

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Lewis R6334

f23NC

Transcribed and annotated by Will Graves

4/15/10: rev'd 8/11/23

[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.]

[p 21]

State of South Carolina Darlington District }

On this the Twenty eighth day of March 1832, personally appeared in Open Court & before his Honor William D. Martin one of the Justices of the Court of Common Pleas now sitting William Lewis a resident of Darlington District and State aforesaid -- aged about Eighty One years, who being 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.

That he entered the service of the United States, under the following named officers, and served as herein stated -- he is under Captain Jarvis [William Jarvis] who commanded a company under Colonel Johnson [sic, Jonas Johnston of Edgecombe County, NC] of the North Carolina Militia. That he entered the service in the year 1777 -- but did not do actual service until the year 1779. -- That in the month of March 1779, he came with Captain (Jarvis) of Colonel Johnson's Regiment in the South Carolina. That he was in the engagement at Stono Ferry South Carolina [June 20, 1779]¹ under General Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln]. After this battle he returned to Halifax North Carolina where he remained about three months as a guard to some prisoners taken at Stono. From Halifax he went to Prince Edward Virginia. After returning from Prince Edward -- he volunteered his services to pursuit of Lord Cornwallis -- who was in pursuit of the Americans. During this time he still lived in Northampton County North Carolina where he was born. That he did not leave the service until the declaration of Peace. About thirty years since he removed into South Carolina Darlington. He was attached to the Militia of North Carolina and received his discharge from Col. Johnson -- but lost it.

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 the agency of any State.

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

S/ John B. Bruce, CCPC

S William Lewis, X his mark

[William Kervin, a clergyman, and James Lewis gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 5]

South Carolina Darlington District

In obedience to the requirement of the department William Lewis makes the following

¹ https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_stono_ferry.html

additional Declaration in order to obtain a pension under the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

That he is a resident of the District of Darlington and State of South Carolina; that he entered the service of the United States in the year 1777 but did not do actual duty until the year 1779 and from this time to the end of the war, he was in service and for the time during which he was in the service he was not employed in any civil pursuit -- As to the length of his service Declarant is unwilling to undertake to state with precision owing to his age and the great lapse of time since the services were rendered, together with the fact of not treasuring the time in his recollection as he never expected to ask for pay for his services, until driven by hard necessity to receive from the General government their offered bounty, he feels that he would be safe in stating that he served at least two years, and in the capacity of a private, The officers under whom he served (or a part of them for in this as in fixing the length of time he served he believes age and consequent failure of memory) our Col. Johnson, Col. Vaughan,² Col. Peoples [Robert Peoples of the Northampton NC militia], Captain and afterwards Major Jarvis, Captain Sherod [Joel Sherrod of the Northampton NC militia], General Lincoln --

Declarant states that he has no documentary Evidence of his service.

He was in the engagement at Stono in South Carolina under General Lincoln, after this battle he returned to Halifax County, North Carolina, where he remained about three months as a guard to some prisoners taken at Stono. From Halifax he went to Prince Edward Virginia, after returning from Prince Edward, he volunteered his services to oppose Lord Cornwallis, who was in pursuit of the Americans, Did not leave the service until the Declaration of Peace. About 30 years since he removed into South Carolina, Darlington District where he has since resided -- He was attached to the North Carolina Militia and received a discharge from Col. Johnson and has lost it.

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 & subscribed the 8th day of November 1833

S/ A. M. McIver, N. Pub. UQ

S/ William Lewis, X his mark

[p 6]

State of South Carolina Darlington District: Personally appeared before me William Lewis, who being duly sworn deposeth and saith that by reason of old age & the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service, but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than 2 years and for such service I claim a pension.

Sworn & subscribed the 8th day of November 1833.

S/ A. M. McIver, N. Pub. UQ

S/ William Lewis, X his mark

[p 7]

Answers to the 7 Interrogatories³ prescribed by the War Department

² This MAY be a mistaken attempt to name Capt. James Vaughan of the Northampton NC militia.

³ The War Department promulgated regulations governing pension application format and requiring the following 7 interrogatories to be put to each applicant for a pension:

1st Where and in what year were you born?

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

1. North Hampton County North Carolina, as well as Declarant can recollect, without a reference to the record of his age, which he lost about 30 years since in moving from North Carolina to South Carolina, he was born in the year 1752 or 3
2. The record of my age I lost in removing from North Carolina to South Carolina 30 years since
3. When called into service I was living in Northampton County North Carolina, and continued to live there until about 30 years since when I removed to where I now live in Darlington District South Carolina.
4. I was drafted, I also served a volunteer, never as a substitute
5. General Lincoln, General Butler [John Butler], General Marion [Francis Marion], Colonel Johnson, Captain and afterwards Major Jarvis & Captain Sherod.
6. I had 3 discharges, one from Col. Peoples, one from Col. Vaughan and one from Col. Johnson, they are lost.
7. Every body that knows me would testify to my veracity and their belief of my services as a soldier of the Revolution, the following persons are deemed sufficient Dr. Thomas Smith, Reverend William Kirven, Booker Gandy and David Grigg
Sworn & subscribed 8th day of November 1833

S/ William Lewis, X his mark

S/ A. M. McIver, N. Pub. UQ

[p 8]

South Carolina Darlington District before me personally appeared James Lewis and made oath that he knew William Lewis in the Service of the United States in the time of the Revolutionary War, that he knows the facts stated in the foregoing declaration are true.
Sworn & subscribed 8th day of November 1833

S/ A. M. McIver, N. Pub. UQ

S/ James Lewis, X his mark

[p 20]

South Carolina Darlington District

Personally appeared before me the undersigned a Notary Public and ex officio Justice of the Quorum William Lewis who being duly sworn deposed and saith that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory, he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service; but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below, and in the following grades

For the space of two years I served as a private and for such service I claim a pension.

Sworn & subscribed 10th June 1836

S/ A. M. McIver, N. Pub. UQ

3rd Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if a substitute, for whom?

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

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

7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.]

S/ William Lewis, X his mark

[p 2: Robert Lewis of Darlington District, SC filed a power of attorney dated October 26, 1852 in firing his attorney to pursue the claim of William Lewis. He states that he is the son of William Lewis deceased.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert Lewis". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, slightly textured paper. The letters are connected and fluid, with a prominent initial 'R' and 'L'. The signature is enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.