

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of John Ashur R280

Transcribed by Will Graves

State of North Carolina, Ashe County: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions November Term 1832

On this 13th day of November A.D. 1832 personally appeared before the Justices of the aforesaid Court, in open court, now sitting, John Ashur a resident of said State and County aged 81 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, 1832.

I, John Ashur, was born in the year 17__2 [third digit of the date is illegible] in the County of Spotsylvania, and the State of Virginia at the town of Fredericksburg and there resided until I was 12 years of age when I was carried by my father to Hyco Creek in what is now called Person County where we settled and remained for two years and we removed thence to Pittsylvania County in Virginia on Mayo Creek at that place we resided but one year, from that place we removed to Johns River North Carolina (now) Burke County, where we remained one or two years-- We left that place & settled on Watauga River in what was then called Washington County and State of North Carolina. In the summer of A. D. 1781 under the Command of Captain Roddey & Col. Sevier I marched as a volunteer with a Company of men against the Cherokee Indians as far as Jonesboro in Washington County but the alarm which occasioned the call of the men subsiding we would returned to our home after having been in the service about three weeks. In the latter part of the same summer A.D. 1781 I marched as a volunteer under the same Captain Roddey with several hundred men collected from the waters of the wholson [sic, Holston River], Watauga &c. all under the Command of Colonel John Sevier. We crossed from the head of the Watauga over the Stone mountain & Blue Ridge into the Glade on John's River marched down lower Creek, crossed the Catawba at the [illegible word] Ford & proceeded on recrossing the River to the High Hills of Santee. After a short delay on the South side of Santee River we crossed that River and joined General Marion in the swamps of the River who had just returned from the Battle of the Eutaw Springs, & on our way we had met with the wounded of the Battle who were proceeding to Camden. Our party remained with General Marion at his Camp in the swamp and done no other service than to scour the Country to repress the Tories and keep the British in check. The only prospect of a battle was when some of Marion's Army had taken a party of the British & were in turn pursued to the verge of the Swamp. I served the whole Term of three months and returned home. Sevier & Roddy did not return this same time but went down the Country as volunteers upon some service not now recollected. In the following spring to wit 1782, I marched as a volunteer from the Watauga against the Chickamauga Indians below the Lookout mountain on the Tennessee River; but before we reached our destination the Indians offered peace and we went no further than a days march below the Long Island of Holston. Our company was under the command of Lieutenant Jo Ford, however Sevier was to have the chief command of the affair and either he or Captain Roddy came and ordered us back. This tour endured about one month. In the fall of the same year, Colonel Sevier Commanded an expedition against the Cherokee Indians and I with a party of not more than 20 men marched on the expedition about half a day in the rear of the principal body of the whites – when no Sevier crossed the French Broad [River] which he did at the Island Ford, he wrote upon a tree if we were more than a certain distance in the rear to retreat. That night we encamped upon the River but found the Indians upon us and we retreated. This Trip was about three or four weeks. In the following spring, I volunteered and marched under Ford who was now Captain against the Chickamauga Indians on the Tennessee River. Sevier was again the Chief Commander of the expedition. It was in this Campaign that the Battle of Lookout mountain was fought & the Indians were defeated. I did not accompany the expedition because my Captain ordered me to range over the Country about the heads of Watauga, Roan creek, Doe River & Cranbury as an Indian spy so that during the absence of the Troops secret attack might not be made on the settlements by the Indians. I was constantly engaged in

this service during the whole time of the expedition which was three or four months. I am 81 years of age. A record of my age was made in a book containing the form of Service for the Episcopalian Church & is now destroyed. Written discharges was granted me by Roddy & Ford for all my terms of service but not appreciating their materiality, I suffered them to be destroyed or lost through neglect. Joseph Wilson, John Wilson & others of Carter County Tennessee & Samuel Hix of Burke County of this State are living witnesses of the facts relative to my revolutionary Services herein stated. The Wilsons as to the whole & Hix as to part; I applied to William Wilson for the benefit of his evidence who is a living witness of all of the Services of which I have herein made a declaration & resides in Carter County & he said that he was unable for the want of a horse. All the others are more inconveniently situated as to their ability to attend court. I myself have walked to court forty miles to make this application. I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State. I could procure no clergyman to certify in my case without calling one from a distance of 30 miles.

S/ John Ashur, X his mark

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year above written.

