

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of Edward Bevill S16638

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

Alabama:

In the Circuit Court of Madison county held at Huntsville on the 29th day of October 1832 before the hon^r- William J Adair, judge thereof presiding –

On this 29th day of October 1832 personally appeared in Court before the Judge thereof now sitting Edward Beville, a resident near the Sulphur springs in the said county of Madison & aged seventy 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 7 1832:

That according to his best recollection of the registry in his fathers bible he this affiant was born on the 16th day of September 1762; which registry he has not in his power of it still extant; & that from his growth, the year of his entering the revolutionary service & other incidents he believes that is the correct date of his birth, which, according to family tradition occurred in Mecklenburg county, Virginia.

In the year 1778, some time in the fall thereof, the precise day not being remembered, & he having no documentary evidence of it, being then in his sixteenth year, he was, in the said county of Mecklenburg drafted for a tour of six months' service as a Militia-man in the Virginia line & continental cause. He was put in the company of captain Charles Clay, & about the last of January or first of February 1779 was marched by Colonel [David] Mason, (who was said to have been sent from the north for that purpose) thro' North Carolina to the head quarters of General [Benjamin] Lincoln, some 25 miles west of Charleston, where he & his company were put in Col Lewis Burrell's [sic: Lewis Burwell's] regiment in which he continued to serve during his period of his service. Shortly after getting to General Lincoln's camp he marched with him to Stono, some 15 miles, south East on a river he thinks called Ashly, to meet the detachment of the enemy said to be under Provost. [See endnote.] As well as he remembers Lincoln's force was computed at about 6,000. The enemy was found entrenched in the north or left bank of the stream, in a piny wilderness, & just below where a bridge was thrown over the stream to the right bank. The attack began about 8 in the morning & continued about two hours. Part of the entrenchment was forced, & doubtless the whole might have been, but for a reinforcement to the enemy across the bridge & the failure of ammunition in Lincoln's army. For the latter cause, as was understood & that only, he retreated in order, leaving the enemy unable to pursue. These are affiant's best impression made upon him when witnessing & being engaged in the battle. The general returned to head quarters & in about ten days afterward affiant's term of service expired & he was discharged.

In Feby 1781 affiant entered again as a substitute for John Easter, who was a Methodist preacher & had been drafted for three months from Mecklenburg county, whence affiant, in Capt Asa Oliver's company, marched to Cabin Point [on James River], about 30 miles below Petersburg, where they remained some time & were marched to a camp within about 7 miles of Norfolk & remained until discharged. He & company, in this tour, were sometimes under Major Meur [probably Moore] & sometimes under Col Meriwether & Genl Meulenberg [sic: Peter Muhlenberg].

In the spring of 1780 affiant was drafted for two months from the said county of Mecklenburg & was put in Capt Richard Whitton's company of Col George Tucker's [sic: St. George Tucker's] regiment under command of General Robert Lawson. He was marched thro' Prince Edward Courthouse to Point of Fork on the James where General Steuben was stationed. Presently afterward the British, under Tarlton [see endnote], as was understood, appeared on the other bank of the river & commenced a light cannonade. It was in the afternoon, & affiant well remembers the astonishment & regret of his comrades & himself at hearing the order given by Gen'l Steuben to retreat – for which order he was, as affiant at the time heard, arrested. Be that as it might he ordered the retreat & abandoned the military stores at that

Point. The retreat was continued thro the night toward Little Roanoke; but on the next morning Gen'l Lawson marched the force, then left to his command, in pursuit of the enemy & proceeded to between Jamestown & Williamsburg, where affiant's term expiring, he was again discharged. For each of the three tours he received a written discharge, but thro the lapse of time they have been lost or destroyed; & he has to rely alone on his sinking memory for the dates & incidents he has related; & hence is not confident that he is accurate as to particulars. In substance he knows he is not mistaken.

He lived in Mecklenburg about 15 years afterward & removed to near Guilford Courthouse in N. Carolina, & in 1825 removed to Madison County, Ala where he has since & now lives. As evidence of the estimation in which he was held presently after the revolution by his countrymen he asks leave to annex herewith two commissions granted him by the Governors of Virginia in 1788 & 1794.

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 without exception.

[signed] Edward Bevill

[Richard Bacon (pension application S16625) stated that he served in the first two tours with Bevill.]

NOTES:

Bevill's first engagement was at the Battle of Stono Ferry on Stono River, about 10 mi SW of Ashley River, on 20 June 1779, against the British and loyalists guarding the retreat from Charleston by Gen. Augustine Prevost. The attack by Lincoln with about 1200 troops began about 7 AM and lasted almost one hour. The British and loyalists were in three redoubts. There was no bridge across the river, but there was a causeway from Johns Island to the ferry landing on the other side of the river. Lincoln stated that it was the arrival of reinforcements on this causeway, rather than a lack of ammunition, that led to his abandoning the attack.

In Bevill's third tour at Point of Fork, at the confluence of James and Rivanna rivers, Gen. Steuben on 5 June 1781 was bluffed into abandoning military stores by a much smaller force under Lt. Col. John Graves Simcoe, who was under the command of Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton. Steuben was not arrested or replaced by Gen. Lawson. Steuben went as far as Roanoke River with the intention of joining the Southern Department in South Carolina, but he was recalled by Gov. Jefferson to defend Virginia against Cornwallis.

The first commission to Edward Bevill was as Lieutenant in the Mecklenburg County Militia to commence in Nov 1787, signed by Gov. Edmund Randolph on 2 Jan 1788. The second commission was to "Edward Bevill, Junior" as Captain of the 22nd Militia Regiment, signed by Gov. Henry Lee on 15 May 1794.