

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of John Jeffreys (Jeffers) W26158  
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

[Capitalization partly corrected]

State of North Carolina } SS.  
Orange County }

on this the 26<sup>th</sup> Day of November A.D. 1832 personally appeared before the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions for the County aforesaid it being a Court of Record John Jeffreys aged about Sixty Seven years old who being first duly Sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provition made by the Act of Congress passed June the 7<sup>th</sup> 1832 that he entered the Service of the united States in the latter part of the Summer of 1780 under the following officers & purformed the following Services in Brunswick County State of Virginia was Entered into the Service for an Eight Months Tower under the Command of Captain Thos. Threadgil [sic: Thomas Threadgill] & Lieutenant Wm. Collier & Ensign Asa Grissom Randevooused at Rich'd. Lambs in Brunswick County Va & Marched from thence to Hillsborough NC where we remained betwixt 2 & 3 months thence we marched to Salsbury [sic: Salisbury] NC where we remained about foure or five days thence we marched to Charlittown [sic: Charlotte] NC where we remained three or four weeks thence we marched to the Cheraw Hills South Carolina [winter quarters, late Dec 1780 - late Jan 1781] & was ditached with a small detachment under Captain Towns to go down on Peedee [sic: Pee Dee River] to surprise & take a gang of Torrys [sic: Tories] that had gathered in a barn but after travling a short distance was atacked by the enemy & we was ordered to retreat back to Cheraw Hills where we remained about two months [sic] we were lying at Cheraw when the Battel took place at the Cowpens [Battle of Cowpens SC, 17 Jan 1781] we marched from thence to the Iland ford on the yadkin River where we fell in with General Morgin [sic: Daniel Morgan at Island Ford probably on Broad River] He went on to the Shallow ford on the yadkin as I understood [early Feb] I was sent with others with the prisners that Morgan took at the Battel of the Cowpens unto Pitselvani [sic: Pittsylvania VA] old Courthouse where I was discharged from the Service Our Captain marched us down from Lunenburg County Va where I was discharged This delarent [declarant] resided in the County of Brownswick in the state of Virginia at the time he entered the service as aforesaid This delarent was born about the yeare of sixty five as he believes but he hath no record of his age He resided in Brownswick County state of Virginia untill the yeare 1808 at which time he removed to the county of Orange & state of North Carolina where he has resided ever since and dos reside at this time This declarant received a written discharge but he hath lost it & cant tell what became of it This declarant is known to James Mebane Esq & Wm. Mebane James Smith & Joseph Allison in his neighbourhood and that he hath no documentary evidence of his services as aforesaid nor doth he know any person or persons whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service accept the accompanying affidavits of Charls Whitmore & Drury Jeffrys [Drury Jeffreys, brother of the applicant]

This declarant hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pention or anuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pention role of the agency of any state so far as he hath knowledge

John hisXmark Jeffers

State of North Carolina }  
Orange County }

On this the [blank] day of May AD 1833 personally appeared before the Court of pleas and quarter sessions for the County affore said, it being a Court of record - John Jeffreys aged about 68 years old, 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 June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832. That he entered the service of the United States in the latter part of the summer of 1780 in Brunswick County in the State of Virginia. That he performed the following services as a private soldier under the command of the following officers. That he entered the service for an eight months tour as a private soldier under the command of Capt. Thomas

Thredgil and Leut Wm. Colier and Ensign Asa Grissom. That the Class to which he belonged being called upon, he rendezvoused at Richard Lambs in Brunswick County Virginia and that he marched from thence to Hillsborough N.Ca. where he joined the command of general Stephens, he remained there between two and three months, thence he marched to Salisbury N.Ca. where he remained four or five days thence he marched to Charlotte town N.Ca. where he joined the command of general Green [sic: Nathanael Greene]. he remained there three or four weeks, thence he marched to Cheraw Hills in South Carolina, and that there he was detached with a small detachment under the command of Capt. Towns and then [illegible word] down the Pedee to surprise and take a gang of Tories who had gathered in a barn, but after marching a short distance was attacked by the enemy and ordered to retreat back to Cheraw Hills. There he remained about two months, and that he was lying there when the battle took place at the Cowpens, that he marched thence to the Island ford on the Yadkin river, where he fell in with general Morgan, who, as he understood, went on to the Shallow ford, but that he, with others, was sent over with the prisoners taken by Morgan at the Cowpens. The he retreated with the prisoners before the British to Guilford Court House in the state of Virginia, where he was discharged from the service, having served out his eight months tour. Thence his captain marched him to Lunenburg County Virginia, where he was dismissed. This declarant resided in Brunswick County in the State of Virginia at the time he was called into the service as aforesaid was born about the year 1765 as he believes, but that he hath no record of his age. That he resided in the State and County aforesaid until the year 1808 at which time he removed to the County of Orange N. Carolina, where he has resided ever since, and doth reside at this time. This declarant received a written discharge, but he hath lost it and cannot tell what has become of it. This declarant is known in his neighbourhood to the Rev. James Smith Col Joseph Allison and Alexander Forrest and that he hath no documentary evidence of his services as aforesaid nor doth he know any person or persons whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his services except the accompanying affidavit of [blank] This declarant hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his is not on the pension roll of agency of any state so far as he hath knowledge.

