Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Pleasant Henderson S1912 Transcribed by Will Graves

f79NC rev'd 1/2/11& 9/26/16

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

State of Tennessee, Carroll County

On this day the 12th of September 1832 appeared before the Worshipful County Court of the County of Carroll aforesaid now in Session Major Pleasant Henderson now a resident of the town of Huntingdon the seat of said Court, who first 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 the 7th of June last, to wit

That he is a native of the State of North Carolina, born in the County of Granville in said State on the 9th of January in the year 1756; the family record of his age being now in his possession. That uniformly until the 21st of May 1830, he resided in the said State, when he removed from Chapel Hill in Orange County the seat of the University of North Carolina and arrived at this place the seventh of July following; and was from that period continued to live in said County of Carroll.

That he entered in the militia service in his native State as a volunteer early in the year 1776, to the best of his recollection, for he has no memoranda to enable him to fix on the precise time.

The reason of calling out the Militia at that early period of the war was to suppress an insurrection or assemblage of Tories as they were termed at Cross Creek now Fayetteville, with the announced intention of joining Josiah Martin then the Colonial Governor who had taken refuge on board of a small naval force at the mouth of Cape Fear River in the County of Brunswick.

Two companies of volunteers on the occasion were promptly raised in the County of Granville, one commanded by Cuthbert Hudson, the other by Thomas Satterwhite of at least 25 men age: To the latter this applicant was attached and acted as Sergeant Major.

The companies marched to Hillsboro & there joined the volunteers of the County of Orange in which the town of Hillsboro is situated and from thence they marched to Cross Creek aforesaid under the command to the best of this applicant's recollection of Colonel John Butler, afterwards General Butler.

At Cross Creek this detachment found and joined a company of Continental Troops commanded by Captain Robert Rowan; and the next or succeeding day was joined by a considerable force from the nine Western Counties of the State under the command of Colonel Alexander Martin of the Continental line.

As the Tories had been defeated a day or two before our arrival at Cross Creek at the Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge, we remained there were no longer than necessary to make prisoners of as many as possible of the Tories in their retreat from the Battle ground. We were then permitted to return to our respective homes. In this service the applicant believes he was engaged from one to two months.

In the year 1778, towards the latter part of summer or fall, a Brigade of Militia was ordered to be raised and sent to the aid of South Carolina & Georgia to serve six months after being mustered at Charlotte, the seat of the Courts of Mecklenburg County, adjoining the line of South Carolina – In this detachment this applicant volunteered and was appointed Lieutenant of a Company commanded by Captain Richard Taylor of Granville County, the Regiment was commanded by Colonel James Landis.

At Hillsboro on our march to Charlotte aforesaid, we joined some troops of the line and traveled leisurely on to the point of rendezvous, collecting drafts, volunteers, carriages, provisions &c &c.

At Charlotte were present a good many Officers of the line with whom this applicant was acquainted—i.e., Col. Dixon [Henry "Hal" Dixon], Colonel Lytle [Archibald Lytle], Major Nelson and many of others.

The Detachment being mustered, our march to Charleston soon after commenced, and arrived in its vicinity about the middle of December: a few days after General Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln] arrived at Charleston and as Commandant in the Southern department assumed the Command. About Christmas intelligence was received that the British had landed at Savannah, defeated the Troops stationed there and taken possession of the town.

We were immediately ordered to march to a little town, Purysburg [Purrysburg], on the South Carolina side of the Savannah River and about 20 miles above the town of Savannah, where we joined the remains of the Army defeated as aforesaid; and where this applicant became acquainted with most of the Officers, i.e., Colonel Roberts of the Artillery, Col. Mason, Captain Doggell [sic, Doggett?] who afterwards was killed in the Battle of Stono and where also this applicant met his Brother William Henderson, Colonel, or Lieutenant Colonel of perhaps the third Regiment of the South Carolina line the same who afterwards was a General, was wounded in the Battle of the Eutaw Springs in South Carolina. Soon after the arrival of the troops at this encampment General Lincoln arrived and established his head quarters in the town. The General's principal aid, this applicant believes, was Everett Meade of Virginia.

