

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Hewitt R4935

f24NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

5/2/11: rev'd 10/2/21

[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' or 'undeciphered' 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. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

State of North Carolina Onslow County: SS

On this 7th day of November A.D. 1832 personally appeared in open Court, before the Worshipful the Justices of the peace for the County of Onslow, the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions for said County now sitting, John Hewitt Senior, a resident of Onslow County North Carolina aged seventy eight 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 7th 1832 – when this applicant was twenty two years old he enlisted under Captain Hull Jones for three months, John McCotter was his Lieutenant & Doctor John Pasteur was Ensign & under Captain Jones command he was stationed at Swansborough [Swansboro] in this State during the period of enlistment. It was in the year 1777. After the expiration of the three months duty this applicant was discharged & returned home. He has no recollection about receiving a written discharge. In about one month after his return home this applicant went to Kinston & enlisted under Captain Joseph Scott Cray, who was an excellent officer. Under his command this applicant's serve for one year, it being the time for which he was enlisted. Captain Cray had about 100 men under his Command. We were employed in various duties between Kinston & New Bern. His first Sergeant was named Michael Harmon. No incident of importance occurred during this period of our service, we were engaged in no battles. After the twelve months service was expired this applicant received a written discharge from Captain Craig, which deeming of no consequence whatever he took no pains to preserve & it has been lost or destroyed. After this discharge this applicant returned again to his home in Onslow County, where he remained but a short time before he was drafted & placed under the command of Captain William Cray, [indecipherable word or words partially cut off, could be "brother"] to Captain Cray under whom I served in Kinston. Under his command we marched to Wilmington. We were about 200 men. Captain Cray's Company – Woodhouse Rhodes was our first Lieutenant. The Ensign was named Burns: & was from Bladen County. Our Colonel was named Mathews & was from Duplin County. After we arrived in Wilmington & had remained about one day we all left it under the command of Brigade Major Bloodworth [Thomas Bloodworth a/k/a Thomas Bludworth] crossed Cape Fear River & marched about four miles & then turned down the River & we then went down to a place called Brunswick about 15 miles from Wilmington & there remained about 10 days. From thence we marched to old town Creek, thence through Holly Shelter, until we came to Long Bay after leaving which we passed through a little town called Moncks Corner & from thence we marched to a place up Ashley River called Dorchester. At this last place we remained about 12 days. From Dorchester to Charleston is 10 miles distance into which place we marched

& there continued until this applicant was pressed on board the American armed ship *Truet* [sic, *Truite*]¹ together with some of his compeers. This applicant does not remember the name of the Commander of the *Truet*, but recollects that he was a terrible fellow. General Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln] commanded in Charleston & had under his command 13,000 troops exclusive of militia to which latter part of this applicant belonged before he was pressed on board the ship *Truet*. He remained on board the *Truet* 16 days. This applicant was in Charleston about 3 months before he was pressed & after being on board 16 days, General Lincoln came down to Fort Moultrie where we were lying & commanded the Captain of the ship *Truet* to deliver up the marines. We were twenty-four in number & had all been impressed. The Captain of the ship was compelled to comply & the very evening that General Lincoln returned to the City, a Schooner came down alongside the Ship, took us all on board & carried us up & landed us on the Royal Exchange Wharf in Charleston. The next day after this event, it being the 28th day of March 1780, this applicant together with 3 others, to wit, Charles Cheers, Joseph Cheers & John Sylvester, all from Onslow County North Carolina went to the residence of General Lincoln & obtained our regular discharges. Has no recollection what has become of it. Charleston at the time this applicant was there was walled in entirely between the two rivers, & strongly guarded. The British Army under Sir Henry Clinton lay encamped to the Westward of Charleston, across Ashley River about one mile distance, & we could plainly perceive the troops on parade every morning. The British had thrown up entrenchments on the bank of the River Ashley & occasional cannonading took place between the city batteries & the enemy, without material damage on either side. This applicant throughout the whole of his Campaigning served as a drummer, except while on board the ship *Truet*, during which time he served as a marine.

This applicant has no documentary evidence to support of the statement herein contained. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any State
Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid –



D. W. Landers, Clk

[Jesse Landers & Daniel Rodgers gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Everett Simmons and Bazel Hawkins gave a separate standard supporting affidavit.]

Interrogatories – Where & in what year were you born?

Ans. – In Onslow County North Carolina – November 25th 1754.

2nd – Have you any record of your age & if so where is it?

Ans. I have it in my Bible at home.

3rd – Where were you living when called into service, where have you lived since the revolutionary war & where do you now live?

Ans. In Onslow have lived there since the Revolutionary war & still lived there.

¹ The *Truite* [French for trout] was one of several ships the American scuttled in Charleston Harbor in an unsuccessful attempt to keep the British fleet from progressing within cannon range of the city during the siege in 1780. A gabare or small transport, the *Truite* was originally built by the French at Le Harve in 1776 and had been converted to carry twenty-six 12-pounders at the time she was scuttled. Her captain was James Pyne at the time this veteran served on her. Source: **Oared Fighting Ships of the South Carolina Navy, 1776-1780** Author: John J. Sayen Jr. The South Carolina Historical Magazine, Vol. 87, No. 4 (Oct., 1986), pp. 213-237 Published by: South Carolina Historical Society

4th. How were you called into service? Were you drafted, did you volunteer or were you a Substitute & if a substitute for whom?

