

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of Elisha Reynolds W4060  
Transcribed by Will Graves

Judith                      fn71NC  
rev'd 1/1/10

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State of North Carolina, Wilkes County: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions October Term 1832.

On this the 30<sup>th</sup> of October A.D. 1832 personally appeared before the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions of said County Elijah Reynolds a resident in the County of Wilkes & State of North Carolina aged 78 years who being duly sworn according to Law doth make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions made by the act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup>, 1832.

In the spring of the year 1776 I resided in what was then called Surry County, now Wilkes [County], on the Yadkin River State of North Carolina and have resided in the same part of the Country ever since. At the aforesaid time he volunteered with a small party under Captain William Lenoir to serve as Indian spy along the mountains towards Baker's Station on New River a little below where Ashe Court house now stands. Our term of service was about ten days – the people along the Blue Ridge were generally collected about stations – and the object of our tour was to contribute to their security. In the month of August about the first thing, same year, I volunteered for an expedition against the Cherokee Indians about Tuckaseegee, Tennessee & Hiwassee Rivers – my company officers were Captain Benjamin Cleveland, afterwards celebrated as a partisan officer & Lieutenant William Lenoir now living in this County. Our Regiment was commanded by Colonel Martin Armstrong – and the whole force of the expedition about 3000 men was under the chief command of General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford]. Having joined the General at the head of the Catawba [River], we marched across the Blue Ridge at the head of Savannah [River] & down that stream to the French Broad [River] -- & thence to the Indian towns on the Tuckaseegee & Tennessee Rivers. The Indians fled at our approach . We desolated their Country by the destruction of their corn and burning their towns – Cowee, Big & Little Echota, Hiwassee & other Towns to the number of thirteen were destroyed. On the return of the expedition I was discharged at the Pleasant Gardens near the head of the Catawba having served three months.

In the fall of the year 1777 I volunteered with about forty or fifty others & marched under Captain B. Cleveland, Lieutenant William Lenoir war against a party of Tories, said at the time to amount to 400 or 500 on New River in that part of Virginia which is now Grayson County. Before we arrived at the scene of the operations the Main body of Tories had been disbursed by the Virginia militia – we, however, encountered a few of them & without affecting any thing further returned after having spent in the tour about three weeks.

In the summer of 1780 the Tories in the Western part of this State acquired confidence from the disasters of the Americans and embodied in the County of Lincoln. As soon as intelligence of their movements reached this part of the Country, we volunteered to the number of about one hundred from Wilkes under Captain Cleveland & Lieutenant Lenoir to march against them. A battle fought between the Whigs & Tories in Lincoln County at Ramsour's Mills, between the Whigs & Tories. The day of the conflict we arrived at the field of battle but it was over. General Rutherford was there who had commanded the Whigs – with his force we remained a few days & receiving information of a body of

