

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Wooddill (Woodill, Woodell)W3911 Catharine Woodill f49NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

6/3/10: rev'd 3/22/17

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading skills fail to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of North Carolina Robeson County: Of Pleas and Quarter Sessions February Term 1833

On this the 26th day of February A.D. 1833 personally appeared in open Court before Shadrach Howell, James Storm and Charles Moore Justices presiding in the Court of Pleas and Court Sessions of Robeson County, now sitting John Wooddill a resident of said County aged about seventy-two years, who being 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 as a private soldier in the infantry militia of the State of North Carolina and served as herein stated. That in the year 1778 when he was between 17 and 18 years old he entered into said service as a volunteer for three months under the command of one Captain Smith of the infantry militia of North Carolina, that at the time he volunteered he resided in the County of Johnson [sic, Johnston] in North Carolina, That immediately after he volunteered he marched under the command of Captain Smith to the town of Kingston [sic, Kinston] in this State where he was placed under the command of General Caswell [Richard Caswell] of the North Carolina militia, that he then marched near to Fayetteville on the Cape Fear River where he remained a short time, that from there he marched to Camden in the State of South Carolina where he with the other soldiers with him, were placed under the command of General Gates [Horatio Gates] of the regular Army. That a short time after he reached Camden, an engagement took place between the British and the Americans, that he was in said Battle, that the Americans were commanded by General Gates, and the British, by either Rawdon or Cornwallis -- that the Americans were defeated and dispersed, that upon the rout which took place, in consequence of said defeat the soldiers were dispersed in every direction and that he returned home to Johnson County, until he heard at what stationed the troops to which he belonged would be mustered, that after being at home a short time he repaired to Hillsborough in this State that being the point designated for they scattered troops of this State to reassemble -- that on arriving at Hillsboro he mustered under Colonel Benjamin Exum until his three months tour expired when the said Colonel Exum discharged him.

This Declarant further states that in about six or eight months after securing his discharge he was drafted in Captain Griffin's Company of infantry militia in Johnson County in this State for three months -- that he marched from said County under the command of Colonel Bryant to Wilmington in this State, that after being there some time Colonel Bryant left, and Captain Griffin had command, that within a short period of the expiration of their term of service the smallpox broke out in the Camp, and that Captain Griffin moved the troops higher up the country -- that there were but it eleven men in the company who escaped the deceased, and that as soon

as the three months were completed, Captain Griffin dismissed the troops, that this declarant received only a verbal discharge and returned again to Johnson County aforesaid.

This Declarant further states, that in about two years thereafter, he volunteered for the term of eighteen months in a company of foot raised by Captain Joseph Boon in Johnson County aforesaid and marched to Kingston in this State, that on arriving there he was placed under the command of one Captain Holmes who marched the company to which he belonged, to Ashley River in South Carolina, at a place about eight miles below Bacon's Bridge -- that here he was put under the command of General Greene of the Regular Army, that from said place he marched under the command of General Greene to James Island near the town of Charleston in South Carolina, where he remained about eight months, that when he left there he was commanded by one Captain Hall who marched a body of men towards North Carolina in the direction of Wilmington, that on their march, many of the soldiers, and he among them received discharges from the service -- that Captain Hall marched with the balance to Wilmington in this State -- this Declarant states that on this tour he only served twelve months the war having terminated before the full term which he had volunteered to serve, had expired --

This Declarant states that he was born in the State of Virginia in October 1761 -- the County, in which he was born he does not know, having been too young when he left, to recollect it, that the record of his age which he had his burnt & that he now has none -- that he is 72 years old -- that the whole time he served as a soldier in the Revolutionary war was eighteen months at least, that all that time he was under strict discipline and subject to duty -- that the Regular officers under whom he served are mentioned in the declaration, to wit General Greene, General Gates and some other subordinate officers, that he received two written discharges, one from Colonel Axum, the other from Captain Hall, both of which are now lost that he has no documentary evidence of his service, and that he does not know of any person whose testimony he can procure who can testify as to his service except Benjamin Tyner¹ a resident of this County. This declarant further states, that he does not know any clergyman who is acquainted with his character, war, his reputation as a soldier of the revolution, or with his age, there being no clergyman at this time residing in his neighborhood -- this Declarant further 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/ A. McEachin, Clk

S/ John Wooddill, X his mark

[Jacob Thompson and William Townsend gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

Questions by the Court

1st Where and in what year were you born?

Answer -- I was born in the State of Virginia, the County I do not know -- in October 1761 --

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

Answer -- I have not -- I head but it has been burnt many years --

3rd Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Answer -- at every period when I entered into the service I lived in Johnson County in this State -- After the Revolutionary war I lived in said County for several years from there I moved to Montgomery County, and then into Richmond County, in this State -- from Richmond County I moved to this County where I now reside and have resided for about 18 years.

¹ [Benjamin Tyner S7772](#)

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 -- The first tour I served I volunteered for three months -- the second tour, I was drafted for three months and the third tour I served I volunteered for eighteen months and served only twelve, altogether I served eighteen months --

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. I served under General Gates at Camden in South Carolina, and also under General Greene at James Island, both of whom were in the Regular Army, I served also under General Caswell and Colonels Exum and Bryant in the militia -- the circumstances connected with my service are set forth 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 did received two written discharges from the service one I received from Colonel Exum, the other from Captain Hall, I also was in my 2nd tour verbally discharged by Captain Griffin -- the written discharges which I received are now lost.

