

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of William Byers S3112

Transcribed and Annotated by Susan K. Zimmerman and R. Neil Vance

Revised October 4, 2011

Fn: SC

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State of Tennessee
Williamson County

On this 12th day of October 1832 personally appeared before the Justices of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for the County of Williamson now Sitting, William Byers a resident of the State and County aforesaid aged 85 years, who being first duly Sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefits of an act passed June 7. 1832. That he was born on the 6th day of April 1747 in York County Pennsylvania and removed from thence with his father in 1765 to what is now called York District, South Carolina The first services rendered by him in defence of his country was against the Cherokee Indians at Keowee, Old town, on the head waters of the Savannah river, where the Americans burned down towns belonging to the indians, destroyed their corn, killed some few skulking indians and took some of them prisoners¹. Wm. Byers Sr. his uncle, was his captain, and Col. Neil [Thomas Neel] was commander of the regiments to which his company belonged. His Second tour was the Stono² campaign, in Col Neils [Thomas Neel] regiment, his captains name not recollected. During this campaign he was principally engaged with wagon and train, hauling baggage for the Army, he was also engaged in hauling arms with Six other wagons besides his own from Charleston to Augusta, to supply the soldiers in Gen. Lincolns army who were then at that place, but before they arrived there an express was sent informing them that Gen Lincolns army had left Augusta; they then followed the express and over took the army Somewhere near the Savannah, the precise place not recollected. In 1780 he was pressed by the Americans and went with his wagon and train to the northward he thinks it was to Wilmington for salt to supply the country and the Army, this was during the time the British were in Charleston³. He was after this engaged under Col. Bratton [William Bratton], in Gen. Greenes army below the Congaree and then with scouting parties through the country until after the battle of Guilford⁴. To the best of his recollections, he has served in all ten or eleven months. Constitutional weakness, the effects of disease produced by the fatigues he underwent during his several campaigns, and the natural infirmities of old age, have greatly impaired his recollections, thereby preventing him from mentioning many incidents, which could otherwise have been brought in to confirm the Statements made in his declaration. In October 1810 he removed from York District South Carolina to Williamson County, State of Tennessee, where he now resides.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatsoever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any State whatever.

(signed) William Byers

Sworn to and Subscribed
in open court, the day and
year aforesaid

(signed) Tho Hardeman Clerk

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¹ August 3 -15, 1776. John W. Gordon, *South Carolina and the American Revolution*, 2003, p. 52

² Battle of Stono Ferry, June 20, 1779

³ Charleston fell to the British May 12, 1780

⁴ March 15, 1781

This is to certify that I William Hope⁵ of Williamson County and State of Tennessee have been acquainted personally with the aforesaid William Byers who has sworn to, and subscribed the preceding declaration , since the year 1772 when I was a boy, he was then a married man. I lived within three or four miles of him in York District, South Carolina. He was a true friend to his country, but as we did not serve in the same company, I had no opportunity of being particularly acquainted with his services, but from where he lived, and the situation of the country at that time, I know that he must have been on duty a good deal, and as to character he is as much to be believed as any man.

(signed) Wm. Hope

Sworn to and Subscribed in open court,
the day and year aforesaid

(signed) Tho Hardeman Clerk

[Testimony from James W. Rea, a clergyman, and Robert Hill that applicant is believed to have served in the revolution]

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State of Tennessee
Williamson County

Personally appeared before me the undersigned Justice of the Peace in and for the County of Williamson aforesaid William Byers who being duly sworn, deposeth and saith, that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory, he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service, but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following grades; For one month and five days I served as a Sergeant – for five months and eighteen days I served as a private ; and three months and eight days as a waggoner. And for such service I claim a pension.

(signed) William Byers

Sworn to and subscribed before me
this 18th day of October 1833

Nicholas Perkins J.P.

[Bobby Gilmer Moss, *Roster of South Carolina Patriots in the American Revolution*, 1983 says soldier died in 1837.]

⁵ FPA S1956