

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Elijah Powell W5570

Mary

fn38NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

9/18/09

[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: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions November Term 1832

On this the 27th day of November in the year of our Lord 1832 personally appeared in open Court before John Watkins, James Lawson & Gibson Sloane Esquires Justices of the Court aforesaid now sitting Elijah Powell, residing near upon the dividing line between the Counties of Duplin and New Hanover in the State of North Carolina aged about 74 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.

1. Under Captain Ellen, Lieutenant Avin in a Regiment commanded by Colonel Clinch & Lieutenant Colonel Hunter, this applicant being illiterate cannot pretend to state dates in his declaration as he cannot ascertain them with certainty, but it was in the spring of the year that he first entered, that he volunteered for 6 months as a light horseman and served the term that he resided in Nash County & State of North Carolina when he entered, that he was at the capture of some Tories on Contentnea [Creek] in Nash County, where about 30 of them were taken and carried to Halifax jail, that he embodied at Squire Nickerson's on Tar River and marched through & through Nash County & occasionally into the adjoining Counties in quest of Tories, that in this tour he was in a skirmish with the Tories higher up Contentnea Creek than where those Tories were captured, in which 15 of them were killed and 5 taken prisoner; that he has no documentary evidence and knows of no person by whom he can prove this tour of service.

2. Under the command of General William Caswell, Colonels Sessoms & Allen, Captain Brickle, who was afterwards promoted to Major, Lieutenant Phillips who was afterwards appointed Captain, that he does not know the time he entered or left, being unlearned and of bad memory, that he engaged for 3 months but served he thinks at least 6 months, for he entered this tour in the spring of the year and was not discharged until late in the fall or the beginning of the winter that he was hired by class of man who were required by law to stand a draft or furnish a substitute; that he was in a skirmish at Coles Bridge on Drowning Creek in Robeson County North Carolina in which some of the enemy were killed and some taken prisoners and sent to New Bern, that he rendezvoused in Nash County and marched to Kingston [sic, Kinston] on Neuse [River] where guns were drawn by the company, thence to New Bern, where it was said the enemy had been line off on board their fleet, but were gone when he arrived, that from thence into South Carolina on Pedee [River], that he was on the Wateree and Congaree [Rivers], that he was opposite Cheraw Hills on Pedee, that he remained a considerable time in South Carolina & then marched to Coles Bridge on Drowning Creek thence to Fayetteville then called Cross Creek

where he was discharged by General Caswell, written by himself, that he took no care of it and has lost it, and that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure, who can testify to his service.

3. Under Major Bry Ferrell, Captain William Ferrell and he thinks John Ferrell was Lieutenant that he cannot tell the year, that he resided in Nash County but entered in Franklin County, that he was a substitute for Joshua Perry, that he does not know how long the tour was for, but he served at least 7 months, that he was a light horseman, that he was in the battle at Guilford Court House and wounded in the left shoulder, that he was thereupon carried to the hospital and remained there, about 10 days and then furloughed home by the surgeon, that he marched in the first place to Hillsborough, thence to Moravian Town to a public road leading to Charleston, that at this place General Greene's Army joined those to which this applicant belonged, that he served with General Greene's Army, that the regular officers he knew were General Greene and some of his aid-de camps whose names he forgets, that at the battle at Guilford Court House, the Americans gave back, to get a more advantageous post in a bottom, that the militia were posted behind an old fence, a short distance off the road, that he has no documentary evidence and knows of no person by whom he can prove his service.

4. After his return from the battle at Guilford, when he was abed one night a party of the enemy came to the house where he was and told this applicant he must go with them to carry a flat down Tar River for the them to cross in, and compelled him to go, that a British officer offered this applicant sixty guineas to enlist with him, that he refused, but was paroled and compelled to take the oath of allegiance to the king of Great Britain. In a short time after, he met with Colonel Clinch, Captain Ellen and Lieutenant Avin under whom he had served & asked him what he should do, they replied, "Load your gun & go with us;" that he thereupon entered again under Colonel Clinch, Captain Howell Ellen & Lieutenant Avin being towards the close of the war, that he did not engage to serve any particular period, but the times required constant duty and he served to the best of his knowledge something near a year but will say 6 months, that he was a volunteer light horseman, that he was in a skirmish with the Tories in Franklin County on Crooked Creek where 7 or 8 of the Tories were killed & some wounded and 4 or 5 of the Americans, that the Tories fled and took refuge in a large march on Contentnea Creek as was said, that his marches were in Nash and the adjoining Counties in pursuit of the Tories and on one occasion went to Halifax on the trail of the British, that he has no discharge and knows of no person by whom he can prove this service.

