Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Philip Adams S8008 f22NC
Transcribed and annotated by Will Graves rev'd 3/28/11 & 9/15/25

[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.]

State of North Carolina, Wake County} SS

On this the __ day of February A.D. 1834 personally appeared before the Justices of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for the County and State aforesaid, now sitting, Phillip Adams, a resident of said County and State, aged 74 or 75 years, as it is believed, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth, on his oath, make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the Act of Congress, passed June 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States in the War of the revolution, and served as herein after stated.

The declarant first entered the service of the United States in the War of the revolution, sometime in the Spring of the year 1778, as well as he recollects, by substituting himself, in the County of Halifax in the State of North Carolina in the place of one Gilliam Newsom, who had been drafted in said County as a private in the Militia, for the term of three months; and was destined to aid in guarding the Magazine & Jail and the Town of Halifax in the said County and State: that after the declarant was substituted as aforesaid, he joined the Company of North Carolina militia, at the said Town, which was commanded by Captain William Smith and Lieutenant Scurlock, as well as he remembers – where he was under arms, and guarding the Magazine then & there situate, and the jail; in which were confined persons disaffected to the cause of American independence – until the expiration of the term of three months for which he was substituted as aforesaid, when he was discharged by Captain Smith. This discharge is lost.

That the declarant enlisted in the service of the United States, in the County of Halifax in North Carolina, on the 20th of July 1778, as a private in Captain Joseph Montford's Company of the 10th Regiment of the line: that he marched to West Point, N. Y., by way of Petersburg, Richmond, Alexandria, Baltimore and Philadelphia; that he remained at West Point until the commencement of the cold season of 1778, when his Regiment was sent to Philadelphia: at Philadelphia, declarant remained with his Regiment until the Spring of 1779 – when his Regiment was ordered to Norfolk, Virginia, and the declarant being sick & unable to travel, was placed in the Hospital in Philadelphia – where he remained until his nine months term expired, when he was discharged by Genl. Hogan [sic, James Hogun]. This discharge was left by declarant, in the hands of the Commissioners in the Town of Halifax, N. C., when he received from him his certificate for his wages, & is no doubt destroyed. The officers of the above Regiment to which the declarant belonged were Col. Hogan and Major Hogg [probably Thomas Hogg].

That in the latter part of the summer of 1780, the declarant was substituted in the place of one Jesse Roan, who had been drafted in the County of Halifax aforesaid as a private in the Militia of N. C. for the term of three months; that the Company to which he was attached was organized at the Town of Halifax, N. C., & was commanded by Capt. Elisha Rose and Lieutenant Butts. From Halifax, declarant Company was marched to Granville County, N. C. and then joined the Regiment commanded by Col. Ben Seawell [Benjamin Seawell], Major's name not now recollected. From Granville County, declarant was marched in Col. Ben Seawell's Regiment towards South Carolina, for the purpose of effecting a junction with Genl. Gates [Horatio Gates], who then commanded the American forces and the South – through the counties of Wake, Chatham, Moore & Montgomery N. C. when his Regiment got in the neighborhood of Pedee River, intelligence reached his Regiment of Gates defeat [Battle of Camden, August 16, 1780] near Camden, S.C.-- upon, declarant was marched in a westwardly direction toward Charlotte N. C.-- thence he retreated with his Regiment to Salisbury, N. C. & thence to the North of the Yadkin River; from the North bank of the Yadkin, the declarant with his Regiment was marched back to Salisbury, & thence to the Six Mile Run, South of Salisbury – where the declarant remained until the expiration of the three months tour for which he was substituted as aforesaid, when he was discharged by Col. Seawell. This discharge is lost. The declarant was in no engagement with the enemy during this Tour.

