

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Jonathan Woody S17211

Transcribed by Will Graves

f24NC

rev'd 7/15/16 & 4/18/21

[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.]

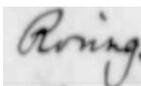
[p 6: pages scrambled as corrected in brackets in red]

State of Iowa, County of Wapello} SS

On this Twelfth day of October in the year of our Lord 1847, personally appeared before the Honorable Cyrus Olney Judge of the Third Judicial District in and for said State, composed of the Counties of Van Buren, Jefferson, Keokuk, Mahaska, Wapello, Davis, Appanoose, Monroe & Marion, Jonathan Woody (who is prevented from appearing in open Court by reason of bodily infirmity) a resident of the Town of Dahlonga, and the said County of Wapello, State of war, aged ninety-one years the fifteenth of June last, 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;

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated:

I served & entered the service some time near the first of July 1782, under Colonel Cox; one Mat. Moore [Matthew Moore] was my Captain (Cox's first name I do not recollect & Captain Moore was called Mat. Moore). I entered the service in the County of Surry State of North Carolina – I continued in service under these officers until about the close of the sixth year of the war when I was placed under Colonel Benjamin Cleveland; Godfrey Isaacks [sic, Godfrey Isaacs] being my Captain, who were in the County of Wilkes in said State of North Carolina & where I served until the close of the war – during the time I was in the Service I was in no regular engagement – I was residing in the County of Surry in North Carolina, when I first entered the service; I was a volunteer; I was engaged in no battle; when I volunteered I was living on Dan River in Surry County near the northern line of said County, our operations and marching was confined to the said County for the first year, or the greater part [p 7] thereof – we marched I recollect up and down the said River Dan, scouring the Country of British and Tories – from this County I marched into Wilkes County aforesaid, not far from what was then called Wilkesboro Court House while in Wilkes County we marched more or less on what was called Adkin River [sic, Yadkin River], and on a River called Roring [?].¹ I cannot give a particular description of our line of march, operations being such as to call us suddenly from one position of the Country to the other, & in the particulars of our march and the points where we touched my memory fails me – I have no recollection at this time of the particular names or number of the Regiment or companies with which I served; I have a recollection that while under Colonel



