

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Brookshire S6706

f18NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 10/10/14

[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 North Carolina, County of Wilkes

On this 6th day of November 1834 personally appeared in open court before the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions for the county and state aforesaid now sitting William Brookshire, a resident of the county of Wilkes and State of North Carolina, aged Seventy Seven 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 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated—That in the month of August 1775 or 1776, this declarant was drafted for a three month tour of duty in Rowan County North Carolina—that he joined the company of militia commanded by Capt. Israel Cox & Lieutenant Benjamin Davis, at Salisbury and thence marched direct to the Pleasant Gardens in Burke County No. Ca. where they were attached to the Regiment of Col. Matthew Locke, and where also they joined a large number of militia troops. That whole being under the command of Genl. Griffith Rutherford—As soon as the troops were organized Genl. Rutherford set out upon his march to the Cherokee Nation, and upon arriving at the nearest towns, found that the Indians had abandoned them & fled. After remaining some days at the towns they first reached, (the names of which are not recollected) Genl. Rutherford with a portion of the troops marched on to the Valley Towns, leaving also a portion behind among whom this declarant was one to guard the baggage & provisions, the troops having only taken what provisions they supposed would do them until their return and in the mean time the troops that were left, were directed to scour the country and to destroy all the corn, stock, buildings, & other property belonging to the Indians which they could find—Upon the return of Genl. Rutherford from the Valley Towns, having as before mentioned destroyed all the property belonging to the Indians which they could find, they set out for North Carolina, and having marched back as far as Salisbury, this declarant was there discharged and returned home having served in this expedition not less than Three Months.¹

About the year 1778 or 1779 the Tories were very troublesome on the waters of the Yadkin and Deep River in that section of North Carolina in which this declarant lived, and the frequent requisitions which were made upon the militia, to suppress and keep in check the Tories, rendered it necessary that the district companies should divide themselves into

¹ Rutherford's expedition against the Cherokee Indians occurred in the summer of 1776.

classes and hold themselves in readiness to march whenever notified this declarant was attached to the district company of Capt. Edward Williams, which had been divided into classes as above mentioned. This declarant was ordered out with the other members of his class, under Captain Williams and rendezvoused somewhere on or near the Uharee [sic, Uwharrie] River, (the particular place not recollected) where they joined some other troops and were and where the command of the whole was given to Major __ Crump. After joining Maj. Crump they set out upon their march in pursuit of a body of Tories under the command of one Col Fanning [David Fanning] who were committing great depredations on the waters of Deep River—After traversing the country for a considerable time without being able to come up with Fanning or to effect an engagement with him, and after having captured several Tories, most of whom were paroled or excused on certain conditions by the officers, they returned home, having served in this expedition not less than three weeks.

Sometime in the summer of the following year the class to which this declarant belonged was again called upon to march to the suppression of the Tories on Deep River—Accordingly they set out upon their march under the command of Capt. Aaron Hill, (the command of the District Company having devolved upon him) and traversed the country from place to place through parts of the Counties of Guilford, Randolph & Anson, to aid in the suppression of the Tories who were occasionally committing outrages upon the Whigs, and depredations upon their property, but soon as it was known that the Whigs were embodying themselves for protecting their property, they desisted from further operations and the country becoming restored to apparent peace & security—In this tour of duty this declarant does not recollect of being under the command of any officer superior to a Captain, but having accomplished in a good degree the objective of their expedition they were discharged and returned home having served not less than four weeks.

During the following winter the Tories on Deep River again broke out, and this declarant with the class to which he was attached was again ordered out to aid in suppressing them, they accordingly marched under Captain Aaron Hill through the same section of country that they traveled before, with an expectation of being able to engage with the Tories, who had again embodied themselves under Col Fanning, but without any better success than had attended their previous exertions, they however succeeded in capturing a Tory who had concealed himself in a fodder house, whom they conveyed to the camp of Col Isaacs (who was also in pursuit of Fanning) and who as this declarant afterwards learned ordered him to be conveyed to Salisbury—Col. Fanning having eluded their pursuit and made his escape from the country, and the Tories having disembodied themselves and dispersed, the troops that had been ordered out were discharged and sent home. In this tour this declarant believes he served not less than four weeks.

About the month of March 1781, just after the battle of Guilford, the Tories upon the Yadkin & Deep River being greatly encouraged by the approach of Lord Cornwallis, began to commit considerable depredations upon the Whigs, so much so that it became necessary for the Whigs to embody themselves for protection—This declarant volunteered himself and joined the company of mounted infantry or Light Horse commanded by Captain William Cole, in the edge of Rowan County, and thence marched up the Yadkin at the wading fort of which they joined Major Rutherford (son of the Genl) who took the command and thence proceeded up the river, scouring the settlements and capturing such Tories as they could find, several of whom they sent to Salisbury and committed them to Jail & after traversing the country for a considerable time to keep the Tories in check, and capturing such as they

supposed were disaffected to the cause of Liberty they returned home and were discharged. In this expedition this declarant is satisfied he served not less than three weeks.

The battle of Guilford [March 15, 1781] having closed in a considerable degree the war in the Southern Country, this declarant was not again called upon to perform any other service during the Revolution.

This declarant was born on Deep River in what he supposes was then Anson County N.C. on the 30th day of December 1756 the record of which he has in his Bible at home. He lived in the lower edge of Rowan County, N.C. when he entered the service of the United States, and has lived partly in Randolph & partly in Wilkes Counties N.C. since the Revolutionary War in which latter county he now lives—The first expedition which he performed being the three months tour against the Indians under Genl. Rutherford, was performed as a drafted militia man, the other services he performed as a volunteer.

The answer to the fifth interrogatory is contained in the body of the declaration— This declarant states that in answer to the sixth interrogatory that he never received a written discharge from the service, nor has he any documentary evidence of any kind to prove it— nor does he know of any person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his services—He refers however to the Rev'd Smith Ferguson & Mr. Pearce Noland as persons to whom he is well known in his present neighborhood, and who can testify as to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution.

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.

Sworn to & Subscribed the day & year aforesaid
S/ Wm. Mastin C. C. C.

S/ William Brookshire, X his mark

We Smith Ferguson a clergyman, residing in the county of Wilkes & State of North Carolina, and Pearce Noland residing in the same hereby certify that we are well acquainted with William Brookshire who has subscribed & sworn to the above declaration. That we believe him to be seventy years of age, that he is reputed and believed in the neighborhood where he resides to have been a soldier of the revolution, & that we concur in that opinion.

Sworn & subscribed the day and year aforesaid
S/ Wm. Mastin C. C. C.

S/ Smith Ferguson

S/ Pearce Noland, X his mark

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$20.88 per annum commencing March 4, 1831, for service as a private for 6 months and 8 days in the North Carolina militia.]