

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Taburn (Tabour) W18115

Transcribed by Will Graves

Nelly Taburn fn34NC

rev'd 10/15/09 & rev'd 3/5/16

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

[p 9]

State of North Carolina, Granville County: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions, August Term A.D. 1832

On this 10th day of August A.D. 1832 personally appeared in open court before Maurice Smith, James Wyche, & Lewis Green member of the Court of Pleas and quarter Sessions of the County and State aforesaid now sitting, William Taburn Senr. a free man of Color, who was born in North Ampton [sic, Northampton] County in the State of North Carolina on the North side of Roanoke river, his father's name was William Taburn, and his mother was Judey Allen; his age he is unable to state nor does he know whether any Register was ever made of it ~~his age~~ who is now very poor and decrepid [sic, decrepit] and almost blind barely able to distinguish day from night and an inmate of the Poor House of Granville County 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 into the Continental service of the United States when he was about the age of twenty or Twenty one years under James Saunders [sic, Jesse Saunders] as Captain, his other Company officers he cannot recollect but he remembers that [Lt.] Col. William Taylor commanded the Regiment, the other field officers he cannot recollect—He entered the Service by Enlistment for two years and a half [years]. The destination of the detachment to which I belonged was for Wilmington, North Carolina and our place of rendezvous was in Williamsborough [sic, probably, either Williamsboro in present day Vance County NC or Williamsburg in present day Rockingham County NC, most likely the former] in this County. Here we were mustered for a short time, and as soon as preparation could be made the company marched off to Wilmington. There being great difficulty in procuring baggage Waggons [sic, wagons] for this company and I owning a pretty good one and Team and the departure of the company being delayed for want of a Waggon I was importuned again and again to let my Waggon go with them, but I felt great repugnance to this course, but Col. Taylor and Captain Saunders joining in entreaty to effect this object I at length consented and accepted their proposal to discharge me from any Term of Enlistment on condition of sending my Waggon to carry the Baggage. But I had some difficulty in getting a driver; by arrangement with said officers a man by the name of John Davis who also had a Waggon to accompany the soldiers agreed to and did take charge of my Waggon upon condition I would tend and cultivate his Crop for him in his absence. This contract was fully and honestly complied with on my part and Davis took my Waggon and Capt. Benjamin Hester drove his Waggon went with the detachment and brought my Waggon back and delivered it to me. I cannot state the day, month, or year in which these occurrences took place but it was at an early period of the Revolution. I never took any discharge or written evidence of this service—I do not know of any person now living by whom these facts

can be proved.

I next engaged by draft in a Southern tour of five (5) months service under Richard Taylor as Captain, the other officers and field officers I am unable to recollect—We marched from Oxford Granville County by Cross Creek now Fayetteville to Charleston S.C. or near to it, we thence marched to the river Savannah and joined the American army—I am unable to recollect who was the commander in chief but I rather think that Col. Lytle [Archibald Lytle] was the Colonel of the Regiment to which I belonged—This circumstance recurs to my memory from the fact that Col. Lytle had me put under guard for a whole day for getting drunk and cursing him—While in service in that country an engagement took place between the British and our men—They were too hard for us and we had to retreat, indeed we were routed & put to flight – and I made the best of my way home. On my arrival at home I found my captain had returned before me – The precise time I was in actual service I do not know but it could not be much short of the Term of Draft—I rather think but am not certain that while on this tour, we engaged in an additional Term of Service, but of this I cannot speak with recollection – I rather think the battle in which the Americans were routed as before spoken of was that of Briar Creek [March 3, 1779].

