

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of Richard Cheshire W25403

Prudence

fn28NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 11/14/10

[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, Bladen County: Superior Court of Law Fall Term 1832

On this the 11th day of October 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Honorable Robert Strange one of the Judges of the Superior Court of Law & Equity for said State, presiding in the Superior Court of Law for said County now sitting Richard Cheshire, a resident of the County of Bladen, and State of North Carolina, aged 73 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 June 7th 1832.

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

Immediately after the defeat of General Ashe, at the Battle of Briar Creek, in the year 1778 [sic, 1779], there was a draft order of Colonel Thomas Brown, one of the Commanding officers of the Bladen Militia. He did not stand a draft, but became a volunteer for six months at Elizabeth Town, Bladen County. The drafted man and volunteers rendezvoused at Elizabethtown and were marched to Fayetteville then Cross Creek under the command of Captain Ephraim Mulford, and were then placed under the command of Captain Timothy Bludworth (Captain Mulford having returned home) in a Regiment of which the name of the Colonel is not recollected, but of which one [name obscured] was the Major. The Troops stationed at that place were commanded by General Harrington; they remained there until within about a fortnight of the time of the expiration of their term of service – being employed in keeping down the Tories, who were numerous & active in that part of the Country. From Fayetteville, they were marched to Cheraw, South Carolina, where they remained about a fortnight, and he with the rest of the Troops was discharged having served his full term of service, and received a certificate for the same, but deeming it at length to be of no use to him, he has lost it.

Afterwards, at a period, when the County of Bladen was much infested by Tories, but the time he does not recollect well enough to state the month or year, he was ordered into service in a company of Volunteer Light Horse, under the command of Captain Jared Irwin, whose Head Quarters were at or near Elizabethtown, except when he was obliged to retire before superior numbers of the Tories. Captain Irwin was almost constantly under arms sometimes with a larger, & sometimes with a less number of his Company, and at the Head of whom Colonel Thomas Robeson, the commanding officer of the County, occasionally placed himself. The men were held liable to turn out on duty, whenever called upon – they were also constantly advancing or retreating – On one occasion, in order to deceive the Tories, they were marched over Neuse River – immediately countermarched crossed the Cape Fear River at night – surprised the Tories encamped at Elizabethtown & defeated them, and mortally

wounded their Commanding officer Colonel Slingsby [?]. He was in the skirmish, and was engaged in the service above described until the close of the War, and as well as his memory serves him, he does not think he would be wrong in saying, that the portion of time in which he was actively employed would amount to nearly 12 months, but is content to claim for seven months, being the time for which a Brother Soldier Musgrove Jones claims; and which he thinks is less than they are entitled to. He was verbally discharged by Captain Irwin.

That when he entered both his terms of service he resided in Bladen County aforesaid; that he does not recollect to have served with any Continental regiments or companies, and that he has no documentary evidence.

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 agency in any State.

S/ Richard Cheshire, X his mark

Answers to the questions propounded by the Court to Richard Cheshire the aforesaid applicant for a pension on account of Revolutionary services

1. I was born in Bladen County N. C., the 27th March 1759.
2. I have; in my Family Bible at home.
3. I was born in Bladen County – resided there during the Revolutionary War, & ever since.
4. A volunteer.
5. I have no recollection of the names of any Continental officers, in these services in which I was engaged. I have no recollection of any Continental Regiments – or of any militia Regiments except as set forth in my declaration.
6. I received a discharge from General Harrington, but have lost it as stated in my declaration: in my service under Captain Irwin, I received no written discharge.
7. Mr. James Bryan, Robert Lyon, Esq., Mr. David Singletary, Geo. Owen, Mr. Thomas Hester, Col. Richard M. Lewis, General Wm J. Cowan & others if it were necessary to name them.

[Robert Lyon and David Singletary gave the standard certification of reputation for veracity, aged and belief in his neighborhood of his revolutionary services.]

