

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Childress S3146

f39NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 11/15/10 rev'd 1/5/16

[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.]

[p 37]

State of Tennessee Davidson County:

This day came John Childress before me and made oath according to law that the following facts is true that he entered the service of the United States in the year 1778 under the command of Colonel William Shepperd [Lt. Col. William Shepherd] in Surry County North Carolina and afterwards under the command of Captain James Shepperd [James Shepherd] & fought under him at the Battle of Kings Mountain [October 7, 1780] & commanded on that day Colonel Cleveland [Benjamin Cleveland] and at which battle I received a wound by a rifle Ball [indecipherable word or words, looks like "daryersly", possibly intended to be "dangerously"]¹ in the lower part of the Belley [sic] & which would occasion him in his old day to be unable to make a support in addition to his old age after he recovered from his wound got at Kings Mountain he was appointed a forage Master for Colonel Joseph Phillips Troops who was stationed at Salisbury North Carolina & who received the prisoners taken by Colonel Morgan [Daniel Morgan] from Colonel Rugeley² & brought to Salisbury also the prisoners taken by Colonel Morgan at the Battle of the Cowpens [January 17, 1781] and which were brought to Salisbury and after the Battle of Guilford [March 15, 1781] I was appointed waggon Master to remove the forage from Salisbury County North Carolina to General Greene [Nathanael Greene] in South Carolina while he lay at Camden. I do further certify that I faithfully served the United [States] in the revolutionary war fully three years and that he is now in his 76th year. Sworn to before made this 9th February 1830

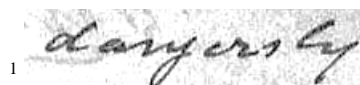
S/ Will. Lytle, JP

S/ John Childress



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I Thomas Norman do swear that I am well acquainted with the above named John Childress and know of his service as above stated for I was in the Battle of Kings Mountain where he received



¹ The veteran is mostly likely mistakenly referring to Col. Morgan at the taking of Col. Rugeley. Rugeley and his Tory militia were taken by troops commanded by Col. William Washington in an engagement at Rugeley's Mill on December 2, 1780. See, http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_rugeley_mills_2.html

the wound above spoken of having assisted him home after he received it.

Sworn to before me this 9th February 1830

S/ Will. Lytle, JP

S/ Thomas Norman³



[p 3]

State of Tennessee, Rutherford County: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions November Sessions 1832

On this 22nd day of November 1832 personally appeared in open court before Henry Scott, Henry Jamison, Varner D. Cowen, the justices of the court of pleas & quarter sessions for said County of Rutherford, now sitting, John Childress, a resident in the County & state aforesaid, aged 77 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 July [sic June] 7th, 1832: That he entered the service of the United States as a volunteer under Colonel Shepherd in the month of May as he believes, 1780, at least in the May after Charleston was taken by the British [Charleston South Carolina fell to the British on May 12, 1780], but cannot state the day of the month. He served in the company commanded by Captain James Shepherd. Joseph Winston & Davidson were Majors under Colonel Shepherd, whose Regiment of Cavalry collected at Surry County Courthouse North Carolina & from that place directed their course across the Yadkin River, through Salisbury & down a few miles below to Egnew's [sic, Agnew's?] where General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford] had head quarters. During this march applicant continued with Colonel Shepherd's troop of horse, with which he was sent by General Rutherford against the Tories & British to the mouth of Rocky River on the PeDee [sic, Pedee River]. He was there in a skirmish with the British & Tories in which the Whigs lost a few men, & the enemy were entirely defeated. Colonel [sic, General] Rutherford soon after came on to the mouth of Rocky River & sent Colonel Shepherd (with whom he still continued) back to Surry County to reconnoiter & prevent the rising of the Tories. They there scouted after the Tories until they heard of the approach of Colonel Ferguson [Patrick Ferguson]. There came a false report to Surry County that the Whig Colonel Cleveland [Benjamin Cleveland] was defeated by Ferguson. Applicant with three others under Captain James Shepherd voluntarily went to Wilkes County Court house to know the certainty of the report. They there volunteered under Colonel Cleveland & marched with him the next day towards Kings Mountain. At the Cowpens on their way their spies returned & told them where Ferguson was. They hurried on their march, & fell in with Colonels Campbell [William Campbell], Sevier [John Sevier] & Shelby [Isaac Shelby]. The evening of the same day they had the battle of Kings Mountain, in which applicant was wounded. After the battle was over, they marched to Colonel Walker's, where applicant remembers 9 of the prisoners were hung and Baldin [sic, Baldwin?] made his escape. Thence they went to Moravian town where applicant was permitted to return home, in the month of October as he believes, but cannot remember with certainty, 1780. He did not receive a written discharge.