My next Tour of duty was again by Draft from Granville County under the command of James Fuller Captain, Thomas Bradford Lieutenant, and Blake Maulder Ensign—Capt. Fuller had received a wound in his Instep and became unable to travel and Shadrack Parrish [Shadrach Parrish] took the command of our company. We marched to Hillsborough, & were then put under the command of [Lt.] Col. Farmer [Thomas Former] Lieutenant Colonel Harrison & Major Sharpe. My memory is refreshed as to this last fact and that of Parrish taking the place of Fuller by talking with Thomas Jordan a soldier who served in the same company with me – From Hillsborough we marched through Salisbury to the Catawba [River] about Beatties [sic, Beatties] ford and Joined our army under Genl. Davidson [William Lee Davidson] – The enemy were on the opposite bank of the River – I was stationed at Cowan's ford [Battle of Cowan's Ford, February one, 1781]¹ when the attempt was made to cross the river at this place as well as at Beatties ford three miles above – I was stationed very near General Davidson who rode upon a Black horse, when he received the ball that put a period to the life of the ablest, kindest & best officer that ever commanded an army. As soon as he was struck by the ball he called out ‘Help me down, Boys, I am a Dead man – give the news to the men at the Island and above’ and expired—We were soon thrown into confusion by the death of our beloved General; the Enemy took advantage of it, crossed the river—overpowered our men and put us to flight- we scampered for life and made our way as well as we could to the Widow Torrance's [sometimes spelled Tarrant]² land where we were stopped & formed into order of battle by our company & field officers. It was raining like a Torrent – Tarlton [sic, Banastre Tarleton] with his light Horse pursued and here overtook and charged upon us—Our guns were so wet we could not discharge them and we were all put to flight in the utmost confusion – I ran and escaped as well as I could – I fell in with an old Horse without Saddle or Bridle and was enabled to get hold of & mounted him – I traveled that day and night and near day stopped at a house to get something for my horse and myself to eat – I was then informed that I was only about twelve miles in a North West direction from the Widow Torrances' lane where we had been beaten & put to flight – I then bent my course so as to escape the enemy & coming near to, but north of, Salisbury learned that the enemy had just passed through that town—I directed my course up the river and crossed the Yadkin [River] high up and passed along through Salem thence a winding and crooked course so as to avoid the enemy until I got entirely clear of them and then struck a direct course toward

¹ http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_cowans_ford.html

² http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_tarrants_tavern.html

home – Shortly after my return home I was attacked by sickness and was unable to Join the company under my captain who had crossed Dan River passed down the Roanoke [River], crossed over at Taylor’s Ferry & had come on to Harrisburg – Being too unable to travel I remained at home when they marched to Hillsborough. In a short time I was so much improved in health and strength that I set out to Join the army and at Johnson’s old store on Little River, I met the remnant or a part of our company returning home – I was informed by them that as the term of service was within a few days of expiring, and there was great demand for arms to supply the new recruits who had Joined the army without arms, we were discharged & I returned with them and in a few days afterwards we heard of the Battle of Guilford [March 15, 1781].

In the Summer of 1781 I performed another tour of three months duty by Draft I was commanded by Wm Hargrove Searcey [sic, William Hargrove Searcy]³ Captain, the other officers I cannot recollect. We were drafted and marched from Oxford in Granville County to Hillsborough thence to Cross Creek, from which place Genl. Butler [John Butler] marched us to the Raft swamp in the neighbourhood of which the enemy consisting of British & Tories were collected in considerable force. After being in service some time Capt. Searcey obtained a furlow [sic, furlough] or discharge and left the Army and I took his rifle – shortly after I was selected by General Butler [John Butler] as a Cook and continued in that character until I was discharged, which was upon the reception of news of the capture & surrender of the British Army under Cornwallis at York town [October 19, 1781] – If I ever took a discharge, which I believe I did not, it is lost or mislaid.

Fowler Jones,⁴ Harris Hicks,⁵ Edward Jones,⁶ Senr., & James Haskins⁷ & William Hargrove Searcey are the only persons living that I know of who served in this campaign with me.

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 any State or Territory.

