

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Elijah Vickers (Vicks, Vicker) W4368

Sarah Vickers

f59NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 2/11/14

[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.]

[p 12]

State of North Carolina, County of Wilkes

On this 30th day of October 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions of the County of Wilkes & State of North Carolina now sitting, Elijah Vickers, a resident of the County of Wilkes & State of North Carolina, aged Seventy three years, 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 7th, 1832.

That he was born on the eighth day of August 1759 in the County of Prince William in the State of Virginia the record of which is entered in a prayer book now in the possession of Captain William Gilreath of Wilkes County N. C. -- when he was about six or eight years of age, his father removed to the County of Chatham in North Carolina where he lived for about two years, and thence removed to the County of Rowan, in the same state, where he also lived about two years, and then removed to what is now Wilkes County N. C. -- this deponent continued to reside in the said County of Wilkes until the spring of the year 1776, when the Cherokee Indians becoming very troublesome on the North Western side of the Blue Ridge [Mountains], and a requisition being made upon the militia of Wilkes, for a company of volunteers to suppress them and guard the frontier settlements, this deponent volunteered himself about the last day of May or first of June 1776, and joined the Company of volunteers commanded by Captain Joseph Herndon, and rendezvoused near where Wilkes Court House now stands and marched to the protection of the frontier settlements on the North Western side of the Blue Ridge; and after scouring the Country for about a month, without being able to effect an engagement with the Indians, they returned home and was discharged. In the month of August or September following this deponent was drafted for a three months tour, to go against the Cherokee nation of Indians again. He again rendezvoused near Wilkes Court House, and was placed under the command of Captain Benjamin Cleveland & Lieutenant William Lenoir, and thence marched direct to the Pleasant Gardens in the County of Burke, where they joined the troops under General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford]. After remaining at the Pleasant Gardens a few days, they marched direct to the Cherokee towns of Cowee, Oconoluflee [?]¹, Watauga & the Middle Towns. At the latter place, the Indians having fled and abandoned the towns, and the troops being sickly from eating green Corn & Beef without salt, a proposition was made by General Rutherford for a thousand volunteers of the ablest and stoutest men to turn out and march to the Valley Towns. This deponent was one among the number that turned out, and when the requisite number was made up, they set out upon the march to the Valley Towns, a distance of about sixty miles -- upon arriving at that place, most of the Indians abandoned the towns and fled -- some few however remained whom we took prisoners -- After

Oconoluflee

destroying their corn and such other property as they could find and burning their towns, they set out upon their return and marched back to the Middle Towns, where they rejoined that portion of the Army they had left. After resting for a few days they marched back to North Carolina, and when the company to which this deponent belonged reached the County of Wilkes, they were discharged, and each man repaired to his home, which place this deponent believes he reached sometime in the month of November.

In the spring or summer of the year 1779, a requisition was made by the State of North Carolina for a certain number of nine months men, who were to be placed under the command of regular or Continental officers – [p 20]² Sometime in the summer of that year, this deponent volunteered himself for 9 months after joining head quarters (which was the time upon which the requisition was made) & joined the company of Captain Micajah Lewis (a regular officer) at Wilkes Court House and marched in a short time to a place called Moons Creek in the County of Rockingham or Caswell North Carolina – it being their intention when they set out to join the northern Army. Upon arriving at Moons Creek however Captain Lewis received information that a large portion of the British Army had gone to the southward, and that perhaps there would be greater necessity for troops in that direction than to the North – upon receiving this information Captain Lewis concluded to return, and gave to his company furloughs until the first of March following – Soon after their return home, it being understood that generally that the British were concentrating a large force in South Carolina & Georgia, and there being a call for the militia of the County of Wilkes, Captain Lewis proposed to his company to March immediately for South Carolina, notwithstanding their furloughs had not expired, stating that all those who then went on should be permitted to reckon their time from the date of their arrival at Head Quarters – This deponent together with a good many others of the company accepted these terms, and set out about the first of November 1779, upon their March for Purysburg on the North side of the Savannah River in South Carolina, where they joined the Continental Army under General Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln] – After joining General Lincoln, they were stationed at and near Purysburg until the following spring, doing nothing more than occasionally taking excursions up and down the River for a short distance, to watch the movements, and keep in check the British Army under the command of General Prevost [Augustine Prevost], which lay on the opposite side of the river. In the spring of the year 1780 General Lincoln with a portion of the Army of which this deponent was one, [p 21] marched up the Savannah River and crossed it at Augusta, intending to March down on the Georgia side and attacked General Prevost – the latter in the meantime however, had crossed the River into South Carolina, & was making his way towards Charleston – upon ascertaining this fact, General Lincoln retraced his steps, and recrossed the River and push forward to the vicinity of Charleston, where he remained with his troops for 2 or 3 weeks, when he made an attack upon the British, who were posted at Stono Ferry, and after a warm engagement of about an hour and a half [June 20, 1779], the Americans retreated to the camp which they had left. In a few days after their return to the camp, the term of service of this deponent expired, when he was discharged by Captain Lewis, and returned home, which place he reached sometime in the month of July 1780 – Soon after the return of this deponent home, intelligence was received by Colonel Cleveland that a large body of Tories were collecting at Ramsour's Mills, upon which he issued orders immediately for all the Whig militia within the County of Wilkes to rendezvous at the Court House – this deponent immediately repaired thither and joined the company of Captain William Lanier, and marched with all possible dispatch towards Ramsour's Mills – when within a short distance of that place they encamped all night, and Colonel Cleveland dispatched 2 or 3 of his men to go forward and reconnoiter the enemy's position, which they'd Ed, and returned about day light; when they all pushed forward as speedily as possible, but did not reach Ramsour's Mills until after the action [June 20, 1780] at that place had been fought – they remained at that place for a day or 2 guarding and taking care of the prisoners during which time an