Soon after the General's arrival here, he ordered a Corps of light Infantry to be organized consisting of one Company of regular soldiers and three Companies of Militia from the Brigade of Militia from North Carolina and gave the Command to Colonel Lytle and Major Nelson. They militia companies were promptly filled by volunteers from the Brigade and the Lieutenancy of one of the Companies commanded by Captain Jamison [William Jamieson] was given to this applicant.

In a few days thereafter it was ordered to march to Augusta, on the South Carolina side of the River with all possible dispatch, as it was ascertained the British was marching up a detachment on the Georgia side of the River. This march of 100 miles was performed in four days and the Corps took possession of a Bluff on the South Carolina side of the River called Fort Moore Bluff.

The morning following the Enemy arrived and took possession of Augusta.

In a week or two General John Ashe arrived from North Carolina with a considerable reinforcement and of course, as the senior officer, took the Command. After the Enemy evacuated Augusta and as quickly as possible the troops crossed the River and pursued them to Briar Creek in Georgia about 60 miles. There the march was interrupted by the destruction of the Bridge, and withal [?] to be joined by a strong detachment under the Command of General Rutherford. The crossing the River was attended with much difficulty for the want of Boats and before it could be effected the Enemy being reinforced from Savannah, returned by a circuitous route, surprised General Ashe and obtained an easy victory [Battle of Briar Creek, March 3,

1779].¹

This applicant was not in the Battle Because the day after the arrival of the Army at the Bridge, General Ashe solicited and sent him to Purrysburg, General Lincoln's headquarters, to communicate to him, General Lincoln, verbally the wants and condition of his Army. The intermediate Country was so infested by Tories that it was unsafe & impossible to make the communication in writing, but it should fall into the hands of the enemy – while this applicant was absent in the execution of these orders, the Battle occurred.

The Army retreated to General Rutherford's station, the Twin Sisters Ferry [sic, Two Sisters Ferry], and remained in a great degree inactive until the expiration of its term of service which to the best of this applicant's recollection took place late in the month of April.

This applicant was appointed pay master of Colonel Landis's Regiment in which he was an officer as aforesaid.

The third and last tour of duty performed by this applicant occurred in the year 1781.

In consequence of Lord Cornwallis entering the State of North Carolina in pursuit of the prisoners made in the Battle of the Cowpens in South Carolina, the Legislature or the Governor of the State, this applicant does not now recollect which, ordered a Regiment of 200 mounted infantry to be raised and gave the command to Col. Malmedy [Francis de Malmedy, Marquis of Bretagne], a Frenchman, though this applicant believes he was a Colonel of the Continental establishment, and appointed this applicant Major unsolicited. He accepted the appointment.

The troops were embodied about the time Lord Cornwallis was in Hillsboro and General Greene [Nathanael Greene], then Commandant of the Southern department was to the northward of Hillsboro night to the Virginia line.

The Regiment did not join General Greene until two days after the Battle of Guilford. Several Counties in the State situated to the South of Hillsboro were proverbial for the Toryism of their Inhabitants. General Greene to prevent them joining the British Army directed its march into the disaffected Counties & there to maneuver in the best manner in its power to intimidate the Inhabitants & to prevent them from joining & strengthening the British Army.

The Regiment joined General Greene at the Iron Works in Guilford County to which he retreated after the Battle of Guilford Court House [March 15, 1781]. In a few hours the Regiment after its arrival at the works, was ordered Back to its former Ground and did not join General Greene again until the day after he reached Ramsays Mills [sic, Ramsey's Mills] in Chatham County. The Same evening he detached it to Wilmington a place to which it was believed Lord Cornwallis was retreating.

In the vicinity of Wilmington the Regiment remained until the expiration of their term of service.

