

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Lewis Bledsoe W17315      Fanney Bledsoe      f45GA  
Transcribed by Will Graves      5/22/07 rev'd 9/11/14

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

[NOTE: Footnote.com erroneously indexed this under the Georgia pension applications]

[p 4]

State of North Carolina, County of Granville: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions February Term 1833

On this 5<sup>th</sup> day of February A.D. 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions for said County, now sitting, Lewis Bledsoe a resident of Granville County & State aforesaid aged Seventy six Years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefits of the Act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup>, 1832.

That he was born in the year 1756, on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of December on Savoy Creek, in what was then called Bute County, but is no longer known by that name – Bute having been divided, & the names of Warren & Franklin being given to its divisions. That he has no record of his age except an inscription on his hunting horn, which he transcribed from an entry in his Father's family Bible, in which the ages of all the family were preserved. That in his infancy, as he has been told, he was carried to Wake County, in which last named County he resided up to the commencement of, & during the War of the Revolution, except when in service -- & afterwards until about the year 1810, or '11-- when he removed to the County of Granville, where he has lived till the present time. That early in the war of the Revolution whilst he was living in Wake County he believes in the year 1775 or 1776, he entered the service of his Country as a volunteer, in consequence of a call made by General Caswell [Richard Caswell]. He was appointed Sergeant of his company which was commanded by Captain John Rochelle. His company marched towards Wilmington & came up with General Caswell near Black River who there took the chief command. The object of this movement was to prevent a body of Scotch Tories under one McDonald [Donald MacDonald], from joining the British at Wilmington. An engagement took place at Moore's Creek [February 27, 1776] in which this declarant anticipated between our forces, & the Tories under McDonald & McLeod [Donald MacLeod], which resulted in the total defeat & dispersion of the latter. His company then returned home, having been absent on the duty above detailed precisely three weeks. He has no recollection of receiving any formal discharge, & if he did he does not know from whom he received it.

That sometime after his return he again entered the service as a substitute for his cousin William Mays, who had volunteered for five months in a company of Cavalry and at the solicitations of his family prevailed on this declarant to take his place. He marched to

Purrysburg in South Carolina under Captain Gilbert Falls [Galbraith Falls]-- at the time the British troops occupied Savannah. One Joseph Patton was the Lieutenant & one Samuel Clayton the cornet of the Company. He believes though he is not certain, that General Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln] was in command of all the American forces at Purrysburg. Sometime after this declarant marched under Colonel Lytle [Archibald Lytle] of the regular Army & Major Nelson, with 400 soldiers, up the Savannah River on the South Carolina side watching the British who were marching to Augusta on the other side -- & when the British reached Augusta, Colonel Lytle's troops took up their position at Fort Moore Bluff in South Carolina, at which place they continued until the British evacuated Augusta. He then crossed the River in pursuit of the British, & continued the pursuit, the American forces being now commanded by General Ashe [John Ashe], until they arrived at Briar Creek where an engagement [March 3, 1779] took place, in which our troops were defeated & dispersed. In the confusion of the retreat this declarant found his way to Augusta and shortly after his tour of five months expired. He has no recollection of the officer from whom he received his discharge, & if he received one at all he has not preserved it. This declarant is by no means certain that General Lincoln was in command when he arrived there, & upon that subject speaks only from a vague recollection that that officer was stationed there at the time of which he speaks. After the defeat at Briar Creek & after this declarant had been relieved from his tour of duty before mentioned, he remained about 11 months in & about Augusta. His cousin George Bledsoe<sup>1</sup> had enlisted in a company commanded by one Marbury & desired him to wait until he had recovered from wounds which he had before received. During this period of 11 months, he continued with the troops at Augusta commanded by Colonels Twiggs [John Twiggs], Marbrey & Walton, & marched with them on all their excursions, & performed the duties of a soldier, but was never regularly enrolled as a volunteer, nor attached to any particular company.

This affiant is inclined to think that the five months tour he marched to Purrysburg was not served until after he had served some months at Fayetteville in North Carolina then called Cross Creek to keep the Tories in check – but his recollection of the duration of his service at Fayetteville is so indistinct that – he cannot speak of it with anything like certainty -- & he does not therefore bring it into the account.

After his return from Georgia he again entered the service as Captain of a company of militia, for a tour of three months, in a Regiment commanded by Colonel James Hinton & General Lillington [John Alexander Lillington] – as he believes in the year 1779 – but as to the particular period of the year he has no recollection, & does not speak with positive certainty as to the year itself. He marched into South Carolina, through Camden, crossed the Santee River at the Eutaw Springs, & down Moncks Corner to Charleston, where General Lincoln was in chief command, & remained in that place until within a few days of the time when that place was besieged by the British, when his term of duty expiring he returned home. He presumes he must have received his discharge from his commanding officer, but he has no distinct recollection of the fact & if he received one he has not preserved it.