Cleveland our company was called Cleveland's Company – I was acquainted with one Thomas Barton who was a Captain of a Ranger Company in Greenville District South Carolina on the waters of the Tiger River [sic, Tyger River] with one Major Gowen or Gowan in the same Company that Barton was attached-- with Colonel Robin or Robert Love (usually called Colonel Bob Love) of the Virginia Troops & afterwards Elector for Jackson in North Carolina; I was not engaged in the active service, & was not personally acquainted with the leading officers of the Army, our operations were confined higher up the Country – myself and the greater part of the company had started with our rifles for the purpose of joining General George Washington when the news reached us near Wilkesboro Court House that Cornwallis had been taken [Yorktown, October 19, 1781] & we were then disbanded by our officers – I had two Brothers older than myself, William Woody and James Woody who enlisted under General Gates [Horatio Gates] in the same war. William Woody was transferred the day before Sumpter's [sic, Thomas Sumter's] engagement [Fishing Creek, August 18, 1780] [p 9] with Tarleton to Sumter's portion of the Army, and James Woody² was with General Gates at the time of his engagement with Lord Cornwallis [Battle of Camden, August 15-16, 1780]; William Woody was living in Buncombe County North Carolina, and I have been informed he is now drawing a Pension³ whether James Woody is or not I cannot tell, as I have no definite information from him for more [than] Six years since, and only know that he resides in the State of Kentucky, but what County I cannot tell – I further state that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory, I cannot swear positively as to the precise length of my Service, but according to the best of my recollection, I served not less than the periods mentioned below, and in the following grades: to wit – as a private under Colonel Cox and Captain Moore in Surry County for Two months – as a private under Colonel Cleveland and Captain Isaacks in Wilkes County for Ten months – the service under the first engagement & under the first officers was in Surry County & the second service under Cleveland & Isaacks was in Wilkes County – this company and others of a similar character in the frontier of the State was called into Service by Authority of the General Government or the Continental Congress – the particular Act authorizing the raising of the same I do not recollect, nor cannot tell all of the particulars of attending the raising of the Company – I know that it was in an embodied Corps called into service and recognized as part of the regular Army organized by the Competent Authorities – my services and operations were confined to the field and not to a Garrison; for the time during which the service aforesaid was performed, I was not employed in any civil pursuit – I also subsequently served in what was called the Creek war or the War against the Creek Indians [p 8] in the State of Georgia, under Captain Joseph Neal of Elbert County Georgia and Col. John Cunningham of Elbert County, Coldwater Creek – and Clarke [Elijah Clarke] (first name not now recollected) was General of the division in which I marched – we marched from said Elbert County to Oconee River, thence to Shoulderbone Creek at this place General Clarke treated with the Tallassee [?] King Indian so called at that time – I was then honorably mustered out of the service & then moved to North Carolina – when I left North Carolina and went to Georgia previous to my entering the service in the Creek Indian war, I obtained from Esq. Flatcher (whose name I think was James Flatcher) a certificate showing, as I recollect, that I was a friend of my country and had a right to pass from one state to the other, which was as I then understood it stood in the place of any certificate from the Captain or any other officer in my company – this Esq. Fletcher lived at the time I procured the Certificate in Wilkes County near Wilkesboro – this Certificate I kept and preserved until some fifteen or twenty years ago, but it is now lost and I know nothing of it – this is the only evidence I ever had that referred to anything connected with my service – I have no documentary evidence of my

² [James Woody S31497](#)

³ There is no one named "William Woody" listed among the federal pensioners for service in the Revolutionary War.

services – and I do not know of any person, whose testimony I can procure, who can testify to my service. I have frequently been urged by friends and acquaintances to become an applicant for a pension, my children while living were always opposed to it, being determined to keep me with them and support me – and while able to do anything myself and my children lived, I thought I had served my Country when I was young and able and that myself and children could still support me and my Country keep the small amount I knew was my due – my children are now scattered over different portions of the world, that are now living; I am getting quite aged and infirm and cannot support myself & am at present living with and to a great extent depend on a widowed daughter-in-law – As further particulars that may be useful in the investigation of my claim, I refer to the Honorable Thomas J. Rusk Senator in Congress from the State of Texas, with whom I was acquainted in the Town of Dahlonega in the State of Georgia and with whom I conversed on this subject previous to his removing to Texas, and who is well acquainted with the general reputation on this subject where I resided – I also refer to my daughter-in-law Frances Woody who has been acquainted with me for the last forty years, and who knows it was reputed and believed in the neighborhood where I have lived, that I was a Revolutionary Soldier, and also my son James Woody who well knows the same matter – my daughter-in-law Frances Woody resides in this place & my son at Raccoon Forks or Fort Des Moines's in this State – I have been residing in this State two years next November and have no acquaintances here who knew me in North Carolina or Georgia where I formally lived – with these facts I submit my case or claim with accompanying proof and answers to questions – And I do hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present; and I do declare that my name is not on the pension Roll of [p 11] any State.

And the said Jonathan Woody at the time & place aforesaid answered in my presence the following Interrogatories as follows, as by me propounded he being personally present--

1st Where and in what year were you born?

