

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements](#)

Pension application of Samuel Bryson S1644

fn18NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 10/14/10

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. Folks are free to make non-commercial use this transcript in any manner they may see fit, but please extend the courtesy of acknowledging the transcriber—besides, if it turns out the transcript contains mistakes, the resulting embarrassment will fall on the transcriber. 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. I welcome and encourage folks to call those and any other errors to my attention.]

Sate of Tennessee, Wilson County

On this 10th day of May in the year of our Lord 1833 personally appeared before me Jehu McMinn one of the acting Justices of the peace for said county and a member of the county court of the same, it being a court of record, Samuel Bryson a resident of said county states aged about seventy nine years, who being first duly sworn according to law hath on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7, 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following names officers & served as herein stated.

He was a citizen of Rowan County North Carolina when the war commenced, to which he had moved from Lancaster County Pennsylvania when in his 15th year of age. He first entered the service as a militia man under a draft & went out into what was called the "Snow Campaign" which was so denominated on account of the unusual depth & quantity of the snow which fell at that time. But owing to the imperfection of his memory this age he cannot state the month or year this tour was performed. He thinks Dixon was his Colonel & John Work was his captain & they were under the command of General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford] but he does not remember who were the other officers. They passed over the Catawba [River],-South Fork,-Lawson's Fork & a number of other streams into the State of Georgia. They were marching upon a band of Tories under the command of Col Fletcher [sic, Thomas Fletchall] who had become formidable in that quarter. Before they had got to the place the "Liberty troops" had come upon Fletchall's band & conquered them & came meeting us with Fletchall the Tory in strings. He distinctly recollects that Fletchall was well guarded & was riding a horse with his feet tied securely under his belly. He was a stout chunky man. They were taking him on to the City of Charleston. We then turned back & marched home & were regularly discharged in writing for the three months tour. They had a terrible, bad time of it as the weather was excessively cold & inclement. General Rutherford was with us we saw him every day & knew him well.

The next summer, he thinks, there was a call for men to guard the Catawba to prevent the Tories from coming over & marauding the settlement & he volunteered for three months & went out under the command of Capt Joseph McMullen, there was but one company, the other company officers are not remembered. They continued to guard the river up & down for three months during the term of service for which he volunteered. He resided about fourteen miles from the station in the midst of the Tories & was in continual alarm & dreaded for fear they would destroy his family & possessions. Once or twice during the time he got liberty of going home to see whether they had done him any injury but always returned the same day to his post. This duty was performed under a call from General Rutherford. He served out his time and received a written discharge which is long since lost.

Soon after he returned from this engagement Col. Davidson who lived near him, came to his house & told him that his (Davidson's) son & his wife & child had just been killed by the Indians & he wanted some person to go with an express to Genl Rutherford's camp about 70 miles off & he proposed to give him a discharge for a 3 months tour if he would go on that duty. It was a very dangerous undertaking as he would have to pass through two Tory settlements one about seven & the other about five miles across. He however agreed to go & very early the next morning called upon Col Davidson & got the necessary papers & went all speed & passed through the thickest of the vile Tories & reached Rutherford's camp about sundown. He remained there two days & was sent with a guard as one of them to convey some Tory prisoners to Salisbury jail. They guarded them on four miles beyond Salisbury to join about two hundred more prisoners who had been taken by Col Washington at the battle of the Cowpens & the said prisoners were all then sent on to Virginia. He then returned home & got a discharge for a three month tour from Genl Rutherford. He was out on this occasion to the best of recollection ten days at least.

He was soon after that drafted as a "minute man" for three months. Col Brevard was his commanding officer the other officers are not remembered. He was often, nay, almost constantly out on scout, so that he could not return to attend to his regular ordinary business. Sometimes they would go out on a special service & be out only one, two or three weeks according to the exigency & nature of the service. Frequently they would go home one day or night to have to start the next. At the expiration of his time he received a written discharge for three months which is long since lost.

Just before the battle at Ramsour's Mills while out watching to see what way the enemy would come where the spies took him & one of his brothers prisoner & carried them on under guard to the battle ground. Soon after the battle commenced he made his escape & after much risk & difficulty got home.

So this applicant has received discharges for twelve months and has been in actual service nine months & ten days. It seems to him but just as he agreed with the officers to go on the express through great danger for a three month discharge that his arrangement should be considered binding on the government. But this is a question which he refers to the justice of the department. If it be thought proper to allow him only for the time he was in actual service under a regular engagement by draft or voluntary then he will be entitled to pay for nine months & ten days. The time he was a prisoner is not included.

Owing the old age & his frailty of his memory he is not able to state the dates & times that he served, nor more particulars about the same than he stated.

He has no documentary evidence of his services, nor does he know of any living witness by whom he can prove his services.

He always served as a private—never had any command.

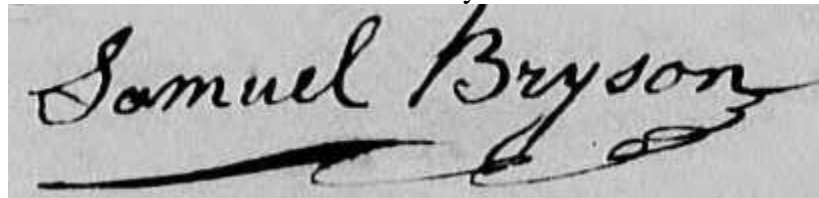
After the war he moved to Pendleton County in the state of South Carolina where he remained six or seven years when he moved to Buncombe County North Carolina where he lived eight years- he then moved to Wilson County Tennessee where he now resides.

He has no record of his age but from his memory he knows that he is in his seventy ninth year.

He would state that he is known to a large number of respectable neighbors & he believes they would all testify to his character for veracity among them he would name the following, George Boyle, Wm. C. Odom, Janis Odom, John Bryson, _____ Cooper, _____ Davenport, _____ Alexander, _____ Summers & _____ [all blanks appear in the original]

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 the agency of any state.

S/ Samuel Bryson

A black and white photograph of a handwritten signature in cursive script. The signature reads "Samuel Bryson" and is written in dark ink on a light-colored background. The signature is fluid and includes a long, sweeping underline.

Sworn to & subscribed before me this 10th day of May 1833
Attest: S/ Jehu McMinn, an Acting Justice of the peace for Wilson County

[James Thomas, a clergyman, and Thomas Leech gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$30 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for nine months service as a private in the North Carolina Continental line.]