

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of John Walls W18291

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of North Carolina } S.S.
Orange County }

On this the 29 day of November 1837, personally appeared before the undersigned an acting Justice of the peace, in and for the County aforesaid at her own residence, she being too infirm of body to attend Court to make this Declaration (being afflicted with palsy) Margaret Walls, a resident of the Town of Hillsboro' [Hillsborough] in the aforesaid County, widow of Captain John Walls, Deceased, of the aforesaid County of Orange, now in the 82nd year of her age. Who being first duly qualified according to Law, maketh on oath the following Declaration for pension, under the 3rd Section of the Act of Congress of the 4th of July, 1836.

That Declarant sets forth upon her oath that she is the widow of the late Captain John Walls of the aforesaid County, Deceased, who during the war of the Revolution served as herein after stated.

1. This affiant Declares, that on or about the 15 of October 1778, there was a draft from the militia in the County of Orange aforesaid to raise troops for the Term of five months, to serve the United States in the war of the Revolution, that said troops were raised by draft and were legally called into the service of the United States by Competent Authority.

That [Thomas] Farmer was Captain of a Company and that her husband the aforesaid John Walls, was Leut. in said Company [Illegible word] Lock was Colonel, this Declarant thinks. That on or about the middle of October 1778, said Captain Farmer's Company with other companies rendezvoused in the Town of Hillsboro' in the County aforesaid was marched to Salisbury in the State of South Carolina [sic: probably Purysburg SC rather than Salisbury, which is in NC] and was under General [Griffith] Rutherford, and was at his encampment at Black Swamp in South Carolina as she has often heard her deceased husband say. That at the expiration of said Five Months the troops were marched back to this Town (Hillsboro') and discharged. That my deceased husband was gone all of said Five Months, and acted as this affiant has reason to believe & does believe as Lieutenant in said Company with Commission. That he had a Commission as Leut. that this Declarant has seen it, but does not know what has become of it, as her husband has been dead upwards of fifty six years and for which five months service this Declarant claims pension.

2. This affiant further sets forth upon her said oath, that in the Summer of 1780 there was a draft in the aforesaid County from the Militia to raise troops for the Southern Army, who were to serve a tour of three months. That troops from the militia were so raised, and by Competent Authority. That her husband the aforesaid John Walls, was appointed Captain of a Company of militia so raised and was duly Commissioned Captain thereof [see note below], that said troops on or about the 1st day of July 1780 rendezvoused in the Town of Hillsboro' aforesaid. That [Stephen] Moore was Colonel she thinks and John Butler Brig. Gen'l. - that her husband the aforesaid Captain John Walls, did have Command of a Company of militia as aforesaid, that were marched to the South that said said troops as this affiant always understood were marched to Pittsboro thence to Cross Creek [now Fayetteville] - thence into South Carolina - was under Gen'l. [Richard] Caswell and fell under Command of Gen'l. [Horatio] Gates and was under Gates when he was defeated in August of that year [Battle of Camden, 16 Aug 1780].

After the defeat my husband the aforesaid Captain John Walls, came to Hillsboro' where his Company rendezvoused - that their three months tour had not then expired that they were marched towards Salisbury, and at Bells Mills (this Declarant thinks) their three months expired and her husband returned home to Hillsboro'.

That her husband was duly Commissioned and acted as Captain of a company of drafted militia in said Tour, she has every reason to believe. She saw his Commission as Captain and saw him in Command of his Company both before and after Gates' defeat.

But what has become of his Commission as Captain she does not now know as all of his papers have been lost many years. This Declarant as above stated claims pension for 5 months

as Leut. & 3 months as Captain

This Declarant further sets forth upon her said oath that she and the aforesaid John Walls, were married on the 9th day of January 1777 and that they were lawfully married.

That there was a record in her family Bible of the day that she & the said John Walls were married: she remembers of seeing it repeatedly and it set forth the time of their marriage as above stated to wit the 9th of January 1777.

That this Declarant had but two children and that there was a record of their births in said family Bible and it stated that her eldest child "William Walls was born 2 July, 1778. Nelly Walls was born February, 1781"

This Declarant states upon her said oath that she remembers very distinctly, that in the July twelve months after she was married, her eldest child was born.

That she was living in Hillsboro' aforesaid from the time she and the said John Walls married, till his death (and this Declarant still resides in said Town)

That in the February before the Guilford battle (1781) [Battle of Guilford Courthouse NC, 15 Mar 1781] Lord Cornwallis took the Town of Hillsboro' and that at that time her husband was sick, and died on the day the British hoisted the "Royal Standard" in Town; the day of the month this Declarant does not remember, but thinks it was the 20th [second numeral not clear] February 1781 — She however remembers very well that on the Friday after her husband's death her second and last Child Nelly was born.

That her husband died as above stated in the month of February, 1781; and that she has remained a widow ever since that period, as will more fully appear by reference to the proof hereto annexed.

Margaret herXmark Walls

NOTE: At the Battle of Camden Walls was still Lieutenant under Captain Thomas Farmer, according to the depositions of William Crabtree (W17689) and William Cumming (S8265).