The only skirmish the Regiment had with the enemy happened at Ramsey's Mills-- a party of Horse Militia of the Regiment made a charge on a picket guard not many hundred yards from the quarters of Lord Cornwallis and had it not been from the circumstance that the Guard was surrounded by so strong fence that the Horse could not break over the whole guard, a Captain's, would have been captured[?]². As it was it resulted in killing two of the advanced sentinels & making prisoners of two.

This applicant was ordered by Colonel Malmedy to cover the retreat of the Horse & consequently could not head the charge.

This historic sketch of the services of this applicant involving a period of 12 months at least establishes the fact that he [several words obliterated by an ink blot] engaged in Battle. And

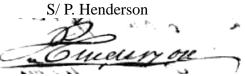
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http://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/790304-briar-creek/

² Katered

although he admits that he did not count one; on the other hand he avers he took no pains to avoid one. And he further states on his oath that the present is the first and only application for a pension and that if his name is to be found in any pension list it is a forgery and he hereby disclaims any other expectation from the United States.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid in open Court. S/ Edward Gwin, Clerk



Whereupon the Court propounded to the applicant the following interrogatories, viz.:

- 1st When and in what year were you born?
- 2nd Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?
- 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 in substitute, for whom?
- 5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.
- 6th To an Officer—Did you ever receive a Commission; and, if so, by whom was it signed, 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.

The applicant's declaration already read to the court contains in its details complete answers to the first five interrogatories. The sixth one & seventh remain to be complied with.

To the sixth the applicant replies that after the lapse of so many years he can not positively say whether he had Commissions or not. That if he had Commissions they were signed by the Governor & Countersigned by the Secretary of State, or by the Governor's private Secretary. That the private Secretary countersigned admits of no doubt in the mind of the applicant for he acted as private Secretary to Governor Alexander Martin near three years and in that period of time, he countersigned under direction of the Governor many hundreds. he did receive Commissions after the expiration of the times of service. He considered them as of no value and day of course were lost or destroyed.

In compliance with the seventh Interrogatory, the applicant states the names of the Reverend Thomas Young, Colonel Thomas J. Jennings, Berry Gillespie and Colonel James Towns all Inhabitance of the town of Huntingdon his neighbors, who can testify as to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a Soldier and Officer in the revolution. Sworn to & subscribed in open Court this 12th of September 1832 S/ Edward Gwin, Clerk

S/P. Henderson

[Thomas Young, a clergyman, Thomas J. Jennings, Berry Gillespie & Colonel James Towns gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Facts in file: Henderson was not survived by a spouse; he was survived by the following children:

Tippee Saib Henderson (who signed his name Tip S. Henderson) who in 1852 was 58 years old and living in Greene County, Tenn.; in 1854, lived in Greeneville in Greene County, Tenn.; and in 1855, in Yadkin County, NC.

Eliza I. Jones

Alexander M. Henderson, who lived in Salisbury NC in 1844.]

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State of North Carolina, Granville County

Personally appeared for William M. Sneed and the Justices of the Peace for said County and State this 29th day of October A.D. 1832 Benjamin Hester³ (Overseer) who being duly sworn according to law, declares, testifies and deposes as follows, viz.:

That he was 72 years of age the 24th day of last May viz. 1832 and is a resident of and was born and raised in the said County and State. That he entered the Army of the United States on the Continental establishment in the year 1778 & was marched to the defense of South Carolina & Georgia. That a company of Infantry was raised from the militia of Granville County at the same time. This Company was commanded by Richard Taylor as Captain & Pleasant Henderson as Lieutenant. My brother John Hester was a private in the same Company and I was frequently out among the men of the Company to see my brother. We all marched through South Carolina to the Savannah River and were on duty at Purrysburg, up the Savannah River opposite to Augusta and upon one occasion I crossed the River at Augusta. I remember with perfect distinctiveness that Pleasant Henderson acted and officiated as a Lieutenant. But I having entered for a tour of nine months service, was retained until after the Militia was discharged. The tour in which Pleasant Henderson served being for five or six months, but which I do not recollect, his company was discharged before my term expired. But when or where I am unable at this time to state; but this much I know that my brother John served out his full time and presume he PH served his full time.

