

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Josiah Singletary W6064      Sarah P.      fn43NC  
Transcribed by Will Graves      2/16/11

[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. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading fails to catch all misinterpretations. I welcome and encourage folks to call those and any other errors to my attention.]

State of North Carolina Bladen County: Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions

On this the 4 day of February 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the Worshipful William H Beatty, Alex King and J. I. McMillan Justices of the Peace for said County, holding the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for the County of Bladen, now sitting – Josiah Singletary, a resident of the County of Bladen, and State of North Carolina aged seventy years October 24, 1832; 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, under the following named Officers and served as herein stated.

1. That in the fall of the year 1777 (as well as now recollected) he became a Substitute for his Uncle Benjamin FitzRandolph, who had been drafted into a Company of Bladen Militia commanded by Captain Charles Bullock and Lieutenant William Dye called into service by order of Colonel Thomas Brown commanding the Bladen Militia, on an expedition against the Tories who had collected in considerable numbers on and near the South Carolina line, in Robeson, then a part of Bladen County, the County being formed from different parts of the County, rendezvoused at Fair Bluff in the County of Columbus then a part of Bladen – thence they marched to Ashpole, thence to a place called the Goose Pond – thence to Bear Swamp. The Tories continued to retire and finally dispersed. At Bear Swamp, the Company was relieved by another portion of Bladen Militia under the command of Colonel James Richardson, and were discharged, having performed one months tour of duty. He received a written discharge from Colonel Brown but has long since lost it. Major Robert Raiford, who was called a Continental Officer was with the Company – but in what capacity he then acted, he does not recollect. On that occasion there was no other Troops of any description called out.

2. In the beginning of the year 1778 (as well as recollected) Captain Jared Irwin raised a Troop of Light Horse, in the County of Bladen, in which he became a Volunteer, and which Company continued in service, though not constantly till the close of the War. Colonel Thomas Robeson, who, at an early period of the war, had been Colonel of the County, but had resigned, also raised a Troop of cavalry, the two Companies sometimes acted together, and whenever that was the case Colonel Robeson commanded – a man by the name of McDaniel commanding his Company; but most generally, he and Captain Irwin took the field alternately with their companies sometimes

for one – two, or three weeks, and occasionally for a longer period. He was in an expedition against the Tories, who had collected in the County of Robeson (then Bladen) under the famous Colonel Hector McNeill. On this occasion, they were accompanied by Colonel Robeson's Company, and a Company of Light Horse from Cumberland County under Captain Patrick Travis. They approached the Tories so near being separated only by a small swamp that the sentinels on each side conversed with each other. The object being to surprise the Tories, but being defeated in that, and they being more numerous, (as was soon ascertained) than the Whigs – Colonel Robeson concluded to retire, and marched to Stewart's Mills near Rockfish Creek, 7 or 8 miles below Fayetteville. Within a day or two after arriving there, the Tories under McNeill, made an attack in front and rear. The Whigs broke through their front, and effected a retreat with the loss of a private William Strong killed. His Brother Joseph Singletary was severely wounded, and this Declarant's horse was also wounded. The Company collected again on the Cape Fear River, and the next day, he and several others under Colonel Robeson returned to Stewart's Mill to see what had become of the Tories. They had gone off; upon ascertaining which, the Company returned home.

He was in another expedition against the Tories, in the same Company. They had collected at Sterlings Mills on Drowning Creek or Lumber River. Irwin's Company surprised, and defeated them as they were crossing the mill dam. In their precipitate flight, they left a considerable number of their horses, which were taken.

He was engaged in various other expeditions under Captain Irwin in different parts of the Country, but how often, when and the other circumstances he does not recollect. The County of Bladen then embraced a large extent of territory, and within its limits, the Tories, being mostly emigrants from the Highlands of Scotland, were numerous, active, and loyal to the British Government. The Head Quarters of Irwin was at Elizabeth Town, except when obliged to retire before superior numbers of the enemy. On one occasion the Tories emboldened by the march of Lord Cornwallis's Army down the Cape Fear River towards Wilmington, collected to the number of 3 or 400 in Elizabethtown, the Company owing to inferiority of force, being obliged to retire across the Cape Fear – Colonel Robeson, who took command of the Company, in consequence of Captain Irwin's being disabled by a severe attack of the smallpox, caught from a British deserter, took command of the Company, and being of opinion that it would not be prudent to remain near so large a force of the enemy, conducted the Company over Neuse River, but immediately returned. On their countermarch from Lisbon to Sampson County between Colley Swamp and the Cape Fear, about nine miles from Elizabeth, they were met by Mrs. McRee, the mother of Major Griffith J. McRee [Griffith John McRee] of the Continental Army, who left home for the purpose of apprising them of the situation of the Tories. By that time they had been joined by Colonel Brown, and Owen, and Captain Peter Robeson, and several other Whigs, and in consequence of the information received from Mrs. McRee, an attack on the Tories was determined on – although the whole force of the Whigs did not exceed eighty men. They accordingly marched to the Cape Fear, and forded it at night, about half or three quarters of a mile below the village – attacked the Tories at a point called Tory Hole – drove them to the upper end of the Village; where the ammunition of the Whigs having been expended, they were under the necessity of retiring: after having killed or mortally wounded their commanding officer Colonel Slingsby, Captain David Godwin and a private named Edward Harrison – Lieutenant Baldwin and several privates were severely wounded. Of the Whigs none were killed, and only two privates James Singletary, and James Cain slightly wounded. The Tories were so severely handled, that they dispersed the next morning. He was in active service, in Irwin's Company, at