Answer of Elijah Powell the aforesaid applicant to the questions propounded to him by the Court aforesaid which are prescribed by the War Department

1. I was born in Franklin County North Carolina on Tar River in what year I do not know
2. I have no record of my age
3. In Nash County, & continued to live there till about 35 years ago when I removed to where I now live on or near the dividing line between Duplin & New Hanover Counties.
4. Volunteered & served as a substitute
5. I cannot name any but General Green, I recollect General Greene's Army, which were the only continentals I recollect or saw, -- the militia regiments I remember are Colonel Clinch's, Colonel Seawell's, Caswell's & Colonel Sessom's. I also recollect some French soldiers, the general circumstances of my service as well as I can recollect all as above stated.
6. I received 2 discharges one from Captain Ellen, and one from General Caswell, and I think one from a Colonel Hunter, and it appears to me I received one from Colonel Clinch, but I have lost them all.

7. James Mashburn, James Johnson, Charles Page, Jesse Lee, Daniel Bland, William Bland, William Newton, Alfred Ward, Enoch Alderman, Timothy Newkirk, Benjamin Newkirk, Joseph Williams, Joel Johnson, Joab Johnson, George W. Hufham &c

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State.

Test S/ P. Murphy

S/ Elijah Powell P his mark

[Alfred Ward and William Newton gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

State of North Carolina Duplin County: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions November Term 1832

On this the 25th day of November 1832 before the worshipful Justices of the Court aforesaid viz. Stephen Graham, James Lawson and Richard Miller now sitting, personally appeared Elijah Powell the aforesaid applicant who being duly sworn, to explain the preceding declaration, doth on his oath, declare and say, that he actually served 7 months continual service as a private soldier in a company of cavalry under Captain William Ferrell before he was wounded and carried to the hospital has stated in his preceding original declaration he is illiterate & his memory bad & he cannot state dates -- but in all his services taken together he actually served 19 months as a private of cavalry and 6 months as a private of Infantry,

Sworn & subscribed the day and year aforesaid

S/ Jas. Carrell, D. Clk

S/ Elijah Powell, P his mark

[fn p. 34]

State of North Carolina Sampson County

On this the 29th day of August A.D. 1834 before the undersigned a Justice of the Peace in & for said County, personally appeared Elijah Powell an applicant for a pension under the Act of Congress of June 7th 1832 to explain his preceding original declaration and being duly sworn, doth on his oath declare and say, that in consequence of a long spell of sickness about 15 years ago, which continued for several years and from which this applicant is not now entirely exempt, his memory became very much impaired, and this circumstance together with his old age renders him very inadequate to give a full or satisfactory account of his services during the Revolutionary War -- but will endeavor to make out with as much precision and correctness as possible a detailed statement of them --

1st Being enrolled in the militia of Nash County North Carolina this applicant thinks in the spring of the year 1779, there being a demand for soldiers, Colonel Thomas Hunter the acting Colonel of said County ordered out the militia for a draft. This applicant, rather than stand a draft, volunteered and entered service as a private in a company of cavalry consisting of about 100 men, under Captain Howell Ellen – Lieutenant Avin, for 3 months and served the term out. It being reported that the British had landed at New Bern, they marched thither and found the reports to be faults -- it was said however they were at the flats in their shipping -- From New Bern he was marched to Kingston [sic, Kinston], thence to Godwin's bridge across Contentnea Creek, where he was in a skirmish with the Tories (among whom were 2 British deserters) and killed 3, wounded some, took 5 prisoners, including the British deserters who were sent to New Bern jail, and put the whole party to rout. From thence he marched to Drowning Creek -- and was there in a skirmish with a party of Tories and defeated them killing about 6 and wounded some -- 2 of our company were killed the is Dance & Williamson -- from thence he was marched back to Contentnea [Creek] in Nash County and came upon a party of Tories at the plantation of

a Mr Pugh who was himself a Tory, fired upon them in a thicket and they dispersed without returning the fire -- thence he marched to Squire Nickerson's on Tar River, where was kept provision for the soldiers -- at which place, having served out the 3 months for which he entered was discharged together with the whole company who remained together, loss excepted, the term out -- it being ended as the applicant believes in the latter part of the summer 1779.

2ndly -- In the fall of the same year viz. 1779 as this declarant believes; the country being continually infested by the Tories, he was called out by order of Colonel Hunter and entered service again as a volunteer in a company of militia cavalry under the same officers as the last mentioned tour his Captain Ellen, & Lieutenant Avin and served 3 months as a private -- This Company rendezvoused at Squire Nickerson's, and it being a station, where provisions and other necessities were convenient, was made a place of resort when the company were not out upon excursions. During this tour a party of Tories being collected at a race ground -- one of our company was sent thither as a spy, used his endeavors to intoxicate the enemy, and returned to us. As night approached the enemy repaired to the house of their friend, a Mr. Phillips which was convenient, and our company immediately surrounded them, killed some, 3 in number and took several say between fifteen & twenty prisoners who were conducted after being tied to Halifax jail. This applicant does not recollect any other particular circumstance that occurred in this tour.