² completely out of sequence

express arrived, informing Colonel Cleveland that Colonel Bryan (a Tory Colonel) was collecting the Tories in Wilkes & Iredell [counties] and was making his way down the Yadkin – Upon [p 15]³ receiving this information Col. Cleveland set out immediately with his troops in pursuit of Colonel Bryan, and followed him as far as the Trading Ford on the Yadkin [River], but finding that Bryan was too far ahead did, and his own troops not being prepared for a long tour, he concluded to abandon the pursuit and returned home; which he accordingly did, and discharged the troops under his command. In this expedition, this deponent believes he served from three to four weeks. Immediately after his return home, this deponent again volunteered himself and joined the company of Captain Gist and marched direct to Hamblin's Old Store in the lower part of Wilkes County where they joined Colonel Isaacs, and from thence they marched to Salisbury, and thence to the mouth of Rocky River, intending to advance into South Carolina, as it was understood a large number of Tories were assembling near the Cheraw Hills. Upon arriving at the mouth of Rocky River, however, it was ascertained that a portion of the Company was without arms, and had been unable to procure them – in this state of affairs it was deemed best to select a certain portion of the troops and to furnish them with the arms which could be procured – in effecting this, it became necessary to disarm many of those who had arms, and to transfer them to others – this deponent was one of those who was disarmed, and was soon thereafter discharged and sent home. Colonel Isaacs intending at that time to change the direction of his route and to join General Gates. In this tour this deponent believes he served from three to four weeks –

About the last of August or first of September of the same year, orders were issued by Colonel Cleveland for all the militia of the County of Wilkes to rendezvous at the Court House and prepare for marching to oppose Major Ferguson [Patrick Ferguson] of the British Army, who was said to be approaching from South Carolina with a large body of British and Tories – this deponent again volunteered himself and rendezvoused at Wilkes Court House and joined the company of Captain William Lanier – After organizing the troops and making the necessary preparations, Colonel Cleveland set out upon his March for the purpose of opposing Major Ferguson [Patrick Ferguson]. On the way they were joined by Colonel Campbell [William Campbell] of Virginia, with a Regiment of troops, as also by some other troops from North Carolina – they pursued their March until they reached a point near the South Carolina line (which is now not particularly recollected) when intelligence was received that Major Ferguson with his troops had taken post on Kings Mountain – Upon the reception of this information, it was proposed that all those who had horses or could procure them, should immediately advance and make an attack upon Major Ferguson. This deponent having no horse, and not being able to procure one, was necessarily left behind, and although they pursued their march with as much speed as possible, did not arrive in time to engage in the battle, it having been fought and the Americans with their prisoners being on their return a short distance, when the foot man joined them. After rejoining the Army this deponent remained with them and assisted in guarding the prisoners while on their March, until they reached the Moravian Towns in the County of Stokes, where they were stationed for a considerable time guarding the prisoners aforesaid, and until the prisoners were sent off to Virginia or some other place – when this deponent was discharged and returned home, having been in service in this expedition between 2 and 3 months –

Shortly after this deponent returned home, Colonel Cleveland received information that a body of Tories under Colonel Fanning [David Fanning] had assembled on the waters of Deep River & were committing many depredations upon the inhabitants of that part of the country. He immediately issued orders to Captain Samuel Johnson of Wilkes, to raise a company of volunteers and march to their relief – this deponent again volunteered himself and joined Captain Johnson at Hamblin's old store, and marched immediately to Cox's Mills on Deep River, in Randolph or Chatham County – upon reaching Cox's mill they ascertained that Colonel Fanning with the greater portion of the Tories had marched off and abandoned that part of the Country – upon which they concluded to remain at that place for some

³ pages picked back up in proper sequence

time, in order to afford security to the surrounding Country, which was in a state of considerable apprehension on account of the Tories that were believed to be skulking about. During this stay at Cox's Mills they were engaged occasionally in scouring the surrounding country – as soon as quiet was restored, Captain Johnson marched his company home and discharged them. In this tour this deponent believes he served about three months.