In the spring of the year 1781, after the Battle of Guilford [March 15, 1780 one], the declarant again entered the service of the United States under the following circumstances: viz.: a class of militia in the County of North Hampton [sic, Northampton] in the State of North Carolina, consisting of fifteen persons, the names of ten of whom only are now recollected by the declarant, viz.: Avery Parham, Hartwell Hide, Henry Hide, Burwell Moody, Benj. Moody, William Glover, Surrell Moody, William Rook, William Thrift and James Williamson-- were required to furnish, by draft, one man, to serve as a private in the Militia of North Carolina, for the term of 12 months. These fifteen persons being unwilling to incur the risk of a draft, agreed among themselves to hire a substitute, to perform the service, which the one of their number to be drafted would be required to perform; whereupon they procured the declarant to be substituted for the performance of said service. The declarant thus substituted, joined his company, which was organized at the Town of Halifax, N. C., commanded by Capt. Raiford [Robert Raiford] Lieutenant not remembered. Immediately his company was dispersed by the approach of the British at Halifax, on their rout to Virginia. The declarant's company thence went up the Roanoke [River] & crossed at Taylor's Ferry & proceeded to join their Regiment in Granville County, N. C., commanded by Col. Ashe [Lieut. Col. John Baptiste Ashe] – Major not remembered. From Granville County, declarant was marched in Col. Ashe's Regiment to the High Hills of Santee in South Carolina, and there joined Genl. Green's [sic, Nathanael Greene's] Army: from the High Hills of Santee, the declarant was marched with Genl. Greene's Army up to near Camden, & there crossed the Wateree [River]; thence across the Congaree River; and thence down the Congaree to the Eutaw Springs. The declarant was in the engagement [Eutaw Springs, September 8, 1781][1] which immediately followed this march of Genl. Greene, between the British and American forces, denominated the Battle of the Eutaw. After the said Battle, the declarant was marched under Genl. Greene, to a place called the Round O – or the Ten Mile House. At Round O, the declarant remained until the twelve months expired, for which he was substituted as aforesaid – when he was discharged by Genl. Greene, in this way, viz.: written discharges were placed in the hands of captains of companies whose term of service had expired

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

& who resided in North Carolina – with instructions that their respective Companies should be kept embodied & guard certain Baggage Wagons then to come on from Round O to Hillsborough N. C.; and when they should reach Hillsboro, said discharges were to be handed to the soldiers and the Companies be disbanded. According to this arrangement, the declarant on his return from South Carolina to Hillsborough, received his discharge at Hillsboro. This discharge is lost.

The declarant was in no engagement with the Enemy than as above mentioned. He knew Genl. Washington, and Genl. Greene, in addition to the Continental officers of the inferior grade, under whose immediate command he has above stated that he served. Being illiterate & therefore unable to read writing – he is not able to say in what way he hath lost or mislaid his above mentioned discharges, excepting that one handed to the Commissioners as aforesaid.

The declarant was born & raised in the County of Halifax, N. C.[2] & there resided at each of the times he entered the service of the United States, as above set forth. He hath no record of his age; & from the best information that he can collect on the subject, he supposes that he was born in one of the years 1759 or 1760. He continued to reside in the said County of Halifax several years after the close of the Revolutionary war; & then removed to the County of Wake, N. C., where he now resides and has resided for in and about 40 years.

He hath no documentary evidence of his aforesaid services, except the accompanying certificate of William Hill Esq. Secretary of State of North Carolina and the accompanying affidavits of Avery Parham and James Adams.

The declarant is known to William Peace, Joseph Peace and Benjamin S. King, residents of the City of Raleigh – whose certificate is hereinafter contained; and to the Honorable Daniel L. Barringer and the Honorable Willie P. Mangum, members of Congress from this state.

The declarant cannot conveniently procure other evidence of his aforesaid services, than what is above adverted to; he being infirm & in bad health – and other witnesses; by whom he expects he could prove a portion or perhaps the whole of his said service, being resident at remote distances from him. He hath not procure the testimony of a clergyman as to his character for veracity, & for having a neighborhood reputation of having been a soldier in the Revolution; it being not at this time in his power, with any reasonable convenience, to procure the attendance at Court, of a person of that character – who is well acquainted with declarant.

He hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension or annuity except the present, & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the Agency of any state.

Sworn to in subscribed in open Court.

Phillip Adams, X his mark

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[2] Here the veteran begins to answer the 7 interrogatories promulgated by the War Department to be put to each applicant for a pension. Those 7 interrogatories were as follows:
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.

[William Peace, Joseph Peace and Benjamin S King gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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State of North Carolina
Secretary of States Office

I William Hill Secretary of State in and for the State aforesaid, do certify it appears from the muster rolls of the Continental line of this State in the revolutionary war, that Philip Adams a private in Captain Montford's Company of the 10th Regiment[3] entered the service on the 20th of July 1778, for a term of nine months, and that nothing Moore is said of him on said rolls.