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 -- I am well known by Jacob Thompson & William Townsend who are now in Court, to whom I would refer you for testimony as to my character for veracity, and for their belief as to my having served as a soldier of the Revolution.

~~S/ John Wooddill, X his mark~~

State of North Carolina Robeson County: Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions February Term 1833

Personally appeared in open Court Benjamin Tyner who being first duly sworn, the truth to tell touching and regarding his knowledge of John Wooddill's having served as a soldier in the Revolutionary war -- Saith that he knew said Wooddill when he was a little boy and has known him ever since -- that they lived near together, the said Wooddill lived in Johnson County [sic, Johnston County] and he this deponent lived in Wayne County in this State -- both living near the dividing line of said Counties -- that the said Wooddill when a lad about eighteen years old was a soldier of the Revolutionary war this Deponent says that he saw the said Wooddill marching through Wayne County under the Command of Captain Smith and infantry Captain in the militia of this State about two years after the Commencement of the revolutionary war -- this deponent understood then that said Wooddill had volunteered for three months, and has always understood and believed that he served that tour -- This deponent saith that he never saw the said Wooddill in the service but the aforementioned time but has always understood from said Wooddill and from other persons who lived in this neighborhood at the close of the war that the said Wooddill served during two tours afterwards and that the whole time he served in the Revolutionary war during the three terms was eighteen months. This Deponent further saith that the said Wooddill is a man whose character for veracity is such as to entitle him to credit and that full faith and credit is due to his statements in regard to his having served as a soldier in the Revolution.

Sworn to and subscribed in open court this 26th of February 1833

S/ A. McEachin, Clk

S/ Benjamin Tyner, T his mark

State of North Carolina Robeson County: Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions May Term 1833

Personally appeared in open Court before us Donald McQueen, Thos. A. Norment and Joseph C. Lee Justices of the Peace presiding in said Court John Woodill who being duly sworn in due form of law to state the truth the whole truth and nothing but the truth touching and concerning his service as a Soldier in the war of the American Revolution makes the following statements in amendment of his declaration made at the last February Term of said Court -- to wit -- That by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively to the years in which he served except as he hereinafter specifies -- according to the best of his recollection he served as long as he hereinafter mentions and in the following grades -- in the year 1778 he volunteered in the militia of North Carolina and served as he has stated in his Declaration for the full term of three months as a private soldier & received a written discharge from Colonel Exum -- In the year 1778 or 1779 he does not recollect which he was in Johnson County [sic, Johnston County] in this State drafted to serve three months in the militia Infantry of North Carolina in a company commanded by Captain Griffin whose Christian name he does not remember -- that he served this tour of three months as a private soldier and received a verbal discharge as fully stated in his declaration. This Declarant further states, that in about 2 years after his 2nd tour, the precise year he cannot recollect, but believes it was in the year 1780 or 1781 -- he while living in Johnson County in this State volunteered for the term of 18 months and joined a Company of Infantry militia in said County commanded by Captain Boon that he served under the officers stated in his declaration and until the close of the war, -- that during this tour he served 12 months as a private soldier. This Declarant states that he received a written discharge at the close of the said 12 months from Captain Hall whose Christian name he does not recollect but who was the last Captain under whom he served -- This Declarant states that he was born in the State of Virginia in October 1761, the County he does not recollect, that he is now 72 years old -- That his discharges from service are lost -- that he has no documentary evidence of his service that he does not know of any living witness who can prove his service but Benjamin Tyner, and that all the material facts of his case as stated as he is advised in his Declaration and in this Amendatory Statement -- That he served as a private Soldier in the Revolutionary war for 18 months for which he claims a pension.

Sworn to and subscribed before us

S/ D. McQueen, JP

S/ Benjamin Tyner, T his mark [sic]²

S/ Thos. A. Norment, JP

[fn p. 66 (sic, 5: copy of a marriage bond issued January 21st, 1794 to secure the marriage of Charles Wooddill & Maiden Leacy of Johnston County, North Carolina.)

[fn p. 293 [sic]: on May 15, 1844, in Robeson County North Carolina, Catherine Wooddill, 73, filed for a widow's pension under the 1838 act stating that she is the widow of John Wooddill, a pensioner for his services in the revolution at the rate of \$60 per annum; that he died March 25th, 1836; that she was married to him June 15th 1792; that she remains his widow.]

[fn p. 332 [sic]: own June 20, 1844 in Johnston County North Carolina, John Battin [Batten?], 72, and Elizabeth Battin, 104, testified as to the marriage of John Wooddill to Catherine Battin in 1792.]

² The scribe became confused and placed the signature of the witness instead of the signature of the veteran on his amendatory statement.

[fn p. 379 [sic]: own November 16, 1844 in Johnston County North Carolina James Peden, 87, testified as the marriage of John Wooddill to Catherine Battin that John Wooddill had a brother Charles who got married 2 or 3 years after John married Catherine; that he (Peden) has been married about 50 years and that John and Catherine were married several years before he was married.]

[fn p. 583 [sic]]

State of North Carolina Secretary of State's Office

I William Hill Secretary of State in and for the State aforesaid, do certify, that it appears from the muster rolls of the Continental line of this State in the revolutionary war, that John Wooddell a private in Captain Hadley's Company of the 10th Regiment, enlisted on the 1st day of August 1782 for the term of eighteen months, that nothing more is said of him on said rolls. That he was allowed by a Board of Commissioners for settling the Army accounts the sum of \$76.60.

Given under my hand this first July 1833

S/ W. Hill

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$60 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 18 months service as a private in the North Carolina militia.]