In the Summer of 1780, he believes, the precise time he cannot state with certainty he again entered the service as Captain in the North Carolina militia in Wake County for a tour of three months, & and that he marched first to Fayetteville where troops were assembled under General Caswell. The Colonel in immediate command was Colonel

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<sup>1</sup> probably the same man as [George Bledsoe \(Bledso\) S14962](#)

Stephen Moore, & he believes one Colonel O'Neal also had a command in the Regiment. They marched towards South Carolina & joined the Army of General Gates [Horatio Gates], at a place called "forked woods" a few days before the Battle near Camden. He was present & partook of the dangers of the action [Battle of Camden, August 15-16, 1780] just named, in which his Colonel Stephen Moore was made prisoner – not long after his term of service expired, & he returned home; but in this as in other cases, not having preserved his discharge he cannot speak with accuracy, as to the individual from whom, & the time when he received it.

In the year 1781, as he believes, he again entered the service as a Captain of volunteers, raised in Wake County, for a tour of three months. He marched under General Butler [John Butler] to Pittsboro in Chatham County they then started to Hillsboro, & on their way came up with a body of Tories at Lindley's Mills [September 13, 1781], & had an engagement with them, our forces maintaining their ground. They then proceeded to Hillsboro, & meeting with a re-enforcement there they marched to the Southern part of North Carolina, & had another engagement with a body of Tories at a place called Brown Marsh [September 1781] in the neighborhood of Wilmington. After the action, he crossed the Cape Fear [River], & marched up the River by Fayetteville -- & then again to Hillsboro, as he believes, where his tour expiring, he received his discharge, but he does not now know from whom.

This declarant has thus stated with as much accuracy as his advanced age & and infirm memory will enable him to, the various tours in which he served in the Revolutionary War. It is impossible for him to recollect the precise dates when he entered the service. Whereas he has not been able to do so, he hopes the particular periods of his service can be ascertained at the War Department, by referring to actions in which he was engaged. He once had commissions from General Caswell, setting forth his rank as Captain – but they as well as all over documentary evidence of his service have long since been destroyed or lost. He is now Seventy six years old, and amidst the various accidents of so long a life, many of the events of the war in which he was engaged, & more particularly the dates & order of service, may have escaped recollection. The witnesses by whom this declarant proves his actual services are Jesse Lawrie, Bartlett Allen, Thomas Allen, Benjamin Hester & Zachariah Hester whose depositions have heretofore been sent to the Department, & no objections made to them in the instructions returned with his former declaration. He would further more respectfully refer to the Honorable Willie P. Mangum, Senator in Congress from this State for his reputation as a Soldier in his neighborhood. He expects to prove his reputation as a soldier by the Reverend John Mallory & by Leslie Gilliam, Sheriff of Granville County.

He 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.

S/ L<sup>s</sup> Bledsoe



Sworn to & subscribed in open Court before us

S/ B. Bulloch, CHPJ

S/ Jno Bullock

S/ Howel L. Read

[John Mallory, a clergyman, and Leslie Gilliam gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 30]

State of North Carolina, County of Granville: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions February Term 1833

Personally appeared in open Court Benjamin Hester<sup>2</sup> & Zachariah Hester<sup>3</sup> aged inhabitants of said County, who being duly sworn according to Law depose & say as follows – That they have been acquainted with Major Lewis Bledsoe who is now applying for a pension for his services in the Revolutionary War & have been acquainted with him near Sixty years. That they knew him as a Captain of militia at Charleston in South Carolina, before that place was besieged by the British. That they know he was a Captain in the militia three months in & near that place -- & that he always understood he held that grade at other periods of the War & further these deponents say not.

S/ Benjamin Hester, X his mark

S/ Zachariah Hester, X his mark

Sworn to & subscribed in open Court before us & we certify that the above named deponents are entitled to credit.

S/ Jno. C. Taylor, Ch. Pro. Tem

S/ S. H. Parish

S/ Thos. [illegible name]

Court now sitting

[p 36]

State of North Carolina, Wake County

This deponent after being duly qualified according to Law doth on his Oath make statement-- that he is acquainted & has been acquainted with Lewis Bledsoe who now makes application to the General Government for a pension for his revolutionary services – from his earliest boyhood -- & that he distinctly recollects his having served in the Revolutionary war as a Captain in the Militia service of this State – but for what term or terms he does not now recollect. He further more states that he the said Lewis Bledsoe has always sustained & now sustains an unimpeachable reputation for truth.

S/ Jesse Lawrie, X his mark

Sworn to and subscribed in our presence this second day of August A.D. 1832

S/ D.L. Barringer, JP

S/ David Brasfield, JP

[p 37]

State of North Carolina, Wake County

This day came Thomas Ross before us and maketh Oath—from the best of his Knowledge & Belief that Major Lewis Bledsoe of the County & State aforesaid was a Militia Captain in the Service of the United States in the Revolutionary War and Served a six months Tour in the time of the War & also Served several other Tours or Campaigns During the Residue of the time or Continuance or Continuance [sic] of the said Revolutionary War from the date of 1778 or '79 – until the war closed – but the length or time of the Several Campaigns he served after not Recollected; and about the close of the War he bore the title of Major.

