

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Dudley Gatewood S6873

Transcribed by Will Graves

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revised 8/3/08 & 8/4/15

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

State of North Carolina County of Caswell: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions October Term 1832

On this 9<sup>th</sup> day of October 1832 personally appeared in open court before James Rainey, John P. Harrison & Henry Allen the court now sitting, Dudley Gatewood, a resident of the County of Caswell aforesaid aged 84 years eight months and ten days 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<sup>th</sup> 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States first as a drafted militia man in the month of February and in the year 1776 as well as he can recollect in Captain William Hubbard's Company of Caswell County North Carolina. The Regiment which this company belonged was commanded by Colonel James Thaxton [James Thackston] and Colonel Taylor [perhaps Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Taylor of Orange County Regiment] and one Rochester [probably Lieutenant Colonel Nathaniel Rochester of the Southern Orange County Regiment] whose Christian name he thinks was Nathaniel was Major in this Regiment. He marched in the first place from Caswell County to Hillsboro North Carolina and from thence on directly to Fayetteville in the same State. The force under the command of Colonels Thaxton and Taylor met at Fayetteville with other forces of the State from the Counties of Rutherford, Rowan and so forth. The whole of the troops herein mentioned continued for some time, he thinks about two months though his recollection is imperfect, in and near Fayetteville in order to oppose the Tories who were strong in that Quarter. Just before the Regiment to which this applicant along reached Fayetteville, the Tories had sustained a defeat at a place called Moore's Bridge [sic, Moore's Creek Bridge, February 27, 1776] near Fayetteville by the American forces commanded by Colonel Caswell [Richard Caswell] and they were thus prevented from reaching the town of Wilmington N. C. to which they were directing their march in order to unite with the British Army. This applicant was not in this Engagement, it occurring a few days before he reached the vicinity. It took place as well as he recollects in the latter part of the month of February or the first part of March in the year 1776. Having continued about two months in the service, the company to which he belonged as well as many others were discharged and ordered to return home which they accordingly did. He has no written evidence of this discharge now referred to nor as he recollects was any given him at the time. This discharge took place sometime in the month of April 1776 as well as he remembers – From the time of this discharge, this applicant remained at home in Caswell County aforesaid until the month of December in the year 1780 when he was again drafted for a three months tour and marched on the 24<sup>th</sup> of December in the year aforesaid in Captain Spilby Coleman's [sic, Spillsby Coleman] Company belonging to the Regiment commanded by Colonel Thomas Farmer of Hillsboro N.C.-- directly to Salisbury North Carolina and after continuing at this place for several weeks, the Regiment having joined General Green's [sic, Nathaniel Greene's] Army proceeded on to Batey's Ford [Beatties' Ford] on the Catawba River in the County of Lincoln N.C. At this point the American forces under Greene met [February 1, 1781] with the English Army under the command of

Lord Cornwallis. The Americans retreated immediately back and were closely pursued by Cornwallis as far as a point on Dan River in Halifax County Virginia known at that time by the name of Boyd's Ferry. General Greene with his Army crossed the River at this place and proceeded as far as Halifax Court House in Virginia. Cornwallis discontinued his pursuit at the ferry above mentioned and having procured supplies from some mills<sup>1</sup> in the neighborhood directed his march back again towards Hillsboro N. C. General Greene having reinforced his Army at Halifax returned in pursuit of Cornwallis. The two armies however did not come in immediate contact ~~however~~, until the occurrence of the celebrated battle of Guilford which was fought on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of March 1781. The company to which this applicant belonged were discharged a short time before the battle of Guilford, viz, the first of March 1781. This applicant has no written evidence in his possession of the discharge here alluded to having lost it years since though his fellow soldiers whose certificates are herewith sent, to wit: Jonathan Starkey and Elisha Evans are still alive to bear testimony to the services which he has rendered. This tour was of three months duration commencing in December 1780 and ending in March 1781. He returned home to Caswell after his discharge, and remained there until late in the summer ensuing – the precise month or day of the month he cannot recollect, when he was again drafted for another three months tour. On this occasion he was drafted in the company commanded by Captain Robert Burton of Caswell. Colonel William Moore of Caswell commanded that Regiment. This company of Captain Burton's was ordered to march to Wilmington and they proceeded to do so accordingly and had marched as far as Neuse River in the County of Wake, N. C. when their orders were countermanded and they were required to return as far as Hillsborough N.C. to guard the Legislature of North Carolina which was at the time in session. On what day or month he reached the town of Hillsboro after being ordered to that place, he cannot remember. He continued there however until the recessing of the Legislature and estimating from the day on which he first left home on this tour to the day on which he was discharged at Hillsboro he thinks it must have exceeded three months. Such is his extreme old age however and the consequent frailty of his memory that he cannot make any positive statement as to dates. He received a written discharge at the close of this tour but has lost it, and there is no individual now living within his knowledge who served with him though Captain James Burton brother of Captain Robert Burton who commanded the company to which this applicant belonged has some recollection of the services mentioned and his certificate is therefore herewith sent.<sup>2</sup>

This applicant in the last tour of service acted as Lieutenant to the company of Captain Burton though he was never commissioned as such.

