the County of Tirone, on the 17th day of March 1740; he has left behind him a wife and a large and respectable family to deplore their loss in his death. But cheering indeed to his friends, but in particular to his nearer relations, that he possessed that degree of christian faith that enabled him to meet the fatal shaft without dismay. (Communicated.)

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$39 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 11 months and 21 days service as a private in the North Carolina militia.