

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Tillotson O'Bryan (O'Bryen) W2422

Mary fn39NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

10/22/10

[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 Richmond County: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions July Session 1833

On this 15th of July 1833 personally appeared in open Court Tillotson O'Bryant, before the worshipful court now sitting Tillotson O'Bryant a resident of the County of Richmond & State of North Carolina aged seventy-three years 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 of June 1832, That – he entered the Service of the United States in 1780 in the County of Richmond North Carolina under William Wall Captain that he served for the space of three months and was engaged principally in holding in subjection the Tories in Richmond County & adjoining Counties, that during said service they had frequent rencounters with small bodies of Tories, in one of which in the County of Moore, they captured for Tories whose names he well recollects (viz.) James Price, William Fanning, the brother of Colonel Fanning [David Fanning], Edward Buce [?] & William Buckkannan [sic, William Buchannan?] the three last of them they hung, that immediately after the Expiration of the three months Tour, he again entered the service under Captain Wall who he thinks about this time was made Colonel and served again for three months which latter service was confined principally to the County of Richmond, during which period they captured to Tories (viz.) James Hayne & William Brigman, but afterward for the want of some place where they might be regularly confined in fact such was the disturbed & unsettled state of the country, that they were compelled to liberate on parole the most of the Enemy whom they captured, that during this last service of three months he was at times under Colonel Williams & Colonel Crawford, that after the expiration of this three months service he again entered the revolutionary service under Captain William Esterling¹ and served again a Tour of three months which he thinks was in 1781 that – his services was confined principally to the County of Richmond, that he never was in any regular Battle, that he hired one John Long as a substitute who was in the Battle at Bettys Bridge² which he thinks took place sometime in the year 1781 he states that he has no documentary Evidence having lost his papers if he ever received any of which he has no distinct recollection, he states that there are now

¹ [William Easterling \(Esterling\) R14028](#)

² Sic, probably a reference to the engagement at Beatti's Bridge on Drowning Creek on August 4, 1781.
<http://gaz.jrshelby.com/beattisbr.htm>

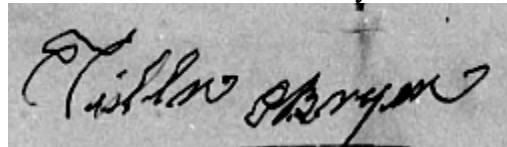
living Moses Knight³ & John Dawkins⁴ who can testify as to the fact of his services in behalf of his Country for they knew & were with him in service, he states in addition that he has the deposition of Captain William Easterling who now lives in South Carolina which sets forth that he served under said Easterling and a tour of three months in the revolutionary War, which deposition he understands is not sufficiently authenticated but that the deponent lived at some distance in the adjoining State, and the Petitioner is too old & infirm to travel to the place of said Easterling's residence and have the same authenticated, he in addition states that there is no person now living by whom he can prove the length of 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 to & subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

Test: S/Elias Sinclair, Deputy Clerk

S/ Tilln OBryan



[Elias Sinclair, a clergyman, and William Crawford, high Sheriff, gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

...

1st Where and in what year were you born?

Answer. I was born in Anson County North Carolina in May 1760.

2nd Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Answer. When called into service I lived in Richmond County, have lived there since the revolutionary [war] and do now live in the same County

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

Answer. I invariably volunteered my services

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.

Answer. My first service was under Captain Wall after Major Wall, Colonel Crawford, Colonel Williams & Colonel Love – I recollect nothing further of my services, the last three months Tour was under Captain Easterling in the light Horse in which capacity I most generally served. I know nothing else besides what I have stated in my declaration.

6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

Answer. I think I got a discharge from either Colonel Crawford or Major Wall but have lost the same.

7th 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.

Answer. Moses Knight, who was with me in the war, Walter Scott Senior, John Dawkins

³ [Moses Knight R6028](#)

⁴ [John Dawkins W6992](#)

This day personally appeared in open Court Moses Knight John Dawkins who being first duly sworn according to law deposeth & saith that they were well acquainted (some of them with Tillotson O'Bryen in the Revolutionary War that they know nothing about the length of his service but recollect having seen him in the service at different times (they think in 1780 or 1781), that they know him to be a man of veracity and they have every confidence that he served as he sets forth.

