

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Charles Powers R8412

Sabra Powers

f39NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

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[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' 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.]

State of North Carolina, County of Columbus

On this eleventh day of November A. D., 1834, personally appeared before the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions of Columbus County, Charles Powers, a resident of said County in the State aforesaid aged Seventy two years on 25th July last, who being duly sworn makes the following declarations in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by an Act of Congress passed 7th June 1832. That he entered the service of the U.S. on 5th day of June 1781. That he was drafted in Bladen County to serve under Capt. Daniel Shipman of the United States militia. That at the time he entered service he resided in Bladen County in the State of North Carolina, that he and 50 to 60 others went with Capt. Shipman into Marion District in the State of South Carolina. That not far from the Big Pedee [River] the company joined Genl. Marion's [Francis Marion's] Army, that they did not remain long with Marion before he was ordered to join Genl. Lillington [John Alexander Lillington], that Capt. Shipman with his company to which this Declarant belonged and several other companies under Col. Thomas Brown were sent to join Genl. Lillington between the Yadkin [River] and the head of Big Pedee, That after he had been with Genl. Lillington a month or six weeks Col. Brown with his regiment to which the Declarant belonged was sent up the Yadkin in pursuit of Col. Fanning [David Fanning], a Tory Colonel, that they had no battle or skirmish with Fanning or any the Tories—but being horsemen they were kept scouring the Country in pursuit of them whenever they heard of any depredations committed by them. That the wagons containing the baggage were sent to Cross Creek (now Fayetteville) that after exploring along the line dividing North and South Carolina sometimes in one state and sometimes in the other he finally went to Fayetteville (then called Cross Creek) under Col. Brown and Capt. Shipman after remaining there for two or weeks the time being up for which he was drafted he was discharged and returned home to Bladen County. He was drafted at this time as above stated for six months and served out the time as already stated. That he remained at home but a few days before he again entered the service. That as well as he can recollect about the 12th day of December A.D. 1781, he for the second time entered the service of the United States as a volunteer soldier under Captain John Willis in the County of Bladen in the State of North Carolina. That about 50 volunteers besides himself entered the service under Captain Willis. That they proceeded to gathering cattle in Bladen County & the adjoining Counties for the purpose of taking them to General Greens [sic, Nathanael Greene's] Army stationed then at a place called Pond Ponds [sic, Pon Pon River—now the South Edisto River] on this side of Charleston and not far distant from the City. That they collected about 300 head of cattle and took them to General Greene [Nathanael Greene]. That while on their way with the cattle in South Carolina they were attacked by a part of Colonel Tarleton's [Banastre Tarleton's] Company and an attempt made to take away the cattle. That our Flank guard or spies came back and informed us that there was a company ahead lying in wait. That upon receiving the

information Captain Willis took the greater part of his company among them was this Declarant and went ahead a short distance where they met with them. A skirmish ensued in which this Declarant was wounded by receiving three shots in his leg and was struck a blow on the ear by a sword from one of enemy's men. That several of them were taken prisoners and the others escaped. That those who were taken prisoners were put under a guard and sent to Major Griffith McRee who was then a recruiting officer and at that time on the Cape Fear River in North Carolina. They then went on and took the cattle to General Greene's Army where they arrived about the first of February 1782. That he then remained as a soldier in General Greene's Army for several months. That belonging to a horse company, he was frequently sent out in search of the Tories and to make discoveries. That sometime during the summer of this year General Greene with his Army, commenced a march up the Country. That he would march 30 or 40 miles and then take up for a month or so. That he does not recollect how far he marched with General Greene, but he recollects it was above Robeson County in North Carolina – for when Captain Willis & his company were discharged – they were marched down to Lumberton in Robeson County North Carolina, where he was discharged by Captain Willis – and then he went home having served 12 months the time which he volunteered to serve. That he left the service about the first of December 1782.

This declarant states that there is no clergyman living in his immediate vicinity and that he cannot produce one in Court (without great trouble and inconvenience) who can testify for him. He further states that Theophilus Coleman¹ by whom alone he can prove his personal service and whose affidavit is enclosed is so sick that he cannot attend the Court.

