

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension application of Britain Powel (Briton Powell) W4768 Mary fn89NC
Transcribed by Will Graves 9/17/09

[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.]

State of North Carolina Duplin County

On this the 23rd day of November A.D. 1832 -- personally appeared before Alfred Ward and William W. Rivenbark two of the acting Justices of the Peace in & for the County of Duplin aforesaid Briton Powel a resident of said County of Duplin and State of North Carolina aged about ninety-two 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 entered the service of the United States under the following named officers **and** served as herein stated.

Colonel James Kenan, Major John Moulton

That he entered the service under Captain Shadrach Stallings, Lieutenant Elijah Bowen and he thinks Clifton Bowen Ensign, that he does not recollect the day, month or year when he entered the service, but that it was in the spring or first of the summer -- because he had not finished his crop, but thinks it was in the spring or summer of 1777 or 1778, because he had been in service he thinks one year or more before General Gates and his Army passed through this State that he rather believes it was in 1778, that his entrance into the service was called enlisting, though perhaps more properly speaking, he was a volunteer; that he was a Light horsemen, that he engaged for 3 months that he was in no battle while in this service, that he rendezvoused in the first place at Duplin Court House now Duplin Old Court House that he received orders to join Colonel Hawkins Army at Major Richard Clinton's, now Sampson Court House, called Clinton, which orders were obeyed that his marches were principally up and down the Little and Great Coherries [sic, Coharie] and on the South East side of Black River in pursuit of a company of Tories headed by Bigus Mobley [sic, Bigass Mobley?] who commanded the then largest body of Tories in North Carolina that at the above named place the is now Clinton when the residence of Major Richard Clinton, Colonel David Dod [David Dodd?] and Lieutenant Spillar also joined Colonel Hawkins' Army being a body of Cavalry and marched in pursuit of the Tories, that he marched back through Lisbon, that he does not recollect the number of terms of service that he served under Captain Shadrach Stallings, but that he continued in this service from the time he first entered until the end of the war excepting one tour, that in this tour -- he hired one Lewis Pensar [?] to take his place on account of the ill health of his wife; that during this term he also served, in what was then called the Minute Service, that so soon as one term of service expired, he volunteered or enlisted he thinks under the above named officers for 2 or more tours.

That he entered the service again under Captain Frederick Wells, Elijah Bowen Lieutenant, he thinks Clifton Bowen Ensign, that he does not recollect the day, month or year when he entered this service he thinks he entered this service in the spring of the year that his

entrance into this service was after General Gates Army had marched through this State, that it was called enlisting though more properly he was a volunteer in what was called the Minute Service that he thinks he served under Captain Wells and the before named officers 12 or 18 months, renewing his tours, as often as they expired that he does not recollect whether, in this service his tours were longer than 3 months or whether they were for 6 months, that his marches were principally within the County of Duplin for the purpose of routing Tories and for preventing the laws of property.

That he entered the service again under the following named officers Colonel James Kenan, Major John Moulton, Captain Aaron Williams, Lieutenant Joseph Williams, John Goff Ensign that he does not recollect the day the month or year when he entered this term of service, he thinks it was in the month of August and after General Gates defeat, that he left this term of service under Captain Aaron Williams in March if his memory serves him right, that he resided in Duplin County as well in this as in all the service he performed that his entrance in this service was called enlisting though perhaps more properly speaking he was a volunteer, that he engaged he thinks for 6 months, that he was in no battle while in this service but that he marched at one time to Island Creek and from thence to Maxwell Creek and thence up the North East River in pursuit of the Tories and returned back nearly the same route home, that soon after this he marched the same route again in pursuit of the Tories, and that he marched several times to those creeks the is Island and Maxwell and up the North East River and to Doctor 's Creek the dividing line between Duplin & New Hanover Counties, that he was present and assisted in taking 7 Tories prisoners at the house of Mrs. Mary Devane on Black River in New Hanover County, that they were carried to Duplin Old Court House and kept under guard for several days and from thence they were sent to Halifax Jail, that he marched down the North East River towards Wilmington to reconnoitered the British lines, that at a place called the Red House about 12 miles from Wilmington he met with Generals Rutherford and Butler, that he joined their regiments and marched with them to New Bern the distance being about 90 or 100 miles as a guard to their baggage wagons, that on his way back to Duplin he heard of the capture of Lord Cornwallis and his Army at Yorktown Virginia, that he received this intelligence soon after he had crossed Trent River, that Generals Rutherford and Butler were United States officers, that he served with Captain Hardy Holmes of the Continental line at Duplin Court House now Duplin Old Court House 2 or 3 weeks, that he marched with Generals Rutherford and Butler's regiments from the Red House in New Hanover County on the North East River to New Bern that previous to his march to New Bern he met Colonel with Generals Rutherford and Butler he marched down the North East River to the Red house in New Hanover County to meet Colonel William Washington of the Continental Line, that he there joined Colonel Washington's Regiment who in a short time marched towards South Carolina, that he knew you Generals Rutherford, Butler, Colonel William Washington and Captain Hardy Holmes all of the Continental Line, that he has no documentary evidence that he can prove 5 or 6 months of his last service under Captain Aaron Williams, Joseph Williams Lieutenant, John Goff Ensign by Stephen Williams & James Blanton Soldiers of the revolution.

