

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Fergus (Furgus) W8807¹

Milly Fergus

f63SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

10/2/06 rev'd 2/2/15

[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.]

State of Tennessee, Monroe County: December 24, 1833

Personally appeared before David Russell, Esq., one of the Justices of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, for said County of Monroe, John Fergus, aged 81 years, who being duly sworn deposed and saith as follows, in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

That he was born in Chester County, Pennsylvania, on Sept. 1st 1752. He has in his possession a record of his age, taken from his father's family records and none other. He was living in what was then called "New Acquisition," now York District, South Carolina, when called into service; and served so well as a memory much impaired by age enables him to state, as follows. He volunteered in every case, and in no instance, as he thinks, rec'd a discharge in writing; but those with whom he served were merely discharged verbally, as their time expired.

In December, he thinks of 1775, he volunteered as a private of Infantry, in said "New Acquisition District," under Capt. John Anderson, who was under, he thinks, Genl. Richardson [Richard Richardson], to go against the Tories in 96 [Ninety Six] District So. Ca. They marched on towards the Congaree [River], and in 96 came upon a Camp of Tories, and took them prisoners. What the Genl. did with the Tories he cannot tell. Some sort of capitulation, he thinks, was made. Applicant with the company of said Anderson returned home having been engaged at least six weeks. Sometime afterwards, he cannot say how long; but a few weeks before Genl. Ash [sic, John Ashe] was defeated at brier creek [sic, Briar Creek, March 3, 1779] in 1779, he volunteered for three months in the Cavalry against British and Tories under Capt. Wm. Byars [William Byers] and Major Ross [Francis Ross]. Two or three days after they started, Major Ross became dissatisfied with the wagon master, on account of his intemperance, and appointed applicant in this stead. 24 wagons with provisions and one with ammunition were put under his care. They went on thro' 96 Dist., and crossed the Savannah at Augusta the Cavalry having left the wagons in 96 and passed on to Briar Creek where they were defeated. The wagons went on rapidly, and camped within 18 miles of Briar Creek the night of the battle. News having reached applicant of the battle, he returned with the wagons and reached Augusta, about forty miles, the succeeding night—then crossed the river and camped above Augusta. He was engaged in laying in supplies &c for a greater part of the balance of his term and was encamped with the wagons on the river when his term of three months expired.

¹ BLWt28509-160-55

How long afterwards, he cannot exactly remember; but the winter before the fall of Charleston in 1780 he volunteered to go to the relief of that City for a term of three months as a private of Infantry. He disremembers his Capt for, as soon as he volunteered, he was appointed Quartermaster to Col: ____ Carson's² Regiment and served his term out in that capacity. They marched directly for Charleston and encamped at the 10 mile spring, in 10 miles of Charleston. The British, though [?], never came to Charleston while he was there. As before remarked, [he] never recd a discharge.

Some time afterwards, and the night after the defeat at Ramshower's Mill [Ramsour's Mill, June 20, 1780], he volunteered for three months, in the Cavalry under Capt. Howe [Joseph Howe], he thinks, under Col. Carson. They obeyed Sumpter's [Thomas Sumter's] Commands and marched down through York and Chester Districts. He was in the engagement at the Hanging Rock, where Capt Martin³ whom he fought under, was shot through the side, of which, in a few days he died. He was engaged this time at least four months. He served in all 11 1/2 months—six weeks as a private of Infantry—3 months as wagon master—3 months as Quarter Master—and 4 months as a private of Cavalry.

He was, in consideration of his services, last recited, elected from New Acquisition Dist. So. Ca. to the next succeeding State Legislature. He was no candidate, and did not know, till late the 1st day of the election that he was to be voted for. The legislature assembled at Jacksonborough on the Edisto River, about 40 miles above Charleston. John Rutledge being then Govr. Never received a commission as wagon or Qur. master.

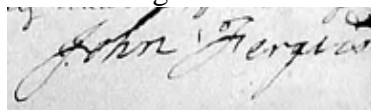
Applicant always went into service from said "New Acquisition Dist." where he lived till about one year after the close of the Revolutionary War; he then moved into Wilkes County Georgia, where he lived till 1798, then moved into Rutherford County, No Carolina and resided one or two years, then moved into Haywood County No.Ca. where he remained till about two years ago when he came into said County of Monroe, where he now resides.

The following persons are at present his neighbors and can testify as to his character for veracity and their belief in his services as a Revolutionary Soldier., viz Hugh Ghounley [?], John Stratton [?], William Roddy, & Samuel Roddy.