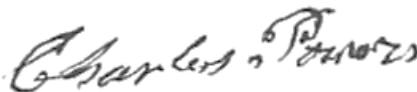
To the several Interrogatories required by the Department to be propounded to the Declarant makes the following replies:

- 1: I was born in Sampson County on 25th day of July 1762.
- 2: I have no record of my age. The Bible in which my age was recorded was carried away by my sister to the State of Georgia about 2 or 3 years ago.
- 3: I was living in Bladen County, North Carolina, when I entered the service. I have lived in Bladen since the Revolutionary War and still live near the same place but it is now called Columbus County.
- 4: I was first drafted for six months and served out that Tour. I was next a volunteer for 12 months and continued in service as such during that time.
- 5: I cannot recollect any other officers or regiments than those already mentioned except a Capt. Cade & his volunteer company from South Carolina. He further on reflection says he recollects Major Robert Raiford who I believe was a regular officer. He thinks he saw him in Genl. Greene's Army. He cannot recollect any other circumstances of my service than those already mentioned.
- 6: I never did receive a written discharge.
- 7: I am known to Joshua Williamson and Marmaduke Powell who can testify in that regard.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of any Agency in any State.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ Charles Powers



[Joshua Williamson and Marmaduke Powell gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

1 [Theophilus Coleman R2162](#)

[p 9]

State of North Carolina Columbus County: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions February Term 1835

On this Eleventh day of February A.D. 1835, personally appeared before the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for the County of Columbus, Charles Powers, a resident of said County in the State aforesaid, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following statement by way of amendment to and explanation of the annexed & preceding declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions made by the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. That about the time as stated in the annexed declaration (viz.) the 12th of December A.D. 1781 having served out the six months for which he was drafted as stated in the preceding declaration, -- he went to Elizabeth town in Bladen County, where Major Griffith McRee was, who was the recruiting officer in the regular service. That he went with the view of again entering the service of the United States as a soldier, -- the Tories being so troublesome that he could not stay at home without lying out in the swamps. That he was unwilling to enlist as a regular soldier during the war, but was willing to enter the service for 12 months. That Major McRee then told him he could go and join Captain Willis, who was then forming a company of volunteers to serve for 12 months as an independent volunteer company. That he the declarant immediately went to Captain Willis and joined his company to serve as a volunteer soldier for 12 months. That he served for 12 months out as stated in the annexed declaration. That his memory does not enable him to give a more particular account of his service during that time than is already given in his previous declaration. This Declarant further states that he did not attach the certificate of Edward Davis² which is hereunto annexed because he did not have it with him at the last term of the Court, and could not conveniently procure it in time, as he lives at some distance from the Court house. That he did not procure the attendance of Edward Davis at the last term of the Court because he said Edward Davis was too sick to get to the Court. That he cannot procure the testimony of said Edward Davis in open Court at this time, because he is now so sick and infirm from old age that he cannot get to the Court. This Declarant further states that he cannot procure the personal attendance of Theophilus Coleman in open court because he is at this time unable on account of sickness, to attend the Court.

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ Charles Powers

[p 11]

October 8th 1834

Personally came before me Theophilus Coleman Senior and maketh oath that Charles Powers of the State of North Carolina and County of Columbus did serve as a soldier in the revolutionary War in behalf of the United States under General Linington [sic Lillington] and Colonel Brown Captain Shipman.

Given under my hand

S/ Elias Godwin JP

S/ Theophilus Coleman, X his mark

[p 12]

October 13th 1834

Personally came before me Edward Davice [sic, Edward Davis] and maketh oath that Charles Powers of the State of North Carolina and County of Columbus did serve as a Soldier of the Revolutionary War in behalf of the United States under General Greene and Captain Willice [sic, Willis]

² [Edward Davis S8284](#)

Given under my hand and seal
S/ Elias Godwin, JP

S/ Edward Davice, X his mark
[sic, Edward Davis]

[p 13: On June 15, 1853 in Cumberland County North Carolina, Elizabeth Powers, Experience Powers & Zilla Powers widow of William Powers executed a power of attorney in which they state they are the children and heirs at law of Charles Powers deceased late of Columbus County & his wife Sabra Powers, in which they empowered their attorney to pursue on their behalf such claims to a pension as they might be entitled to as the heirs of Sabra Powers. All signed with their respective marks.]

[Facts in the file: veteran died December 19, 1836 in Fayetteville North Carolina survived by his widow, Sabra Powers, who died in Fayetteville North Carolina September 10, 1844 survived by Elizabeth and Experience Powers.]