

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of William Polk S3706

fn51NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

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State of North Carolina, Wake County: Superior Court of Law Spring Term 1833

On this the 4th day of April personally appeared before me Robert Stronge one of the Judges of the Superior Court of Law & Equity for the State & County aforesaid in open Court William Polk of the State and County aforesaid aged 75 years on the 9th day of July next ensuing, who being first duly sworn according to Law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

That he entered into the Service of the State of South Carolina in the war of the revolution in the capacity as a Second Lieutenant in the month of April 1775 in the company commanded by Ezekiel Polk Captain in the 3rd Regiment of South Carolina State Troops of mounted infantry commanded by Col. William Thompson [sic, William Thomson], Major Mason [sic, James Mayson]. The company rendezvoused in what is now York District South Carolina and marched thence to 96 thence to Dorchester thence to Granby where we were Joined by the militia of South Carolina there assembled to oppose the Tories embodied at 96 and marched thence to 96, where we pursued the Tories to a place called the great Cane break [sic Great Cane Brake],¹ where an engagement took place – in which action this declarant was on the 22nd day of December 1775 wounded in the left shoulder. With this wound he was confined for a space of 8 or 9 months and immediately after his recovery to wit on the 26th of November 1776, he was appointed a Major in the 9th North Carolina Regiment on Continental establishment – in the war of the Revolution – he having held his commission of Lieutenant in the South Carolina State Troops from April 1775 to the said 26th November 1776. That having been so commissioned as Major I joined my Regiment at Halifax North Carolina in the month of April 1777, he having in the interim been on duty by the command of General Moore at Charleston S. C. & Wilmington N.C. The Colonel of the 9th Regiment was John Williams, and the Lieutenant Colonel John Luttrell; the command of the Regiment by reason of the absence of the Colonel and Lieutenant Colonel devolved upon this declarant – and he marched with the Regiment to Georgetown then in the State of Maryland, now District of Columbia where they were inoculated with the small pox. From thence after their recovery from the small pox, they marched to Trenton New Jersey where they joined the Grand Army under General Washington and marched thence with the Grand Army to meet the enemy at the head of Elk [River]. That he was in the battles of Brandywine & Germantown in the latter of which he was wounded by a musket Ball in the cheek, he continued with the Army until it went into winter quarters at Valley Forge, where he remained until the Regiments were reduced when he with other officers returned to North Carolina to superintend the recruiting service for the purpose of filling up the Regiments. The particular length of this Service he cannot now recollect – nor the precise day of its termination but upon a further reduction of the Regiments which he thinks took place in the spring or summer of 1779, when he was put out of service. For the precise length of his service as a Major on Continental establishment he refers to the annexed Certificate of William Hill Secretary of State – as the best evidence now within his power to command, and as affording a more precise data than his own memory now affords. After the termination of his Service on Continental account in the year 1779, he continued out of service except as an occasional volunteer in the militia until the fall or winter of 1780, the day and month not now recollected, but he received a commission of Lieutenant Colonel commandant from John Rutledge then Governor of South Carolina, in the State Troops of that State – and had the command of the 4th and then the 3rd Regiments of that State. That he first mustered his Regiment under the command of General Thomas Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter] on Broad River in South Carolina. The first active service rendered under his view commission was in an attack upon a

1 <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/greatcanebrake.htm>

block house near Granby² on the Congaree [River] which was carried by his own and Colonel Wade Hampton's Regiments – that he was at the Siege and reduction of Forts Motte³ & Orangeburg⁴; and at the battle of Eutaw Springs⁵ where he had a horse killed under him and subsequently at the reduction of Watboo Fort [sic, Wadboo Bridge?]⁶-- and at the battle of Quinby⁷ – making the whole of his Service as a Lieutenant Commandant in the South Carolina State Troops a period of 10 months – Making his entire Service as of officer in the different grades of Lieutenant, Major, and Lieutenant Colonel of five years and two months – besides occasional service as a volunteer in the Militia between the fall of 1779 and the date of his commission as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1780. On one of which occasions he served as a volunteer aid to General Caswell [Richard Caswell] at the battle of Gates defeat at or near Camden. This declarant is not informed whether there is preserved a Roster of the Officers of the State Troops of South Carolina, but for his The service as a Lieutenant Colonel in the State Troops of that State, he would refer to the declarations on file in the Pension office of Isaac Alexander,⁸ Archibald McCurdy,⁹ Jonas Clark¹⁰ and William Hutcheson [sic, William Hutchinson]¹¹ who served under him. Sworn to and subscribed in open Court.

S/ Will. Polk

[handwritten note: “Died Jany. 14, 1834”]

This declarant statement is not on the Pension Roll of any State, & he hereby relinquishes all claims to a Pension except the present.

The following Interrogatories were propounded by the court – which have their respective answers annexed.

Q. When and in what year were you born?

Answer. In Mecklenburg County North Carolina on the 9th day of July 1758.

Q. Have you any record of you age and if so, where is it?

Answer. I have none, but arrive at it from the information from my parents in their lifetime.

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

Answer. I lived in Mecklenburg County N. C. when I entered the Service. I continued to live in Mecklenburg until 1783 when I removed to Davidson County, Tennessee where I resided occasionally for three years – returned to Mecklenburg County and continued to reside there till 1799, since which time I have resided in the County of Wake – as the Mayor of the City of Raleigh – where I now live.

Q. How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer, or were you a substitute and if so for whom did you substitute?

Answer: By commission first as a Second Lieutenant – next as a Major – then as a Lieutenant Colonel.

Question: Did you ever receive a commission – and if so, by whom was it signed and what has become of it?

Answer – I received my first commission as a Lieutenant from the public authorities of South Carolina and does not now recollect by whom it was signed. I received my commission as a Major in like manner by appointment of the General Assembly or Legislature of North Carolina, and do not recollect by whom it was signed – the state not having been organized under its present Constitution – and I received my commission as a Lieutenant Colonel commandant from John Rutledge Governor of South

2 <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/fortgranby.htm>

3 <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/motte.htm>

4 <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/motte.htm>

5 <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/eutaw.htm>

6 <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/wadboobr.htm>

7 <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/quinby.htm>

8 [Isaac Alexander S6487](#)

9 FPA W7414

10 [Jonas Clark W1386](#)

11 FPA W10133

Carolina by whom it was signed, and I lost the two first at Charlotte Mecklenburg County – My papers having been seized by the British, and my last commission as Lieutenant Colonel commandant, I have lost – how where when I do not know.

I knew in the Service Generals Washington, Lafayette, Gates, Greene and many others – and Colonels Parker of Virginia, Williams, Howard, Smallwood of Maryland and many others-- the Pickney's [sic, Pinckney] and Huger's of S. Carolina and the whole field officers of the North Carolina line.

Sworn to & in open Court.

S/ Will. Polk

S/ John C. Stedman, Clerk

State of North Carolina, Secretary of State's Office

I William Hill Secretary of State in and for the State aforesaid, do certify, that it appears from the Warrant book in this Office that Colonel William Polk received a Warrant for thirty three months service as a Major in the line of this State in the revolutionary war, which warrant was issued at a time when warrants of that description were issued on Certificates of Field Officers.

Given under my hand this 4th April 1833.

S/ W. Hill