

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Benjamin Woodruff W6583

Sarah

fn52NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

6/3/10

[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 errors to my attention.]

State of Tennessee Lincoln County: SS

On this the 19th day of October 1832 personally appeared in open Court, before the Justices of the Court of Pleas and quarter Sessions for said County and State, now sitting, Benjamin Woodruff a resident of the County of Lincoln and State of Tennessee, aged seventy-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 (that is to say) That he entered the service of the United States in the month of May or June 1780, the particular day he does not recollect. The Captain of the company in which he served was named James Richards, the Lieutenants were named David Harris & Dominic Curry. The company was attached to Colonel Benjamin Sewell's Regiment General Sumner was the commander in chief. The number of the Regiment he does not recollect -- He entered the service in Franklin County North Carolina, and served the term of 5 months under the aforesaid officers -- General Sumner was the only General who commanded the troop he served with during the aforesaid period. He volunteered and rendezvoused at Lewisburgh [sic, Louisburg] in Franklin County North Carolina, on Tar River, when the Army left that place -- they went to Ramsey's Mills on Cape Fear River, from the latter place, he went to Cheraw Hills on Pedee River, at this place, there was some accession of strength to our Army from the troops who had been defeated under General Gates at Camden, from this place we marched up Pedee to the adkin [sic, Yadkin River], and crossed at the Island Ford, and then marched towards the Catawba River, in the Town of Charlotte the light horse attached to our Army had a slight engagement with the British light horse -- who proving too strong for the former, they retreated in good order without much damage -- from this place we marched to Salisbury at which we were discharged = In the same Regiment in which he served, Captain Bunn commanded a Company the adjutant in our Regiment was named Knight, he left the Army before, our Regiment was discharged, and who was whipped by Captain Bunn, with a switch =, and who afterwards borrowed a pistol from my brother William Woodruff = and I never heard of him afterwards =, He further states that during the aforesaid term of service, whilst the Army were encamped at Monroe's Bridge on Drowning Creek, this sentinels were fired on by the Tories who were driven off without any damage on our side, during the said night Captain Richards beat up for volunteers to go out as a picket guard,

and myself & about thirty others joined him, and went between 2 & 3 miles and there remained until the next morning, = He was discharged as well as he recollects in the month of November 1780.

After he was discharged, and in a few days thereafter he went to Brunswick County in the State of Virginia = in which County his Father lived, = and in some short time after his arrival there he was drafted for three months and entered the service under the command of Captain Paul Hartwell and Colonel of the Regiment was named David Fisher, he rendezvoused at Walker's mill on Nottoway River, and from thence they marched towards a place then called Chuckatuck but in some short time, we were informed our services was not required = and were discharged, how long he served at this time, he cannot now recollect -- but not the full term for which he was drafted = but to the best of his recollection he would suppose about two months -- the particular time of his discharge he cannot recollect = nor the time at which he entered the service = but he well recollects it was in cold weather during his service.

After this, he returned to Franklin County North Carolina the particular date he does not recollect, but thinks it was in the spring of the [year] 1781 -- two notorious Tories named Bob Beard & Peter Porch had raised a company of Tories and were doing a great deal of mischief = Captain Harry Hill raised a company of volunteers to go against this gang of Tories, in which he volunteered; and the company immediately set out in pursuit of said Company of Tories -- and overtook them at Swift Creek in Halifax County within about three miles of the British line = at Brittain Drake's, we there defeated them, released the prisoners they had taken, and took Beard & Porch prisoners and carried them back to Colonel Sewell's Regiment, which had just rendezvoused at little Lynches Creek in Franklin County; and there Beard was tried by the officers & hung him in less than one hour and Porch was hung the next day, he then volunteered and joined Colonel Sewell's Regiment for three months = he joined the Company of Robert Hyte [Robert Hite or Height?], attached to said Regiment = Matthew Wood was major in said Regiment, at some short time after he joined this Regiment aforesaid, for some reason he knows not what Colonel Sewell went home, & Colonel William Lynton [sic, William Linton] took command during this tour of three months we were principally engaged in suppressing the Tories in the Counties of Nash, Edgecombe, Bluford [Beaufort] & Duplin, -- in the County of Edgecombe, and two others got permission from the officers to leave the Regiment to get some provision, about one mile from the Regiment, they were waylaid by five Tories =, a rencounter ensued in which he was badly hurt, but made his escape, and soon got a reinforcement headed by Colonel Linton & pursued them, one of whom he shot as he ran = After this term of service expired he again went to Brunswick County in Virginia his brother George Woodruff who had a family, gone in the Army a few weeks before his arrival = he being a young man without a family, went to the Army & took the place of his brother at Swan's Point on James River. Captain Marshall commanded the company which was attached to the Regiment of Colonel Richard Elliott, = he thinks it was in the month of August 1781, he took the place of his brother at Swan's Point, = he remained there some time how long he does not recollect, before the Regiment marched to little York, but before the Regiment marched he was taken sick & put in the Hospital, and remained there until after the capture of Cornwallis, = how long it was after he took the place of his brother, until he was able to leave the hospital, he does not distinctly recollect but thinks it was at least three months = whilst at the Hospital his life was despaired of = and knows one expected he would recover, = He further states that he has no written data by which he can't tell the precise day of the month or time at which he entered & was discharged from the Tours of service aforesaid, = and in making the foregoing declaration he has spoken entirely from his