Afterwards in November 1780, as Applicant believes, he was appointed forage master to the troops commanded by Colonel Joseph Phillips & stationed at Salisbury to guard the prisoners taken as he understood by General Morgan [Daniel Morgan], Major Sharpe [?] was then quartermaster. In January afterwards, 500 more prisoners were sent to Salisbury which had, as

³ I could find no federal pension application for this veteran. This MAY be the only public record of his having been at Kings Mountain. Norman is not listed in Bobby Gilmer Moss' Roster of Kings Mountain participants and he is a notable addition to that roster.

he then was informed & believed, been taken by Morgan at the Cowpens. It was then heard that Cornwallis was approaching, & the Whigs moved the prisoners from Salisbury to the next County, to Surry now on Dan River where the widow Carmichael lived, on the way to the barracks in Prince Edward or Albemarle County, Virginia. Applicant was then appointed & served as wagon master to convey the tax grain in Surry County North Carolina to Camden South Carolina for the use of General Green's [Nathaneal Greene's] Army after the battle of Guilford. He was dismissed from service as wagon master in September or October 1781. Matthew Brooks was at this time his quartermaster. He received no written discharge & cannot remember dates with accuracy. But as forage & wagon master, he believes he served at least 10 months.

Applicant, soon after his discharge from service as wagon master, moved to Kentucky, Fayette County & sought protection in Bryant's Fort [Bryan's Fort or Bryan's Station] where he was when said Fort was attacked by the Indians in the year 1782, as he believes. He was with Colonel John Todd when he pursued the Indians to Blue Lick [sic, Blue Licks] where he was defeated by the Indians under the command of Simon McGurty [Simon Girty]. In the fall after the Blue Licks defeat [August 19, 1782], applicant went under the command of General Clark [George Rogers Clark] in Colonel Daniel Boone's Regiment to the Shawnee town which they burnt having taken it without a battle. Applicant was in a scouting party near Shawnee town under Colonel Logan [Benjamin Logan] & remembers that they killed & scalped 16 Indians. He remained in Bryan's Fort for about two years & was not out of it any length of time except on the occasion of going to the Blue Licks & Shawnee Town above stated.

Applicant was born, as he was told by his parents & as he believes, on the fifth of May 1755 in Cumberland County Virginia, where he resided until about one year before the British took Charleston, then he moved to North Carolina, Surry County where he lived until after the battle of Guilford, & until he went to Kentucky as above stated. When he left Bryan's Fort he made his way to Tennessee on Red River, thence to Monsco's station [sic, Mansker's Station] 10 or 12 miles above Nashville. Applicant lived in Tennessee about two years when he moved to South Carolina, Lawrence [sic, Laurens] County where he married Martha Calhoun, a daughter of Thomas Calhoun. He resided there about 18 years, perhaps more, when he moved to Sevier County, Tennessee, where he resided till about the year 1826 when he moved to Rutherford County, where he now resides. Applicant lived in Surry County North Carolina when he entered the service of the revolution. He has no record of his age. He never served in the revolution in any capacity except as a volunteer. He knows of no one now living who remembers to have served with him in the revolutionary war, by whom he could make actual positive proof of his service. He never had a written discharge. He submits this statement with the best proof in his power to give. The following persons, his present neighbors, he believes will testify as to his veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution, to wit: Gideon Rucker, Thomas Powell, William McFerren, John Hollis & Joseph Soape [?].

Applicant in February in the year 1830 went before William Lytle Esq. of Davidson County, Tennessee & made, on oath, a declaration for the purpose of getting a pension on account of his being wounded in the revolution. He then obtained the affidavit of Thomas Norman a fellow soldier of the revolution proving the fact of his being wounded and his services in the revolution. Said declaration & affidavit as then made are herewith transmitted. Said Norman is now dead, but was a resident of Nashville, Tennessee & for said Norman's character as a man of truth applicant refers to President Jackson, the Honorable Felix Grundy & the Honorable John Bell. The fact stated in said declaration that applicant entered the service of the United States in the year 1778, was a mistake either of himself or Esq. Lytle who wrote it for him. He thinks he entered the service in 1780, at least it was after Charleston was taken by the British as stated above.

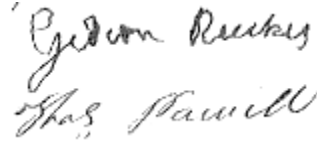
Applicant hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ John Childress

S/ J. R. Laughlin, Clk.

[Gideon Rucker, a clergyman, and Thomas Powell Esquire gave the standard supporting affidavit.]



