

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Elijah Biddle R824

fn17NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

8/27/10

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. Folks are free to make non-commercial use this transcript in any manner they may see fit, but please extend the courtesy of acknowledging the transcriber—besides, if it turns out the transcript contains mistakes, the resulting embarrassment will fall on the transcriber. 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. I welcome and encourage folks to call those and any other errors to my attention.]

State of North Carolina Onslow County

On this 6th day of November A.D. 1832 personally appeared in open court before the Worshipful the Justices of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for the County of Onslow, now sitting, Elijah Biddle a resident of said County, and State aforesaid, aged seventy-two 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 7th 1832; That he volunteered about the commencement of the Revolutionary war, (but at what day, month and year the applicant cannot recollect, as it has now escaped his memory) under Captain Edward Starkey in Onslow County, and marched thence through New Hanover County to Wilmington North Carolina where he remained twenty-six days, the country being much infested and troubled with the Tories, who became very daring and outrageous in their conduct towards the friends of freedom. – After remaining in Wilmington as aforesaid, we again returned to Onslow and were disbanded. – About six months after we were disbanded as aforesaid this applicant, was drafted by Colonel Thomas Johnson, & marched under him & Captain Matthew Allbritton to Blufort's Bridge [sic, Beaufort's Bridge?] above Wilmington, when they were joined by General Lillington who took the command, and thence marched to Rutherford's Mills, in quest of the Tories, thence to Big Limestone in Duplin County, thence to the Cross Roads, and thence back through Onslow County, where we were discharged. This applicant never received any formal written discharge, the deeming [? dreaming] that it would be of any service to him, and therefore never applied for it. – On this tour of duty this applicant served three months. – About two years after the discharge of this applicant as aforesaid, he was again drafted out of Captain Basil Grant's Company in Onslow, by Captain Enoch Battle, and marched about, through the northern part of Onslow County, with the avowed determination of putting down the Tories who were becoming now very troublesome. This applicant further states that upon this tour of duty they were kept under arms during the whole time, and subjected to many privations and inconveniences, and after serving three months, they returned to White Oak River, where they were discharged by Colonel Reuben Grant, who had assumed the command of the forces, in their warfare upon the Tories. This applicant never received a formal discharge, thinking that it never would be of any service to him – This applicant about six months after his discharge as aforesaid, was again drafted by Colonel Reuben Grant, in consequence of alarm of the rising of the Tories, and the

expected arrival of the British forces, from Wilmington, who were assembled there under Major Craig, and who was supposed to be on his march to New Bern, through Onslow County; we was kept under arms three months, during which time we traversed the County in daily in expectation of an attack from the British and Tories. We were finally discharged after the expiration of the three months, but this applicant never applied for a formal written discharge. This applicant never was attached to any particular Regiment and never was in any regular engagement. At Rutherford's Mail we fell in with Coleman, McCotes belonging to the Continental line, and Lieutenant Pasteur of Craven County. This applicant has no documentary evidence, by which he can substantiate the facts above set forth. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity, except the present, and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State.

Sworn to & subscribed, the day & year aforesaid.

S/ D. W. Sanders, Clk

S/ Elijah Biddle

[John Trott and John Tallman gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

Interrogatories

1st Where and in what year were you born?

Ans. In Onslow County, the 16th of December 1759

2nd Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

Ans. I did have it, in one of the leaves of the old family Bible, but the lids were broken off & that she containing the record of my age, was mutilated, & finally torn off, what has become of it I do not know.

3rd Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Ans. When called into service I lived in Onslow County; once I volunteered and 3 times I was drafted. –

4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom?

Ans. I volunteered once and was drafted 3 times & have lived in the County of Onslow in C ever since the Revolutionary War. –

5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Ans. – Captain Edward Starkey, General Lillington, Colonel Thomas Johnson, Captain Matthew Albritton, Colonel Reuben Grant, and Captain Basil Grant. I do not recollect any Continental or militia regiments; the nature of my services consisted principally of a predatory warfare against the Tories in New Hanover, Duplin and Onslow County, and an attempt to intercept Major Craig on his march with his forces from Wilmington to New Bern.

6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

Ans. I never did receive any discharge; I never thought it would be of any service to make, and I therefore never applied for one. –

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.

Ans. Hardy O Newton, John Trott, Davis Humphrey and Mitchell Barbour.

Sworn & subscribed the day and year aforesaid

S/ D. W. Sanders, Clk

S/ Elijah Biddle

[The "official" explanation for the rejection of this claim is that the "court does not assent to his declaration." This is clearly incorrect, however, as the file does contain a very clear statement by the court that it finds satisfactory evidence to believe the statements made by the applicant.]