

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of John Ewing: S31015

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Kentucky}

Logan County} S.S.

On this 3d day of April 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the Judges of the Logan Circuit Court in the State of Kentucky now sitting, John Ewing a resident in said County of Logan in the State of Kentucky 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 7 June 1833 [sic: 1832]

This declarant was born in Prince Edward County in the State of Virginia in the year 1761 in the month of June, this he knows from his fathers family record of which the foregoing is extracted, when he was ten years of age his father removed to Montgomery County in the said State of Virginia, to that part of said County which is now included in Wythe County here he continued untill he entered the service of the United States, which was to the best of his recollection in the year 1778 he volunteered in a Company of Militia under the command of Capt. Henry Francis, William Glavis was Lieutenant in said Company. We rendezvoused at the lead mines in the said County, and marched from hence to the head-waters Yadkin River in the northern boundary of North Carolina Colo. [Walter] Crockett was in command on this campaign and also Gen'l. William Campbell. we dispersed the tories which had collected in the neighbourhood a captain of the tory party was taken and hanged under one Cane's gate for the tories had assembled in Cane's Settlement as it was called, after [word illegible] the work assigned us we returned home that he received no written discharge for this tour which was for thirty days, previous to the performance of the above mentioned tour he had served thirty days at Chissels mines [sic: the lead mines near Fort Chiswell in Wythe County] as a guard, over a parcel of tories who were prisoners there at this time, Sergeant Jacob Kendrick was the officer of the guard. He received no discharge in writing for this duty.

By an order of the Governor of Virginia Isaac Campbell and Robert Sawyers [sic: Sayers] of both of Montgomery were directed to raise two companies of light horse or Rangers to serve for six months, to hold themselves in readiness to march at a moments warning whenever emergencies might require their service they accordingly succeeded and our declarant volunteered in said service as a private under the command of said Isaac Campbell Michael Glavis was Lieutenant and John Rent[?] was the ensign, in said company, we rendezvoused at the lead mines, here Colonel Abraham Trigg took command We marched hence up near New River and crossed said River at a place called Jones's ford & proceeded across the mountains to the headwaters of the Yadkin River here we fell in with a party of tories commanded by one Captain Kyle [See note below.] We killed between twelve and Twty of the tories and dispersed the balance his former Captain Henry Francis was killed in this fight and was the only whig that was touched by the enemy from there we went on to the Moravian towns [near present Winston-Salem NC] after being there a short time we returned to Virginia after being at home a few days, news reached us that the tories were embodied below the Moravian town, Gen'l [written over Colo; see note below] William Campbell from Washington County joined; our army then being about three hundred strong we marched back to North Carolina to the Moravian towns, here we received an account of the defeat of Colonel Beaufort [sic: defeat of Abraham Buford near Waxhaws SC on 29 May 1780] your declarant was sent by Gen'l Campbell to the Waxhaw settlement to Colon. Sack[?] [one or two words illegible] not far from the Catawba River, On his return to the camp at the Moravian towns, he was informed by Gen'l Campbell that Sumpter [sic: Sumter; see note below] had been defeated everything seemed to be lost in this part of the State, Gen'l. Campbell returned to Virginia - where he was discharged. having performed his six months duty agreeably to his enlistment, he never received a dollar for his services during the six months, notwithstanding he furnished his own horse & equipage and arms. He did not receive a written discharge for this service

In the year 1780, he again entered the service of the United States in a company of Militia

(volunteers) commanded by James Newel [sic: Newell], William Glavis was Lieutenant, he thinks John Whitlock was ensign in said company but did not go out with us. We rendezvoused at a place on the south side of New River called Haiberts ferry at the mouth of Poplar Camp Creek Here we were placed under the command of Colonels [William] Preston [Hugh] Crockett & Cloyd [sic: Joseph Cloyd] from hence we marched across the mountains into Gilford [sic: Guilford] County in the state of North Carolina here we were joined by Gen'l William Campbell who had about eight men under his command. We marched to the Court House of Gilford County, we were ordered from Gilford Court House to the neighbourhood of Gen'l Greens [sic: Nathanael Greene's] army but we did not join his army which was then on the waters of Haw River, We had previous to this dispersed a parcel of Tories not far from Gilford Court House, Gen'l [Andrew] Pickens from Georgia joined us about this time We contemplated capturing Colon Tarlton [sic: Banastre Tarleton] but a tory deserted from our army and gave information of the contemplated attack and Tarlton left his camp in the night & crossed Haw River at a place called the High Rock ford [in Rockingham County]. We pursued him untill we met Colon [Henry] Lee, who informed us that we must retreat, for we were in the immediate neighbourhood of the Main British army under the command of Lord Cornwallace [sic: Cornwallis] We accordingly crossed Haw River & and encamped in the vicinity of General Green's army. the morning after we reached the camp Gen'l Green sent his aid to us and advised us to send our horses home as it was probable we would soon [word illegible] to a general engagement with the British and might loose them. We accordingly complied with his directions. We were ordered from our encampment to a place called Whitsills Mills [sic: Wetzel's Mill, 6 March 1781] on the Reedy fork of the Haw River here we joined the line of Battle and met the army of Lord Cornwallace, We accordingly formed near the old mills and fired two rounds and were then ordered to retreat as we were by this time almost surrounded by the overwhelming army of Cornwallace He recollects that in the retreat an old Irish Man by the name of Buckhannan took shelter in the old mill and fired upon and killed an Englishman as he came down the hill on the opposite side of the River. We were defeated and dispersed. We had orders from our officers in the event of a defeat to rendezvous at Gilford Ct House we there rallied and were ordered home ward. he was out on this campain thirty or forty days. this declarant can say positively that he served his Country in the Revolutionary War nine months, for which he has received no compensation, he took the Soljaer's Oath of allegience about the time he was detailed to guard the houses at the lead mines. Thomas Porter a Cergyman my neighbour and W. J. Morton a neighbour also will testify as to my character and veracity, and also in regard to the belief in my neighbourhood of my having been a Soldier. He can prove in part only of his service which he does by the affidavit of Archibald Rutherford appended but he knows of no person living by whom he can prove the residue of his Service.

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 and subscribed the day & year aforesaid [signed] John Ewing

NOTES:

The engagement on the Yadkin River was at Shallow Ford on 14 Oct 1780, when Maj. Joseph Cloyd led militiamen of North Carolina and Montgomery County VA against Loyalists under Col. Gideon Wright. A Loyalist Captain Kyle was present.

William Campbell was a Colonel during the engagements described here, but was made Brigadier General in June 1781.

The defeat of Gen. Thomas Sumter would have been either the one at Rocky Mount SC on 1 Aug 1780 or the one at Fishing Creek SC on 18 Aug 1780.