Ans. I was enlisted first, for 3 months, enlisted a second time for a year & was drafted for 3 months.

5. State the name of some of the regular officers, who were with the troops, where you served such Continental & militia regiments as you can recollect & the general circumstances of your service?

Ans. General Lincoln was one – Colonel Mebane & Captain Coleman to others, all in the regular service – I was altogether 15 months in service in North Carolina & 3 months & over on the expedition to South Carolina.

6. Did you ever receive a discharge from the service & if so by whom was it given & what has become of it?

Ans. Yes! I received 2 – one full one-year's service from Captain Joseph Scott Cray & one from General Lincoln both of which are lost or destroyed.

7. State the names of persons in your neighborhood to whom you are at present known & who can testify to your character for veracity & their belief of your services as a soldier of the Revolution –

Ans. – David Ketcham, Jo. D. Ward, Thomas Owens, David Ward, Benjamin Ward, David W Landers, Daniel Landers, Luke Huggins, Bazil Hawkins, John Hawkins

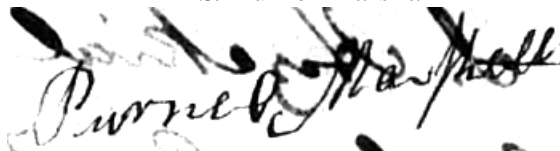
S/ John Hewitt

State of North Carolina Onslow County: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions May Term 1833

On this 6th day of May 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the worshipful the Justices of the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions now sitting Purnel Marshall,² who being duly sworn deposeth & saith that in the year 1782 according to his belief, he knew, John Hewitt, the applicant as herein described, that he was then at Moore's Hill & Beaufort's Bridge [Buford's Bridge]³ passing through Holly Shelter. That said John Hewitt was a soldier in the Army (there being 4 or 500 of us) & that Colonel Grant commanded – thanks John Cooper was Captain – saw him frequently but cannot state the exact length of time he served.

Sworn to in open Court this 6th day of May A.D. 1833.

S/ Purnel Marshall



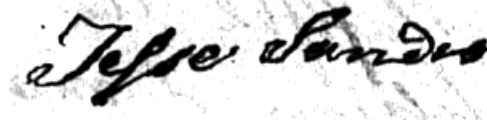
State of North Carolina Onslow County: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions May Term A.D. 1833
Personally appeared in open Court before the Worshipful the Justices of the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions of Onslow, now sitting, Jesse Sanders [could be Jesse Landers] who being duly sworn deposeth & saith, that he knows that Mr. John Hewitt the applicant in the Declaration herewith appended served 3 months in one tour at Swansboro in North Carolina in a company of

² Sic, [Purnell Marshall \(Marshall\) S7191](#)

³ J D Lewis notes: "The bridge was a recently constructed "swing bridge" that was built by a man named Mr. Buford in the early 1770s. But, by the late 1770s, it had been purchased by a Mr. Heron and everyone in the vicinity knew it as Heron's Bridge - primarily because he strengthened it considerably and made it much more reliable. But, the "old timers" still called it Buford's Bridge." https://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_herons_bridge.html

minute men – does not remember the year, Hardy Jones was Captain of the company – This affiant also knows that John Hewitt was on another tour with this affiant – we went from Rocky Point to Beaufort's Bridge we embodied at Moore's Hill, 4 or 5 hundred of us – this tour lasted 3 months – Captain we started under the command of Captain Hazzard & were afterwards put under the command of Captain Kilby Jones, Colonel Reuben Grant was our Colonel, I did not serve at any other times with Mr. John Hewitt but I lived in his neighborhood & know that he was gone for a long time during the war – this affiant's memory is very defective & cannot remember the periods of the service stated, but knows that John Hewitt did serve the time mentioned.

S/ Jesse Sanders [Landers?]

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jesse Sanders". The ink is dark and the handwriting is somewhat slanted to the right.

State of North Carolina Onslow County: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions August Term A.D. 1833

John Hewitt states on oath that he can make no further proof that has been heretofore stated that in explanation of the interrogatory put by the Department with regard to his 12 months service, he has to state that he enlisted under Joseph Scott Cray, for 12 months, having entered at Kinston in this State – that it was a State Regiment, & was not to go out of the State – we served the time between New Bern & Kinston some time at each, is not certain, but thinks Colonel John Herritage commanded the Regiment – that according to his recollection it was in 1779 – John Hewitt hopes this explanation, being the only one required by the department may be satisfactory.

S/ John Hewitt

State of North Carolina Onslow County: Superior Court of Law Spring Term A.D. 1834

John Hewitt Senior before his Honor John J. Donnell makes oath in further support of his claim for a pension. He states that the one the year's service performed in Kinston & New Bern was in a State Regiment & that he agreed to serve one year when he first joined. That it was under Captain Jos. Scott Cray & Michael Carmen Lieutenant & John Herritage Colonel. I was not the drummer during this year – his name was Pelton Spock [could be Pelton Ipock]. He John Hewitt enlisted for one-year. His discharge was from Colonel John Herritage – one Robert White was our Quarter Master. The only one man now living (that affiant is not sure he is now living) who served this 12 months with him was one Seth Wicks – & he is or was living in Tennessee, when this applicant last heard from him.

Sworn to this 4th of March 1834

S/ John Hewitt