

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Birdsong R855

f28NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

8/30/10 rev'd 10/31/14

[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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

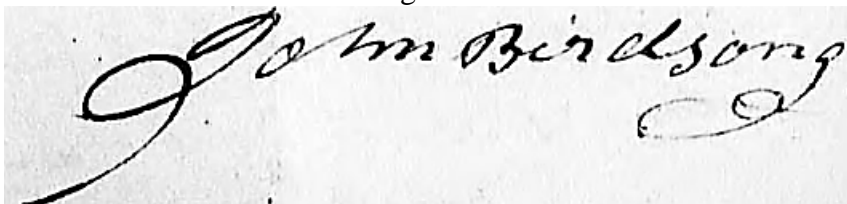
[p 2]

[State of Tennessee, McNairy County]

For the purpose of obtaining the benefit of "an act for the relief of certain Surviving officers and soldiers of the Army of the revolution," Approved on the 15th of May 1828, I John Birdsong of the County of McNairy in the State of Tennessee, do hereby declare that I enlisted in the Continental line of the Army of the revolution for and during the war, and continued in its service until its termination at which period I was a soldier under Colonel Nicholas Long who commanded the post between the Northern and Southern Army. I do further state, that I entered the service under Colonel Ambrose Ramsey of North Carolina and during the war was transferred to Long Regiment and the duties principally performed by may went under Long was carrying expresses from one Army to the other.

I also declare that I never received any certificate for the reward of \$80 to which I was entitled under a resolve of Congress passed the 15th May 1778. I further declare that I received a discharge but has long since lost or mislaid it so that I cannot find it. I further declare that I was not on the 15th day of March 1828 on the pension List of the United States. 20th of February 1830.

S/ John Birdsong

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Birdsong". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, slightly textured paper. The first letter 'J' is large and loops around the first few letters. The signature ends with a decorative flourish.

[p 3]

Personally appeared before may William C Deer an acting Justice of the Peace in and for the County of Madison & State of Tennessee being duly empowered to administer oaths, General William Birdsong<sup>1</sup> a citizen of said County, who did make oath, that John Birdsong by whom the foregoing declaration was subscribed is generally reputed & believed to have been a soldier in the Army of the revolution in manner as therein stated he further states that said John Birdsong was active in carrying expresses from the Northern to the Southern Army and suffered various privations and ran many risks as I have heard the offices in said Army give him great credit for

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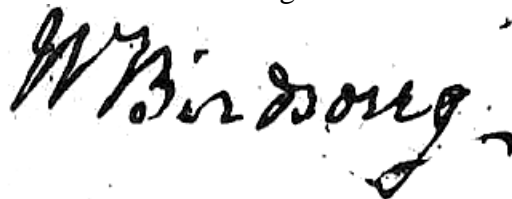
<sup>1</sup> [William Birdsong R856](#)

so doing and that said John continued in service from some time in the year 1780 until after the capture of Lord Cornwallis. I am now acquainted with the situation of the said John Birdsong he is old and worn out & is very poor man has no property to support on, the reason that I am positive of the facts stated I was a soldier in the aforesaid Army.  
Witness my hand the 20th day of February 1830.

Sworn to and subscribed before me the day & year above

S/ M. C. Deer, JP

S/ W. Birdsong

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Birdsong". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat slanted style with a small flourish at the end.

[p 5]

State of Tennessee Fayette County: Circuit Court January Term 1846

Personally appeared in open Court before the Honorable WC Dunlap Judge &c presiding John Birdsong, a citizen of said County of Fayette and makes oath that he was a soldier engaged in the Revolutionary war against the British and Tories. He states that his first service was under Colonel Ambrose Ramsey the then Colonel of the County of Chatham in the State of North Carolina in which County deponent then resided. This was in the year 1780. His father John Birdsong was then the 1st Major of said County & was taken prisoner in 1781 shortly after the battle at Guilford [March 15, 1781] and was prisoner until about February 1782 – part of the time at Wilmington, then in a prison ship, thence at Charleston. Affiant was in several skirmishes under Colonel Ramsey – one of them was at the head of a lane at Eli Branson's where we had a fight with the Tories. I think Captain Medary [John Medearis] commanded the company I was then. I was often dispatched when under Colonel Ramsey to assist in the conveyance of public stores to Ramsay's Mill and also to Hillsboro. I cannot recollect how long I served under Colonel Ramsey.

I next served under Colonel John Luttrell [John Luttrell] & made a number of expeditions under him & in a number of skirmishes, we met Fan nin [David Fanning] & his men several times but the main battle was at or near Lindley's Mill [September 13, 1781] on Cain [Cane] Creek, in which Colonel Luttrell was killed & also Major John Nawl [John Nall] & he recollects a soldier by the name of Burton was severely wounded in the belly & William Dilliard a near neighbor was killed & many others killed & wounded – General Butler [John Butler] commanded that it was understood he ran about the beginning of the battle & the command devolved on Colonel Luttrell. He also served some time under Captain William Gholson [William Goldston]. The battle of Lindley's Mill was fought to try to retake Governor Burke [Thomas Burke] who had been taken prisoner at Hillsboro some time before [September 12, 1781]. I had been engaged two days before the battle carrying word to officers calling them in & got to the ground just as the battle commenced – and affiant states further that a short time before Governor Burke was made prisoner he was dispatched by some of his officers to warn the Governor not to return to Hillsboro.

He states also that his Brother Captain Batt Birdsong was for some time a Deputy quarter Master the commander of the station [at] Harrisburg in Granville County and affiant was in the service there not less than nine months & during a good part of the time was dispatched often with messages to offices at other places – bring dispatches and a short time during temporary absence of his Brother he commanded the station Affiant was in service until Cornwallis was

captured [October 19, 1781] but [indecipherable word]<sup>2</sup> about Christmas of that year –

Affiant has resided in the County of Fayette about fifteen years – and is now near eighty-four years old. I have not heretofore applied for a pension for the reason that I have been able to live without it & for no other reason – but the Death [?] of members of my family & my age becoming too great to enable me to make a living at my trade (the hatters business) has left me destitute and without the means of support.

S/ John Birdsong

Sworn to and subscribed in open Court  
S/ William Burton, Clerk

[p 7]

Also appeared in open Court at the same time General William Birdsong resident of the County of Madison in said State and states that he is of the age of about 81 years & is the Brother, next youngest to John Birdsong the foregoing applicant. He states that John Birdsong was a soldier in the Revolutionary War against the British & Tories. Affiant recollects his first services were under Colonel Ambrose Ramsay of Chatham, his father being first Major – said John was also some time under Colonel Luttrell. He also served some time under Captain William Gholson – Affiant also states Colonel Luttrell fell with other brave man, while commanding at the battle of Lindley's Mill on Cain Creek – Also that he served under his brother Captain Batt Birdsong a Deputy quarter Master at Williamsburg in Granville County some nine months & was often detailed to carry dispatches during which time he went through many dangers – Affiant's recollection is that his services were dispensed with shortly after the capture of Cornwallis – said John is now 83 or 84 years old – is poor & helpless & without any means of a support. He was a volunteer in the revolution & never drafted. Affiant also recollects his brother John assisted to carry the provisions [of] beef & pork to Ramsay's mill which were afterwards captured by Cornwallis. He thinks said John was in service 2 years from the best of affiant's knowledge.

S/ William Birdsong, X his mark