This affiant further certifies that he has heard the foregoing affidavit read of John Taylor Senior usually called Brandy Taylor and he corroborates in general the statement made by him. This affiant was a private in the Company of mounted infantry spoken of by him in the second tour. This company was commanded by said John Taylor⁴ Senior as Captain, the Lieutenant I do not remember, but I know that Joseph Hester the Brother of this affiant was Cornet of the said Company. I myself did not join the company on its march being encumbered with a baggage wagon until the Day after the Battle of Guilford. The Regiment thus raised was commanded by Colonel Malmedy and Pleasant Henderson was Major. I remember the skirmish spoken of by Captain Taylor and shall never forget it, for I was in the affair and under his Command in it and the three Hessians who were carried off as Prisoners were every one of them wounded by my own Sword, and taken by me. This affair took place at Ramsey's Mills and not on the march of Greene as stated by Captain Taylor in his affidavit. I perfectly recollect that Major Pleasant Henderson had command of the detachment placed in ambush when Captain Taylor was sent to Draw off Tarleton's Dragoons – when Cornwallis crossed Deep River at Ramsey's Mills & marched towards Cross Creek and Wilmington, the detachment under Colonel Malmedy & Major Henderson were sent to watch his movements and keep the British & Tories from doing mischief to the people inhabiting the intermediate country. This duty was performed and we watched & followed them to the town of Wilmington and were on duty, thereabouts for

³ Benjamin Hester S6998

John Taylor S7684

something about two or three weeks before my time of service was to expire, I was sent by Colonel Malmedy with Dispatches to General Greene and as our Term would be completed before by the time I could reach General Greene, my brothers John Hester and Joseph Hester & myself were entrusted with the dispatches and our discharges were given to us. I left Major Henderson on duty and are well assured he performed his full tour,: know that he was ever the active effective & patriotic Soldier – and kind & attentive to the Soldiers under his command.

Sworn to and subscribed the day above.

S/ Benjamin Hester, X his mark

[p 26: Leslie Gilliam, High Sheriff of Granville County, NC, gave a supportive affidavit as to the character for veracity of the applicant.]

[p 26: General William Watts Jones of New Hanover County North Carolina gave a supporting affidavit in which he states that he has known Major Pleasant Henderson of the State of Tennessee for about 30 years both in a private capacity and in the capacity as clerk of the House of Commons of the legislature of the state of North Carolina.]

[p 29]

State of North Carolina, Granville County

The following affidavits are made in Support of the application of Major Pleasant Henderson of the Western District of Tennessee for a Pension under the act of Congress passed 7th June 1832.

Personally appeared before John C. Taylor and William M. Sneed two justices of the Peace for the County and State aforesaid John Taylor, Senior a Citizen and resident thereof who being duly sworn according to law, deposes, declares and Testifies as follows viz.:

John Taylor (usually called Brandy Taylor) states that being requested by his old & valued friend Major Pleasant Henderson a native of Granville County but now as he is informed a citizen of Tennessee and resident of Carroll County of the Western District of that State, states he this affiant was born as he is informed in the County of Caroline and State of Virginia, and at the age of two years, was removed to the County of Mecklenburg of the same State, where he remained until the year 1777 when he removed to Granville County, and State of North Carolina and settled himself at the place of his present residence and where he has continued to reside ever since. If he lives still the 4th day of December next he will be 76 years of age. This affiant was well acquainted with Pleasant Henderson who was a young man about his own age, and who lived in his own neighborhood. A company was raised in Granville County in the year 1778 and was marched to the Defense of South Carolina & Georgia. I am told that my older brother Richard Taylor was a member of this company, and was elected the Captain of it, but of this I have not a recollection. Pleasant Henderson was also a member & was elected and served as Lieutenant of it. Of this fact there is distinct & perfect recollection, which arises from the recital of the following facts.

