

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of WILLIAM MELTON: W25703 Rebecca fn93SC
Transcribed by Robin Marshall

{State of Georgia}

{County of Walton} On this first day of July eighteen hundred twenty three personally appeared before the Honorable Inferior Court of the county and state aforesaid the same being a court of record William Melton a resident of the county of Walton in the said state of Georgia aged seventy one years the thirty first of July eighteen hundred & thirty two who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the Act of Congress passed the seventh of June 1832.

That he entered the services of the United States under the following named officer & served as herein stated to wit that this deponent volunteered on the eighth day of May seventeen hundred & seventy eight into the services of the United States in his seventeenth year to go to the Florida Expedition under Captain James Moore and served in Col Leroy Hammond's regiment of the South Carolina line under the following named officers Brigadier General Andrew Williamson Col. Hammond's first Colonel Purvis, Major Josiah Craftin adjutant James Moore Captain James Butler first Lieutenant James Grisly Ensign this deponent William Melton first orderly sergeant Nathaniel Norwood second sergeant Isaac Norrel third sergeant & Maury Davis 4th Sergt. This deponent started the eighth of May seventeen hundred & seventy eighth in the Florida Expedition & returned home the twenty eighth of August.

He was discharged in order in writing by Capt Moore following and this deponent further says that when he volunteered as aforesaid he lived in 96th District South Carolina on Little Saluda after he enlisted at Rogue Shoal on Stephen's Creek in District 96 in SC we were marched to Augusta in Georgia from thence to Cherokee hill seven miles above Savannah Ga from thence to Sunsbury [sic, Sunbury] from thence across St Mary's river where the town is to an old fort 17 miles in East Florida. And this deponent further states that after the army crossed the Saint Mary's river into Florida the British and Indians stole a number of horses from us. Major Elijah Clark [sic, Elijah Clarke] pursued them in Florida about twenty miles where we overtook them; and had a fight where we had three men killed seven wounded & the Major shot through the leg on our retreat back to Georgia the British & Indians followed us to our frontier & renewed their cruel warfare that Brigadier Gen. Williamson returned him to the 96th District in South Carolina on what was called the old rebel road making the time of the service about three months & twenty days as orderly sergeant.

And this deponent further states that on the second of September 1778 he took his father's place marched to fort Charlotte on Savannah river thence he marched to the block house on Rocky river South Carolina and this deponent declares that he served under the same field officers as before this deponent still Sergeant Solomon Pope Captain William West 2 Lieutenant Budy Eskridge first Lieutenant this deponent first sergeant John Ethridge 2 Sergeant. After leaving the block house we marched to _____[looks like "Noiles"] station in Wilks [sic, Wilkes] County Ga from thence we continued on the South Carolina & Georgia frontiers to Phillips ford on Little river where we were discharged after a service of fifty two days on the twenty fourth of October 1778 – making one month & twenty two days still Sergeant And this deponent further states that

he received a discharge for his last services as above from the hand of Lieutenant Eskridge and that the same has been long since lost or destroyed & that he has no discharge at this time &c. And this deponent further states that after he returned in his fathers place on the 20th of October 1778 that on the 27th of the same month & year he volunteered under Lieutenant William West John Conley Sergeant this deponent still Sergeant of Captain Solomon Pope's company Col. L Hammond's regiment we marched to the frontier of Georgia Cherokee Corner where we came to meet General Twiggs of Georgia. When we got there we fell on an Indian trail. Major Andrew Pickens of South Carolina beat up for volunteers to pursue the trail. When this deponent turned out a volunteer we pursued the Indians & came up with them, killed fourteen warriors we retook all our plunder and returned back to our army station in Wilkes County Georgia. We then ranged on the frontier of Georgia until the twentieth of December in the same year then returned to 25th district South Carolina where we resided when this deponent was discharged by Lieut. West but which discharge has been long since lost or mislaid making the last term of service the time of one month & twenty three days which three tours make this deponents term of service as Sergeant up to this time seven months & five days. About this time the British Tories & Indians marched into Georgia took possession of the town of Augusta & attacked the frontier of South Carolina. And this deponent further states that about the seventeenth of December in the same year to wit 1778 this deponent again volunteered in his own and his father's place under Lieut Nicholson of Captain Pope's Company Ware [?] Davis Sergeant of Col Hammond's regiment under General Andrew Williamson Isaiah Crafton adjutant B Eskridge 2 Lieut. This deponent 1st Sergeant, Maury Davis 2 Sergeant John Ethridge 3 Sergt we joined Camp at Stephens Creek we then marched to Liberty hill opposite Augusta east of Savannah river against the British Tories & Indians Col Brown then commanded the British Army at that place – hence we were stationed until some time in May say the twentieth throughout infrequent scouts against the Tories & Indians. Once the Indians attacked Newsome fort on the frontier of Georgia this deponent went with Major Brewer Capt Pope Lieut. Eskridge and relieved the men women & children in the fort after killing several Indians which took place some time in March while the Army was stationed at Liberty hill and in April afterwards General Williamson's Army was discharged which was about the 20th of said month. That this deponent with others under Lieutenant Nicholson were sent to guard the Sand bar below Augusta but the Lieutenant got faint & returned home when this deponent went & joined Capt John Ryan's Company of the same regiment we then ranged against the British until the Battle of Stono commanded by General Lincoln which was about the 20th of June 1779 – after which the deponent returned home to 96th District S.C. and received a regular discharge on the 28th of June aforesaid from Ryan and this deponent further states that he was often out with our contractor James Laman [could be Lamar] collecting provisions for the army until he was ordered out under Lieutenant Nicholson as aforesaid that the time in which he was engaged with the contractor James Lamar was during his last services as above stated that is between the twenty sixth of December 1778 and the twenty eighth of June 1779 that he was in the field during the last mentioned period unless when out with Lamar as aforesaid and that while with Lamar he then considered himself in his country's service which last mentioned period of service was the time of ten months and two days and that when with Lieut. Nicholson he was under the command of Col Hammond between this same period as when with the contractor Lamar Ashe was defeated at the mouth of Brier Creek [sic, Briar Creek] met Gates. And this deponent further states that on the second day of July 1779 Capt Pope resigned Capt John Mitchell succeeded him. This deponent on the second day of July 1779 volunteered under Captain John Mitchell Budy Eskridge & John Berry Lieutenants. This deponent Ware

