

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of Benjamin Birdwell W218  
Transcribed by Will Graves

Mary

fn29NC  
rev'd 8/30/10

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. Folks are free to make non-commercial use this transcript in any manner they may see fit, but please extend the courtesy of acknowledging the transcriber—besides, if it turns out the transcript contains mistakes, the resulting embarrassment will fall on the transcriber. 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. I welcome and encourage folks to call those and any other errors to my attention.]

State of Tennessee, Sullivan County: September Term 1832

On this 25<sup>th</sup> day of September 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Honorable Edward Scott Judge of the Circuit Court of Law & Equity for said County now sitting \_\_\_\_ a resident of the County of Sullivan State of Tennessee aged Sixty seven 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 7<sup>th</sup>, 1832, that he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as hereinafter stated, to wit, That in the fall of the year 1781 he was a resident of the County of Sullivan then State of North Carolina now Tennessee, that he was drafted in said County & enrolled under Colonel Isaac Shelby Captain Cavit [?] for a four months Tour was marched to Santee River in South Carolina by way of the Yellow Mountain Burke County N. C., Tuckasegee Ford on the Catawba River thence through Mecklenburg County in to Camden S. C. from thence to Santee where he joined General Marion's [Francis Marion's] Army was then sent out on a scout with five hundred others under the immediate command of Colonels Shelby & Maham, marched down near Moncks Corner where he was present at the taking of about one hundred & twelve prisoners of the British after the firing of a few guns. They returned from there returned to General Marion's head quarters in the Swamps on Santee. Shortly after his return from Moncks Corner with the said prisoners to said place he again volunteered to go on a scout again went to what was called the widow Bratt's farm, took one British Sergeant prisoner & returned back to head quarters where he remained some time was verbally discharged or received what was called a [word partially written over, could be "Specie?"] certificate, which he afterwards sold for some trifle, he states that he served said Tour on horseback he states that he was drafted for four months and served until discharged as aforesaid for his full Term of service, but to say that he recollects whether he did not serve some days more or less than four months he cannot but he served in said campaign about four months.

He states that in the fall of 1782 he volunteered in the County of Sullivan and State of North Carolina now Tennessee enrolled under Colonel John Sevier & Captain George Russell for a three months Tour to go against the Cherokee Indians, was marched to the big bent [?] of Nolichucky [River] then to Long Creek, up said Creek & down Assumption [?] Creek then across French Broad [River] and on to Boyd's Creek where he remained some days until the arrival of some other men who were on whine [sic, wine?] when they arrived, was marched over the Tennessee River to the Indian Towns, through the Indian Towns on the Tennessee on against what was called the Chickamaugans [sic, Chickamauga] on the arrival of the Army the Indians retreated: this Army then destroyed their grain & property burned their Towns and returned home through what is now the Georgia purchase he states that the object of this said campaign was as this declarant understood was to relieve the prisoners which

were taken & in the Indian custody & also to remove the British agents who were stationed among the Indians. He states that he volunteered as aforesaid for the Term of three months and believes he served about that length of time in said campaign as aforesaid was verbally discharged by his said officer: he states that in all including both Tours as above set forth he believes he served about seven months, though to state positively that it was that length of time he cannot as he was young when he performed said service, though he is certain he served over six months. He states that he has no documentary evidence of his service: that he knows of no person whose Testimony he can procure who can Testify to his service except that hereunto annexed. 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 & subscribed the 25<sup>th</sup> day of September 1832.

S/ Wm Anderson, Clerk

S/ Benjamin Birdwell

[David Adams, a clergyman, & Elijah Cross gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

Micajah Adams<sup>1</sup> a resident of the County of Sullivan & State of Tennessee hereby certifies that he is well acquainted with Benjamin Birdwell who has sworn to and subscribed the above declaration for a pension. That he believes from his own recollection, that he served the Tour to the South of four months & that he is certain from circumstances, that he served said campaign as he has stated. Sworn to & subscribed this 25th day of September 1832

S/ Micajah Adams

[fn p. 13: on February 6, 1845 in Sullivan County Tennessee, Mary Birdwell, in her 73rd year of her age, filed for a widow's pension as the widow of Benjamin Birdwell, a pensioner of the United States at the rate of \$20 per annum for his service in the revolution; that she married him on the March 3, 1791 in Sullivan County Tennessee; that they were married by the Reverend Richard Murrell, a Baptist Minister.]

[fn p. 10: on February 21, 1849 in Sullivan County Tennessee, Mary Birdwell, 76, filed for a pension as the widow of Benjamin Birdwell, a revolutionary war pensioner; that she married him in 1791 in Sullivan County Tennessee and lived with him as his wife until his death on October 17, 1840; that she remains his widow.]

[fn p. 17: family record: all of the entries appeared to be in the same handwriting except as specifically noted and highlighted in italics below]

#### Births

George Birdwell was born in Sullivan County on the 12th of February 1792

David Birdwell was born in Washington County E. T. [East Tennessee] on the 26 September 1794

Jesse Birdwell was born in Sullivan County on the 17th of December 1796

Elizabeth Birdwell was born in Sullivan County on the 22nd of January 1799

Mary Birdwell was born in Sullivan County on the 13th December 1800

Benjamin Birdwell Junior was born in Sullivan County on the 8th of February 1803

Jane Birdwell was born in Sullivan County on the 16th of January 1805

Nancy Birdwell was born in Sullivan County on the 20th May 1807

Joseph Birdwell was born in Washington County on the 1st September 1809

Rowland P Birdwell was born in Washington County on the 20th March 1812

*Rueal Birdwell was born in Sullivan County March 30th 1818* [written in a different handwriting]

#### Marriages

Benjamin Birdwell and Mary Perry were married 3rd March 1791 in Sullivan County E. T.

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<sup>1</sup> [Micajah Adams S1783](#)

*Jonathan Weller [could be Heller] and Marry [sic] Birdwell was [married] in the year of our Lord 2  
od April 1820 [written is a different handwriting]*

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