recollection = There is no person living of whom he has any knowledge by whom he can prove his having rendered any of the services aforesaid, = nor any documentary evidence of that fact. He further states that he received 3 discharges -- one from Colonel Benjamin Sewell, one from Colonel William Linton & one from Colonel Daniel Fisher, those discharges have long since been lost or destroyed =

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to any pension or annuity, except the present, and declares, that his name is not on the Pension Roll of the agency of any State of the Union =

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

S/ Robert Inge, Clerk

S/ Benjamin Woodruff, X his mark

[Albert G. Gibson, a clergyman, and Samuel Buchanan gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

State of Tennessee Lincoln County: Personally appeared before the undersigned a Justice of the peace in and for the County aforesaid, Benjamin Woodruff, who being duly sworn, deposes 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 five months, I served as a private in the company commanded by Captain Richards and Colonel Sewell's Regiment -- For three months I served as a private in Captain Hyte's company in the Regiment commanded first by Colonel Sewell & then by Colonel Lynton -- For fifteen days I served as a Lieutenant in Captain Hill's company against the Tories -- N. B. this tour was before the three months tour mentioned first above -- For three months I served as a private in Captain Hartwell's company & in Colonel Daniel Fisher's Regiment -- For two months I served as a private in Captain Marshall's Company & in Colonel Richard Elliott's Regiment -- & for this service I claim a pension -- I was born in Brunswick County Virginia some time in the year 1759 or 1760, but cannot now recollect at what time having no record of my age. I lived in Franklin County North Carolina, when called into service -- I lived in Virginia till the year 1790 and I moved to Georgia & lived there till 1807 -- I then moved to Sumner County Tennessee where I lived till 1810, when I moved to this County where I now live & have lived ever since. I volunteered in the service three times, was a substitute for my brother George Woodruff and was drafted once as appears by the foregoing declaration -- I did not receive a commission for the 15 days I acted as a Lieutenant.

Sworn to and subscribed this 18th of July 1833 before me

S./ Elliot H. Fletcher, JP

S./ Benjamin Woodruff, A his mark

[On August 2, 1855 in Lincoln County Tennessee, Sarah Woodruff, 64, filed for her bounty land entitlement as the widow of Benjamin Woodruff; she states she married him in Lincoln County Tennessee August 15, 1825; that they were married by James Blakemore, JP; that her name prior to her marriage was Sarah Gilbert; that her husband died at his residence in Lincoln County Tennessee October 2, 1837 and that she remains his widow.]

[On June 2, 1866 in Coffee County Tennessee, George G. Woodruff, 47, of Sarah Woodruff, widow of Benjamin Woodruff, a revolutionary pensioner; that his mother was a pensioner of the United States; that his mother died February 7, 1865 leaving no property or debts of any kind whatsoever; that she had resided since January one, 1861 in coffee County Tennessee; that his mother lived with him at the time of her death; that he did not bear arms against the government

of the United States or in any manner encouraged the rebels will manifest any sympathy with their cause [during the Civil War]]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$48 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 13 months and 15 days service as a private in the North Carolina militia.]