State of North Carolina, Bladen County: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions fall Term 1832

Personally appeared in open Court, this the 11th day of October 1832, Joseph Russ,¹ who after being duly sworn according to Law, deposeth and saith.

That he entered the service of the United States during the Revolutionary War, in a Company of Bladen Militia under Captain Ephraim Mulford for a tour of six months – that Richard Cheshire the Declarant was one of the Privates in said Company; that he and said Cheshire marched together with said Company to Fayetteville – and that this Deponent after being there about three weeks attached to General Harrington's Command, exchanged with a man in Colonel Owen's Command, who was going to the back Country & marched off with him – and knows nothing of said Cheshire's services afterwards – further he saith not.

Sworn to & subscribed in open Court.

S/ Joseph Russ, X his mark

S/ Alex McDowell, Clk

Personally appeared in open Court, this 11th day of October 1832, Robert Johnston,² who after being duly sworn according to Law Deposeth and saith that he served during the Revolutionary War in a company of Volunteer Light Horse under Captain Jared Irwin with Richard Cheshire the Declarant – for the space of two years or more; that they were engaged in frequent expeditions against the Tories

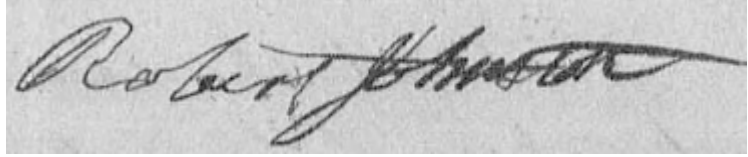
¹ [Joseph Russ S7435](#)

² [Robert Johnston \(Johnson\) S7092](#)

together, & that he recollects that Richard Cheshire was in the Engagement with the Tories at Elizabethtown, and at Rockfish in the expedition against the Tories under Hector McNeil. Further this Deponent saith not.

Sworn to and subscribed in open court.

S/ Robert Johnston

A black and white photograph of a handwritten signature in cursive script, which reads "Robert Johnston". The signature is written on a light-colored background.

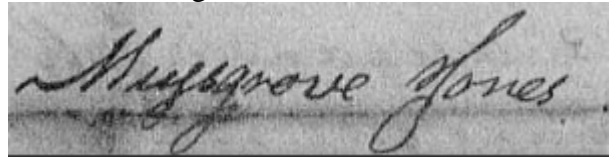
S/ Alex McDowell, Clk

Personally appeared in open Court, this the 11th day of October, Musgrove Jones³ who after being duly sworn, deposeth and saith:

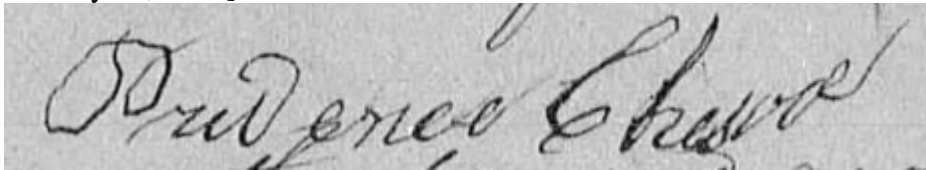
That he served during the Revolutionary War, with Richard Cheshire, the Declarant, in a Company of Volunteer Light Horse under Captain Jared Irwin, for the space of two years, in frequent expeditions against the Tories, & that he was with him in the Expedition against the Tories at Elizabethtown, further the Deponent saith not.

Sworn to and subscribed in open Court.

S/ Musgrove Jones

A black and white photograph of a handwritten signature in cursive script, which reads "Musgrove Jones". The signature is written on a light-colored background.

[fn p. 11: On February 6, 1854 in Bladen County North Carolina, Prudence Cheshire, 76, widow, filed for a pension on February 6, 1854 in Bladen County, NC; she states she married him in 1816; that he died on January 26, 1851].

A black and white photograph of a handwritten signature in cursive script, which reads "Prudence Cheshire". The signature is written on a light-colored background.

[[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$49.16 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 13 months service as a private in the North Carolina militia.]

³ [Musgrove Jones S7094](#)