

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Edward Brewer R1183

f20NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

10/2/10 rev'd 7/29/14

[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. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. 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 skills fail 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 material errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of North Carolina Randolph County

On this 23rd day of July 1834, personally appeared before me William Hannah who being an acting Justice of the peace in and for said County appeared Edward Brewer a resident of the United States in the County of Randolph and State of North Carolina aged [water stained and illegible, my guess is "72"] years, the 19th day of next October, 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 the 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated.

The said Edward Brewer first states that he was born according to his parents information the 19th day of October 1762 in Chatham County North Carolina and volunteered himself and entered the service as a soldier of the Revolution on the 28th day of September as he believes in the year 1778 or at all events 3 weeks before he was 16 years of age in the Light Horse troops in the County of Chatham North Carolina finding his own horse & other equipage except his sword, pistols & gun and to serve as long as required by the Continental officers to defend his country if it should be during the War in that section of the State under the command of General Butler [John Butler], Colonel Litterel [sic, John Luttrell], Major Roger Griffis [Roger Griffith, Griffey, Griffin], & Captain William Douglas [sic, William Douglas] (no other officers recollected) at Chatham Court-House – they met and paraded in order to march after and quell the great bodies of Tories from the dreadful devastations which they were making in that and other parts of the State; from Chatham Court House he and the other troops (most of whom were drafted men) marched under their officers. He then marched to Cane Creek Orange County near Lindley's Mills¹ where they met 5 or 600 Tories under the command of Fannon [sic, David Fanning] their general or chief who had recently robbed and plundered Hillsboro² and rescued all of the Prisoners – Tories – from the Jail of said Town & also took many of the others as prisoners and were then on the road to Wilmington and at which time he with the other Light Horse troops entered into battle against the Tories and killed about 70 of them and lost about 6 Whigs among them Colonel Luttrell fell in the contest – the Whigs had to retreat, because the Tories had an overrating majority; and then he marched back to Chatham Court House and he was then sent by Captain Douglas over Haw River to purchase horse shoes after doing which he returned and received a discharge from Captain Douglas for a tour of three months

¹ The engagement at Lindley's Mill occurred on September 13, 1781. <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/lindleysmill.htm>

² David Fanning attacked Hillsboro on September 12, 1781. <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/hillsborough.htm>

He states that he again entered as a light Horsemen under General Ambrose Ramsey, Major R. Griffis, Captain William Griffin & Lieutenant Michael Blocker (no other officers recollected) and then marched through divers parts of 3 or 4 of the adjoining Counties in search of the great number of Tories & lierouts [outliers] in order to protect that section of the Country from their inhumane & unlawful acts until the expiration of two months at which time he received a discharge from Captain William Griffin and then returned home (in Chatham County 8 miles from the Courthouse to get clothing &c.

And in a few days he states that he was sent for by General William Goldson³ whose orders he obeyed and entered the service again under General William Goldson, Major Roger Griffis, Captain John Goldson [John Gholson] & Lieutenant Joseph Rosser (no other officers recollected) at Chatham Court House in them traversed up and down Deep & Haw rivers across and through the Counties within the limits of North Carolina in search and pursuit of the Tories until the end of three months & then received his discharge for the same from General, or Captain Goldson and returned home for a few days &c

And some short time after, the said Edward Brewer states, that he received orders from General William Golson [sic] whose mandate he obeyed and met the officers & troops at Chatham Court House and again entered into service under General William Goldson, Major Roger Griffis, Captain Matthew Ramsey, Lieutenant Joseph Rosser (no other officers recollected) and then marched in almost every direction and sometimes stationing at different points or places & guarding and defending that section of the State, the towns &c from the perilous attend & destructive acts of the great bodies of Tories who were overtly and publicly committing outrages against American independence & in favor of the King of Great Britain until the end of another three months tour at which time he received a discharge for the same from General Goldson & he then returned to his residence in Chatham County North Carolina.

And after some short time had elapsed he was sent for by General William Goldson to attend at Chatham Court House as the Tories had broken out again upon Deep River whose orders he obeyed & at the Court House he again entered the service as a Light Horsemen as before under General William Goldson, Major Roger Griffis & Captain Joseph Rosser & then marched in and through the following Counties & others to wit, Chatham, Orange, Wake, Moore & Randolph in expelling the Tories from those parts of the State as above described until the end of another three months tour, at which time he received another discharge from General Goldson and returned home.

