

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of William Childress R1927  
Transcribed by Will Graves

Charity fn33SC[NC]  
rev'd 5/26/11

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. 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. 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 fails 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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call errors or omissions to my attention.]

[fn p. 8]

State of Tennessee, White County

On the 16<sup>th</sup> day of July 1833 personally appeared before Samuel H. Allen and William Irwin Acting Justices of the peace for the County of White William Childress a resident of White County and State of Tennessee aged seventy-one years by the 25<sup>th</sup> day of December next who first being duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of an act of Congress passed June the 7<sup>th</sup> 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

He believes it was in the year 1777.<sup>1</sup> He lived in Caswell County State of North Carolina. He was drafted in the company commanded by Capt. William White as a private soldier in which capacity he served the whole of the time for which he was drafted to go against the British. This was a six months tour. Capt. White's company repaired to Hillsborough North Carolina and there joined Genl. Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford]. From Hillsborough they proceeded to Purissburg [Purrysburg] on the Savannah River in South Carolina and there joined the Army under the command of Genl. Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln]. They there remained about six weeks with Genl. Lincoln's army at Purrysburg. Nothing remarkable happened while there they remained. After remained thus long, Genl. Lincoln detached Genl. Rutherford's immediate command up the Savannah River to a place called the Two Sisters [Ferry] for the purpose of guarding the river and endeavoring if possible to keep the enemy from crossing the river over into South Carolina. This declarant was along on this occasion and under the command of Genl. Rutherford. They remained there about six weeks. The British did

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1 The events described by the applicant in this paragraph occurred in 1779.

not cross nor did any thing remarkable happen during their stay at this place. Genl. Rutherford then received orders to go about twenty four miles further up the river to the mouth of a creek called Brier Creek [Briar Creek]. There he joined Genl. Nash [sic, John Ashe] who this declarant thinks had about 1,500 men under his command. He thinks that the united forces of Genl. Rutherford and Genl. Ashe might be about 3,000 but in this he is not certain. Here at the mouth of Briar Creek immediately on Genl. Rutherford's arrival a battle took place with some British troops he thinks under the command of Col. Brown. The enemy was victorious. He believes that the Americans lost in killed and prisoners between 4 and 500 men as our troops retreated and came back to the place called the Two Sisters on the Savannah [River] where [he] remained until his six months service expired. He here received a discharge from his Capt. William White and returned home to Caswell County N. C. where he, the said Childress, remained about ten months. He then went to see his grandfather Wm. Vaughn who lived in the District of 96 in South Carolina. He there enlisted in the regular Army under Capt. John Ridgeway. He does not recollect the number of the Regiment but it was commanded by Col. Hays [sic, Joseph Hayes]. The name of his lieutenant was Waters [probably Philemon Waters]. He enlisted for two years and believes it was in the year 1778 about the month of July.<sup>2</sup> Col. Hayes' Regiment joined Genl. Morgan's [Daniel Morgan's] army in South Carolina on the Enoree [River] or its waters.<sup>3</sup> After joining Genl. Morgan's army the first important service he rendered was to go with Col. Washington [William Washington] to a place called Hammond's old store where he was in a hard engagement with the Tories.<sup>4</sup> He believes that the detachment under Col. Washington amounted to about 500 horsemen. He thinks that they killed about seventy or eighty Tories on the ground and took about as many prisoners and many of their horses and pursued them 7 or 8 miles. The next day about sixty three of this detachment went to a fort called Williams' Fort<sup>5</sup> which the Tories was in possession of and he, the said Childress, was one of said party. They sent a flag calling upon the Tories to surrender in five minutes. They begged for half an hour; it was granted the Tories he supposes must have thought that there was an Army in the rise for they left the fort and supposed they amounted to 2 or 300 men making their escape on the opposite side from where we were. We did not pursue them but so soon as they were gone we burnt the fort. Col. Washington's Detachment returned and again joined Genl. Morgan. The next important service he was in was the battle of the Cowpens. From this place the troops that he was with went towards N. Carolina and fill in with Genl. Greene's army at Broad River S. Carolina and on their route Northward they were closely pursued by Lord Cornwallis and his army but that he, the said Childress, was not in any battle after the battle of the Cowpens. The pursuit was keep up as far as Guilford in North Carolina. On their march to that place and not far from thence the said declarant was taken sick with the ague and fever and being in the neighborhood of his residence he obtained a furlough from his Capt. John Ridgeway. He remained sick upwards of six months and was extremely low and weak and a great part of the time he was unable to

