

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Conn W8616

Elizabeth Conn

f68SC/NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

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[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. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. 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 skills fail 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 material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[p 5]

State of Kentucky Henry County } SS

On this 11th day of January 1834 personally appeared before me Thomas M. Ballard, Justice of peace in and for Henry County and one of the Judges of the County Courts of Henry William Conn aged 74 years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefits of an act of Congress passed the 7th of June 1832.

This declarant states that he was residing in Lincoln County State of North Carolina when he entered the service of the United States and served as herein stated and under the following named officers. That sometime in the year of 1777 [1775?] in the month of October Captain Francis McKirkle [Francis McCorkle] raised a company of volunteers when he the said declarant did volunteer under Captain McKirkle for a tour of three months and rendezvoused at Charlotte a small town in Mecklenburg County. On taking up the line of march the company to which he belonged was attached to General Rutherford's [Griffith Rutherford's] Regiment. He states that the Regiment marched from said town of Charlotte across the upper part of South Carolina and crossed Broad River at the fish dam Ford. He states that they thence proceeded to Labourns Creek [Rabun's Creek?] and joined the main Army after having joined the main Army at Labourns Creek the Army proceeded against William Cunningham [sic, probably Patrick Cunningham] a celebrated leader of the Tories at Cain Creek.¹ He states that after a small engagement between General Rutherford's Regiment and Cunningham's party of Tories that Cunningham's party was nearly all taken prisoner. He states that after the Tories had been taken that he was appointed as a guard over said prisoners. He states that he did faithfully guarded said prisoners until his time for which he had volunteered expired, when he was discharged in writing by General Rutherford. Sometime in the month of January 1778 when he returned home; he further states that in the month of March 1778 that he enlisted in the service of the United States for a period of fourteen months under Lieutenant James Conyers and was commanded by Captain Richardson [Taylor W. Richardson]. He states that the company thus enlisted rendezvoused at Charlotte and marched to Charlestown and joined the Regiment commanded by Colonel Isaac Huger. He states that the Regiment to which he belonged was stationed as a guard in Charlestown to protect the town and forts, he states that he did remain in said town of Charlestown as a guard and did fully faithfully and to the satisfaction of his officers serve out his

¹ Perhaps a reference to the action at the Great Cane Break, December 22, 1775
https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_cane_brake.html

fourteen months when he was discharged by his said Colonel Isaac Huger in the month of May 1779. He further states that the Indians upon the frontiers in the spring of the year 1779 had broken in upon the settlements and were committing many outrages upon the persons and property of the inhabitants. It became necessary that an Army should be raised for the protection and security of the frontier settlers when Captain Thomas Lytle of Lincoln County raised a company of volunteers for the purpose of protecting the settlements on the frontiers. He states that he did in the month of June in the year 1779 volunteer under said Captain Thomas Lytle for a tour [of] three months. He states that they rendezvoused at a place called the Pleasant Garden at the head of the Catawba River. The company thus formed was officered by Captain Lytle and Colonel Davidson [William Lee Davidson] the name of the Major from great lapse of time and the consequent decay of memory he has forgotten. He states that they under the command of Colonel Davidson marched from the Pleasant Garden through the Indian Country scouting and spying in various directions and giving security to an alarmed frontier he states that after having served out his three months for which he had volunteered they returned and was verbally discharged by his said Captain Lytle in the month of September 1779. He further states that in the month of March 1780 that he again volunteered under Captain William Chronicle for a tour of five months. He states that they rendezvoused at the house of Captain Chronicle's father, and marched under the command of Captain Chronicle to Golphin's Mill on the Savannah River and at the mill he states they joined the Army commanded by General Wayne [Anthony Wayne] after remaining a short time at Golphin's Mill he stated they were ordered and marched across the River. The Army after crossing the River was divided a part of the Army under the command of General Wayne was sent to the town of Savannah – the remaining part and part to which he was attached was marched under the command of General Butler [John Butler] to the Ogeechee and Oconee rivers to watch and guard these rivers -- after remaining upon these rivers sometime he states that they were marched by General Butler across the Savannah River over to Stono River where they encamped for about one month when the five months for which he had volunteered expired. He was discharged by Captain Lewis [John Lewis] his first Captain (Chronicle having returned home) in August 1780. He further states that after returning to Lincoln County and remaining at home till the month of March 1781 – that he again enlisted under Captain McKinzy [William McKenzie] for a tour of ten months. He states that the company thus enlisted rendezvoused at Colonel Hill's [William Hill's], he states that the company was attached to General Sumpter's [Thomas Sumter's] Regiment of Dragoons. The Regiment was then marched under the command of General Sumpter, Colonel Hill, Major Buford [William Buford], and Captain William McKinzy, down the Congaree River – near Howell's ferry – thence they marched to the Four Holes Bridge where they guarded the Country around until sometime in the winter he states during the their encampment at Four Holes Bridge that they were frequently sent out in scouting parties in pursuing of some of Lord Rawdon's man who being aided by some Tories were occasionally doing some mischief in the Country. He states that he did remain as a Dragoon in General Sumpters brigade discharging his duty as a faithful soldier till his ten months for which he had enlisted expired when he was honorably discharged in the month of February in the year 1782 by his Captain William McKinzy. He states that from old age and bodily infirmity that he is unable to appear in open court to make his declaration. He states that he has no documentary evidence of service but he thinks he is able to offer such evidence as will establish his enlisted tours; to establish his other tours he has to depend upon his reputation as a soldier and his veracity as a man. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.