Davis & John Corley [could be Conley] Sergeants. This deponent in his own and his father's place still in Col Hammond's regiment we then ranged from fort Charlotte to fort Sinencha [sic, Fort Seneca] on Tugaloo, the frontier of South Carolina & through the country until the fall of Charleston on the twelfth day of May 1780 when this deponent was again discharged by Capt John Mitchell on the twelfth day of May 1780 marching from second day of July 1779 to 12th day of May 1780 nine months & ten days making in all up to this time that this deponent served as sergeant one year eleven months & seventeen days. Soon after the fall of Charleston the British marched into the country and built forts & issued their proclamation that all who did not come in and surrender in two weeks all our property should be confiscated to the British crown upon which General Williamson ordered all our affairs to gather and we surrendered as prisoners of war. This deponent surrendered with his officers and continued in peace at home until the first of May 1781 when the British command discharged us from our paroles and ordered us into the British service here were trying times. The old whigs still true to their country & regardless of the threats & mandates of British flew to their arms and determined on freedom or death Samuel Fichling Capt Bates & Capt Lark & Lieutenant Eskridge put their Negroes into the possession of this deponent in order to keep them concealed from the Tories and about this time General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] a besieged Col Gruger [sic, John Harris Cruger] at 96 and when Rodden [sic, Rawdon] from Charleston marched to relieve Cruger at 96 and about the 18th of June 1781 Samuel Fichling wrote to this deponent to bring the Negroes to Wadmalaw Island. All was peace then in the rear of Rawdon's Army accordingly this deponent after consulting with Captain Mitchell proceeded with the Negroes to Wadmalaw Island where this deponent remained until about the twentieth of June 1782 say one year in the employ of Major John Laroach who was paroled to his house & garden at which time last mentioned this deponent returned home to 96th District SC and joined his old Captain Mitchell's troop of horses on the twenty eighth day of June 1782 under the following officers Capt John Mitchell Lieutenant John Berry of Colonel Samuel Hammond's regiment General Andrews Pickens Brigadier John Ethridge 2 Sergeant Robert Melton 3 Sergeant and this deponent first sergeant.

The British still lay in Charleston & sent out plundering parties & out Lying Tories where Capt Mitchell's troop of horse had to be frequently scouting as our troop was during this time engaged in ranging Abbeville Newberry & Orange Berry [sic, Orangeburg] Districts until the twenty eight day of October 1782 say four months where this deponent was discharged by Captain Mitchell in writing but to which has been lost. The Legislature of S.C. sat this year about the first of October to wit in the year 1782 at Granby and during the session confiscated all the Tories property. When Harrod Jones was appointed surveyor of a large portion or body of confiscated land run formerly by Thomas Green & sold to one Adams who was at that time gone to England and this deponent was appointed to assist him in running off said land with a guard appointed directed for safety &c. And this deponent further states that we finished running off the confiscated land about the twentieth of December in the year 1782 – two months & twenty days. And this deponent further states that the said guard was stationed at Ethridge's block house Lieutenant John Berry command the guard – a portion of which attend the said Harrod Jones and this deponent in running of said confiscated land.