Sworn to and subscribed the day & date first above stated in open court

S/ William Taburn, Senr., X his mark

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Thomas Jordan⁸ & Fowler Jones Senior made oath viz. the said Jordan that he entered the service of the United States in the Company commanded first by Jones Fuller & afterwards by Shadrach Parrish as Captain, by Thomas Bradford as Lieutenant and by Batt Maulder as Ensign as stated in one part of the foregoing declaration of William Taburn -- He was but a little the rise of fifteen years of age at this time was small & slender -- and marched in company with said Taburn, who taking a liking to him the said Jordan, whenever we had to cross a deep Creek or other water course Taburn would stoop down and take him this affiant on his shoulders and carry him across the stream. He testifies to and certifies the statement of the said Taburn so far as relates to the tour in which I served with him to the Catawba, Torrence's land and the defeat of the Americans at that River and the attack, rout & defeat of the Americans, in the widow Torrence's Lane and the dispersion of our forces, for he was in that tour, drawn up in line of

3 [William Searcy \(Searey\) R9342](#)

4 [Fowler Jones R5701](#)

5 [Harris Hicks W4989](#)

6 No application for a pension could be located for someone named Edward Jones claiming service in NC. There are four pension applications filed by men of name who claimed to have lived in Virginia at the time of their service.

7 [James Haskins W19732](#)

8 This MAY be the same man whose widow's application was rejected in [Thomas Jordan R5767](#). She says her husband served while residing in Granville County and that he died in 1841.

battle when Tarleton attacked & charged upon us -- Taburn never afterwards joined the Army, but this affiant continued in Service until his company was discharged at the Hi Rock on the 12th of March 1781.

Fowler Jones Senior testifies and declares that he served with William Taburn in the Tour as mentioned by him in his preceding declaration to the Raft Swamp and knows that said Taburn served in said Campaign as he has stated and that he acted as a Cook for General Butler a part of this Period of said Tour & he believes until information was received of the capture of Cornwallis at York. He was himself a soldier in the same Expedition.

Sworn to & subscribed in open Court

S/ Thomas Jordan, T his mark

S/ Fowler Jones, Senior, J his mark

And the said Court do hereby declare their opinion after investigating the matter as described by the War Department that the above named applicant was a Revolutionary soldier and served as he states. And the Court further certifies that it appears to them that Thomas Jordan & Fowler Jones, who have signed the preceding certificate are residents of Granville County aforesaid that they are credible persons & that their statement is entitled to credit.

S/ James Wyche, Chmn. Pro tem

S/ Maurice Smith, J. P.

S/ Lewis Green, J. P.

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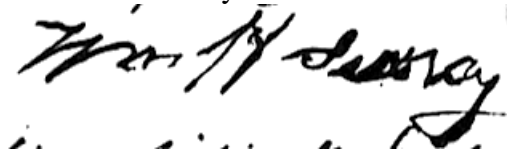
Jacob Anderson makes oath that he is a citizen of Granville County and was born, resided and has always resided in it. That he is now and was during the Revolutionary War well acquainted with William Taburn Senr., that he lived within a few miles of him the said Taburn when he enlisted in Continental service for two and a half years -- This affiant testifies that he knows that said Taburn had & owned a Waggon and team and that it was sent as a baggage Waggon with the soldiers -- that Taburn had enlisted with from Williamsborough -- That said Waggon was in the charge of John Davis who also had a Waggon in the service of the Army -- That Benjamin Hester Captain then a young man, drove the Waggon of said Davis and Davis drove the Waggon of said Taburn -- that said Taburn tended the crop of said Davis while he was gone with the Waggon a large Black steed Horse and a large Roan steed Horse.

S/ Jacob Anderson, X his mark

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William Hargrove Searcey came into open court and made oath that he commanded the Company as mentioned in the within declaration of William Taburn Senior to the Wrath Swamp, that said Taburn was a private in his Company as he has stated & that I left the encampment by leave before the men were discharged as he has stated and also that I let said William Taburn have my rifle & accoutrements upon leaving the detachment -- Thus far I certify and no further -- subscribed & sworn to in open Court 11th of August 1832.