Given under my hand this 1st day of February 1834
Wm Hill

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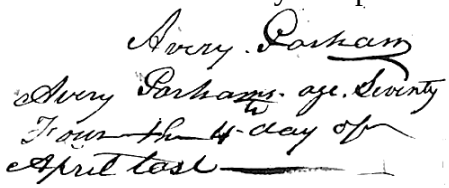
State of North Carolina, Wake County

On this the 15th day of February A.D. 1834, personally appeared before me, one of the Justices of the Peace in & for said County, Avery Parham, resident of the County aforesaid who after having first been duly sworn according to law, doth, on his oath, say, that in time of the revolutionary war he resided in the County of Northampton in the State aforesaid; and that in the spring of the year 1781, he and fourteen other men of said County were put into a class of Militia, which class was required by law to furnish by draft or otherwise, one man to serve as a private in the Militia of North Carolina for the term of twelve months; that this deponent & the rest of said class agreed to hire a substitute to exempt them at the risk of a draft and accordingly did hire Phillip Adams, then a resident of Halifax, N.C., and now a resident of Wake County N. C., and an applicant for a pension to the United States Government, to exonerate them from their responsibility, & to perform a tour of twelve months as a private in the Militia of North Carolina required as above set forth: this deponent further saith, that the said Phillip Adams was accepted as their substitute, & joined his Company in the Town of Halifax N. C. in the spring of 1781; and from North Carolina that said Phillip Adams was marched into South Carolina to join Genl. Greene's Army; and that it was then understood and this affiant have no doubt, that the said P. Adams continued in the Service in the South, until the expiration of the twelve months tour, for which he was substituted as aforesaid. He further states that he saw the said Adams in North Hampton aforesaid, after his return from his said expedition to South Carolina and have known him ever since.

Sworn to & subscribed before me.
S/ Ezra Gill, JP

Avery Parham
Avery Parham age Seventy
Four the 4th day of April last



[3] J. D. Lewis advises that the designation of the 10th Regiment as the regiment in which a veteran served was often the NC Secretary of State's 'default' designation when he could not find muster rolls giving the actual regiment in which the veteran served. J. D. indicates in his online posting that this veteran served in the 1st NC Regiment. See, https://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/nc_patriot_military_privates_a.html search "Adams, Philip."

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State of North Carolina, Wake County

On this 17th day of February 1834, personally appeared before me, a Justice of the Peace in & for said County, James Adams,[4] a resident of the County aforesaid; who after having first been duly sworn according to law, doth, on his oath, say, that he is a pensioner of the Government of the United States for services by him performed in the revolutionary war; that he was well acquainted during said War, and is at this time, with Phillip Adams – then a resident of Halifax County, N. C., and now of Wake County N. C. -- and an applicant for a pension to the Government of the United States: that he was a fellow soldier of the said Phillip Adams and a tour of three months, in the militia of North Carolina in the spring of 1778; and was employed with said Adams in Guarding the Magazine & Jail in the Town of Halifax, during that Tour, under the Command of Capt. William Smith. This applicant further saith, that he knew that the said Phillip Adams went out on the neighborhood in which he & this affiant resided, as a substitute for one Jesse Roane under Capt. Elisha Rose – as he has stated in his declaration to which this is appended – and that the Regiment to which this affiant was attached, reached the Six Mile Run near Salisbury N. C. in the Fall of 1780 – the Regiment to which said Phillip was attached was there -- & this affiant's Regiment relieved that to which he said Phillip belonged – and thereupon the said Phillip was discharged from his said three months tour.

This affiant further says, that he knew that the said Phillip Adams was substituted for fifteen men, as stated in his said declaration, for a tour of twelve months as a private in the Militia – and that he marched towards South Carolina; and that he always understood that the said Philip served out that term, & was regularly discharged.

Sworn to & subscribed before me. S/ James Adams, X his mark

Test: S/ Edward Rigsbe, JP

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of $80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for two-year service as a private in the North Carolina militia and Continental line.]

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[4] **James Adams S8007**