And again, by the time he, the said Edward Brewer got some clothes & rest he was sent for by General William Goldson to attend at Chatham Court House which he done and entered the service as before under General Goldson, Major Roger Griffis, Captain Joseph Rosser & Lieutenant Whitmon Arrington (no other officers recollected) he states that they were engaged as before described in pursuit of the Tories and did take a great many of them as prisoners and put some of them in Hillsboro Jail in Orange County where he helped to guard them some time and then they were tried & were sentenced to hang & also was hanged and he was then & there put to guard said Jail & now during some length of time and some of the Tories were carried off towards Charleston in the service of the United Colonies or States in order that they might escaped the gallows and do no more mischief by their enlisting into America's cause. He further states that he marched back to Chatham Court House & was there stationed a while until the end of another 3 months tour at which time he received another discharge from General William

³ This is probably a reference to a man whose name is more often spelled either "William Goldston" or "William Gholson."

Goldson and returned to his residence as he had usually done.

He further states that he was sent for by General William Goldson sometime after he had arrived home at that period (though they had somewhat dispersed the Tories) in part and he returned to Chatham Court House and entered the service as a soldier of the Revolution in the Light horse under Captain Tabner Mash [Taverner Marsh] in one Company only not attended by the presence of the General or higher officers than the Captain (no other officers recollected) and he was marching and looking in & about and through the Counties before named up and down Deep & Haw rivers in order to prevent the spoils of the Tories to kill or take them as prisoners until the end of two months when he received a discharge for the same from Captain Tabner Mash and then returned to his residence again as before stated.

And he furthermore states that after and intervening period he was sent for by General William Goldson and according to orders he met at Chatham Court House and again entered into service as before under General William Goldson, Major Roger Griffis, & Captain Joseph Rosser and then marched in and through & about the same sections and stopped at one Creek's during one night when they met a body of Tories and General Goldson detached part of his troops and went by foot and attacked them & made them scamp off and vacate that section without the loss of any one of the Whigs; but they still pursued the Tories across Deep River and in every direction where they could hear of them in order to kill or take them or prevent their distressing and savage like outrages until another 3 months tour ended when he returned to Chatham Court House and then received another discharge from General William Goldson and then returned to his residence (8 miles from the Court House).

The said Edward Brewer further states that after and intervening period the alarm was that the Tories had broken out again and doing much mischief which caused orders to issue for the soldiers of the Whig party he was also sent for by General William Goldson whose orders he again obeyed and met at Chatham Court House and then entered the service as a soldier of the Revolution in the Light horse troops as before under General William Goldson, Captain Joseph Rosser (no other officers recollected and then marched up and down the Rivers before named about General Ramsey's Mills through Wake, Moore & several other Counties for the before named purposes and in the same expeditions &c until the end of another 3 months tour expired when he received his discharge from General William Golson at Chatham Court House and then returned home for the last tour under General Goldson (though he is of the opinion that he served another 3 months tour under General William Golson when Thomas Rosser was Captain but for fear that he may be in an error he will not pretend that he did) and during his service under General Goldson & Captain Rosser he states he had to looked for them and all of the other head officers when they had looking to do.

The said Edward Brewer further states after the above named periods there marched the band of foot soldiers to Chatham Court House some of whom were from Virginia as he understood (all of them belonged to the Whig party) and wanted some soldiers who were acquainted with that section of the Country and when the Tories mostly took refuge & shelter and ambushed for the purpose to do mischief, and then evaded their detection; and he the said Edward Brewer being a volunteer soldier during the War or the continuation of necessity in that part of the State and well acquainted with that part of NC from having served through their as a soldier so long therefore General William Goldson sent orders to him the said Edward Brewer by William Smith (cousin to said Brewer) to unite himself to that troop of foot soldiers which he also done at his uncle Henry Brewer's old place under the command of Colonel Mabane [Robert Mebane], Captain Trouton & Lieutenant Nathaniel Bilbry and he then marched with them

