

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of William Easterling (Esterling) R14028

fn23NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 6/23/11

[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. 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 fails 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 errors or omissions to my attention.]

The State of South Carolina [Marlborough District]

On this the third day of October in the year of our Lord 1832 personally appeared in open Court William Easterling before me Baylis J. Earle one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in and for the State aforesaid now presiding at Marlborough Court house who being first duly sworn according to law makes oath to the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed the seventh day of June in the year 1832. That he was born on the 10th day of March 1757 in Dobbs County in the State of North Carolina – that his age was set down on a leaf of Bailey's Dictionary which is now in his possession. That when a small boy, he removed with his father to Craven County, now Marlboro District South Carolina, where he has lived ever since except whilst in the service and teaching school in North Carolina as stated in this paper.

He entered the militia of South Carolina, as a substitute for Elijah Cottingham, under Captain Robert Lide [sic, Robert Lidell], in March 1774, marched with him to Charleston, and there remained as well as he recollects about a month, and was discharged. He was engaged from that time to 1778 in Bladen (now Robeson County in North Carolina) and was not in the Army. He then volunteered under Colonel T. Brown, and remained with him some months, he does not recollect how long and was discharged. He also served under Captains William Moore, Arch^d McIsick [sic, Archibald McKissick ?], Peter Robeson, ___ Anderson and Colonel Thomas Robeson, at different times, and at all times when called for and when he thought his services were needed; between Drowning Creek North Carolina and Great Pee Dee River, against the Tories in the years 1778, 1779, 1780. The actual service amounting to at least one year. The duty and precise times of each is not now recollected, nor has deponent now any papers to which he can refer to settle it. The Tories, four in number, came at night to the house of Isham Pitman Esq where deponent boarded while teaching School, and robbed him of his horse, saddle, bridle & [illegible words]. He was engaged in one battle with the Tories on Bear Swamp between Drowning Creek and Little Pee Dee River [Pee Dee River]. Colonel Brown, Lt Col Richardson, Adjutant Robert Raiford and Captain Anderson commanded the Whigs and Captain Barfield the Tories. Captain Anderson was shot down in this battle just by deponent's side, and was carried and deponent does not know whether he died or survived it. The Tories were defeated.

Deponent shortly afterwards became acquainted with Colonel Thomas Crawford of Richmond County in the State of North Carolina. He gave deponent a Captain's commission. He commanded a Company of light Horsemen. He was with his men actively engaged in service in the Counties of Richmond and Robeson in North Carolina, and Marlborough district in South Carolina for the term of three months when peace was proclaimed. That section of Country was infested by the Tories so that no one was safe. They made numerous efforts to embody themselves and were dispersed by deponent & his company, but they had regular engagement with them. He does not know what has become of his commission, as he did not know that he would ever have any use for it. He served twelve months or upwards as a foot soldier and three months as a Captain of Horse.

The only ones of his companions in arms he now recollects who is now living in his Thomas

Plummer Williams of Richmond County North Carolina, and James James of Chesterfield District South Carolina, who were two of the Horsemen under deponent when Captain. Deponent hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not, nor ever has been, on the pension roll or agency of any State whatever.

S/ Wm Easterling

S/ B. J. Earle, Presiding Judge of the Court of Common Pleas & Sessions in open Court at Marlborough Courthouse within State & District aforesaid.

The State of South Carolina

On the eighth day of October in the year of our Lord 1834 personally appeared in open Court William Easterling before me John Richardson one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in and for the state aforesaid now presiding at Marlborough Court House who being first duly sworn according to law makes oath to the following declaration in order to obtain a pension under the act of Congress passed the seventh day of June 1832.

He was born in Dobbs County (since divided into other Counties) in the State of North Carolina on the 10th March 1757. His age was set down on a leaf of Bailey's Dictionary, which he has now in his possession. When a small boy, he removed with his father to Craven County (now Marlborough District) South Carolina, where he has lived ever since except as he is stated in this statement.

In 1776 I entered the service, went to Charleston South Carolina as a private foot soldier, as a substitute for Elijah Cottingham, served there under Captain Robert Lide [sic, Robert Lidell] one month, was discharged by him and returned home. I had the discharge for a long time, but have lost it and cannot tell how or when.

In 1777 I served as a private at Cheraw Hills South Carolina under Colonel Powell [probably George Gabriel Powell] and one Stackhouse [John Stackhouse?] one month and was discharged but cannot tell what has become of it. In these years I was out in many other scouts for a few days about the line of North and South Carolina.