Sometime in the month of January 1781 information was received in Wilkes from General Davidson [William Lee Davidson], that Lord Cornwallis with the British Army was approaching from South Carolina – when orders were immediately given for all the militia to turn out and oppose him – this deponent again turned out and joined the company of Captain Richard Allen, and marched for with a view of rendezvousing at Salisbury – but when they had arrived within a short distance of that place, they heard that Lord Cornwallis had crossed the Catawba, and was at that time in Salisbury – upon receiving this information they changed the direction of their route and marched towards Salem with a view of joining General Greene [Nathanael Greene] – when they had advanced some distance beyond Salem orders were received from General Greene directing them to return, and endeavor to form a Junction with General Pickens [Andrew Pickens] who was supposed to be advancing by a circuitous route from South Carolina. They did return, & met with General Pickens near Mitchell's River in the County of Surry – after joining General Pickens, they set out to join General Greene, and when they had advanced on their return as far as Salem, they there joined the Regiment of Colonel Locke [Francis Locke]. Upon leaving Salem, General Pickens with his troops took the direct road to Hillsboro, while Colonel Locke took a route higher up the Country – this deponent was attached to the troops under Colonel Locke, and when they had proceeded a considerable distance an express was received from General Pickens, stating that a large number of Tories had embodied themselves under a Colonel Pyles [sic, John Pyle] (a Tory Colonel) and requesting that Colonel Locke would repair with his troops, as speedily as possible to meet him at Trollinger's Ford on Haw River. Colonel Locke set out immediately, but before they reached the appointed place, General Pickens had engaged with the Tories and defeated them – as soon as they ascertained this, they turned about and marched directly for General Greene's Army, which they joined near the High Rock Ford of Haw River. After remaining with General Greene a few days, Colonel Locke's Regiment, with some other troops were discharged and returned home – which place this deponent reached in the early part of March 1781 having served during this tour from a month to six weeks. This last tour closed the services performed by this deponent during the revolutionary war, except – some short tours against the Tories, the length of which cannot now be recollected. He has lived in the County of Wilkes ever since the revolutionary war, and resides there at this time. He never received any written discharges from the service, except the one given by Captain Lewis for his nine months tour, but which, he had stolen, together with his Pocket Book & some other papers. He has no documentary evidence to prove his services but refers to Mr. William Johnson,⁴ William Gilreath,⁵ Alexander Gilreath⁶ Esquire, Captain Samuel Johnson⁷ & Mr. John Love,⁸ some of whom were with him during the most of the tours he performed – and he can also refer to them as persons to whom he is well acquainted, and who can testify to his character for veracity, if necessary.

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 & subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

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

S/ Elijah Vicks, X his mark

4 FPA S8764

5 [William Gilreath S6888](#)

6 [Alexander Gilreath S8564](#)

7 [Samuel Johnson W5012](#)

8 [John Love S8852](#)

On the day and year aforesaid, personally appeared in open Court, before the Court aforesaid, William Johnson,⁹ who being first duly sworn according to law, deposes and saith that he served with Elijah Vickers the above applicant in three of the several tours of duty mentioned in the foregoing declaration, to wit, the first tour under Captain Joseph Herndon to the North West Side of the Blue Ridge, to suppress the Cherokee Indians, the second under General Rutherford to the Cherokee Towns, also against the Cherokee Indians, and the third under Colonel Benjamin Cleveland to King's Mountain against the British & Tories, and thence down to the Moravian towns guarding the prisoners &c and further that the three said several tours of duty as set forth and specified in the foregoing declaration as having been performed by the said Elijah six, were performed by him.

