

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Lewis S8841

f28NC

Transcribed and annotated by Will Graves

4/14/10: rev'd 8/9/23

[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' or 'undeciphered' 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. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

State of North Carolina New Hanover County} Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions June Term
1833

On this tenth day of June A.D. 1833, personally appeared in open Court, before the Worshipful William L. Larkins, Timothy Bludworth & L H Marsteller Justices of the Peace for the County of New Hanover holding the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for said County now sitting James Lewis, a resident of Black River in the County of New Hanover and State of North Carolina aged Seventy Six years August 22, 1832, 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.

1. In the early part of the year 1776 (as well as now recollect), immediately after the defeat of the Tories under McDonald and McLeod at Moore's Creek Bridge [February 27, 1776], he volunteered as a Private in a Company of Bladen Militia of which James Shipman was Captain, and James Moorehead [James Morehead?] Lieutenant. The Company marched first to Wilmington, thence to Jumping Run, where they remained two months and then moved to Caswell's Camps in the immediate vicinity of Wilmington, where they were stationed one month, and where a Regiment of Militia from Bladen, and some of the adjoining Counties was stationed of which Thomas Robeson [Thomas Robeson, Jr.] was Colonel, and Thomas Brown Lt. Colonel. From Caswell's Camps, Captain Shipman's and Captain Dozier's [Dauge's] Companies under the command of Lt. Colonel Brown [Thomas Brown] were ordered to the upper part of Bladen (now Robeson) County, to surprise a body of Tories, who some short time previously killed Nathaniel Richardson, a distinguished Whig whose residence was in that part of the County: ascertaining that the Tories had retired from that part of the County, the Company returned to Elizabeth Town Bladen County where they were discharged. How long he was engaged in this last service he does not recollect -- that it must have been more than a fortnight. He does not recollect to have received any written discharge. He has forgotten the names of the Militia Officers with whom he served except those named, and has no recollection of any Continental officers.

Shortly afterwards he removed with his Father to the neighborhood of Brittain's Neck [Brittons Neck], South Carolina, where he remained until the Fall of Charleston [Charleston South Carolina fell to the British on May 12, 1780], and while residing there he performed the following tours of duty.

2. He volunteered (as well as he can now recollect in the year 1779, but at what particular

time he cannot remember) as a Private in a Company of South Carolina Militia under the command of Captain Graves [Joseph Graves], they marched in company with a body of South Carolina Militia, under the Command of Colonel Giles [Hugh Giles] to Sewee Bay, East of Charleston, where they were stationed, three months and at the expiration of that time were discharged. He does not recollect the names of any of the other officers or that he received any written discharge; if he did he has lost it.

3. He again volunteered in the same Company, shortly afterwards, they marched from the neighborhood of Brittons Neck to Long Bluff on Big Pedee [Pee Dee River]; thence in the direction of Augusta, and on their way they received from the Officer in charge of them a number of British prisoners whom they conducted to Charleston, and there delivered them to the officer in command of the Prison Ship; and were afterwards stationed in Charleston and in its vicinity until the expiration of six months (the period for which they were called out) and were then discharged. He does not now recollect the names of any of the Continental officers with whom he served, or any militia officers except Captain Graves, or does he recollect whether he received a written discharge or not -- indeed his memory is so much impaired, that he has no precise recollection of any of the occurrences of that period. If he received a written discharge, he has lost it. Not long after, Charleston surrendered to the British, and he returned with his Father to Bladen County, North Carolina, and performed while resident there the following tours of duty.

4. In the month of July 1780, as well as he can recollect, he volunteered on an expedition against the Tories in a Company of Bladen Militia, of which Daniel Shipman was Captain and William Bryan Lieutenant, with a body of Bladen Militia under the command of Colonel Brown and Major James Richardson. They marched from Elizabeth town to Fair Bluff on Drowning Creek or Lumber River in Columbus (then Bladen) County, it being understood that the Tories were embodied at Ford's plantation on Little Pedee; to which place they marched from Fair Bluff, and not finding the Tories there, they proceeded in pursuit of them in to the upper part of Bladen (now Robeson) County, thence returned to Elizabeth town and were discharged having been in service at least a fortnight. He received nothing but a verbal discharge.

5. He volunteered in the same year, on another expedition into South Carolina against the Tories in the same Company under the same officers and again with a body of Bladen Militia under Col. Brown. The Company marched from the Brown Marsh to Fair Bluff, where they remained a few days making in the mean time excursions into the adjoining Country without meeting the Tories -- when all the mounted men of which he was one were placed under the command of Captain James White and were sent to collect cattle as it was said for the American Army. They collected a number of cattle on Little Pedee, Bear Swamp and Ashpole and drove them to a plantation a few miles above Cross Creek (now Fayetteville) and were then verbally discharged. He was engaged six weeks on this expedition.

6. Not long after this service above detailed, he was with two other men from Daniel Shipman's Company, and an equal number from two or three other Companies in the same part of the County, drafted to drive Cattle from the plantation of Col. Thomas Owen (where they had been previously collected) to a plantation (the same as mentioned above) a few miles above Fayetteville -- having performed that duty they were discharged (verbally), having served at least two weeks. The detachment was under the command of one James Green from Daniel Shipman's Company.

He has no documentary evidence of his service, and knows of no person who can testify

to his service, except James Shipman,¹ Richard M. Lewis, and Francis Davis,² who are residents of Bladen County, and whose attendance he cannot procure, but will endeavor to obtain their affidavits and have them hereto attached.

He hereby relinquishes every claim 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 and subscribed the day & year aforesaid

S/ James Lewis



Answers to Interrogatories³ prescribed by the War Department as propounded to the Applicant by the Court.