S/ Wm H. Searcey



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State of North Carolina Office of Secretary of State

I William Hill Secretary of State in and for the State of North Carolina, do certify, that I

act of the General Assembly of this State passed, or ratified 9th of May 1777, all effective persons in this state from the age of 16 years to 50 were bound to perform militia duty, or service when called upon, without regard to color, and such has been the law of the State until the year 1835.

Given under my hand this 15th of October 1845.

S/ Wm Hill, Secretary of State

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State of North Carolina Granville County: Superior Court of Law Fall Term A.D. 1832

Zachariah Hester⁹ personally appeared in open Court & being duly sworn according to law, testifies & declares that he knows that William Taburn Senior was a soldier in the Revolutionary War -- said Taburn his older than this affiant who will be 72 years of age the 13th of January 1833.

This affiant was a Brother Soldier with said Taburn in the expedition to the Savannah River on a Tour of 5 months and we, with others were discharged and this affiant and said Taburn & others came home together. This tour was for 5 months after we left the State of North Carolina.

Subscribed & sworn to in open Court this 5th day of September 1832

S/ Zachariah Hester, X his mark

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State of North Carolina Granville County: Personally appeared before me William M. Sneed a Justice of the Peace for said County & State this 5th day of December, 1833 Fowler Jones Senior who being duly sworn according to law, testifies and declares that, in addition to the facts stated in his affidavit heretofore taken in the tour to the Raft Swamp as stated in William Taburn's declaration, he and Taburn were soldiers and that Tour & were commanded by William Hargrove Searcey as Captain; that after intelligence of the capture of Cornwallis was received in our camp at Blufort Bridge, the British burned said bridge & marched off to Wilmington. This affiant and said Taburn with the other soldiers belonging to our Company were kept on duty for some time; we were marched after the Enemy, and took post about twelve miles from Wilmington near the Brick House where, we were kept on duty until our full term of three months had expired when we were discharged -- Taburn & myself did not leave camp together, but we fell in company on our journey home.

Subscribed & sworn to the date stated above.

S/ Fowler Jones Senior, X his mark

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State of North Carolina Granville County

Personally appeared before me William M. Sneed a Justice of the Peace for the County and State aforesaid this 5th day of December 1833, William Taburn a Free man of Color who duly sworn upon the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God, doth declare as follows viz.

That in his declaration sworn to & subscribed on the 10th of August 1832, for the purpose of obtaining the benefit of the act of Congress passed 7th of June 1832, that the services rendered by him as a soldier in the Revolutionary War are substantially set forth therein; that the circumstances of his first enlistment are correctly set forth, but if no allowance is to be made for the first Tour, he must submit to the decision, but thinks it hard.

The second tour of 5 months was performed as is proved by a Brother Soldier Zachariah

⁹ [Zachariah Hester S7002](#)

Hester who served with him.

The third Tour to the Catawba was performed as stated, and as far as I can recollect the term of service which I performed was about 2 months and 20 days or perhaps a few days over it -- but I am content it shall be fixed at it.

The fourth tour to the Raft Swamp I think had almost been completed when the news of the capture of Cornwallis was received and we discharged. I believe the full tour was complete before we reached home -- but I am content it be fixed at 2 months and 20 days --

Subscribed & sworn to the date first written.

S/ William Taburn, Senr., TS his mark

[p 5: On May 26, 1845 in Warren County North Carolina, Nelly Taburn, 85, filed for a widow's pension as the widow of William Taburn, Senior, a pensioner at the rate of \$34.44 for his services in the revolution; that she married him January 2, 1778; that her husband died February 4, 1835 and that she remains his widow. She signed her application with her mark.]

[p 7: Copy of a marriage bond issued in Bute County North Carolina to William Taborn and John Watson, bondsmen, to secure the marriage of Taburn to Nelly Evans. The license is dated January 1, 1778.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$34.44 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 10 months and 10 days in the North Carolina militia. His widow was pensioned at the rate of \$31.10 based upon her husband service as a private for 9 months and 10 days in the North Carolina militia.]