Tories in the forks of the Yadkin [River] we proceeded against them. Before we arrived at that place, they had marched further toward the South. No further service presenting itself, we were discharged after an expedition of about four weeks duration. Under the countenance & protection of a British force under Ferguson [Patrick Ferguson] a strong body of Tories were assembled in the fall of 1780 & overawed the Country about the Broad & Catawba rivers. Ben Cleveland & Lenoir, the former became a Colonel and the latter a Captain, again marched at the head of the volunteers from this part of the Country to attack the Tories who were said to be collected on the waters of Broad River. I marched with the expedition as a volunteer. On Cain [sic, Cane] Creek in what is now Rutherford [County] we formed a junction with the forces from Virginia & Washington County beyond the mountain, under Campbell [William Campbell], Sevier [John Sevier] & Shelby [Isaac Shelby]. The Tories before we arrived at this place had changed their position. We followed the train of their march & crossed Broad River at the Cherokee Ford. Here satisfactory intelligence of their position on King's Mountain was received and our officers made preparation for immediate attack. My horse being disabled I was left with the guard for the baggage & those who were mounted marched against the enemy about thirty miles distant. The battle was fought on the 8<sup>th</sup> of October [sic, October 7, 1780]. On the second day afterwards the baggage & it's guard joined the Army at Col Walker's in South Carolina. The Tory prisoners were here in number about 700 or 800. Ten of their leaders were here condemned by a Court Martial & they, with the exception of one, who escaped, were hung. I marched with the guard on the prisoners to the Moravian Town where I remained in the service about three weeks – when being sick I was brought home. The length of this tour was as well as I can now recollect was about three months. In the summer of 1780, I went as a volunteer under Cleveland & Lenoir with about two hundred men on an expedition to the Catawba in Burke County. The object of this expedition was to give protection to such Tories as were disposed to comply with the term to of the Governor's Proclamation & enter into the service of their Country. We were discharged after being in this service about three weeks. Late in the summer of 1781, General Rutherford was on a campaign against the Tories near Georgetown. I marched as a Lieutenant under Captain Samuel Johnson & Major Frank Hargrove with a body of men to join him, but for some reason not now recollected, we were ordered back before we reached our destination. This term was seven weeks. In the following winter I marched as a Lieutenant under Captain Samuel Johnson & Colonel Elijah Isaacs with a body of militia against the Tories under Fanning [David Fanning] on Deep River-- and to keep them in check we were stationed near Cox's Mill on Deep River about three months. In the summer of 1781 I joined [name obliterated by ink blot] a refugee Whig from Georgia, and with [several words obliterated by ink blot] forty or fifty men under Captain Lenoir, marched with him to the Hawfields in Orange County. From there I was sent with an express to Major Preston of Virginia with permission to return home after having performed this service. I met the Major at Salem which I served this tour of about three or four weeks. I performed one other short term of service of about one week – with a small party from Wilkes County I volunteered for the purpose of recapturing Col Cleveland who was a prisoner with the Tories. This object was affected on New River. The two terms performed by me as Lieutenant were under the appointment of the Colonel of the County & my commission which I have now in my possession was not issued by the Governor until the first of January 1782. My age is 78 years. General William Lenoir<sup>1</sup> & Captain Samuel Johnson<sup>2</sup> now live in this County who have a knowledge of several of the terms of service set forth in this foregoing declaration. I never as I now recollect received any written discharges.

I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any state.

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<sup>1</sup> [William Lenoir S7137](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Samuel Johnson W5012](#)

Sworn to & subscribed the year aforesaid.

S/ Elisha Reynolds

S/ R. Martin, C. W. C. C.

[Thomas Fletcher, a clergyman, and James Hackett gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

I Samuel Johnson<sup>3</sup> of Wilkes County & State of North Carolina hereby certify that I was a soldier of the revolution & served in the same company with Elisha Reynolds in the expedition of 1776 against the Cherokee Towns on Tennessee, Hiwassee etc. and that he served in the same as stated in the above declaration -- that I also served in the same company with him for three weeks in that tour against the Tories on New River in Virginia. In the expedition to King's Mountain, with this qualification that I was wounded in the battle & was discharged from the service sooner than Reynolds -- That I served with him for the time he stated in his declaration under Cleveland & Lenoir to the Catawba in Burke County to favor [?] the intentions of such Tories as might be disposed to desert the cause of the British. That he served as Lieutenant in the company of which I was Captain under Major Hargroves when we marched down towards Georgetown to reinforce General Rutherford & that we were engaged in that service for 7 weeks -- also that he served as my Lieutenant in an expedition against Colonel Isaacs upon Deep River where for 3 months we were acting against the Tories. I also was with him at the time of the recapture of Colonel Cleveland from the Tories and it occurred as he states. I have no actual knowledge of any other services performed by the said Reynolds but have often heard & always believed that the additional service stated by him in his declaration was performed as he therein states -- I know that he performed his 2 terms of service as Lieutenant by the appointment of the Colonel of the County and that his commission for that office, which I have this day examined, was issued by Alexander Martin Governor of the State in the month of January 1782.

S/ Saml. Johnson

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ R. Martin, CWCC

[fn p. 12: on June 30, 1841 in Wilkes County North Carolina, Judith Reynolds, 83, filed for a widow's pension under the 1838 act stating that she is the widow of Elisha Reynolds, a pensioner for his services in the revolution; that she married him August 10, 1786 in Wilkes County North Carolina; that her husband died December 13, 1836 and that she remains his widow.]

[fn p. 15: marriage license issued for the marriage of Elisha Reynolds to Judith Eddins, both of Wilkes County North Carolina. Said licenses dated August 5, 1786.]

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<sup>3</sup> [Samuel Johnson W5012](#)