Ans—I was born in the County of Surry State of North Carolina, on the 15th day of June 1756

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

Ans—I am not certain whether my age was recorded in my father's family Bible but I am inclined to think it was, where this is I do not know – there was a minute of my age in an old Book of some kind that I kept up to some two years or more ago, when I lost my wife and I quit keeping house, when this Book and all my papers [were] allowed to go to waste and destroyed by my children and grandchildren & where this Book is I do not know – these are the only records of my age that I now recollect anything about --

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

Ans—I was living in the Northern part of the County of Surry North Carolina – after our discharge at the end of the Revolutionary War I lived about three years in Albert [sic, Elbert] County State of Georgia from there I went to South Carolina in to Greenville County and lived there some [p 13] fifteen years, from there I moved into Buncombe County North Carolina and lived some nine years, from there I moved into Haywood County in the same State and lived some thirteen years, from there I moved into Macon County in the Same State and lived some nine years, and from there I moved into Union County in the same State and lived some eight years; from there I moved to Lumpkin County State of Georgia and lived some two years; and from there I moved to this place and landed on the 3rd of November 1845, where I have continued to reside ever since and where I now live.

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

Answer – I was called into service as I understood it, and as I yet understand it by

Authority of the Continental Congress, was not drafted, but a volunteer, was not a Substitute.
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.

Answer – Col. Benjamin Cleveland, Colonel Cox (name not known) Captain Godfrey, Isaacks, Colonel Love of the Virginia troops, Captain Moore – Captain Thomas Barton – I recollect our company and Col. Love's of Virginia who hung Goss⁴ the Tory on the North Carolina side, at Cox's gate – as to regiments in the active service I cannot recollect as already stated – my field of operations was confined to [p 12 & 14] ridding the Country of Tories – one circumstance I recollect, that our company received word of some Tories that were in the South Fork of what was called New River in Wilkes County, we were started after them & a company in advance that I now recollect was under one Captain William Noll or Knole [probably Captain William Nall⁵ of Wilkes County NC militia] had proceeded us, had dispersed the Tories and hung some three or four of them; before we came up – we frequently had word of Tories being at different places and have pursued them – we were never called upon to go into the regular active service unless just before we had word of the surrender of Cornwallis – I was never anything more than a private – during the time we was in service we marched through the Country to different points as circumstances seemed to require & prevented the rising of the Tories.

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

Answer – I never received any written discharge from the service, we were disbanded by our officers directly after the Surrender at York Town – after which I got the certificate before referred to, & went into the Creek War.

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 [p 15] as a soldier in the revolution.

Answer – Reverend Milton Jamison Presiding Elder in the Methodist Episcopal Church and the Town Conference; Joseph Hayne, Esq. Sheriff of Wapello County, James Weir Judge of Probate of this County; Doctor John Koontz of this place, his father Martin Koontz residing near this place, Mr. Hugh Smith—Grimes Givens Merchant of this place—David Watkins, Nathaniel H. Gates, late assessor of this County, Rev. Andrew G. Pearce of the Methodist Church, Doctor Stephen P. Yeamans; Thomas H. Gray, Esqr. Atty at Law Fairfield Iowa; Hon. Cyrus Olney Judge of the third Judicial District Iowa, Hon. Jesse B. Browne, late Speaker of the House of Representatives State of Iowa & Candidate for Congress in this District—and many others that might be mentioned.

S/ Jonathan Woody, W his mark

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Cyrus Olney, Judge

[p 4: A. G. Pearce, a clergyman, and David Watkins gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 3: On October 12th, 1847, in Wapello County Iowa, Frances Woody gave testimony that she has been well acquainted with Jonathan Woody, an applicant for a pension from the general government, for the last 40 years; that she first became acquainted with him in Buncombe County North Carolina; that she lived in the same neighborhood with him at that time; that he was always esteemed a man of truth and veracity and was believed to have been a soldier in the

⁴ Hershel Parker identified this man as Zachariah Goss.

⁵ J. D. Lewis indicates this officer's name has been variously spelled as William Null, William Nawls, William Knowls, William Knowles.

Revolutionary War; that she knows him to be of the age of 91 years; that he is frail and his memory is failing; that there is no one in this neighborhood or knew him when he lived in Georgia or the Carolinas who now resides within 100 miles of this place. She signed her affidavit with her mark.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$20 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 6 months in the North Carolina militia.]