1. I was born in Bladen County, North Carolina -- August 22 1756.
2. I have a record of my age, in my Family Bible.
3. In Bladen County, until about the year 1778 or 9, when I removed to South Carolina returned to Bladen in the year 1780 or 81, and resided there until about 20 years since, when I removed to Black River, New Hanover County, where I have resided ever since.
4. I was a Volunteer in every instance except the last, when I was drafted.
5. I have no particular recollection of any Continental Officers. General Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln], I believe commanded the Troops at Charleston, when I was there, and I have and indistinct recollection of Colonel Horry being in service when I served in South Carolina. I have no other recollection of any Continental or Militia Regiments: and the general circumstances of my service are detailed in the body of my declaration, to which I beg leave to refer.
6. I have no recollection of ever having received a written discharge, and if I did, I have lost them.
7. Peter Pridgen, Francis Pridgen, Francis Davis, George Larkins & Benjamin Larkins [Peter Pridgen and Francis Pridgen gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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North Carolina Bladen County} Personally appeared before me George W. Bannerman one of the Justices of the Peace in and for the County of Bladen this 24th day of July in the year of our Lord 1833, Francis Davis who after being duly sworn according to law, deposeth and saith that

¹ [James Shipman W17810](#)

² [Francis Davis S8290](#)

³ The War Department promulgated regulations governing pension application format and requiring the following 7 interrogatories to be put to each applicant for a pension:

1st Where 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 a substitute, for whom?

5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given 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.

James Lewis an applicant for a pension under the Act of Congress of 7th ___ 1832 that he was acquainted with said James Lewis in South Carolina in the time of the revolutionary war, but do not recollect his services; but believes him to be a revolutionary soldier. I recollect the officers he says he served with, viz. Colonel Hugh Giles, Major John Ervin and Captain Joseph Graves and I recollect the above officers serving at Orangeburg SC, Sewee Bay & Charleston. He always bore the reputation of a revolutionary soldier and my belief is further confirmed as to his being a revolutionary soldier, as he has related to me before this time many transactions of a minor consequence that took place to my certain knowledge while we were stationed at Charleston and James Island.

S/ F. Davis



Sworn to before me the day & year above written
S/ G. W. Bannerman, JP

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State of North Carolina Bladen County}

On this the 13th day of August in the year 1833, James Shipman a resident of said County after being duly sworn according to law maketh oath before me Aaron Lewis Jr a Justice of the Peace for said County that James Lewis, an applicant for a Pension, under the act of Congress of June 7th 1832 was born & for several years resided in the neighborhood of this Affiant, & he distinctly recollects that the said James Lewis served during the revolutionary War as a Private in a company of Bladen Militia of which this Affiant was Captain, that said James Lewis joined the Company in the early part of the year 1776 [several words obliterated] at Jumping Run & Caswell's Camps below Wilmington; the Company being attached to a Regiment of Bladen Militia and forming a part of General John Ashe's Brigade of Militia; and that said Lewis marched with the Company on the expedition under Col. Brown to the upper part of Bladen (now Robeson) County against the Tories, who had killed Nathaniel Richardson; & that said Lewis was discharged at Elizabeth town; that he received no written discharge, as none were given; that said Lewis must have served at least three months. This Affiant further maketh oath, that said Lewis, afterwards removed to South Carolina, was gone two or three years, & returned to Bladen before the termination of the revolutionary And doubt not, but that said Lewis served afterwards as stated in his declaration.

Sworn & subscribed the day & year aforesaid before me

S/ A. Lewis, Jr., JP

S/ James Shipman



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State of North Carolina Bladen County

On this the 16th day of August in the year 1833, Richard M. Lewis a resident of the County of Bladen, after having been duly sworn according to law, maketh oath before me Robert Lyon, one of the Justices of the Peace, for the County aforesaid, -- that he has been acquainted with James Lewis, an applicant for a Pension, under the Act of Congress of June 7th 1832, and was engaged together with him in the service of the United States, during the revolutionary War, on the following tours of duty, -- First in an expedition against the Tories in a company of Bladen

Militia of which Daniel Shipman was Captain, in a body of Bladen Militia commanded by Colonel Brown & Major James Richardson -- they marched to Ford's plantation on Little Pedee & into the upper part of Bladen & after having served, two weeks or more, they were discharged at Elizabeth town -- Second: In another expedition against the Tories, in the same Company, and under the same officers, and after being engaged in pursuit of the Tories for more than five weeks, the mounted men belonging to the Company (of whom James Lewis was one) were placed under the command of one James White and ordered to drive cattle, that had been collected in different places, to the neighborhood of Fayetteville for the use (as was understood) of the American Army. Third: He was engaged with said James Lewis in driving cattle from the plantation of Col. Thomas Owen, on the Cape Fear River, in Bladen County, to a plantation a few miles above Fayetteville, also, for the use of the Army -- [several words obliterated] & one Malcolm Shaw, having been detailed for that purpose from Capt. D. Shipman's Company. This Affiant recollects that said James Lewis, during the revolutionary War, removed with his Father to South Carolina, and returned to Bladen County, after an absence of two or three years, where he resided until his removal to New Hanover County, about twenty years since, -- and that it was after his return from South Carolina, that this Affiant served with him, as above set forth.

Sworn to & subscribed the day and year aforesaid before me.

S/ Robert Logan, JP

S/ Richard M. Lewis, Senior

Richard M. Lewis sen^r

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$39.30 per annum commencing March 4, 1831, for 11 months 21 days service in the revolution.]