

American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of Felix Earnest W7066¹

Sally

fn76NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 6/23/11

[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. 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 fails 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 errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Tennessee, Green County

October 27th, 1832 on this day personally appeared before me Henry Earnest, one of the acting Justices of the peace in and for said County, Felix Earnest, aged Seventy years, a resident citizen of the County and State aforesaid, who after being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefits of the act of Congress passed the 7th day of June 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated, to wit: that being a resident citizen of the County of Washington, then North Carolina, now Tennessee, and now Greene County, he volunteered in the fall of the year 1780 in said County & State under Captain Williams for a tour of duty in the South against Ferguson's Army, whom it was understood intended crossing the mountain and taking possession of the lead mines in the upper Virginia. Colonels Sevier [John Sevier], Shelby [Isaac Shelby] & Campbell [William Campbell] were the officers in command of said expedition and marched across the mountain in to the upper part of North Carolina and in to the State of South Carolina where at King's Mountain the Army under the aforesaid officers and the North Carolina troops under Cleveland and Williams [James Williams²], united and at King's Mountain defeated Ferguson [Patrick Ferguson] and his Army, killed Ferguson & many of his men and captured all most the whole residue of the Army. After of which Battle, he returned home with the other troops with orders to be in readiness at a moment's warning if called upon. The said Battle was fought on the 7th of October 1780, which campaign was for three months which term of time he served.

That in the fall of the following year declarant volunteered with many others and informed a company, elected our officers, to wit: John Smith Captain, John Butler, Lieutenant & declarant Ensign. Said company was raised in consequence of Colonels Sevier & Campbell who had gone on an expedition against the Cherokee Indians then in league with the British, having sent an express for reinforcements being defeated or driven back. They joined the Army under Sevier & Campbell at Boyd's Creek [on the] south side of French broad [River], now Blount County, and drove the Indians, burned their towns, destroyed their property and returned home, this was also a three months tour.

¹ BLWt31771-160-55

² Col. James Williams of the Little River Regiment of SC militia had recruited at least two companies of North Carolinians to join his command along with his SC militia just prior to the battle at King's Mountain.


Again the ensuing summer, declarant volunteered as an Indians spy in the vicinity for twenty days, and then volunteered to go with John Sevier, under Captain Williams, joined said Sevier in the Greasy Cove, now Carter County Tennessee, to go against the Cherokee Indians, then making inroads in that quarter, but owing to a force insufficient to hazard an expedition, returned home after a service of twenty days. That he never received a written discharge in either case but was dismissed verbally by his officers which four terms of service in the whole amounts to seven months and ten days actual service: three months of which time he served as an Ensign and the residue as a private soldier. That he has no documentary evidence nor does he know of any person whose testimony he can procure, to establish his said services. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatsoever to a pension or annuity except the present, and declares that he is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State and that he is unable to attend the Court from bodily infirmity.

Sworn to & subscribed before me this day and date above written.

S/ Felix Earnest



Test: S/Henry Ernest, Justice of the peace



[John J. Broyles, a clergyman, and James Fox gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[fn p. 75]

State of Tennessee Greene County: On this 2nd day of March 1833 before the subscriber a justice of the peace in and for said County appeared the Reverend Felix Earnest and in explanation of his said declaration in the particulars objected to in the foregoing brief made oath that he was born on the 20th day of September 1762 in Frederick County & State of Virginia from the information derived from his Father. That he as stated by him served three of his seven months (& a fraction) as Ensign by the suffrage of his Company, there being at the time no opportunity of getting Commissions from the Seat of Government of the State of North Carolina to the Western part of the State (now Tennessee) the two sections of the Country being separated by a ledge of Mountains & indeed a trackless wilderness which was the resort of the Savage enemy at the time & in most cases Companies were ordered and allowed to officer themselves from the necessity of the case being too emergent to wait for the save opportunity to send through peril and danger to the Seat of Government for commissions.

S/ Felix Earnest

[fn p. 32: in an application for a new certificate dated May 15, 1838, the veteran said that he formerly belonged to the command of Captain Samuel Williams in the Regiment commanded by Colonel John Sevier.]

[fn p. 9: On February 28, 1853 in Greene County Tennessee, Sally Earnest, 66, applied for a widow's pension under the 1853 act stating that she is the widow of Felix Earnest a revolutionary war pensioner for his service in that war; that she and her husband had lived in Greene County for a space of more than 50 years before his death. That the last

payment was made to him for the six months ending September 4, 1841; that she married him in Greene County Tennessee on May 15, 1808; that they were married by George Wells a Minister of the gospel; that her name prior to her marriage was Sally Olliphant; that her husband died in Greene County Tennessee February 16, 1842 and that she has remained his widow. She signed her application with her mark.]

[fn p. 16: copy of a marriage bond issued to Felix Earnest and James Olliphant in Greene County Tennessee May 14, 1808 to secure the marriage of the Felix Earnest to Sally Olliphant.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$44.44 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 4 months & 15 days service as a private and 3 months service as an Ensign in the North Carolina militia. Veteran's widow was pensioned at the rate of \$96 commencing July 27, 1868.]