

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Henry Creswell (Criswell) S3232

fn30SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

6/7/11

[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. 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 fails 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 errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Tennessee Wilson County

On this 25th day of September in the year 1832 Personally Appeared in Open Court before the Worshipful [illegible interlined name], David C Hibbetts and James M Martin presiding Justices of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for Wilson County [word obliterated] Term A.D. 1832 now sitting Henry Criswell a resident of the [word obliterated] of Wilson and State of Tennessee aged about seventy-three 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 entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated viz. that he volunteered a private Soldier in York district in the State of South Carolina on the __ day of November 1775 under Captain McAfee and Lieutenants Love & Berry and attached to the Regiment commanded by Colonel Thomas Neal [Thomas Neel], marched to the State of Georgia to a place called Phillips Fort on Little River, was in actual service a period of three months and was discharged by the Officers at Tony River [Oconee River?] Georgia on the __ day of February 1776. On the __ day of March 1776 he was drafted a private soldier in York District in South Carolina and placed under the command of Captain Andrew Love & Lieutenant William Barry & Daniel Wi [balance of word missing] Watson, marched to Bacon's Bridge, and placed under the command of General Linkhorn [Benjamin Lincoln], & Pulaski followed the British up to Stono River and had several engagements and scrimmages, dismissed by his officers at Stono River in June 1779. On the __ day of July 1780, he volunteered a private soldier under Captain __ Thompson, and attached to the Regiment commanded by Colonel Andrew Neal [Andrew Neel] & William Hill; & the division was commanded by General Sumter, marched through the principal part of the State during that summer and winter, he was at the battle at Rocky Mountain [Rocky Mount] in South Carolina where Colonel Neal was killed, Hanging Rock and [sic, under?] Colonel Hill & Hough, also at Turkey Creek, during the month that the Army lay on the Indian lands in South Carolina he was with Joseph Boggs the Contractor in furnishing the Army with provisions, he was also one [of] the Company of Spies who [one or more illegible words] up the Congaree River to Fort Ankron [Ancrum], he was in the battle at the taking of Fort Congaree under Wade Hampton at Charlestown battle in the fall of 1781 he returned and was elected a first Lieutenant in the Militia, in the company of Captain Patrick's and served two towers [tours] in 1782 of three months each as a Guard at Orangeburg under the command of General Hamilton as a guard for the State prisoners and Tories, during which time he took a number of prisoners among the Tories, Among the rest he will mention two of his uncles, and reported them to the Officers of the division for which he was offered a reward for his bravery but refused it, and was brevetted to the Command of his Company he was dismissed and returned home at Orangeburg sometime

discharged & they had no engagement with the Indians during this tour of duty on the ___day of March 1776 he was drafted as a private Soldier in the militia raised in York District in the State of South Carolina and placed under the command of Captain Andrew Love and Lieutenants William Berry and Daniel Winbourne, they rendezvoused at the house of a man named Bratton and there joined the Regiment of militia under the command of Colonels Neal [&] Watson and Major Ross – they marched to a place called to Bacons Bridge near to Charleston where they were placed under the command of General Lincoln and Count Pulaski after having remained at Bacon's Bridge for some time – they followed the British Army to Stono River and had several skirmishes with them – he was then discharged in June 1779 – having served three months – the time he was drafted for. In the month of July 1780 there was a call made by General Sumter for volunteers to traverse different parts of the State of South Carolina in pursuit of the British and of the Tories the latter of whom had become very troublesome – to call was made for volunteers for such time as they might be needed – Declarant volunteered Thompson and was attached to the Regiment commanded by Colonel Andrew Neal [Andrew Neel] and Lieutenant Colonel William Hill and the division was commanded by General Sumter in person. They marched through different parts of the State during the summer & fall and winter of 1780 [paper torn, text missing] he was engaged in the attack made on the British and Tories at a place called the Rocky Mount in the latter part of the Summer as well as he recollects of 1780 in which attacked Colonel Neal was killed and finding themselves overpowered from the superior force and position of the enemy they were ordered to retreat. After Colonel Neal was killed William Hill acted as Colonel Commandant and Joseph How as Lieutenant Colonel. From the Rocky Mount they marched to a place called the Hanging Rock on the Catawba River there they attacked a body of Tories under the command of one Colonel Brien [Samuel Bryan] a Tory who had fled from North to South Carolina. The Tories were routed with considerable loss – they received assistance during the engagement from the British Army that there encamped about a half a mile from the Tories [one or more indecipherable words] they attacked likewise the British Army encamped and drove them from the ground – they formed – made a vigorous charge in return and again occupied the ground – they went into winter quarters in the Indian lands between North and South Carolina and whenever the weather would allow there engaged in scouting parties against the Tories. Declarant was often detached with others from the Army to [paper torn, text missing] Joseph Bogg the Contractor in furnishing the Army with provisions in the breaking up [paper torn text missing] winter in the spring of 1781. Declarant was detached with a company of spies down the Congaree River to a Fort called Friday's Fort on the Congaree opposite to Ancrum's plantation when the Army arrived they attacked the Fort and the British surrendered. From Friday's Fort they marched down the Congaree either to a Fort erected by the British called Buckhead Fort (situated on a hill the British at first refused to surrender – the American Army was engaged nearly a week in making entrenchments around the Fort preparing to blow up the works and when they found this would be done the British surrendered the Fort. From this point they marched to a place called the Quarter house where some of the British Army were in the habit of resating [sic, ? resting or resorting] on this side of Charleston under Colonel Wade Hampton they were engaged in a slight skirmish with the British this took place as well as he recollects in August from the quarter house they made a return march at a place called Moncks Corner thirty miles from Charlestown for the purpose of attacking a party of the British who had taken up their quarters at a church called Bingham's Church [Biggin Church]. When they arrived at the church was evacuated by the British and was in flames from this point the Army marched to Nelsons ferry on the Santee River where he was discharged the 18th of September 1781 – having served