John hisXmark Jeffreys

personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the peace for the County of Orange and state of North Carolina Charles Whitmore who being duly sworn Deposeth and saith that he was born in Brunswick County Va about the year 1765, as he believes but has no record of his age and was res'd within a mile of the above named John Jeffers and that he recolects of him entering the survice of the United States in the militia some time in the summer of 1780 and that he the said Whitmore surved a tower of Duty in the militia at norfolk of six months and returnd home before the aforesaid John Jefferes came home and he believes Jeffers was absent from home in the survice of the united states eight months or upwards and the said Whitmore removed from brunswick Va about 35 years ago to orange county North Carolina where he has resided ever since and further this deponent saith not

Charles hisXmark Whitmore

[24 May 1833]

State of North Carolina } S.S  
 Orange County }

On this the 19<sup>th</sup> day of October 1837 personally appeared before the undersigned an acting Justice of the peace in and for the County of Orange John Jeffreys, a resident of the aforesaid County whose pension of \$26.66 per annum has in in part been stopped for proof that any more than six months service was rendered by the said John Jeffreys in the War of the Revolution

This Declarant here states what he ought to have stated in his original Declaration, and which he mentioned at the time to the person that drew up his first Declaration and who replied to this affiant, that it was only necessary to state that he was drafted, how long he served - in what Capacity - where he served and under what officers, which he did.

This Declarant here states how it happened that he served 8 months - viz. that in the spring of 1780 his father Andrew Jeffreys was drafted to serve a three months tour to the South, but that his father and most of the others that were drafted to serve said tour in the Spring failed to do so, in consequence of which they were compelled to serve an eight months tour,

when this Declarant took his fathers place [see note below] - that one Jones he thinks was the County Lieutenant that sentenced them to 8 months service - that said Colonel Jones was very rigid with the Soldiers and was 'nick-named' by them "Heartless Jones". This Declarant does not know the precise date that he entered the service, but thinks it was about the 1<sup>st</sup> July 1780 - that they were stationed in Hillsboro' some time - Threadgill was Captain - Morris was Major - Stephens was our Brigadier Gen'l. — from Hillsboro we marched to Salisbury thence to Charlotte, thence to Hicks Creek near to Cheraw Hills in South Carolina - thence was marched to join Gen'l. Morgan where I was chosen one of the Guard to conduct the prisoners taken at Cowpens into Virginia which I did. Gen'l. Stephens was with us and at Pittsylvania old Court House my 8 months expired, and I was discharged by Captain Threadgill and returned home. The time I left home to the best of my knowledge & the time I [illegible word] was the 1<sup>st</sup> July 1780, and the time I was discharged was the last of February 1781. I am however positive that in that tour I served just eight months & and that was the period I as a substitute was sentenced by the County Lieutenant to serve in my father's stead who refused to obey the requisition in the preceeding Spring.

John hisXmark Jeffreys

NOTES:

Soldiers of the Virginia Militia who ran at the Battle of Camden SC on 16 Aug 1780 or were absent without leave before or afterwards were sentenced to serve eight months under Continental discipline.

John Jeffreys, Jr. is listed in the 1830 and 1840 federal censuses of Orange County NC as head of a household of "Free Colored Persons." See also his deposition for the pension application for John Jeffreys S8754. Charles Whitmore is also listed in the 1830 federal census of Orange County as head of a household of "Free Colored Persons."

On 19 Nov 1853 in Alamance County NC Delilah Jeffreys, 80, applied for a pension stating that she married John Jeffreys in 1822, and he died 15 Apr 1845. In the file is a copy of a bond dated 8 Dec 1824 in Orange County for the marriage of "John Jeffers" to Dilly Ballard, witnessed by Andrew Jeffers and Eaton Jeffers. In an application for bounty land dated 11 Apr 1855 the age of Delilah Jeffreys is still said to be 80.