through different sections of the several Counties adjoining and guarding different and important places during two months by the end of which time the Tories had disbanded and were dispersed almost in every direction and troublesome times over to what had been and peace proclaimed through the Country as far as he could learn and he then received a discharge from Captain Trouton for two months service and then returned home (8 miles from Chatham Court-House) in the Fall or winter just after he had arrived to twenty years of age thus ended his services of 25 months as a soldier of the Revolution in the Light Horse troops and finding his own horse bridle & saddle and was also 2 months in the foot troops making in the whole 27 months service from 3 weeks before he was 16 years of age until just after he had arrived to 20 years of age. He further states that he pursued no other occupation but that of a soldier from the time he first volunteered & entered the service but only served the length of time he states herein from the time he began until the end of his service but between the periods of his service or times when he was not in service he had to be always ready at the call of his officers to go into service whenever the Tories inundated that part of the Territory of North Carolina. He states that he was not in more than two battles but in several irregular skirmishes in which the Tories would take to flight except in the one with Fannon [David Fanning] who had 5 or 600 strong.

He further states that one Francis Irvin a Captain of the Tories who had committed outrages &c with Fannon their chief commander, returned after peace to his settlement and was caught and hung on a walnut tree for his notorious and outrageous conduct as a Tory and plunderer &c. He further states some of the names of his fellow soldiers with whom he served more or less of his time; to wit: John Stewart, Julius Riddle, William Russell, John Russell, James Russell, Thomas Russell, Richard Riddle, Joseph Stewart, Richard Herrington & many others that he could name. He furthermore states that he has not any documentary evidence of his services; and that the several discharges which he received from his respective officers he kept some years until he had a family of children and when he was sending them to school and thinking his discharges of no service to him he gave the most of them to his children for thumb papers & perhaps all; so that he has not a single one of them at his command at this time.

He the said Edward Brewer states as before that he was born in Chatham County North Carolina and after his services in the War of the Revolution he went to Sampson County North Carolina where he married and resided about 3 years and then moved back to Chatham County North Carolina and then there resided about 5 years and from thence he moved into Randolph County North Carolina in which he has lived ever since during the period, or near about 39 years.

He further states that from the decline of age & debility, his indigent circumstances the peculiar situation of his proof and living in a far corner of the County of Randolph between 25 and 30 miles from the Court House (Asheboro) he cannot have his declaration recognized in Court without a great deal of personal ill convenience and perhaps great injury.

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 and subscribed, the day and year aforesaid.

S/ W. Hannah, JP

S/ Edward Brewer, X his mark

[p 4]

State of North Carolina Randolph County: SS

I Elizabeth Russell of the County of Randolph & I Barbara Russell of the County of Montgomery, both sisters & married to brothers do both hereby certify that we were born and

raised in the neighborhood of and resided by Edward Brewer the above applicant and that he was a soldier of the Revolution in the Light Horse troops in the Whig party when quite young and did serve and stayed during several nights with his officers and his fellow soldiers near our father's house on the Public road in Chatham County North Carolina and that we were acquainted with every one of his officers embraced in the above declaration (except Captain Trouton) from their being so much in the service of the Revolution and marching through and by where we lived &c; and that at the time the said Edward Brewer was called a volunteer a true soldier & man for his Country: and as well as we can recollect served the greater part of the time as a soldier until peace was abroad in the land; and we do moreover further certify that our husbands who are now dead, to wit: William Russell and John Russell served a great length of time with said Brewer to our personal knowledge and that we have heard our Husbands before named talk of it divers of times. And we do further certify that the above declaration contains a great many facts of which we were eyewitnesses and that we believe it is true, and that the said Edward Brewer served the length of time and in the manner and form as he has stated in the foregoing declaration.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

S/ W. Hannah, JP

S/ Elizabeth Russell, X her mark

S/ Barbara Russell, X her mark

I John Stewart residing in the County of Montgomery do hereby certify that I served with the said Edward Brewer, who has sworn to and subscribed to the foregoing declaration, during three months under Captain Duglass and that I know of, and heard of his serving as a soldier of the Revolution generally as near as I can recollect as he states in his declaration, and further I do hereby certify that I was personally acquainted with all of the officers (but Captain Trouton & Lieutenant N. Bilbry) and that they were constantly serving as said Brewer states and that the said Brewer is of the age that he states, and that I have great reasons to believe and do believe that he served as he states in his declaration. Sworn to and subscribed before me the day and year aforesaid.

