

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Mormon Lawson<sup>1</sup> W9501 Elva Lawson

f89VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

9/10/13

[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 'indcipherable' 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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[Note: The images of these documents being almost illegible as posted on Fold3.com., the following transcript was made using the images posted on HeritageQuest.com.]

State of Tennessee Hawkins County: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions February Session 1834

On this 25<sup>th</sup> day of February 1834 personally appeared in open Court before the Court of Pleas &c now sitting, Mormon Lawson aged 83 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 7<sup>th</sup> 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named Officer & served as herein stated, that he was born in Bedford County in the State of Virginia in January 1751 as well as he can ascertain from the best information he can get. That he has no record of his age, nor there never was one as he knows. This applicant further states that he was living in Henry County in the State of Virginia when he first entered the service in the year 1779 in the spring of the year; but the month he does not recollect; but the year is as he has stated as well as he can remember. This applicant further states that he entered the service as a volunteer under Captain Eliva Shelton [Eliphaz Shelton], that those who obey the call to enter the service of their Country as volunteers rendezvoused at the house of the Captain & from thence under the command of Colonel James Lyon & Lieutenant David Rogers were marched in pursuit of the deserters & Tories who had taken shelter in the Mountains; that in their march they halted at a place called the Flower Gap; that this place was occupied as a station for some time, to which they would return from there excursions in the Mountains, that during this expedition they were enabled to make prisoners of several Tories, that this term of service in ranging the Mountains and remaining at the Station, lasted as well as he can remember three months; that they were then marched home but never received a written discharge.

This Applicant further states that they had remained at home but a short time, when on account of the depredations again committed by the Tories from the Mountains, orders were given the Colonel to call out volunteers & there Colonel informed the subordinate officers & they called upon the upon the people and this Applicant again entered the service, as a volunteer under the same Officers & were again marched in the direction of the Mountains, in quest of the Tories; that during this expedition they made a new stationed at a place called the Old Store from which they would March into the mountains & to which they would return as a place of safety,

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<sup>1</sup> BLWt39226-160-55

that this term of service was not as long as the first; but was not less than two months as well as he can now recollect. This Applicant further states that there was near the Mountains another Station, at which he was frequently stationed on such expeditions called Austin's Mill.

This Applicant further states that the Mountains furnished the safest & most secure retreat for the Tories when they were hard pushed in the lower Counties, & consequently they were nearly always, during the Revolutionary War especially, towards the close, infested with the Tories & deserters & from the Mountains they would enter the settlements & drive off the stock of cattle & horses to the Mountains, which made it necessary for the inhabitants near the Mountains to be, as it were, in continual service, to dislodge them.

This Applicant further states that it would be but a recapitulation of the expeditions, which he has before described, if he were to go on & give an account of each campaign & indeed at this distance of time & on account of his lapse of memory from old age, he could not for the terms of service were so frequent & the periods between them so short & always under the same Officers, it now appears to him as almost a continued period of service for about two years or until he moved from the County into the State of North Carolina. This applicant further states, that he moved from Henry County into Stokes County in the State of North Carolina, where he was living when he was called upon to volunteer for the purpose of going against the Tories at King's Mountain, that in obedience to that call he again entered the service as a volunteer under Captain Meridy [Meredith?]; that they were marching in the direction of Kings Mountain & had gone as far as the Shallow Ford of the Yadkin River, when they met their fellow soldiers on their March from the battle of Kings Mountain [October 7, 1780] with the prisoners which they had taken in that engagement, that at this place this Applicant was among those to whom the custody of the prisoners was given & from the Shallow Ford they marched with the prisoners to Moravian town, where they guarded them about six weeks, as well as he now remembers, that while they were stationed at this place Colonel Cleveland [Benjamin Cleveland] came, but remained a short time, that this Term of service lasted 2 months to the best of his knowledge. This Applicant further states that during the whole time of his service there were with him no regular troops & therefore he can name none of the Officers commanding them, that he never received a written discharge from the service & that he never had a commission.

