

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of Benjamin Newton W21837

HQ21 fn80NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

State of North Carolina, Rutherford County: September Sessions 1832 on the 2nd Monday of September at the Court house in Rutherford On this 10th day of September 1832 personally appeared in open court before the Justices holding Rutherford County now sitting Benjamin Newton, a Resident of Rutherford County and State of North Carolina aged 84 years on the 3rd of February next, 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 the 7th 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers. I Benjamin Newton first joined the Army (the same year that the British came to Charleston, to go on an expedition against the Cherokee Indians) as a 1st lieutenant (under Captain John Mattocks who afterwards fell in defense of his Country's cause at King's Mountain), William Chronicle was our Major, and Frederick Hambright was our Colonel we were absent about three months in this service in the above expedition.

I joined the militia of North Carolina as a 1st lieutenant under Captain Samuel Martin, Major William Chronicle and Colonel William Graham, all of us lived on the waters of the South fork of the Catawba River. We were employed about one year in the service against Tories in Lincoln and Rutherford and the upper part of South Carolina – we marched over to Green River in Rutherford where we met with 800 men under different colonels our object was to fight Colonel Forgason [sic, Patrick Ferguson] and it was agreed that Colonel Charles McDowell should take the command he being the oldest Colonel. Colonel McDowell marched 800 fighting in to the high Shoals on the second Broad River in a direction off from Colonel Ferguson and the other colonels all got mad with Colonel McDowell and each took command of his own men – and Colonel William Graham and his men and a Colonel Hill of South Carolina joined us and we marched down to fishing Creek in South Carolina against Col. Floyd who commanded about 400 Tories – however before we arrived Colonel Floyd had just fled as we know because we ate the meat he put in the fire. We then under Colonel Graham returned to Lincoln in pursuit of a Tory Colonel Moore who had gathered a large body of Tories – our Colonel Graham went across the Catawba River to see General Rutherford in Mecklenburg. General Rutherford ordered Colonel Graham and his men to be at Ramsour's Mills at a certain time and we got there accordingly; but before we got there and before General Rutherford got there Major Falls and a company of men met & attacked Colonel Moore and the Tories at Ramsour's Mills and defeated them and we got there as the battle was closing and I shot at one of the Tories as he was running from the battle. A good part of this year I had the command of our company as Captain Samuel Martin's family that had the smallpox and required him to be at home.

He next volunteered with others to join General Greene near Camden South Carolina upon our arrival I was appointed Ensign– Samuel Caspie [? Samuel Espey?]¹ was lieutenant under Captain Jack of Charlotte, North Carolina we were to have been put under command of Colonel Polk of North Carolina but he was taken sick and did not come and we were put under a Virginia Col. I think his name was Dudley and afterwards we were placed under the command of Colonel Marshall of South Carolina and served out the remainder of, in and about, three months.

I served occasionally on small tours but not long at one. I was in an engagement against Col. Tarleton in the Haw fields in Orange County North Carolina at Colonel Mebane's lane, where Major Harris of Rocky River in North Carolina had his hand cut off – I was a volunteer and went with my friend Major Harris to that engagement and then returned home. I was in a small engagement with the British at Polk's Mills when the enemy lay in Charlotte. I was under Captain John Clark and was wounded in the thigh by a British ball in said Mills.

I cannot remember dates accurately, I had commissions for the offices I held as above stated but

1 A Samuel Espey or Espy filed for a pension claiming service under William Graham. See FPA S6824.

about four years since a part of my papers were accidentally burnt and I was taken sick and expected to die and in preparation of that event look over my papers and burnt such as thought would be of no use to my family and my commissions and discharges and list of militia soldiers were all burned by me and I was induced also to do so as I understood the Government had refused to pay us for our services. There are but few men living who participated in the scenes I have related or that live in the County. James Withrow² [who I am informed and believe is unable to come to court) knows I served as stated by me against the Indians – Colonel William Graham³ (whose testimony I hope to procure if his faculties and infirmities will enable him to come in court) knows that I served as I have stated – Captain Maddox and Major Chronicle were both killed at the battle of King's Mountain – where I should have been but was sent as an express to Coddle Creek Mecklenburg to see General Rutherford on my return I swam 14 watercourses, the last being the Catawba River.

I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the pension roll of any agency of any state nun to me.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid in open court.

S/ Benjamin Newton

S/ H. B. White, Clerk

[Joseph Willis, a clergyman, Edward Cook and William Lucas gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

I was born in the State of Pennsylvania in York County in the year 1748 as my parents informed me and as I believe. I have my father's Bible and my age is there stated as I have now stated it, and I believe it contains the truth. I was living in Lincoln County North Carolina then called Tryon when I went into the Army and resided there until the war was over and until about thirty years since I removed in to Rutherford County where I now live. I was a volunteer in every tour of service and what I did was for myself and Country. I just served under Major Chronicle and Colonel Hambright and General Rutherford commanded the Expedition against the Indians – on Green River there were Colonels Campbell, Shelby, Sevier, McDowell, Graham and some others. I received a commission and discharge. I think my commissions were signed by Colonel Hambright and then by Colonel Graham – my commission at or near Camden was filled up by General Greene's orders. I am known to the Reverend Joseph Lewis, Edward Cook and William Lucas all of my neighborhood and who can testify as to my character for veracity, and their belief of my services as a soldier of the Revolution.

Sworn to in open Court after 10th of September 1832. S/ Benjamin Newton

S/ H. B. White, Clk

[Nancy McCall Newton, 90, filed for a widow's pension in Rutherford County, NC, October 23, 1840, stating that she married Benjamin on January 24, 1775; that Benjamin died on February 20, 1835.][Nancy was Nancy McCall before her marriage, she was born January 22, 1760; they were married in her father's house 7 miles from Hillsborough, Orange County, NC; she died in Cleveland County, NC May 12, 1845. The birthdates of their 12 children are given in the file.]

State of North Carolina, Rutherford County **[Spelling in this one is unbelievable]**

Personally came Samuel Asbey [sic, Espey or Espy] before me Martin Roberts Justice of the peace for the County aforesaid and saith on oath as follows that he was well acquainted with Benjamin Newton in the Revolutionary War and said Newton served with him and under his command as a Captain bearing the office of an Ensign in the year 1781 we was [2 indecipherable words] by the order of General Polk and marched to [indcipherable word] Mills South Carolina Kershaw district and there were put under the command of Colonel Reed and then Colonel Marshall to range near the hanging Rock where myself and part of the Company were discharged and Benjamin Newton and the remainder

2 [James Withrow S7945](#)

3 [William Graham S8624](#)

of the company were put under the command of Captain Jack still in Marshall's Regiment.

Sworn and subscribed to the 29th day of June 1833.

S/ M. Roberts, JP

S/ Saml. Espey