He has no documentary widower and knows of no one whose testimony he can procure who can testify as to his services.

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. He furthermore states that he is entirely unable by reason of his bodily infirmity to attend in Court.

S/ John Fergus



Sworn to and subscribed this 24th day of December 1833 before me.

S/ David Russell, Justice of the Peace

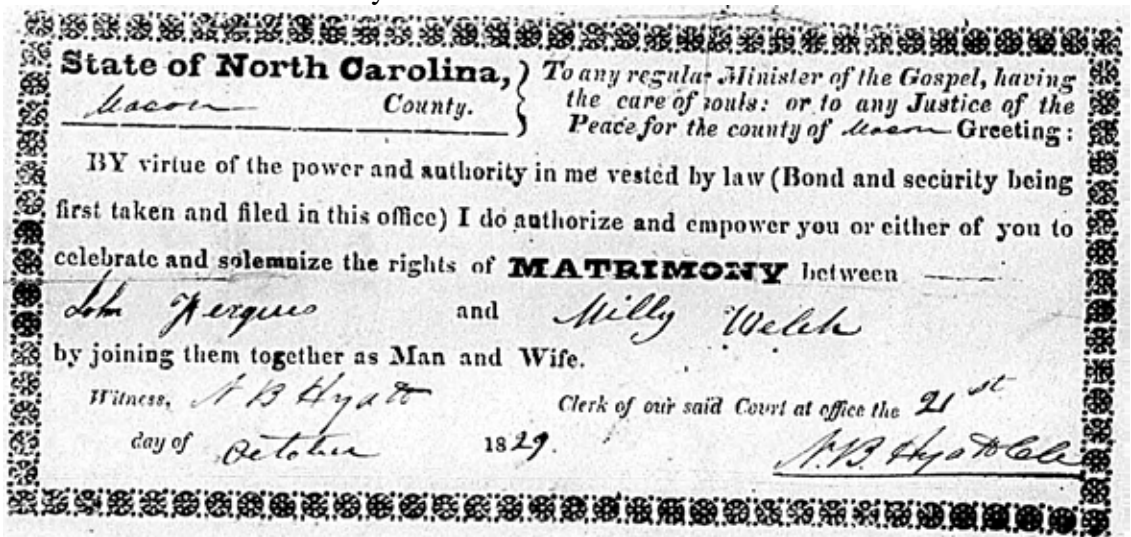
² I think this veteran has confused Carson with Col. Samuel Watson. Watson was the colonel in command of the militia raised in the New Acquisition; Lt. Col. William Bratton served under Watson along with Maj. John Wallace. Capt. Joseph Howe was under the command of those officers at the battle at Hanging Rock on August 6, 1780.

³ At the battle of Hanging Rock, Capt. Edward Martin of the Fairfield Regiment of SC militia was the only SC militia captain known to have been present in that engagement.

[Robert B. B Billue, a clergyman and Thomas A. Harrison gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 3: On July 22, 1853 in Macon County North Carolina, Milly Fergus, 73, applied for a widow's pension under the 1853 act stating that she is the widow of John Fergus, a revolutionary war pensioner; that she married him October 25, 1829 and that her husband died January 16, 1837 in Tennessee in consequence of old age. She signed her application with her mark. In the supporting affidavit, it is stated that the widow had no children by the veteran.]

[p 11: Wedding license for the marriage of John Fergus and Milly Welch dated October 21, 1829 issued in Macon County North Carolina:



[p 12: Joseph Welch, JP, gave testimony in Macon County North Carolina on January 27, 1838 that he married John Fergus and Milly Welch pursuant to the above license within 3 days of its issuance.

Joseph Welch, JP

[Facts in file: veteran married Milly Welch, widow of David Welch, on October 25, 1829 in Equonectly, Macon County North Carolina. The widows maiden name was Milly Melton; the widow died May 28, 1865 in Macon County North Carolina; the widow and the veteran had no children. Thomas J Welch of Macon County North Carolina and David A. Welch were the only surviving children of Milly Fergus; she was also survived by 3 grandchildren but their names do not appear in the file. The veteran's brother, William Fergus, was a member of the South Carolina House of representatives.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$86.66 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831 and ending January 16th, 1837 when he died. His service was based upon service as a private in the infantry & cavalry and as a wagon master. His pension was increased from an initial amount of \$44.16. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]