

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Jacob Wells W318
Transcribed by Will Graves

Elizabeth

fn56NC
6/24/10

[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 Duplin County: SS

On this the 23rd day of December A.D. 1833 personally appeared before Alfred Ward & Gibson Sloan two of the acting Justices of the Peace in and for the County of Duplin aforesaid Jacob Wells a resident of New Hanover County and State of North Carolina aged seventy-four years and some months, 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 7 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

Colonel Thomas Rutledge, Major not recollected

That he entered the service under Captain Frederick Wells, Lieutenant and Ensign not recollected, Adam Platt Sergeant, that he does not recollect the day, month or year when he entered the service but that it was during the warm season and in 1779 or 1780 he rather thinks it was in 1779 because he was in service before he heard of General Gates defeat,¹ that he left this tour of service under the aforesaid officers in the fall season, that he resided in Duplin County North Carolina about 19 miles from Duplin Court House when he entered the service, that he was drafted in the foot service in other words the infantry for ~~six months~~ three months that he was in no battle while in this tour of service, that he rendezvoused in the first place at Rockfish Bridge the dividing line between New Hanover & Duplin Counties, that from thence he marched to Jumping Rowan two miles below Wilmington, that he served with no Continental regiments or Companies in this tour of service, that he knew -- Generals Joseph Rhodes, Captain Hardy Holmes of the Continental line, Colonels Rutledge, Ashe, James Kenan, Charles Ward and Thomas Bludworth some of whom he believes were in the Continental line. Captains James Gillespie^h, David Dodd^h, Michael Kenan, James Wright^h, William Wright, James Love^h of the Cavalry, Adjutant General Robert Bannerman, General Lillington, that he has no documentary evidence ~~but what he can prove this tour of service by John Duff and resident of Duplin County: the names of the captains marked with the letter h were of the cavalry.~~

This line was crossed through mistake

~~That he entered the service a 2nd time under the following named officers~~

and knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service in this

¹ August 16, 1780.

tour.

That he entered the service again under the following named officers Colonel James Kenan, Major John Moulton, Captain Shadrach Stallings, Frederick Williams Lieutenant, Aaron Williams Ensign, that he entered this service in the year 1781 -- that he does not recollect the day or month but that it was in the winter, that he still resided in Duplin County North Carolina about seventeen miles from Duplin Court House that he was drafted in the foot service (or perhaps more properly speaking the infantry) that he was in no battle during these three months, but that there were some little skirmishing with the British, that he was stationed near the Big Bridge about twelve miles from Wilmington that he rendezvoused in the first place at Rockfish Bridge the dividing line between New Hanover and Duplin counties. That from thence he marched to the Big Bridge where he remained he thinks some longer than the time he was drafted for waiting for the arrival of the other troops, that he has no documentary evidence to show his service, but can prove this tour of service by John Duff a resident of Duplin County NC

That he entered the service a third time under the following named officers Colonel Charles Ward, Major not recollected, Captain James Gillespie, Lieutenant not recollected, Ensign not recollected, that he does not recollect the day or month when he entered the service he rather thinks it was in the last of June or first of July and in the year of 1781 -- that he left this service under the before named officers in the fall and he thinks in the last of September -- that he still resided in Duplin County North Carolina about seventeen miles from Duplin Court House, that he was in the infantry, that his entrance into service was called drafting, that he was drafted for three months, that he was in one battle at Rockfish Bridge the dividing line between New Hanover and Duplin Counties, while in this service, that this battle was fought on the 3rd day of August that he retreated to Island Creek to a place where one John Crook lived, that from thence he [word obliterated by an ink blot] then near this place (Island Creek) he was taken prisoner by a party of the British & carried to Sasecla [?] Bridge where after being kept for several days he was set at liberty but does not know how it was done but that an American officer came to the British camp for the purpose of effecting the release of prisoners, which was done, that he had a very good mare taken with him when he was taken prisoner, that the British kept his mare, and that he never received any compensation for her, that he was stationed in this tour of service at Rockfish Bridge where the battle was fought that he served with some Continental regiments during this tour of service, he thinks there were 5 or 600 regulars stationed at Rockfish Bridge with whom he served in this tour of service, that he knew General Joseph Rhodes, Captain Hardy Holmes of the Continental line that he knew David Jones a recruiting officer that he still resided in Duplin County NC.

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 and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Jacob Wells

Test: S/ Gibson Sloan, JP

S/ A. Ward, JP

Interrogatories proposed by us Alfred Ward & Gibson Sloan 2 of the acting Justices of the Peace in and for the County of Duplin to Jacob Wells an applicant for a pension on account of Revolutionary Services

1st Where and in what year were you born?

Ans. In New Hanover County and in the year 1758

2nd Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

I have a record of my age but my stepfather carried it with him to the southern country
3rd Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Ans. In New Hanover County on a branch of Long Creek about 29 miles from Wilmington since the revolutionary war I have lived alternately in Duplin & New Hanover Counties and I now live in ~~Duplin~~ New Hanover 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?

Ans. I was drafted in all my service

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.

Ans. There were Regular officers who commanded the Regular troops but I do not recollect their names if I ever knew them, there were regular troops ~~but I do not~~ with us at Rockfish Bridge but I do not recollect the names of their respective regiments I recollect ~~the militia~~ Colonel Kenan's Regiment, there were others but I cannot call their names

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

Ans. I received no written discharges, but was discharged verbally at the end of my tours given by Captains Frederick Wells and Shadrach Stallings

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.

Reverend John Armstrong John Moore Esquire, Washington Collins Esquire, Samuel Rivenbark (in this Duplin County) where I have to prove my service on account of the infirmities and age of my witness John Duff and where I was raised and close by where I was born. Reverend William Wells, Reverend George W. Hufham, John Williams Boney Wells, John Duf & others I could name

[George W. Hufham, a clergyman, and John Williams gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[fn p. 9]

On this the 5th day of January 1833 personally appeared before us Alfred Ward & Gibson Sloan 2 of the acting Justices of the Peace in and for the County of Duplin NC, John Duff a soldier of the Revolutionary war who as a witness in the behalf of Jacob Wells and applicant for a pension on account of revolutionary services said John Duff is a resident of Duplin County who first being duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in behalf of Jacob Wells an applicant for the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7 -- 1832.

That I John Duff recollect that Jacob Wells was a soldier of the Revolution that I was personally acquainted with him before and since the Revolution, that he served with me under the following named officers -- Colonel James Kenan -- Major John Moulton, Captain Shadrach Stallings, Frederick Williams Lieutenant Mason Williams Ensign, that he was stationed at the near the Big Bridge about 12 miles from Wilmington, that there was some skirmishing with the British during this tour of service that the general circumstances of this tour are stated on the 2nd page of the first sheet No. 2.

Test: S/ Gibson Sloan, JP

S/ John Duff

S/ A. Ward, JP

[fn p. 56: on April 25, 1853 in New Hanover County North Carolina, Elizabeth Wells, 72, filed for her pension as the widow of Jacob Wells stating that she married him September one, 1812 in Duplin County; that he died November 18 1833 [date written over could be 1843]; and that she remains his widow.]

[fn p. 17: Elizabeth Wells, 74 filed for her bounty land entitlement as the widow of Jacob Wells. Filing is dated April 30, 1855 and was made in New Hanover County North Carolina.]

[fn. 14: marriage license dated October 22, 1811 issued in Duplin County North Carolina to authorize the marriage of Jacob Wells and Elizabeth Evens [?].]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$30 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831 for 9 months service in the North Carolina militia.]