S/ John Stewart⁴, X his mark

I have Richard Bell⁵ residing in the County of Randolph North Carolina and aged 74 next January do hereby certify that he was a soldier of the Light Horse in the Revolution from Montgomery County North Carolina and did marched in various parts and directions in pursuit of the great masses of Tories commanded by Fannon [Fanning], Elrod & others, and did marched down to Deep River under Captain Gilmore commanded by Colonel Loftin [William Lofton] to attack Fannon & his men when & where he and his officers received news from the other troops (some distance above) from Chatham & Orange Counties about 200 strong not to attack Fannon & his men until they could reach them to assist in the battle or attack which they done or agreed upon during that night and during said night Fannon discovering his design vacated the place. And he the said Richard Bell further certifies that on the morning following the above named troops united and paraded ready for battle and General Goldson was chief commander of the Chatham & Orange troops of L. Horse because he the said Bell states that he heard his name called and saw him riding up and down the lines on parade waving his sword and was at that time called a conspicuous Officer of the Light Horse troops of the revolution oath full value & ability and of public authority. And the said Bell states that he has conversed with Edward

⁴ [John Stewart S21504](#)

⁵ [Richard Bell W25231](#)

Brewer the above applicant and the said Brewer stated to him the said Bell that he was under General Goldson at that the above named time; and of a great many of his ups & downs in the revolution so that he the said Bell is positive that the said did serve as a soldier of the Revolution [word obliterated] he could not make up such a history of truce with [words obliterated] his having been a soldier also is reputed and believed in the neighborhood to have been a soldier of the Revolution. And he the said Bell states from his own knowledge that there was much distress in consequence of the past number of Tories in that part of North Carolina.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Richard Bell, X his mark

[p 12]

State of North Carolina Randolph County

On this 12th day of December 1834 personally appeared before me William Hannah one of the acting Justices of the Peace in and for said County Edward Brewer of the County and State aforesaid who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following additional and explanatory Declaration to a declaration made by him the said Edward Brewer July (perhaps on the 23rd day as well as recollected) in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

He states he did make his intentions known to the officers of the Whig party of the Revolution that he would volunteer and likewise did volunteer his service as he stated in his former Declaration which was to serve during the War in the behalf of American Independence. And did enter into service as a Soldier of the Light Horse troops and was at all times and places under the control and influence of the officers that he named in his former declaration who were each of authority according to their respective grade and had and did take command (and not officers that went out on their own personal direction & authority) of the light horse troops in that part of the State named in his former Declaration which was invaded by a numerous quantity of Tories some of which had come from almost every direction. He the said Brewer states that after Hillsboro was plundered by the Tories who were numerous & too strong at that time for the Continental and Whig troops; there marched from the mountains some light horse troops whose officers united there troops to the troops to whom he the said Brewer belonged and then and there the united troops remained stationed for some considerable time in guarding the town and the Jail in which were deposited many prisoners of the Tories several of whom were hanged. He the said Brewer states that under his proper officers he and his troops marched through the different sections named in his original declaration & sometimes they were in company with foot soldiers some of whom the Virginia regulars and some of whom North Carolina ^{Militia}, and sometimes there Light Horse troops were United to other Light Horse troops; whenever their officers had any anticipation of coming into battle; and when the likelihood of that would subside as a plan to bring the enemy into battle would fail; then the Officers would emit and detach the soldiers in order to take them if possible or to prevent their progress of murdering & plundering which was very distressing at that time and required great exertions and personal valor and skill. He the said Brewer states he was, after he had enrolled himself as a soldier at all times under the authority of proper officers wherever his Country's called for him he was there by the orders of his respective officers, but that he was not under the personal directions of General William Goldson as an individual calling out a party on his own responsibility neither was he the said Goldson an officer of that class, but was an officer of authority from the government or appeared so at least because he the said Goldson and the other officers named in