Sworn to & subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

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

S/ William Johnson

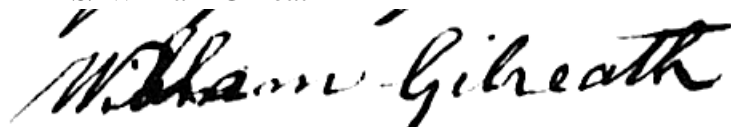


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On the day and year aforesaid personally appeared in open Court before the Court aforesaid, William Gilreath, who being first duly sworn according to law, deposeseth and saith, that sometime in the fall of the year 1779 he volunteered himself for six months, in the service of the United States, and about the first of November of the same year, he set out with others, and marched direct to Pureysburg in South Carolina, where they joined the troops under General Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln] – that sometime before they left Wilkes County North Carolina Captain Micajah Lewis a regular old Continental officer, had raised a company of nine months men, of whom Elijah Vickers the above applicant was one, and at the time he marched as aforesaid, the said Elijah Vickers also marched under Captain Lewis to the town of Purrysburg aforesaid, at and near which place the said Elijah Vickers was stationed until the term of service of this deponent, to wit, six months expired – this deponent further states that from his knowledge of the character of said Elijah Vickers, he has no hesitation in saying that he believes the remaining part of the nine months tour as set forth and specified in the foregoing declaration was performed by him as he well recollects the said Elijah Vickers did not return home until sometime in the summer of the year 1780.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid

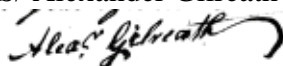
S/ William Gilreath



On the day and year aforesaid, personally appeared in Open Court before the Court aforesaid, Alexander Gilreath Esquire who being first duly sworn according to law deposeseth and saith that he served with Elijah Vickers the above applicant, during two of the tours mentioned in the foregoing declaration, to wit: the tour under Colonel Cleveland to Ramsour's Mills, and thence after Colonel Bryan (a Tory Colonel) as far as the trading Ford of the Yadkin, and the tour under Captain Allen to Salem, where they joined Colonel Locke and thence to the High Rock Ford on Haw River where they joined General Greene – and further, that the said two tours of duty as set forth in the foregoing declaration, as having been performed by the said Elijah Vickers were performed by him.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ Alexander Gilreath



⁹ [William Johnson S8764](#)

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On this day and year aforesaid, personally appeared in open court before the court aforesaid, John Love, who being first duly sworn according to law, deposeth and saith that, he served with Elijah Vickers the above applicant, during 4 of the several tours mentioned in the full born declaration, to wit: the tour under Colonel Isaacs to the mouth of Rocky River in Anson County, intending to proceed thence against the Tories – the tour under Colonel Cleveland to King's Mountain, and thence to the Moravian towns – the tour under Captain Johnson to Cox's Mills on Deep River after Colonel Fanning (a Tory Colonel) and the tour under Captain Allen, first towards Salisbury, & thence to Salem, where they joined Colonel Locke and from thence to the High Rock Ford on Haw River where they joined General Greene – and further that the said for several tours of duty as set forth and specified in the foregoing declaration, as having been performed by the said Elijah Vickers were performed by him.

Sworn to & subscribed the day and year aforesaid

S/ John Love, X his mark

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State of North Carolina Wilkes County: SS

Personally appeared before me, the undersigned, a Justice of the Peace in and for the County aforesaid, Elijah Vickers who being duly sworn, deposeth and saith that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory, he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following grades. For one year, ten months and seven days I served as a private, and for such service I claim a pension –

This deponent further saith by reason of amendment to the foregoing declaration and to obviate the objections of the War Department thereto, that he cannot procure a clergyman to certify as to his character for veracity and his belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution, as there is none residing in his neighborhood, nor any of his acquaintance in the County whom he could procure, but he refers to Mr. William Combs & Archibald Lovelace Esquire as persons to whom he is well known in his present neighborhood, and who can testify as to his character for veracity, and their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution.

Sworn to & subscribed this 16th day of May 1833.

S/ Elijah Vickers, X his mark

[William Combs & Archibald Lovelace gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 4: On May 23, 1843 in Wilkes County North Carolina, Sarah Vickers, aged between 75 and 80 years, made application for a widow's pension under the 1838 act stating that she is the widow of Elijah Vickers, a revolutionary war pensioner at the rate of \$73.33 per annum; that she married him December 29, 1783; that her husband died February 26, 1834; and that she remains his widow. She signed her application with her mark.]

[p 5: On May 23, 1843 in Wilkes County North Carolina, Elisha Vickers gave testimony supporting the statements made by the widow. His relationship, if any, to the veteran or his widow is not stated. He signed his affidavit with his mark.]

[p 8: Copy of a marriage bond dated December 29, 1783 issued in Wilkes County North Carolina to Elijah Vickers and John Vickers conditioned upon the marriage of Elijah Vickers to Sarah Childress.]

[p 41: Power of attorney dated January 2, 1854 executed by Elijah Vickers [sic] who states that he is a son of Sarah Vickers [sic] deceased widow of Elijah Vickers [sic], a revolutionary war soldier and pensioner

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$73.33 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 22 months in the North Carolina service. His widow was pensioned at the rate of \$34.66 commencing March 4th, 1843. It is not clear to me why there was a difference in the amount of pension paid to the veteran and his widow.]