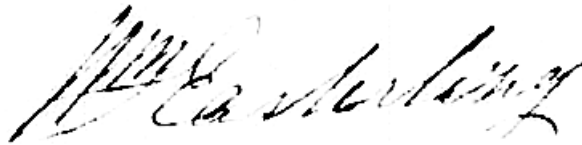
In 1778, I removed to Bladen, now Robeson County, North Carolina to teach school. That year and the two following, I spent the time partly in teaching school and partly in the service. While teaching school I boarded part of the time at Isham Pitman's and part of the time at Mr. Pope's. One third of each year, say four months, in tours of a month generally, but sometimes a little more, and sometimes of little less each, was in the service under Colonels Brown, Richardson and Robeson, and Captains Robeson, Anderson, Moore and McKissick. Our routes were confined between the Cape Fear River in North Carolina and Great Pee Dee [River] in South Carolina crossing repeatedly Rockfish, Raft Swamp, Drowning Creek and Little Pee Dee [River] and passing over a country infested with Tories. I was in but one regular battle but was in many little skirmishes.

When under Colonel Brown in the County of Bladen in North Carolina, sometime after dark, we heard one of our sentinels cry out [“]who comes there.[”] 3 times. He then fired and ran into the line of fire. Another sentinel stood near who thought it was cattle. He hailed Captain Barfield who commanded the Tories shot and hit the sentinel in the back. The Tories continued their fire until they came so near that I could see their faces by the flash of their guns. Our men were in confusion. The Colonel ordered one side of the line of fire, the Adjutant on the other – Our officers succeeded in forming us and commencing fire. We had not fired more than four rounds before the Tories retreated. We were commanded by Colonel Brown, Lt Col Richardson, Adjutant Robert Raiford & Captain Anderson. The Tories by Captain Barfield. During the engagement Captain Anderson (a brave man and true Whig) was shot down by my side. He cried out [“]Oh Lord, I'm a dead man; what shall I do[?”] Adjutant Raiford who was as brave as ever lived, but who stuttered very badly, replied [“]Gu Gu _d in it l l l lye close lye close.[”] poor Anderson's wound was mortal-- we were ordered [illegible words], set out sentinels, and lay on our arms till morning.

After this I moved back to Craven County now Marlborough South Carolina. Sometime after this in 1781 or 2, I think it was 1782, I became acquainted with Colonel Thomas Crawford of Richmond County North Carolina. He commissioned me Captain of a company of horse. I with my company scoured the Counties of Richmond and Robeson for three months, dashing from place to place as we heard the Tories were assembling, dispersing them and preventing their assembling in large bodies. I continued out skirmishing as my services were needed until peace. I was once taken prisoner at Isham Pitman's, by a band of Tories who robbed me of a horse, saddle and bridle. I was badly treated by them.

I know of no living witness who can prove the two months service in South Carolina at Charleston and Cheraw Hills. There is an old man named Matthew Jones¹ who lived in Robeson County in North Carolina who was at my house last summer and qualified my service in Bladen and Robeson in 1778, 9, 80. But he is too old and infirm to be brought to Court. John MacAlister² of Richmond County North Carolina and Filottson O'Brien [sic, Tillotson O'Bryan]³, Thomas Plummer Williams⁴ and old Mr. Everett are still living who could prove my last three months as Captain. And James James of Chesterfield, who I understand has a pension, was one of my men. I do not know a single man in Marlborough who was a companion of mine in arms. James James died in a few days.

S/ Wm Easterling



Sworn to and subscribed in open court.

S/George Bristow

[Campbell Stubbs, a Baptist Minister and Nathan Thomas gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

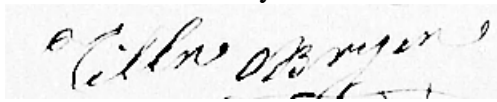
State of South Carolina Marlborough District

Personally appeared before me John Donaldson Esquire one of the justices of the Quorum for said District Tillotson Obryen Esquire of Richmond County North Carolina, who being duly sworn on the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God doth make oath and say that he was well acquainted with William Easterling Esquire now of Marlborough District South Carolina Marlborough District towards the latter part of the revolutionary War with Great Britain and that he the said William Easterling did serve in said Richmond County North Carolina and served about the same as Captain of a Militia light Horse company then having a commission signed by Colonel Thomas Crawford of said Richmond County and that said Easterling served fully and truly then a 3 months Tour under said Crawford and other commanding officers and the deponent saith that he has kept no register of the time of entering into the service of the 3 months Tour But recollects that soon after the Tour was ended the war ceased and the deponent was discharged having served the 3 months under the said Easterling.

Sworn to & signed before me the 30th day of December 1832

S/ John Donaldson, JQ

S/ Tilln OBryen



1 [Matthew Jones R5728](#)

2 [John McAlister W1887](#)

3 [Tillotson O'Bryan \(O'Bryen\) W2422](#)

4 [Thomas P. Williams S7940](#)