3rdly -- In the spring of the year 1780 as this declarant believes, it being required by law to raise troops to aid South Carolina, the militia of Nash County was ordered out for a draft, and this declarant volunteered for a class who were required to furnish a man, and entered service under General William Caswell, Colonels Sessoms & Allen, Captain Brickle afterwards promoted to Major, & Lieutenant Phillips afterwards Captain and served 3 months as a private -- and marched to Kingston and drew guns, thence to South Carolina, across Pedee and he thinks the Wateree--- at Camden he fell in with some Continental troops under an officer named Bluford [sic, Buford] -- a short time previous to that Charleston had been taken by the British and the Americans were fleeing from them -- thence to Coles Bridge on Drowning Creek, thence to Cross Creek now Fayetteville where he was discharged by General Caswell.

4thly -- In the first of the year 1781 as this applicant believes, he went into Franklin County North Carolina and a company of cavalry being about to be raised to go against the enemy, was hired as a substitute by one Joshua Perry and entered service in a company of cavalry under Major Bry Ferrell, Captain William Ferrell & John Ferrell Lieutenant, marched to Hillsboro, thence on towards Moravian Town and joined General Greene's Army on the public road leading to Guilford Court House, thence to Guilford Court House where or near which he was in the battle at that place and was wounded in the shoulder as stated in his original declaration and was furloughed, having served 2 months as a private.

5thly -- After his return from the battle of Guilford while he was abed one night at his brother-in-law's Hardy Strickland's, a party of the enemy came there under the direction of one Henry Adkins, who inquired for this applicant & one Alford. We were called up and compelled to go with him to carry a flat down the River for the British to cross in the bridges having been broken up to prevent them from passing over -- a British sergeant offered this applicant sixty guineas to enlist but he refused -- compelled him to take the oath of allegiance to the King of Great Britain and gave this applicant and Alford a parole or protection -- and permitted us to return home. On their return apprehending danger from outliers or disaffected persons, they traveled the most private way and went to the granary at Squire Nickerson's, which was kept guarded, and a place of rendezvous where he met with Colonel Clinch, Captain Allen &

Lieutenant Avin -- and consulted them what he should do -- as he had taken an oath to the King of Great Britain. They told him he must swear back again and load his gun & go with them against the British, who were then near, on their march northwardly; that he thereupon volunteered and entered service again in a company of militia cavalry under Colonel Clinch Captain Ellen & Lieutenant Avin, in May as he thinks 1781 and pursued the British as far as Halifax, overtook a party of them in the rear, took them prisoners and put them in jail at that place. After this, their services were directed against the Tories, who were now become more bold in consequence of the late apparent success of the enemy -- and their late presence in marching through that section. During this tour on several occasions his company made prisoners of the Tories -- killed some and hanged some -- Colonel Clinch killed two by the name of Ricks with his sword & hung 3 at his gate who we had taken. His whole company continued together with the tour out -- he having served 3 months as a private in this tour --

6thly -- This applicant is under the impression he served other short tours in expeditions against the Tories as need required, but being of short duration dispensed with them.

Sworn & subscribed the day & year aforesaid before me

S/ G. W. Robinson, JP

S/ Elijah Powell, X his mark

[fn p. 13: On July 24, 1839 in New Hanover County North Carolina, Mary Powell, 68, on the 16th of March last, applied for a widow's pension under the 1838 act stating that she is the widow of Elijah Powell a pensioner for his services in the revolution at the rate of \$56.66 per annum; that she married him June 11, 1789; they were married by William Robinson Esquire of Sampson County North Carolina who she understands is still living; that her husband died April 2, 1835; that she remains his widow; that she has no record of her birth or marriage; that she wants had a record of her birth in her father's family Bible but her brother, Jacob Powell, barred it from her father to transcribe his age as he was moving away and was killed in a short time thereafter the book never being returned; that she has a record of the births of her children (before eldest) in the hand writing of John Fellows who is now deceased. And attached affidavit by the justice of the peace who took Mary's application indicates that she lived 42 miles from the courthouse in Wilmington and due to bodily infirmity could not travel to the court to make her application.]

[fn p. 20 family record]

Ages of Children born to Elijah Powell

Zany Powell born December 27, 179_ [sic]

Nelly Powell born September 17 1792

Jacob Powell born August 21 1794

Williby Powell born December 5 1796