S/ William Conn, X his mark

Sworn to and subscribed before me the date and year aforesaid

S/ Thomas W Ballard, JP

Answers to the Interrogatories² put by the Magistrate

I was born in the State of New Jersey Somerset County in the year 1760 and I have no record of my age and I was living in Lincoln County State of North Carolina when I entered the service of the United States. I have lived since the revolutionary war in Russell County State of Virginia and in the year 1810 I moved to Henry County Kentucky where I now live and when I first entered the service I volunteered for a tour of three months under Captain McKirkle and that second tour I enlisted under Lieutenant James Conyers for a period of fourteen months. The third tour I volunteered under Captain Thomas Lytle for three months; the fourth tour I volunteered under Captain William Chronicle for a period of five months and the fifth tour I enlisted under Captain McKinzy for a term of ten months and on my first tour there Lieutenant Lytle, Captain McKirkle General Rutherford, the names of the Major and Colonel I do not recollect. These were militia officers and I do not think that there were any regular troops where I served; on my second tour, there were Lieutenant Conyers, Captain Richardson, Colonel Isaac Huger, on my third tour then Captain Lytle Colonel Davidson of the militia and there was no regular officer as it was a Campaign against the Indians, and on my fourth tour there were Captain William Chronicle, Captain Lewis and General Butler of the militia; and General Wayne's Regiment of Regulars and on my fifth and last tour there Captain McKenzy, Colonel Hill and General Sumter and the circumstances of my service was that of a volunteer for three tours and an enlisted soldier for two tours and I received four written discharges one by General Rutherford, one by Colonel Isaac Huger, one by Captain Lewis, and one by Captain William McKinzy and I was once verbally discharged by Captain Lytle the four written discharges I kept for about thirty years but by some means they have been mislaid or lost. I will state the names of William Jeffries and Richard Moody two of my neighbors who can testify to my character for veracity, and my reputation in the neighborhood as a soldier.

I William Jeffries³ do certify that I was a soldier of the revolution during the war, my services was rendered in the southern states and from frequent conversations which I have had with Mr. William Conn who has sworn to and subscribed the above declaration respecting many incidents that happened in the camps I am satisfied that he was a soldier of the regular service for I am satisfied that unless he had actually been in the service – that he could not have related the many incidents which he has related to me many years since.

² The War Department promulgated regulations governing pension application format and requiring the following 7 interrogatories to be put to each applicant for a pension:

1st Where and in what year were you born?

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

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

4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if a substitute, for whom?

5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

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.

³ Probably the same man as [William Jeffries \(Jeffris\) W9076](#)

S/ William Jeffries, X his mark

[William Jeffries and Richard Moody gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 13: On December 11, 1839 in Henry County Kentucky, Elizabeth Conn, 78, filed for a widow's pension as the widow of William Conn; she states that her husband died September 18, 1836 in Henry County Kentucky; she states that her maiden name was Elizabeth Alexander; that she married her husband in the month of October 1780 in Lincoln County North Carolina; that they were married by a justice of the peace; and that she has no record of their marriage nor any record of the ages of her children, the same having been destroyed. She signed her application with her mark.]

[p 23: On December 11, 1839 in Henry County Kentucky, Elizabeth Whitley, 59 having been informed that she was born in August 1781, gave testimony that she is the daughter of William and Elizabeth Conn; that her father was a revolutionary war pensioner and died in the fall of 1836; that her mother is still alive and has not remarried since the death of her father; and that she has often heard her parents talk of her father's having served both before and after their marriage in Lincoln County North Carolina in the fall of the year 1780 perhaps the month of October. She signed her affidavit with her mark.]

[p 66: On June 21st, 1843 in Henry County Kentucky, the widow filed another application for her pension as the widow of a revolutionary war pensioner. She signed this application with her mark.]

[p 67: In 1843 in Henry County Kentucky, Elizabeth Whitley gave another affidavit in support of her mother's application for a pension. This affidavit purports to have been signed by her as follows:

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[Facts in file: It is stated that the veteran and his wife reared a family of 8 children, the only one named in the file is their eldest, Elizabeth Whitley; Elizabeth was born August 3, 1781 and in 1839 was residing in Henry County Kentucky; it was stated in 1840 that their 2nd child was then aged 57 years (not named), the 3rd, 55 years old (again not named); the 4th 51 (unnamed) and the 5th 49 years old (unnamed). In 1840, Andrew Whitley of Henry County Kentucky gave testimony that he had known the veteran and his wife for 43 years. His relationship, if any, to the family is not stated.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$88.33 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private, 14 months in the Infantry and 10 months in the Calvary of the North Carolina and South Carolina militia.]