Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Evans Archer[1] S41415 f17VA

Transcribed and annotated by Will Graves rev'd 1/2/11 & 4/28/25

[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' or 'undeciphered' 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. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

[p 10]

State of North Carolina Bertie County SS}

On the last day March 1820 before me the Subscriber one of the Judges of the Superior Courts of Law & Equity for the said State personally appeared Evans Archer aged sixty five years resident in Hertford County in the said State, who being by me first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the provisions made by the late act of Congress, entitled "An Act to provide for certain persons engaged in the Land & naval service of the United States in the revolutionary War." That he the said Evans Archer enlisted for the term of 18 months about the month of August in the year 1780 at Portsmouth in the State of Virginia in the company commanded by captain John Anderson of the Regiment commanded by Colonel Matthews [Col. Sampson Matthews?] in the line of the State of Virginia on the Continental establishment, that he continued to serve in the said Corps, or in the service of the United States until the end of 18 months when he was discharged from service at Salisbury in the State of North Carolina and that he was in the Battle of Eutaw [Eutaw Springs, September 8, 1781][2]

And that he is in reduced circumstances & stands in need of the assistance of his country for support: and that he has no other evidence than as above stated now in his power of his said services.

Sworn to & declared before me the day & year aforesaid

S/ J. R. Donnell, JSL&E

S/ Evans Archer, X his mark

[p 12]

I James Smith do depose and say that I believe the statement of Evans Archer hereto before set forth as to his service in the Revolutionary War is correct. This Deponent was a soldier and served with said Evans Archer at or near the Eutaw and also at Santee in South Carolina.

Sworn to before me the last day of March 1820

---

[1] Veteran is listed in the Chesterfield County, Virginia size roll as follows: *Evan Archer/ age 25/ height 5 4-1/4 / farmer/ born in Hertford County NC/ residing in Norfolk County VA/ red hair/ grey eyes/ yellow complexion/ enlisted 23 Sep 1780/ "Marched to join Col. Green." [John Green]*. Veteran is also listed in Bobby Gilmer Moss and Michael C. Scoggins. *African-American Patriots in the Southern Campaign of the American Revolution*. Blacksburg, SC: Scotia-Hibernia Press, 2004. His inclusion in Moss/Scoggins is based on his having been listed in the 1790 Census as a 'free Negro' living in Hertford County, NC. There is no evidence in his pension file indicating that he was a Negro or 'person of color.'

[2] https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_eutaw_springs.html

S/ J. R. Donnell, JSL&E S/ James Smith, X his mark

[p 3]
State of North Carolina, Hertford County SS} Superior Court of Law held for said County at the Court House in Winton on the fourth Monday of September A.D. 1823

On the 27th day of September in the year 1823, personally appeared in open Court (being a Court of Record for the County aforesaid and proceeding according to the Course of the Common Law with a Jurisdiction unlimited in point of amount keeping a record of its proceedings and having the power of fine and imprisonment) Evans Archer aged about sixty nine years resident of the said County of Hertford who first being duly Sworn according to Law, doth on his Oath make the following declaration in Order to obtain the provision made by the act of Congress of the 18th of March 1818 and first of May 1820, that he the said Evans Archer enlisted as a Soldier for the term of eighteen months about the month of July 1780 at Portsmouth in the State of Virginia in the Company commanded by Capt. John Anderson in the Regiment Commanded by Col. __ Campbell which this deponent believes to have been the first Regiment in the line of the State of Virginia on the Continental establishment, that he continued to serve in the said Corps or in the Service of the United States until sometime in the month of January in the year 1782 when he was honorable [sic] discharged from the said Service (his time of enlistment having expired) in the town of Salisbury in the State of North Carolina, that he was in the Battle at Eutaw Springs South Carolina and at the Siege of ninety Six [May 21-June 19, 1781][3], that he has no other evidence than that hereto annexed whereby to prove his said Services. And in pursuance of the said act of Congress of the first of May 1820, I the said Evans Archer to Solemnly Swear that I was a resident Citizen of the aforesaid County in the United States on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift, Sale or in any manner disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provision of the act of Congress entitled "an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval Services of the United States in the Revolutionary war" passed on the 18th day of March in the year 1818 and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me, nor [do I] have any property or Securities Contracts or debts due to me, nor have I any income, other than the little pittance I earn by my manual labor, and that which proceeds from acts of Charity that I have no property Save by wearing apparel which is of Small Value and consequently no Schedule of property to render. The said Evans Archer further saith that he is a farmer by occupation unable to work but little by reason of bodily infirmity and an injury some years since received in his right Shoulder and that he has no family, that he resides with Margaret Archer his daughter a single woman who is poor and Scarcely able to Support herself and her child about four years old. The said Evans Archer further say as that for some years past he has been so much a Cripple and infirm as to be able to do but little towards his Support and has been and now is greatly dependent upon Charity for the few necessities of life which are afforded him.

The said Evans Archer moreover States that he made his first declaration in order to attain a pension under the said act of Congress of the 18th of March 1818 before the Honorable John R. Donnell then and now one of the Judges of the Court aforesaid on the last day of March in the year 1820.

Sworn to Subscribed and declared by the said Evans Archer in Open Court this 27th day of September A.D. 1823.
Test: S/ Mills Jernigan, Clk

(Signed) S/ Evans Archer, X his mark

[3] https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_ninety_six.html

I, John R. Donnell, one of the Judges of the Superior Court of Law and Equity for the State of North Carolina do hereby certify that Evans Archer made a preceding declaration for a pension before me on the last day of March A.D. 1820.

(Signed) S/ J. R. Donnell, JSCL&E

I Martin Bizzell do depose and say that I believe the Statement of Evans Archer herein set forth as to his Services in the Revolutionary War is Correct and true. This affiant well remembers that he was told by an officer in the Service that he had enlisted the said Evans Archer and from his absence for some time afterwards and General and uncontradicted report to that effect he has no doubt of the fact of his enlistment and Services in the regular Army of the United States during the said Revolutionary War.

S/ Martin Bizzell, X his mark

[p 14]

State of North Carolina Hertford County: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions, Held for said County the 4th Monday in November 1823

On this 28th day of November 1823 personally appeared in open Court being a Court of record for the said County, and proceeding according to the Course of the Common Law, with a jurisdiction unlimited, in point of amount keeping a record of its proceedings and having the power of fine and imprisonment, John Weaver aged about Sixty five years maketh oath that Evans Archer who has made an affidavit for a pension in Hertford Superior Court of Law, was a Soldier in the Revolutionary War, that he the said Evans Archer served in the same Regiment with this deponent, Commanded by Coln Campbell, that this deponent saw said Evans Archer at Ninety Six in the State of South Carolina about fifteen days before the Engagement and this deponent further deposeth that he saw the said Evans Archer after the Engagement in said Corps discharging the duties of a Soldier.

Sworn to and subscribed by the said John Weaver in open Court
S/ L. W. Cowper, Clerk

S/ John Weaver, X his mark

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of eight dollars per month commencing September 27, 1823, for 18 months service as a private in the Virginia Continental line.]