This Applicant further states that on account of the loss of memory from his old age, he is unable to swear positively to the exact time he served, but to the best of his recollection he served in all not less than two years & for which service he claims a pension, that since the Revolutionary war he has lived in the States of North Carolina & Tennessee in which last mentioned State, he now lives & has lived for the last 30 years. This applicant further states that there is no Clergyman in his neighborhood, that he is well known in his present neighborhood to Bartlett Belcher & George Rogers by whom he has proved his services as will appear from their depositions hereto annexed. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of the Agency of any State or (if any) only on that of the Agency of the State of \_\_\_.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid  
S/ W. B. Mitchell, Deputy Clerk

S/ Mormon Lawson, X his mark

State of Tennessee Hawkins County: Court of Pleas & February session 1834

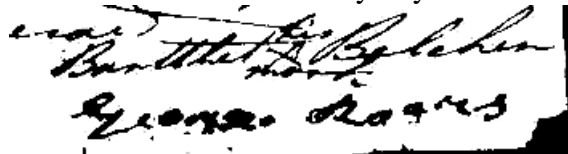
We Bartlett Belcher<sup>2</sup> & George Rogers residing in the neighborhood hereby certify that we are well acquainted with Mormon Lawson who has subscribed & sworn to the above

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<sup>2</sup> [Bartlet Belcher W2054](#)

declaration, that we believe him to be 83 years of age, that we knew him to have served in the Revolutionary War & that he is reputed & believed in the neighborhood where he resides to have been a soldier of the Revolution & that we know that to be a fact.

Sworn & subscribed the day & year aforesaid



The image shows two handwritten signatures in cursive. The top signature reads "Bartlett Belcher" and the bottom signature reads "George Rogers".

State of Tennessee Hawkins County: Personally appeared in open Court now sitting Bartlett Belcher aged 69 years a pensioner residing in the County of Hawkins & made oath that he has been acquainted with Mormon Lawson since the year 1779, that he entered the service as a volunteer with the said Mormon Lawson under Captain Elivas Shelton in the year 1779, that at this time he lived in Henry County in the State of Virginia; that from Henry County he marched in company with the said Lawson to Hedgespeth, that at this place they were stationed & at this place this deponent left the company & went on to Gates defeat in South Carolina, that the term of service lasted 3 months, this deponent states that he never was in the service with the said Lawson, but the one time; but always understood that he served several times against the Tories and further this deponent saith not.

Sworn & subscribed the day & year aforesaid

S/ Bartlett Belcher, X his mark

State of Tennessee Hawkins County Court of Pleas & quarter Sessions February Sessions 1834 on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of February 1834 Personally appeared in Court George Rogers a citizen of Hawkins County aged 64 years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath depose & say that his father lived in Henry County in the State of Virginia, that in the year 1779 he was a boy & from that time till the present he has been acquainted with the said Mormon Lawson, that he lived on his father's plantation at the time he entered the service, that his father David Rogers was Lieutenant of the Company & that he has seen the said Lawson start frequently with his father in pursuit of the Tories, in the Mountains that how often, or the length of the trips he is unable to state, he at that time being small & unable at this time to recollect distinctly. This deponent further states that from the best of his recollection the said Lawson served in all at least two years in all his trips against the Tories and further this deponent saith not.

Sworn & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ George Rogers

[On July 2, 1855 in Hancock County Tennessee, Elva Lawson, 85, filed for a widow's pension under the 1853 act stating that she is the widow of Morman [sic] Lawson, a revolutionary war pensioner; that she married him in Lee County Virginia [date not given]; that her husband died September 16, 1842; that she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service but that the above stated time; that no record of her marriage exists to her knowledge. She signed her application with her mark.]

[On March 7, 1856 in Hancock County Tennessee, the widow filed a claim for her bounty land entitlement as the widow of Mormon Lawson; that she married him sometime about 1803; that

her name prior to her marriage was Elva Collins; that her husband died in Hancock County Tennessee about the 16<sup>th</sup> day of September 1842. She signed this document with her mark.]

[Facts in file: witnesses stated that Elva Lawson was the mother of "Phoeba, Peter and Morman Lawson; Elva Collins was the veteran's 2<sup>nd</sup> wife; the name of his first wife is not stated]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$22.33 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831, for service as a private for 7 months in the Virginia militia. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]