## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Nathan Blackburn S6654 fn34NC
Transcribed by Will Graves 8/31/10

[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.]

[fn p. 7] State of Georgia County of Wilkes

On this 7th day of July in the year of our Lord 1834 personally appeared in open court, to wit, the Inferior Court in & for said County sitting for Ordinary purposes now in session Nathan Blackburn a resident of the County & State aforesaid aged fifteen years when the Scotch Tories (as they were called) were defeated at the widow Moore's Creek in North Carolina between Cross Creek and Wilmington, by General Caswell – this being the only date from which his age can be calculated and he is unable to say when this engagement happened being an illiterate and apprentice boy he has no record of his age. He thinks that he is between 70 and 73 years old.

And the said Blackburn appearing in person as aforesaid and being sworn saith that he is a resident of said State and County and on his oath makes the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress, passed June 7th 1832. That he entered the Army of the United States, as a volunteer, some short time after the engagement above mentioned (say a month) with Captain James Love under the command of General Caswell, the younger – being the son as applicant recollects of the General Caswell who fought at the widow Moore's Creek as above stated in the First Regiment of the North Carolina line (as he thinks) under the following named officers. First under said Captain Love & General Caswell as a volunteer under whom he thinks he served for six months: that while under Captain Love's command, during this term of service, he was at Gates defeat<sup>2</sup> – he continued in service until discharged at Hillsboro in North Carolina: that at the time of entering the service under this engagement he resided in the County of Duplin North Carolina. That he joined the Army this time somewhere in North Carolina in the neighborhood of Cross Creek but having run away from home and being young and illiterate he knew, & cannot recollect, but little of the geography of the country. He recollects marching towards South Carolina when he was at Gates defeat as above after that defeat he, in the confusion that ensued, fell in, and marched with one General Smallwood to Headquarters at Hillsboro NC and after remaining there for some time he was

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The battle of Moore's Creek Bridge was called on February 27, 1776. <a href="http://gaz.jrshelby.com/moorescreek.htm">http://gaz.jrshelby.com/moorescreek.htm</a>. This would place the veteran's birth year as 1760 or 1761, depending upon when in the year his birth actually occurred.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The Battle of Camden, August 15-16, 1780. http://battleofcamden.org/index.htm

discharged, and on his return towards home, in Wake County NC, he fell in with the troops on their march to join General Davidson; when he joined the Army under him (Davidson), his Captain's name not recollected: But recollects that his Regiment was under the command of Colonel Palmer – that he marched to the Catawba River and recollects that he lay for some time with the Army one bank of river while the enemy were on the other. That Davidson marched down said River to the Shallow Ford where he was killed.<sup>3</sup> From thence he marched and joined General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] at Salisbury NC on the Yadkin River. He crossed the Yadkin with Generals Greene & Morgan and marched into Virginia when they were reinforced and turned back on their way to Guilford where there was an engagement, but before the battle of at Guilford took place, this applicant, being in very bad health, had leave to quit the Army to recruit his health. That during this service under Generals Davidson & Greene, he thinks he was in actual service, at least six months.

That after his discharge from General Greene's Army and after his health had been recruited (the length of time he cannot recollect), He then, near Hillsboro NC entered the service again in the Cavalry, under Captain Cullers, under the command of Colonel Collier, who was under the command of General Butler [John Butler], for the term of three months. That he served this three months & was discharged from the Cavalry (he thinks) at Hillsboro. That while in the Cavalry service he marched towards Wilmington. While the Cavalry were encamped at a place called Rocky River an express arrived giving information of the capture of the Governor of NC at Hillsboro. When his Corps pursued the enemy to Lindey's mill [sic, Lindley's mill<sup>4</sup>] where he was in an engagement with the enemy, several of whom were killed – He recollects that his corps tied their horses and approached through a thick wood and fired on the enemy, with effect, who were in an old field.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity, except the present, and he declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of any Agency in any State.

Sworn to and subscribed in open court the day & year 1st aforesaid Attest: S/ John H. Dyson, CCO

S/ Nath<sup>n</sup> Blackburn, X his mark

The Interrogatories having been put by the court to the applicant, as prescribed by the war Department He answers as follows

To the 1st He answers that he was born in Duplin County North Carolina, but at what time he cannot say

To the 2nd He answers that he has no record of his age

To the 3rd he answers that he was living in Duplin County NC when he entered the service that soon after the revolutionary war he moved from North Carolina to Wilkes County Georgia where he has lived ever since and now resides

To the 4th He answers that he entered the service as a volunteer every time

To the 5th he answers that he believes he cannot answer this interrogatory more fully than he has already done in his foregoing declaration

To the 6th He says that he received a discharge from the service from General Smallwood (he thinks) and one (or a permit) from General Greene both of which are lost, long since.

To the 7th he says that he is known to Joseph A Carter & Richard Booker of his neighborhood & who can testify as to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Sic, General William Lee Davidson was killed on February 1, 1781 at Cowans Ford on the Catawba River. <a href="http://gaz.jrshelby.com/cowansfd.htm">http://gaz.jrshelby.com/cowansfd.htm</a>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> September 13, 1781. <a href="http://gaz.jrshelby.com/lindleysmill.htm">http://gaz.jrshelby.com/lindleysmill.htm</a>

Revolution.

Sworn to and subscribed in open court the 7th day of July 1834

Attest: S/ John H. Dyson, Clk CO S/ Nath Blackburn, X his mark

[fn p. 4: Joseph A Carter, a clergyman, and Richard Booker gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[fn p. 11: on November 19, 1855 in Lincoln County Georgia, John Blackburn filed an affidavit stating that he is the only living child of Nathan Blackburn, late of Wilkes County deceased, who applied for a pension in 1832 and died in 1847 in the month of December; that he is the only child or heir of his father, his father having died with no widow or other child; he seeks the pension due his father.]

[fn p. 12: John and William Jones testified that the veteran died on December 2, 1847 in Wilkes County and that they were present at his funeral the next day.]

[Veteran was found to be entitled to a pension at the rate of \$22.77 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831 and ending December 2, 1847 for 6 months & 25 days service as a private. The pension was paid in 1855 to his only surviving son, John Blackburn. I did not find in explanation as to why the pension was not paid to the veteran during his lifetime, but perhaps that explanation is in the file somewhere.]