in this tour of duty 13 months in the fall of 1781 shortly after he returned home he again volunteered in a company of militia raised by Captain Thompson in the District of York South Carolina he was elected first Lieutenant in said company and served as such for 3 months. The Regiment to which he was attached was commanded by Colonel Bratton. They marched to Orangeburg under the command of Major Wallis [Wallace] there he was engaged in guarding the British prisoners of war and the Tory prisoners who were confined at that place – there he remained until discharged having served in this tour 3 months. Immediately after which Declarant volunteered for 3 months and again received the appointment of first Lieutenant – acted under the same officers and was engaged in the same employment as stated in the last preceding tour making another tour of 3 months which he served out and was discharged and dusts ended his Revolutionary Services having served 2 years and one month 19 months of which were performed in the capacity of a soldier and 6 months as Lieutenant – he has no documentary evidence what papers he had were burnt in his house about 12 years ago in Wilson County. It is possible his commission was amongst them otherwise it was lost there is no living witness that he has any knowledge of by whom he can prove his services except Robert Criswell who was with him in a part of his service and knows he served as a soldier and Lieutenant – his neighbor William McCall whose certificate is annexed is a man of truth – Declarant lived in York District South Carolina when he entered the Service – he moved to Wilson County Tennessee in 1806 where he now resides and has resided ever since – he relinquishes all claim to a pension but the present – his name is not on the pension Roll of the agency of any state of the United States – Sworn to and subscribed in open Court this 25th of June 1833

S/ J. S. McClain, Clerk

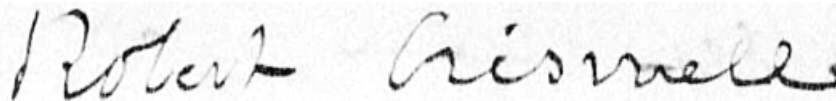
S/ Henry Creswell

State of Tennessee Wilson County: On this 25th day of June 1833 personally appeared in open court Robert Criswell a resident of Wilson County aged seventy-four years and made oath that he knows that the applicant Henry Criswell was a soldier of the revolution – he was with him in a part of his service he knows that said Henry Criswell was elected Lieutenant and Captain Thompson's company in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Bratton and rated as such for six months – he was with him a part of the time applicant acted as a soldier he believes he served as a soldier nineteen months as well as he can remember – he knows he was in service at the lowest estimate two years –

Sworn to in open Court before me June 25th A.D. 1833

S/ J. S. McClain, Clerk

S/ Robert Criswell

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert Criswell". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and somewhat slanted to the right.

[Facts in file is a certificate signed by J. A. Creswell stating that the veteran died August 6, 1843, survived by no widow but by the following children and only heirs to wit John a Creswell, Eli Creswell, Minor Creswell, Milas Creswell, William Creswell, Jane Brown formerly Jane Creswell and that John a Creswell is the administrator of the estate of Henry Criswell.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for two-year service as a private in the South Carolina militia.]