least twelve months. For it was notorious, that there was not in this part of the Country, a more zealous, active and intrepid partisan Officer in the Whig service, then Captain Irwin, and no one did more in sustaining, within his limited sphere of action, the common cause. His men were held ready for service at a moment's warning, and for a period of more than three years, they were for a considerable portion of the time, in the field, exposed to every species of hardships and privations. He, this Declarant, unless prevented by sickness or some unavoidable circumstance, never flinched from a faithful performance of his duty – although he was only in the fifteenth year of his age, when he entered the Company. After the skirmish at Elizabethtown, the Company was never called into active service. He received no written discharge, and if any Continental Officers ever acted with Captain Irwin's Company, he has no recollection of them. He never acted with any militia regiments, has no documentary evidence, and the only witnesses of his service whose testimony he can procure our William Bryan and Richard Cheshire whose affidavits are hereunto annexed.

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 and subscribed the day & year aforesaid

S/ Josiah Singletary, X his mark

Answers to the Interrogatories prescribed by the War Department as propounded to the applicant by the Court.

1. I was born in Bladen County, October 24th 1763
2. There was a Record of my age in my Mother's possession until her death, and I believe my Brother Joseph Singletary<sup>1</sup> carried it with him to Florida, where he now resides.
3. In Bladen County, and have resided there ever since.
4. I was a substitute in Captain Bullock's and a volunteer in Captain Irwin's Company.
5. For answer, I beg leave to refer to the body of my Declaration.
6. I never received but one discharge, which was for one month service under Captain Bullock, which I have lost.
7. The Reverend Elias Davis, William Parker, David Pate, Johnson Singletary, Thomas Hester, Colonel Richard M. Lewis, Colin Munroe and others who he could name were it necessary.  
[Colin Munroe and Richard M. Lewis gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

State of North Carolina Bladen County

Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions February Sessions A.D. 1833

Personally appeared in open Court this the 4th day of February 1833 before the Worshipful Will H. Beatty, Alex King & John J McMillan Justices of the Peace for the County of Bladen, holding said Court now sitting – Richard Cheshire,<sup>2</sup> who after being duly sworn according to law made oath – That he recollects serving with the Declarant Josiah Singletary, during the Revolutionary War in Captain Jared Irwin's Company of volunteer Cavalry: that he was engaged with him in frequent expeditions, in various parts of the County of Bladen, and the adjoining Country, being in actual service from the first raising of the Company, until the termination of hostilities. He recollects distinctly that said Singletary was in the expedition over the River Neuse, and was afterwards in the skirmish with the Tories at Elizabethtown. There was not a more active Soldier, or one more constant in service, in the Company.

S/ Richard Cheshire, X his mark

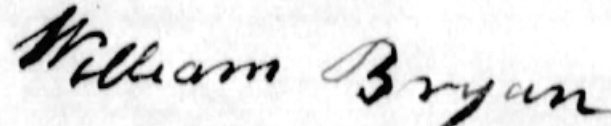
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<sup>1</sup> I believe this is likely to be the same man as [Joseph Singletary \(Singleton\) S47849](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Richard Cheshire W25403](#)

State of North Carolina Bladen County: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions February Sessions 1833

Personally appeared in open court, this the 4th day of February 1833, before the Worshipful William H Beatty, Alex King and John J McMillan Justices of the Peace holding said Court for said County – William Bryan<sup>3</sup> who after being duly sworn according to law, deposeth and saith, That he served one months tour of duty, during the revolutionary War, with the Declarant Josiah Singletary, in an expedition to Drowning Creek and to South Carolina line in a company of Bladen Militia under the command of Captain Charles Bullock and Lieutenant William Dye – and that after they had performed thereto of duty – they were discharged. Further this Deponent sayeth not.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William Bryan". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and somewhat slanted to the right.

[fn p. 14: on August one, 1853, in Bladen County North Carolina, Sarah P Singletary, 75, filed for a widow's pension under the 1853 act stating that she is the widow of Josiah Singletary, a pensioner for his service in the revolution at the rate of \$43.20 ; that she married him July 4th in the year 1833; that her husband died October 18, 1844; and that she remains his widow.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$43.33 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 13 months service as a private in the North Carolina militia.]

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<sup>3</sup> [William Bryan S8089](#)