The wife of my brother Richard had not heard from her husband for some time, and was very uneasy – knowing this I told her that I had no family, I would go to the Army and if I would be taken as a substitute, I would serve out the time of my said Brother. I soon got ready and accompanied by two sprightly young men of my acquaintance Solomon Mitchell & Solomon Wall we set out for the American Army. After a tedious journey, we arrived at and joined it, then stationed on the North side of the Savannah River opposite to the town of Augusta which was then in the possession of the British Army. Here I learned that my brother Richard had obtained [paper torn and text missing] had gone home to see his family. We were gladly received into the Service, and I was in the family and markee of Colonel Lytle a considerable part of the time of my early service. A detachment of the American Army under General Ashe having been ordered

across the River, were directed and did stake their station at the point where Briar Creek empties into the Savannah River. At this time I belonged to the company of which Lieutenant Henderson had in part the Command and I think I was of the same mess with him. This company belonged to the detachment under General Ashe. How long we remained home duty at the Post on Briar Creek I am unable to state but a few days before the attack upon our detachment which proved so fatal to them General Ashe had occasion to send a dispatch to General Lincoln at Purrysburg. Lieutenant Henderson was sent to carry this express, and he selected me to accompany him. We were soon ready to depart, but Lieutenant Henderson perceiving that I had left my saddle bags, insisted that I should return & get them. Upon his repeated injunctions to do so, I did return to my quarters and took my saddle bags with me. We had traveled but a short distance before he told me that he had been induced to insist upon my taking my saddle bags from a full conviction that we should not return to the station we had just left for that before we could return, he was confident battle would take place. In our time we arrived at Purrysburg and discharged the trust committed to our charge. Here we remained a few, perhaps three or four, days and departed on our return to our station. We had proceeded not more than 20 miles when we met the stragglers of our men making the best of their way in retreat after the victory obtained over them by the enemy at Briar Creek. I have no recollection at this time, but presume we returned and joined the Army at Purrysburg. I have ever considered [paper torn at this point and text missing] providential interposition to remove me from the dreadful slaughter of my countrymen which ensued at the Battle of Briar Creek. If we had remained, it is more than probable our lives might have been the forfeit. Our forces being greatly weakened, and our means of offensive operations lost, our detachment was at the expiration of their term of service discharged. How long this tour was for I am unable to say, but I think I served five months from the time I entered the Service. I have not a distinct recollection that [paper torn and text missing] was discharged at the same time but presume he was.

Another tour of duty in which Major Henderson took part I recollect, but how long it was after this tour into South Carolina & Georgia I do not remember, but I will state the facts and the Records in the Department of War will give it a date. A Regiment of mounted infantry was raised in North Carolina and Colonel Malmedy & Pleasant Henderson had command of it. The first as Colonel & the latter as Major. Our company was formed in my own neighborhood & consisted of about 40 men among other volunteers composing this company was James [illegible last name], James Lewis, Joseph P. Davis, John Farrar, James Minge, Burton Lewis Taylor, Edmond Taylor and Robert Goodloe Harper who has since made a figure in the public councils of the United States. When the Company met at Oxford, they were pleased to elect me their Captain, because I presume, I had seen a little service. I think we were marched from Oxford to Hillsboro where we met the balance of the Regiment and the whole was placed under the Command of the officers before mentioned – we were then marched to join the American Army under General Greene. Upon reaching about 7 miles of Guilford Court House, we heard the report of the Artillery in the battle that had just commenced. We were marched to right and ordered to join the American Army, and had proceeded a small distance before the ground became so broken and [indecipherable word] that we were directed to retrace our steps to the road we had left. We met hundreds of our men flying in confusion from the Battle ground. Unable to ascertain from them the issue of the Battle we continued our course towards the Battle ground & finding that if our Army had not been defeated, that at the least, the enemy retained possession of the ground, we flanked off and as soon as practicable joined the Main Army under General Greene.