Gideon Rucker
Thos Powell

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State of Tennessee Rutherford County: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions May Term 1833

Amended declaration of John Childress for a pension.

On this 25th of May 1833, in open court before us John Fletcher, Henry D Jamison & Varner D. Cowen the justices assigned to hold the Court of Pleas & quarter sessions for said County of Rutherford now sitting, personally appeared John Childress who made the preceding original declaration for a pension at the last November term of this court, & who, being duly sworn, deposeth & saith, that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory, he cannot swear positively to the precise length of his service; but, according to the best of his recollection, he served not less than the periods mentioned below, & in the following grades: For four months I served as a private under Colonel William Shepard in Captain James Shepards Company, Arthur Tate, Lieutenant, part of the time & Hewlett the other part. For one month I served as a private under Colonel Cleveland, being the campaign in which the battle of Kings Mountain was fought; for three months I served as forage master under Colonel Joseph Philips; for three months I served as wagon master for General Greene's Army; for one year I served as a private in Bryant's Fort where my service commenced a few days before the first of January 1782 under the command of Colonel Robt. Johnson [Robert Johnson], and for such service in all one year & eleven months I claim a pension.

I have no doubt but that periods of service above stated are short of my actual service, but my memory is so very deficient, that I have thought proper to mention such periods as I am sure will not exceed my term of service.

To the first interrogatory propounded, I answer I was born in Cumberland County State of Virginia on the 5th of May 1755 as my mother informed me. To the second interrogatory I answer I never had any record of my age. My father fell, as I am informed at Braddock's defeat [July 9, 1755] & I was born in the same year. To the third, I answer, when called into service I lived in Surry County North Carolina, & have since the revolutionary war lived as stated in my original declaration, & now live in Rutherford County Tennessee. To the fourth, I answer, I always served as a volunteer. To the fifth, I answer, I never knew any of the officers or regiments of the Continental Army, except General Greene whom I saw & spoke to at the iron works on Haw River just after the battle of Guilford but I was not then in service. I also saw General Greene once while I was wagon master, but at what place I cannot now remember. As to the militia officers & regiments with whom I served I refer to my original declaration. The prisoners first guarded by Colonel Joseph Phillips while I was forage master with the Tories under Colonel Rugeley being decoyed & made to surrender to Morgan [sic, William Washington] by the stratagem of the light wood log. While I was wagon master, Matthew Brooks was quarter master, & it was at Brooks request that I was made wagon master by Colonel Martin Armstrong who then was Colonel of Surry County. My orders were to deliver to Camden every Monday morning sixty bushels of grain.

Bryant's fort was attacked sometime in August 1782 by the Indians under McGurty. The Fort was then commanded by Captain John Craig, Johnson being absent as a member to the Kentucky assembly. When attacked by the Indians Captain Craig sent to Lexington to Colonel Todd for relief. In a few days Colonel Todd with Colonel Twigg and a small company of men, arrived. On his arrival the Indians had retreated. I went with Colonel Todd in their pursuit & overtook them at the blue lick on Licking River about 40 miles from the Fort, where the whites were defeated. The Indians took 14 prisoners, as we were informed, killed four immediately & carried 10 to Detroit to the British who exchanged them & they returned contrary to our expectations about 12 months after the battle. After the defeat about one half of our men returned safely to the Fort.

On my return from the expedition, to the Shawnee town I remained as a guard in Bryant's Fort as long as there was any danger, but how long I cannot well remember. I think my service in said Fort was at least one year. I stated in my original declaration that I was in Bryant's Fort two years. This was a mistake. I served in the Fort & lived in the neighborhood of it about two years. To the sixth question, I answer I never received any written discharge that I now recollect. I received two commissions from Colonel Martin Armstrong one appointing me the forage master & the other wagon master, both of which commissions have been lost or destroyed long since.

During the periods above mentioned in the amended declaration for which I claim a pension, I was not engaged or employed in any civil pursuit.

In addition to those whom I named in my original declaration I've mentioned as persons to whom I am known in my present neighborhood, & who can testify as to my character for veracity, & their belief of my services as a soldier of the revolution, Thomas S Rucker Esquire, Lewis G Martin, Colonel John Martin, Josephus Conn, & Hail Burton, which is my answer to the seventh interrogatory.

Subscribed & sworn to before made this 25th day of May 1833
S/ John R Laughlin, Clk.

John Childress

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$56.66 per annum mincing March 4th, 1831, for one year and five months service as a private in the North Carolina militia.]

[Notes: There is a note in the file that the veteran's claim for service as a forage and wagonmaster was not allowed. There also is a note indicating that the veteran died January 9, 1844.]