Sworn to & subscribed in open court 17th of July 1833

S/ Elias Sinclair, Deputy clerk

S/ Moses Knight

S/ John Dawkins

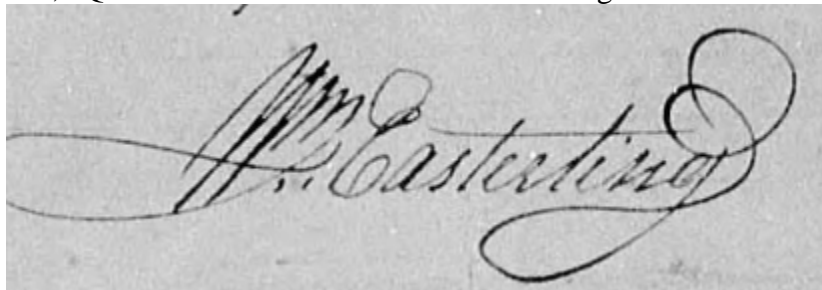
[fn p. 38]

State of South Carolina Marlborough District: Personally appeared before me John Donaldson Esquire one of the Justices of the Quorum for said District, William Easterling Esquire of said District of Marlborough, who being duly sworn on the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God, doth make oath and say that he was well acquainted with Tillotson Obryen Esquire of Richmond County, North Carolina, in the time of the revolutionary War with Great Britain and that the said Tillotson Obryen did serve a three months Tour in troop of light Horse Company in said Richmond County and round about said County in the latter part of the revolution under him the said William Easterling, then Captain of said Company, he then having a commission signed by Colonel Thomas Crawford of said Richmond County, and the higher Officers of that place and time were Colonel Crawford, Colonel Medlock, Colonel Williams, Major Speed &c and the deponent further saith that his commission is either lost or mislaid and that he does not know what is become of it but recollects that soon after the Tour of three months was done the War ceasid.

Sworn to & signed before me the 30th day of December 1832

S/ John Donaldson, JQ

S/ Wm Easterling

A photograph of a handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Wm Easterling". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, slightly textured paper. The letters are fluid and connected, with a prominent flourish at the end of the word "Easterling".

State of North Carolina Richmond County: This day personally appeared before me F. T. Leak an Acting Justice of the Peace of the County & State aforesaid Tillotson O'Briant, aged seventy-three who being first duly sworn upon the holy Evangelist of Almighty God deposeth and saith, that from a letter which he has received from the War Department, he has been required to state more fully the nature of his service & by what authority he was called into Service, This affiant, states that if it is expected from him at this distance of time to establish the competency of those who acted as officers by an exhibition of their Commissions, that the Department have imposed on him conditions and a burden which it will be out of his power to remove, but he trust that such is not the intention of the War Department, in construing the act under which he claims a pension he can only state that the several officers (viz.) Captain Wall (afterward, Major & then Colonel) Captain Crawford (afterwards Colonel Crawford) always acted as such and were then and have been ever since acknowledged to have been officers properly called out & regularly

commissioned. In proof of which he respectfully calls the attention of the department to the declarations of Walter Leak,⁵ John McAlister,⁶ William Thomas,⁷ Elias Gardner⁸ & in short to all of those who have applied and received pensions from this County, He states further that Captain William Easterling is yet alive and has given this affiant a Certificate on oath which proves first that he was regularly commissioned & secondly that I served under him for the space of 3 months.

This affiant states that his services were regular and continuous for the term he entered first under Captain Wall for the space of 3 months in 1780 then again under Captain Wall and the latter part of 1780 and lastly under Captain William Easterling for 3 months sometime in 1781 (of this last as to time he does not know but refers to the certificate itself). This affiant states that he is old & worn out with age, and decrepitude, that he is poor & penniless, and throws himself entirely on the mercy of the Department, and would gladly received any pittance & that too speedily which he may be Entitled to.

Sworn & signed before me this ninth Jay 1834

S/ Tillns OBryen

[fn p. 5: On April 18, 1853 in Richmond County, North Carolina, Mary O'Bryan, 66, filed a claim for a widow's pension under the 1853 act stating that she is the widow of Tillotson O'Bryan; that he was pensioned at the rate of \$30 per annum for his service in the revolution; that she married him October 12, 1829; that her husband died July 11th, 1840; and that she remains his widow.]

[fn p. 35: affidavits given in Richmond County North Carolina and dated September 17th, 1853, from Squire B. Lovin and B. B. McKenzie who testified that they were well acquainted with Tillotson O'Bryan, late a pensioner of the United States for his service in the revolution; that O'Bryan is now dead having died some time in July 1840 survived by his widow, Mary O'Bryan.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$30 per annum commencing March fourth, 1831, for nine months service as a private in the North Carolina militia.]

⁵ [Walter Leak S7136](#)

⁶ [John McAlister W1887](#)

⁷ [William Thomas S7711](#)

⁸ [Elias Gardner S6875](#)