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2 The year is probably 1780, not 1778.

3 Morgan's army was probably on the Pacolet River, not the Enoree at the time Hayes joined him as Morgan is known to have maintained his headquarters for a while on the Pacolet.

4 The Battle of Hammond's Old Store occurred on December 30, 1780.

5 Williams' Fort was located on Mount Pleasant, the plantation of Col. James Williams, near the line marking the current boundary lines of Laurens and Newberry Counties SC. The Fort is thought to have been located on or near Mudlick Creek, a tributary of the Little River [of the Saluda River].

walk and in this time his term of two years for which he enlisted as a private soldier and remained such to the end of his service or two years expired. He did not get a regular discharge on that account. The declarant knew Genl. Greene, Genl. Morgan, Genl. Lincoln, Genl. Rutherford, Genl. Nash [sic, Ashe], and Col. Hayes and Col. James Sanders. His first tour in the militia as above stated was for six months. His last enlistment was for two years but of this time he was sick about six months making in all two years and six months in actual service of the United States except the time as stated of being sick and that he was not employed during his service in any civil pursuit.

There is no living witness by whom he can prove his service by that he knows of and that he is too infirm to get to court without great inconvenience and risk.

Answer to the Questions prescribed by the War Department and propounded by the Court.

1. He was born in Buckingham County, Virginia 25 Dec. 1762.

2. He has no record of his age. He depends upon information derived from his parents.

3. When called into the militia service he lived in Caswell County N. Carolina. He enlisted in the District of ninety six South Carolina. After the close of the war he moved to Buckingham County, Virginia from thence he returned to Caswell County N. Carolina from thence he removed to the District of Ninety Six in South Carolina from thence to Rutherford County, N. Carolina from thence to Madison County, Kentucky from thence he removed to White County in the State of Tennessee where he now lives.

4. He was first drafted for six months and then enlisted in the regular service for two years both times as a private soldier.

5. He has stated the names of such regular officers as he can recollect and the general circumstances of his services as fully as he can.

6. He received a discharge from his Captain William White at the expiration of his militia service but has lost it many years ago and supposes that it was washed up in the pockets of his pantaloons. He knows that it is lost. He received no discharge from his regular service but was sick on furlough as above stated when his time expired. His furlough has long been lost.

7. He states the names of the following persons in his present neighborhood to whom he is known and who can testify as to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution viz. Isaac Taylor, James Townsend, Esqr., James Eastham, James Davis and the Reverend Henry Burton.

He knows of no living witness by whom he can prove his services nor has he any documentary evidence by which the same can be established. As to his services in the continental army, he is advised that his name does not appear on the rolls of South Carolina. 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 any agency in any state.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year above written.

S/ William Childress, X his mark {Seal}

S/ James H. Allen, Justice of the peace

S/ William Irwin, Justice of the peace

[Henry Burton, a clergyman, and James Davis gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[fn p. 3: On May 31<sup>st</sup> 1844 in DeKalb County, Tennessee, Charity Childress, widow, aged about 83, filed for a widow's pension stating: they married on July 28, 1784 in Buckingham County, Virginia; that her husband died January 14, 1839.]

[facts in file: In a letter dated July 13, 1854, reference is made to hire him Childress, son of the veteran having filed a claim, but I do not see that claim in this file.]

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