his former declaration did give tickets for all the provision &c that was obtained through the Country at different places & two different persons for support of the soldiers during the war which tickets were paid by the Government or taken in lieu of taxes by the tax gatherers &c. He further states that he served three tours if not more when he was not under General Goldson and part of which service under Captain Duglas, John Stewart one of his former affiants proved in his former declaration as a fellow soldier, and the most of the balance of his service came within his knowledge and acquaintance &c. He states moreover that he volunteered as a soldier in the Light horse troops during the War which troops were made up of drafted & volunteered men. And he the said Brewer states that he did serve as required by the officers of that section of Country, or as he means, as long as there were war and troublesome times in North Carolina as a volunteer of the Continental and Whig party as he stated in his original declaration and served with whom & whenever he was ordered &c. He the said Brewer states that at the end of the war & his service in the same of the Revolution his officers assured him and the other soldiers that they would draw wages from the Government, but the Continental currency was marked down or failed so time passed on that manner; therefore he never received any wages for his long service. He further states that he was unable to appear in the Court of his County in order to make his former declaration before said Court by reason of bodily infirmity which is a pain, or failure in the right hip & swimming in the head which is increased by fatigue either by walking, riding or laboring.

Sworn to and subscribed before me the day and year aforesaid.

S/ W. Hannah, JP

S/ Edward Brewer, X his mark

[p 14]

I Richard Bell residing in the County of Randolph North Carolina and aged 74 years next January do hereby certify that he was a soldier of the light Horse in the Revolution from Montgomery County North Carolina and did march in various parts and directions in pursuit of the great masses of Tories commanded by Salmon, Elrod & others and did march down to deep River under Captain Gilmore commanded by Colonel Loftin to attack Fannon & his men when & where he and his officers received news from the other troops (some distance above) from Chatham & Orange Counties about 200 strong not to attack Fannon & his men until they could reach them to assist in the battle or attack which they done or agreed upon during that night and during said night Fannon discovering his danger vacated the place. And he the said Richard Bell further certifies that on the morning following the above named troops United and prorated ready for battle and General Goldson was Chief Commander of the Chatham & Orange troops of Light Horse because he the said Bell states that he heard his name called and saw him riding up and down the lines on parade waving his sword and was at that time called a Conspicuous Officer of the Light Horse troops of the Revolution both for valor & ability and of Public Authority. And the said Bell states that he has conversed with Edward Brewer the above applicant and the said Brewer stated to him the said Bell that he was under General Goldson at the above named times in and of a great many of his ups & downs in the Revolution so that he the said Bell is positive that the said Brewer did serve as a soldier of the Revolution because he could not make up such a history of truth without his having been a soldier also he is reputed and believed in the neighborhood to have been a soldier of the Revolution. And he the said Bell states from his own knowledge that there was much distressed in consequence of the vast number of Tories in that part of North Carolina.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

S/ W. Hannah, JP

S/ Richard Bell, X his mark

[p 15]

I Barbara Russell residing in the County of Montgomery do hereby certify in addition to what I certified for Edward Brewer the within applicant on last July (perhaps the 23rd) that I was well acquainted with General William Goldson who was embraced in said Brewer's original declaration and that he was called and known by every body in the section where I lived as a General of the Light Horse troops of the Revolution and was called an officer of Public authority, and a gallant soldier of the Revolution and appeared to have the chief command of the most of the light horse troops where I was raised as a General of the War of the Revolution through that part of North Carolina.

And I further certify that when General Goldson and his troops or any of the officers (except Trouton) named in Brewer's original declaration with their troops consisting of volunteers and drafted soldiers, would call or camp near my Father's in Chatham County and would call on my father for a cow or hog or corn &c the Head officer or officers would give to my father a ticket for the amount or the worth of the article and the ticket or tickets were paid by the public that is taken in by public men for taxes and otherwise. And it appeared from the necessity, or distress of that part of North Carolina & required that the said troops should be kept up for the safety of the Country at large by the Public because the enemy was strong and made powerful efforts against American Independence in a variety of ways. I further state that my Sister Elizabeth Russell whose certificate was taken with mine last July on Brewer's declaration has died since the same was done, and that John Stewart who certificate was likewise taken has moved to the Western Countries during the last Fall.

Sworn to and subscribed before me one of the acting Justices of the Peace in and for the County of Montgomery. This the 17th day of December 1834

S/ Littleton Harris, JP

S/ Barbara Russell, X her mark