Sworn and subscribed to in due form of law before us this 30 July 1832.

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<sup>2</sup> [Benjamin Hester S6998](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Zachariah Hester S7002](#)

S/ Thos Ross<sup>4</sup>

Test:

S/ Benj. Rogers, JP

S/ T. Jones, JP

State of North Carolina Wake County

This day came Bartlett Allen before us & maketh Oath that he was well Acquainted with Major Lewis Bledsoe of the County & State aforesaid at the time of the War & since, and he verily Believes he served as a Captain several Tours during the Revolutionary [War] in the Militia of the United States & that he saw him in Service himself – but how long a Campaign he served he does not Recollect – but Believes he served the greater part of the time During the Revolutionary War and at the Close of the War, bore the Title of Major.

S/ Bartlett Allen, X his mark

Sworn to & subscribed before us in due form of All this 30<sup>th</sup> day of July 1832.

Test: S/ Benj. Rogers, JP

S/ T. Jones, JP

[p 39]

State of North Carolina: Comptroller's Office

I, William J. Clarke, Comptroller of Public Accounts in and for the State aforesaid, do hereby certify that it appears of record in my office, among the payments made by said State to sundry persons for Military services in the Revolutionary War, as follows, to wit:

Lewis Bledsoe

Book D, No. 18 page 69 £246 specie “payments of 1776 or 1777”

“ K 23 £246 currency October 1779

“ E 77 Captain Lewis Bledsoe and Company

£3139 S12 currency August 1780

Vol. C., 2886 Captain Lewis Bledsoe for Militia services of self and Company £2105 S5 specie, June 1783.

Vol. C. 2882 Lewis Bledsoe £40 specie July 1783.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed my seal of office this seventh day of September 1851. S/ Wm J. Clarke, Comptr.

I further certify that it appears, Vol. A, 909 that Lewis Bledsoe was at the battle of Briar Creek in South Carolina, fought in the March 1779, as an allowance was made to him for losses in said battle. S/ Wm J. Clarke, Comptr.

[p 11: On November 8, 1836 in Granville County North Carolina, Francis Bledsoe [sic, Frances Bledsoe], 70, made application for a widow's pension under the 1836 act stating that she is the widow of Lewis Bledsoe, a revolutionary war pensioner; that she was married to him in the latter part of the year 1780 and in the year 1781 the said Bledsoe was in the Army; that she knows of no living person by whom she can prove the marriage; that her husband died sometime in the month of June 1833 the day not recollected; that she remains a widow.

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<sup>4</sup> [Thomas Ross S4126](#)

Fanny Bledsoe ]

[p 17: Marriage bond issued to Lewis Bledsoe to marry Fanny Moore dated December 5, 1780; security Andrew Muckleroy [Andrew McElroy?] & Witness by J Rice.]

[p 17: Family record:

Lewis Bledsoe was born December 15 day 1756

Fanney Bledsoe was born February 6 day 1766

Yancey Bledsoe son was born November 30 day 1781

Gincey Bledsoe Daughter was born April 7 day 1784

Terrell Bledsoe son was born May 12 day 1786

Gechoniah Bledsoe son was born July 31 day 1788

Mahala Bledsoe Daughter was born September 30 day 1790

Mikins Bledsoe son was Born February 15 Day 1793

Betsey Bledsoe Daughter was born May 1 day 1795

Thurza Bledsoe Daughter was born December 31 day 1798

Washington Bledsoe Was Born December 21 Day 1801

Alei [Alice?] Bledsoe Daughter was born June 4 day 180? [Last digit unclear]

Allanda Bledsoe Daughter was born January 13 day 1806

Lewis Bledsoe was born Dec<sup>r</sup> 15<sup>th</sup> day 1756  
Fanny Bledsoe was born Feb<sup>r</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> day 1766  
Yancey Bledsoe son of L. Bledsoe & F. Bledsoe  
was born November the 30 day 1781 1  
Gincey Bledsoe Daughter was born April 7 day 1784 2  
Terrell Bledsoe son was born May 12 day 1786 3  
Gechoniah Bledsoe son was born July 31 day 1788 4  
Mahala Bledsoe Daughter was born September 30 day 1790 5  
Mikins Bledsoe son was born february 15 day 1793 6  
Betsey Bledsoe Daughter was born May 1 day 1795 7  
Thurza Bledsoe Daughter was born Dec<sup>r</sup> 31 day 1798 8  
Washington Bledsoe son was born Dec<sup>r</sup> 21 day 1801 9  
Alei Bledsoe Daughter was born June 4 day 180? 10  
Allanda Bledsoe Daughter was born Jan<sup>r</sup> 13 day 1806 11

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$200.16 per annum commencing March 4, 1831, for service as a private for 50 months, a Sgt. for 21 days and a Capt. for 3 months in the North Carolina service. His widow was pensioned at a like amount.]