S/ Wm Rivenbark, JP

S/ Britain Powel, X his mark

S/ Alfred Ward, JP

Mr. Stephen Williams¹ a soldier of the Revolution appeared as a witness in behalf of Britain Powel an applicant for the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832 being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration, That I have

¹ [Stephen Williams W26063](#)

Stephen Williams of the County of Duplin and State of North Carolina aged 68 years, found when I entered the United States service under Colonel James Kenan, Major John Moulton, Lieutenant Joseph Williams, Captain Aaron Williams, Lieutenant Joseph Williams, and John Goff Ensign, Britain Powel in service under the above named officers, that I was personally acquainted with him before I found him in the Service of the United States, that he served with me from the time I entered the service until the expiration of the war, that I was with him and recollect that he marched down the North East River in New Hanover County to a place called the Red house on Rocky Point about 12 or 15 miles from Wilmington, that he was present when I met Colonel William Washington's Army, that after Colonel Washington's Army marched towards South Carolina, he returned back to Duplin County, that I served with him in several routes up and down Island Creek, Maxwell Creek and up the North East River in Duplin County, that he marched down the North East River in New Hanover County a 2nd time to a place called the Red House on Rocky Point to meet Generals Rutherford and Butler's Regiments, that he marched with this Regiment 2 New Bern as a guard to their baggage wagons, that as we returned from New Bern, soon after we crossed Trent River -- we received intelligence of the capture of Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown Virginia, that he was with us at Duplin Court House now Duplin Old Court House in company with Captain Hardy Holmes of the Continental line, that he was present and assisted in taking 7 Tories prisoners in the House of one Mrs. Mary Devane on Black River in New Hanover County.

These are the general circumstances that I recollect relative to the service of Britain Powel. I do not recollect the day, month or year when I found him in the service, but think it was in the summer, that we were discharged together at Joseph Williams, that I do not recollect how long he served but think it was 6 or 7 months, because I found them in the service when I first entered it in the summer, that he served until the ensuing spring when peace was made, I do not know how long he had been in the service when I entered it.

S/ Stephen Williams

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

S/ Britain Powel

S/ William Rivenbark, JP

S/ Alfred Ward, JP

Interrogatories proposed by us Alfred Ward & William W. Rivenbark 2 of the Justices of the Peace in and for the County of Duplin to Britain Powel an applicant for a pension on account of Revolutionary Services

1st Where and in what year were you born?

Ans: in Virginia the County is not recollected, & I believe in the year 1740 or thereabouts

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

Ans: I have no record of my age, but recollect it from what my older brothers have told me respecting it.

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

Ans: when called into service I lived in Duplin County, since the Revolutionary War I have lived in Duplin County and I still lived in Duplin 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 enlisted or volunteered 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: I knew Captain Hardy Holmes Generals Rutherford & Butler, Colonel Hawkins all of the Continental Line, and served with their regiments. That I knew Colonel David Dodd captains John Devane and Captain Pipkin and served with their regiments separately a few days all of the North Carolina militia. The General circumstances of my services is stated in the preceding 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?

Ans: I was discharged by verbal orders many times during my services by captains Stallings, Wells and Williams, but received no written discharges

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.

Ans: Reverend William Wells, Reverend George W. Hufham, William Bland, James Newton, David Wells, Alfred Ward Esquire, William W. Rivenbark, Esquire and others I could name

[George W. Hufham, a clergyman and William Bland gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[fn p. 17: On July 3, 1841 in Duplin County, Mary Powel, 80, filed for a widows pension under the 1838 act stating that she is the widow of Britain Powel who applied for a pension but it was not allowed him but she refers to his application for the particulars of his service; that she married him May 10, 1784; that he died October 1838; that she has a record of the birth of her oldest child who is 50 odd years old; that said record is in the hand writing of Morris Fennell, then a neighbor of theirs.]

[fn p. 13-14 family record]

Elijah Powel the son of Brittain Powel & Mary Powel was born October the 4th 17-- [last 2 digits illegible]

Miller Powell was born January the 29th 1788

Brittain Devane Powel, son of Elijah and Mary Powel was born October 19th 1810.

Polly Powell was born November 15

[facts in file: Mary Bland of Duplin filed a power of attorney in which she states that she is the daughter and heir of Brittain and Mary Powel -- the power of attorney is dated April 16, 1853: Isaac Newton, 59, gave testimony on December 20, 1845 that he was well acquainted with Britain Powel and his wife Mary Powel and their children Elisha, Isaac, Jacob, Milly who intermarried with Joel Johnson, and Molsey or Mary who intermarried with James Bland; Isaac Newton states that he was born August 30, 1786 and was a little older than Elisha the eldest child of the veteran and his wife