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<sup>1</sup> In his history of Caswell County published in 1977, Professor William S. Powell relates the following regarding raids by Tories and British soldiers in Caswell during the Revolutionary War.

"John Williams, 'Commissioner of Specificks for the County of Caswell' at this time, reported in 1788 that when the British under Lord Cornwallis were in Caswell in 1781, they took possession of the 'Stores or Magazines...and used or otherwise destroyed great quantities of grain and other species of provision.' As a result of this, [Col. John] Williams was unable to balance his accounts to the satisfaction of the Comptroller and he pled with the Legislature for relief. Legislators concluded that Williams was not guilty of 'any neglect or Sinister Conduct' and ordered that he be allowed the value of the lost goods so that the account might be closed. Affidavits submitted in this connection relate exactly what happened. Thomas Graves testified that 'in the month of February, 1781, he saw a party of British and Tory soldiers at a Store house of Col. John Williams's on the plantation of John Graves, Senr. [the deponent's father] in which was contained a large quantity of Corn belonging to him [Col. Williams]; that the said Thomas Graves was the first person there on the ensuing day, and found the quantity diminished, and he supposes it to have been done by the aforesaid Soldiers, who at the time committed many acts of violation upon his father's property; and he further deposes that he saw the Soldiers conveying the corn from the Store house of the Mill." Williams, himself, reported the British under the command of Lord Cornwallis 'encamped near a public Store called Williamson Old Store (formerly Harts)' which he owned. From it the British destroyed about 20 bushels of wheat, 17 of rye, and about 13 or 14 of corn. Robert Dickens testified that on or about February 25, 1781, he was taken prisoner by Tarleton's Light Horse and conveyed to Alexander Rose's where Cornwallis's army was then in camp. There Dickens heard it reported that the army had taken 'possession of the Corn Store, then belonging to Col. John Williams.' "

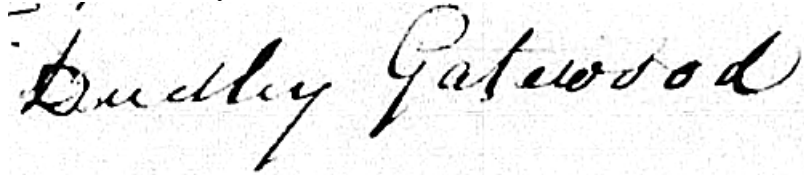
<sup>2</sup> no such certificate is to be found among the papers in this file

This applicant was born in Essex County in the state of Virginia as he ascertains by reference to a register now in his possession in the month of December 1747. In the year 1768, he left the County of his nativity and resided until the year 1771 as well as he remembers in the County of Pittsylvania Virginia. At this latter period he left the state of Virginia and came to the County of Caswell North Carolina where he has ever since continued to reside.

He hereby relinquishes all claims whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and Declares that his name is not upon the pension roll of the Agency of any State.

Sworn to & subscribed in open court.

S/ Dudley Gatewood

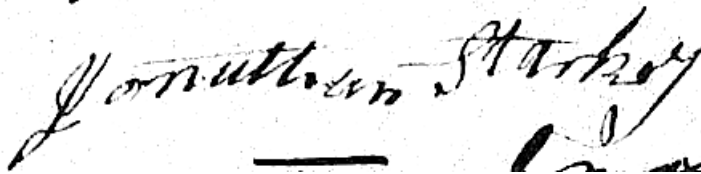


Test: S/ Paul A. Haralson, Clk

I Jonathan Starkie<sup>3</sup> do hereby certify that I served in the war of the revolution with Dudley Gatewood to whose Declaration this is annexed We were both under the command of Captain Spilsby Coleman. We left C. H. on the 26<sup>th</sup> day of December as well as I can recollect in the year 1780, and marched immediately to Salisbury N. C. and from thence to Beatties Ford as stated in his Declaration, and served during the tour of three months as he Declares and were discharged, as stated by him in March.

Sworn to & subscribed in open Court.

S/ Jonathan Starkey



Test: S/ Paul Haralson, Clk

I Elisha Evans<sup>4</sup> do hereby certify I was likewise in the war of the revolution together with Dudley Gatewood and Jonathan Starkey and that the accompanying declaration and certificate to the best of my recollection [are] substantially correct.

Sworn to & Subscribed in Open Court.

S/ Elisha Evans, X his mark

Test: S/ Paul Haralson, Clk

[Based on correspondence in the file, Rebecca Gatewood (relationship not stated) must have retained R. M. Saunders of Raleigh to inquire as to her eligibility for benefits.]

[Facts in file: Veteran died July 9, 1836. The file contains no family data.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$36.66 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831, for service as a private for 11 months in the North Carolina militia.]

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<sup>3</sup> [Jonathan Starkey S7612](#)

<sup>4</sup> [Elisha Evans S6830](#)