S/ L.[or T] Callaway, Clk

Amendments to the declaration of John Ashur

State of North Carolina, Ashe County

On this 26 day of August A.D. 1833, personally appeared John Ashur, a resident of Ashe County & said State, who being duly sworn, according to law, makes the following Statements by way of amendment to his declaration herewith annexed. That he was born in the year 1752 in the County of Spotsylvania, at the Town of Fredericksburg & in the State of Virginia, I believe my birth took place in the month of June. My age was entered in a book of forms of religious Services for the Episcopalian Church; that book remained in the possession of my mother until it was thrown out & destroyed, which was 20 years ago; from seeing this entry & from hearing the statement relative thereto in my father's family; a knowledge of my age (as above stated) was acquired. In the month of May or June in the year 1781, the Service was performed by me as a private & volunteer under Captain Roddy & Col. Sevier in the expedition against the Cherokees as far as Jonesboro as stated in my former declaration. Jonesboro was the place appointed for rendezvous of the men of Washington -- & we assembled and remained there until an account of pacific reports from the Cherokees we were discharged I am confident that I was in the public Service subject to the authority of my officers two weeks in this tour – my former Statement that I had a written discharge for this term, upon reflection, I believe to be erroneous and that my discharge was nothing more than a general permission for us to go home, as the occasion of our expedition had ceased. My next Term of Service was performed as stated in my former declaration, and was performed by me as a private & volunteer; and its duration was three months. As well as I can now recollect it commenced about the first of September A.D. 1781 – A discharge was granted me for this tour, which I believe was done by Captain Roddy but has been lost as before Stated.

My next Tour performed in the Spring of 1782, was as well as I can now recollect in the month of March & April – and endured according to the best of my recollection & belief one month. I here make the correction respecting my written discharge – as I did above; our discharge was nothing more than a month dismissal from the Service as the objects of our expedition were terminated – this term was performed by me as a volunteer & product.

My next Tour was performed about the last of August or first of September in the same year as a volunteer & private – and endured 3 weeks. As to my next Term during which I acted as an Indian Spy, & was performed by me as a private, volunteer soldier I am compelled to make a correction as to the season of the year. I formerly stated that it took place in the Spring – upon reflection I recollect that the deer were gray & that it was the season for digging ginseng and must have been in the fall. It was as I before stated in the year 1783 and endured 3 months. Here again I had no other discharge than the

general dismissal of the troops -- & have no kind of written document to establish it. I before Stated that I could procure the certificate of no clergyman without procuring the attendance of one from 30 miles – I have resided in Ashe County about seven years, but it (my residence) is at the least 40 miles from this place, the Court House in a remote & scattered settlement, where I could not possibly receive proper advice & direction in the preparation of evidence to support my declaration. I came on to the court (on account of my poverty by traveling in all on foot) at the time when my declaration was made of record at court. [NOTE: there appears to be a page missing] Two of my respectable neighbors. As I had not before been informed of the necessity of a clergyman's certificate, and as I could not procure it without incurring a journey which I was unable to perform, I believed for I was so advised, that such particular proof would not be required. Living in a remote & mountainous section of the County, enjoying only occasional communication with the Courthouse, I did not learn until today what defects in my former declaration required amendment. The family of the clergyman whose certificate would be proper for my case, is now sick & he would be unwilling to leave them to come such a distance, even if I had the means of sending for him – which I have not without the danger of postponing this statement three months longer. Samuel Hix of Burke County, Joseph Wilson, John Wilson & William Wilson are living witnesses of the greater part of my service – as herein stated –Hix resides in the County of Burke about 55 miles from this place – a part of the distance there is no road without following a circuitous route of more than 100 miles – except on almost impassable path over mountains – moreover his evidence when procured, on account of his bad general character, is unworthy of credit. The Wilsons reside in the County of Carter & State of Tennessee – William Wilson lives within 25 miles of this place & I endeavored to procure his attendance in order to make a certificate for me – But on account of his age, his frailty & want of means of traveling, I could not procure his attendance – I did procure his affidavit before a magistrate of Tennessee, but because it was not duly authenticated it was not transmitted with my former declaration. [illegible word] where I reside to where the Wilsons reside is a continued bed of mountains & from where the Wilsons reside to the Courthouse of Carter County where the Clerk of the County of Carter resides is 40 miles also through a mountainous Country. I am known to John Reese & Isaac Hagerman who reside in my neighborhood and made a certificate annexed to my former declaration and to Dudley Farthing Esq. one of the court of pleas & quarter sessions for Ashe County before whom my former declaration was made & who resides in my neighborhood, Barzillai McBride, William Grayson & John Mast residents of my neighborhood.

S/ John Ashur, X his mark

[John Reese and Isaac Hagerman give the standard certification of reputation for veracity, belief of age and belief in the neighborhood of revolutionary war services.]