

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Earis (Eris, Aires,Ares) Witt W623¹ Rebecca fn53NC²
Transcribed by Will Graves 1/26/11

[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.]

[fn p. 223]

State of Tennessee McMinn County: County Court September Session 1833

On the 5th day of September 1833 appeared before the worshipful Justices of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions of McMinn County aforesaid Eris Witt a resident of McMinn County State of Tennessee aged about 72 years who being 1st duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions made by 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 hereinafter stated to wit –

1st That he entered the service of the United States in Guilford County in the State of North Carolina as a drafted soldier being first Sergeant of the company some time he thinks in April or May 1780, his officers were Captain __ Beshears Lieutenant James Philips, himself being first Sergeant and Colonel Porterfield and Major Armstrong rendezvoused at Guilford Courthouse and joined General Gates Army at Salisbury marched to the hanging rock where he was in a battle against the British call the battle of the hanging rock from there marched to Rugeley's mill where he was in a skirmish against the British from there marched towards Camden South Carolina to a place called the six mile Creek being six miles from Camden where he was in a battle against the British called the battle of Camden or Gates Defeat. After the battle collected at Salisbury marched to the Shallow Ford of Yadkin River crossed the River and lay on the other side until his term of service had expired when he was regularly discharged by his Major Armstrong after having served ten months which discharge is lost or mislaid.

2nd Sometime he thinks in August 1781 he volunteered again being first Sergeant of the company in a horse company in Rockingham County North Carolina his officers were Captain Minor Smith Lieutenant Samuel Hampton Colonel James Martin and General Rutherford himself being first Sergeant rendezvoused at Guilford Courthouse marched to a place called the White swamps where he was in a skirmish against the British from there to a place called the drowning Creek North Carolina where he was in a skirmish against the Tories from there marched to a

¹ BLWt36623-160-55

² At the time this file was viewed on Footnote.com, the page numbers assigned by Footnote.com to the digital images of each of the pages in the file were nonsensical. Footnote.com indicates that it is working on trying to resolve this issue with its software.

place called the brick house near to Wilmington where he was in another skirmish against the British from there marched to a place he does not recollect the name where he was discharged by Colonel James Martin and started home after having been in service three months that being the term for which he had volunteered. On his way home in company with five or six of his fellow soldiers he was met by Fannon [sic, David Fanning] a Tory Colonel and was taken prisoner by him after a severe reincounter [sic, rencounter] wounding him in several places. Fannon took his discharge from him and after retaining him a prisoner for ten days send him home on a furlough.

He served in the first tour ten months in the second tour three months making in all thirteen months.

He was acquainted with Generals Greene, Stephenson, Gates, Wayne, DeKalb and Rutherford (who was his uncle) General Morgan and Colonel Blunt [sic, probably a reference to Colonel Redden or Reading Blount] and the officers he has named above.

He received two discharges which have been lost as he has stated above. He received no commissions as 1st Sergeant

He was born on the 12th day of January he thinks in the year 1761 in Halifax County Virginia moved to Guilford County State of North Carolina where he resided during the war of the revolution from there moved to Greenville district South Carolina from there moved to Washington County Tennessee from there to Knox County Kentucky from there to McMinn County Tennessee where he now resides and has resided about 9 months.

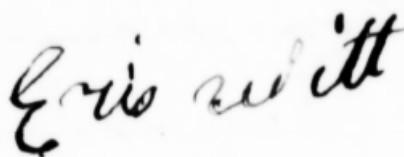
He has no documentary evidence of his service and knows of no person by whom he can prove his services except Burgess Witt who served with him in the three months tour last mentioned in his declaration.

He is acquainted with in the neighborhood of Knox County Kentucky where he resided the last John Cox a clergyman and Burgess Witt in his present neighborhood who can testify as to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution. He has no record of his age nor has he seen one.

He hereby relinquishes every claim 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 and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Eris Witt



[John Cox, a clergyman from Knox County Kentucky and Burgess Witt gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

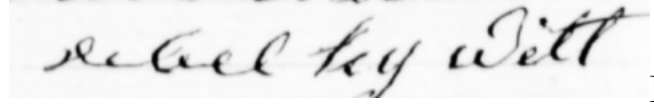
I Burgess Witt³ a resident of McMinn County aged 70 years do certify that I am well acquainted with Eris Witt who has subscribed and sworn to the above declaration from early boyhood that I served with him in the three months tower [tour] he mentioned in his declaration that I know that he served as he has stated in his declaration. I also certify that I know that he was drafted for a ten months tower as he has stated and also understood and believe that he served out the said ten months and also I understood that he had an Honorable discharge for the said tour and also a discharge for the 3 months tower.

³ [Burgess Witt W54](#)

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Rebecca Witt".

[fn p. 59: on April 13, 1853 in Whitley County Kentucky, Rebecca Witt, 70, filed for a widow's pension under the 1853 act stating that she is the widow of Aires Witt, a revolutionary pensioner; that she married him in 1818 or 1817; they were married by William Kenan, JP in Campbell County Tennessee; that her husband died December 15, 1840 and that she remains his widow.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Rebecca Witt".

[facts in file: The widow's maiden name was Rebecca Bryant; she was born in South Carolina (date not stated).]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$43.33 commencing March 4th, 1831, full one-year and one month service as a private in the North Carolina militia. Veteran's widow was pensioned at the same rate commencing February 3rd 1853.]