It is sufficient for the present purpose for me to state that Major Henderson continued in active & regular service until our Army reached Ramsey's Mills and perhaps a longer time, but of this I am unable to state, nor can I recollect how long I myself continued with the Army, but have

no doubt and believe that he continued in service for the full time for which he entered it.

I remember that after the battle of Guilford, but whether it was before General Greene left Troublesome, or whether he was on his march to Ramsey's Mills I cannot recollect. I was ordered by Colonel Malmedy with my company to make an attack on Tarleton's dragoons in order to draw them off in pursuit and to enable a detachment under the command of Major P. Henderson which had been placed in ambush to attack them thus drawn out by me. Accordingly I made the attack, but not upon Tarleton's Dragoons, but upon the infantry, and before I was aware of it, we were almost Surrounded by the enemy. We were however enabled to effect our Retreat, but in a different route from that we took in making the approach and without any loss on our part, but we took off with us three Hessians as Prisoners. This was done under shower of shot from the enemy – and in a conversation I afterward had with Major Henderson relative to it - He expressed an opinion that at least 3000 guns had been fired at us, but I was of opinion that not more than 2000 had been fired.

I am perfectly satisfied that Major Henderson in both these tours performed his duty as a Lieutenant and as a Major, during the whole period for which he entered in a faithful, efficient & Patriotic manner. I am [remaining part of this be missing as a result of a tear in the paper] of either of the Tours were thus described.

I have known Major Pleasant Henderson from that time to the present, and have ever considered him and think he was so a sustained by the persons who knew him, to be a man of strict veracity, and of high sense of Honor & moral rectitude.

Subscribed and sworn to this 24th day of October A.D. 1832.

S/ John Taylor, Senr.

[p 35]

James Downey⁵ Senior Esq. a Citizen & native of Granville County aged 69 years on the 16th of March last, makes Oath that he was a private in a Company of Light Horse Commanded by Colonel Malmedy Captain William Thomas & attached to the Regiment commanded by Colonel Malmedy and Pleasant Henderson as Major. This company was raised early in 1781 and was hurried on to the assistance of General Greene about the time of the battle of Guilford. That said company with the Regiment of Malmedy continued on duty harassing the British Army in their Retreat from Guilford to Ramsey's Mills, thence to Wilmington and was upon the Expiration of the term of service for which they Entered the service discharged. This affiant declares that Major Pleasant Anderson continued on duty during the whole time the Regiment was in service and that he was an active & efficient officer & has ever sustained as far as he knows & believes, the Character of an Honorable man & one of strict veracity & Truth. Sworn to & subscribed this 5th day of November 1832.

S/ Jas Downey, Senr.

Lad Downey Cent

[p 54]

State of Tennessee, Carroll County

On this the 6th of February 1833 appeared before us Samuel Ingram & Isaac Blount two

James Downey R3064

of the Justices of the Pleas for the County of Carroll aforesaid Major Pleasant Henderson of the town of Huntingdon and being sworn in due form of law saith, in aid and explanation of a part of his declaration for a pension under the provisions of the Act of Congress on that [indecipherable word], passed the 7th of June last for services rendered in the War of the Revolution, heretofore prescribed to the War Office. That, as stated in said application, he acted as Major of a Regiment of Mounted Infantry commanded by Colonel Malmedy in the State of North Carolina in the year 1781 Three months the whole period of service for which the said Regiment was enlisted.

Sworn to & subscribed before us the day & date aforesaid.

S/ Saml. Ingram, JP

S/ P. Henderson

S/ Isaac Blount, JP

[p 37: Power of attorney dated September 13, 1855 executed in Yadkin County North Carolina by Tippoo Saib Henderson in which he states he is formally a resident of Carroll County Tennessee now a resident of Yadkin County North Carolina and the son and heir at law and administrator of Pleasant Henderson of Carroll County Tennessee.

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$162.50 commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a major in the North Carolina service. Clothed him