And this deponent further states that he never received any compensation for any of his services as aforesaid Except his pay as Sergeant for [?] mos. & 20 days which was worth about two cents on the dollar.

And the deponent further declares that he resided in 96th District South Carolina when he entered the service each time as aforesaid and he further states that he has no documentary evidence whereby to establish his claim and that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his services.

The 1st Interrogatory prescribed by the Department the deponent answers that he was born on Haw river in North Carolina on the thirty first day of July seventeen hundred & sixty one (31st of July 1761).

To the 2d he answers he has a record of his age in his possession at home in an old bible formerly owned by his father.

3d When called into service each term he lived in South Carolina then 96 but now Cambridge District from 96th District he moved in Oct 1783 to North Carolina Green county where he commanded troop of horses on the frontier under General John Sevier from there he moved into the state of Georgia Green County in November 1786 where he acted as Colonel for 16 years – from there moved to Putnam County Georgia in March 1810 and in December 1821 this deponent moved into Walton County Georgia where he now resides.

4th for answer he refers you to the body of his declaration.

5th for answer he refers you to the body of his declaration.

6th he answers he received discharges but from whom see the body of his declaration and that the same has been long since lost or destroyed.

7th Interrogatory he answers & refers you to Hines Holt Esqr Simon Holt Esqr Hon Thomas Williams Esqr John Barrot, Jeremiah Walker and Harry Hardin.

And this deponent further states that he served with an embodied corps as he believes called into service by competent authority that he served in the field during the periods before mentioned and for the time during which the service was performed he was not employed in any civil pursuit. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any state.

William Melton Sergeant

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid. Sworn to in open court.

We Henry Hardin a clergyman residing in the county of Walton and Jeremiah Walker residing in the same hereby certify that we are well acquainted with William Melton who has subscribed and sworn to the above declaration that we believe him to be seventy two years of age that he is respected and believed in the neighborhood where he resides to have been a soldier of the revolution and that we concur in that opinion.

Sworn & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

[pages from bible]

Colonel William Melton was born 31 July 1761

Polly Bates Melton wife of William Melton was born 24th of April 1762

Colonel William Melton and Polly his wife was married 1st [?] February 1780

William Melton son of Wm Melton and Polly his wife was born 29th January 1781 She was Born 2 O'clock

The above Polly died the same day about 6 o'clock

William deceased 9th February the same year

Rebecah Thompson Melton wife of William Melton was born the 25th of December 1778

William Melton and Rebecah his wife was married the 9th of May 1816

Rebecca's petition:

{Georgia}

{Meriwether County} S.S. } On the 5th day of June AD one thousand eight hundred and fifty five personally appeared before me a justice of the Peace within and for the county and state aforesaid Rebecca Melton aged seventy five years a resident of Meriwether County in the state of Georgia who being duly sworn according to law declares that she is the widow of William Melton deceased who was a sergeant in the War of the Revolution and who was a pensioner of the United States at the rate of eighty dollars and eighty three cents per annum. She further states that she is also receiving the said sum of eighty dollars and eighty three cents per annum as the widow of the said William Melton under the Act of Congress approved 3d of February 1853. And for the year of the services of her said husband she refers to his declaration the proof accompanying it now on file in the Pension Office upon which he was pensioned and for the proof of her marriage and the death of her said husband she refers to the declaration & accompanying records upon which she was pensioned which is also filed in the Pension Office.

This makes the declaration for the purpose of obtaining the bounty land to which she may be entitled under the act approved March 3d 1855.

Rebecca Melton

{Georgia}

{Meriwether County} On this 22nd day of December one thousand eight hundred and fifty three personally appeared before the Justices of the Inferior Court in and for the state & county aforesaid Rebecca Melton the widow and relict of William Melton deced formerly of Walton County of this state who drew a pension for service rendered in the War of the Revolution and who departed this life in the said county of Walton on the sixth day of June one thousand eight hundred and thirty six (1836) leaving surviving him the present applicant his lawful widow and relict and she makes this declaration for the purpose of obtaining the amount of pension which accrued and fell due to him the said William Melton in his lifetime which he did not draw, also the amount which may be due her under the _____ acts of Congress _____ in favor of those Revolutionary soldiers widows who were married to their husbands subsequent to (1800) 1st January one thousand eight hundred.

She declares on oath that she was married to her husband the said William Melton decsd in the year one thousand eight hundred and sixteen in Putnam County Georgia and that he died in the receipt of a pension in the County of Walton on the day and date above stated & that she has not since his death married but still remains a widow.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & date above.

Rebecca X (her mark) Melton