## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Connelly (Conley) W20920 Jane fn126NC Transcribed by Will Graves 12/1/10

[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.]

State of North Carolina MacDowell [sic, McDowell] County: On this 31st day of July 1844, personally appeared before us David Chandler & Adam Carver, two of the acting Magistrates in and for said County of McDowell Jane Conley a resident of the County and State aforesaid aged eighty-nine years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth, on her oath, make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed July 4th, 1836.

That she is the widow of John Conley late deceased of Burke County North Carolina, who was a Captain in the North Carolina Militia in the War of the Revolution, that lived in said County and State, and served the United States under General Rutherford, Colonel McDowell and other officers, as follows, in the year 1776 the said John Conley commanded a company of Cavalry, under General Rutherford that went from Rowan County with General Rutherford to the Cherokee Nation against the Indians. The next regular tour of duty was the campaign known as the siege of Ninety Six in South Carolina at which time the said John Conley served as first Lieutenant under Captain Welch; holding at the same time a Captain's commission, and it was under the following Circumstances: that said Captain John Conley came to serve as Lieutenant, Captain Welch and Captain Conley, met with their Companies at the time they were to start on the aforesaid Campaign and their Companies being small they agreed to consolidate them and to cast lots to see who should act as Captain, while the other was to be Lieutenant, and it fell to the lot of said Conley to be the Lieutenant. The next and third tour of duty was in the year 1781 said Captain John Conley served a Tour at the head of the River in Burke County. This declarant further states that her said husband the aforesaid John Conley was engaged a large portion of his time in the service during the Struggles of the Revolution, but the above are all the regular tours that he performed.

This declarant further stated that she has no papers or Record evidence showing the above claimed service of her said husband John Conley, that since the Revolution they have had their house burned together with all her husband's papers that related to his services in the Revolution.

She further declare that she was married to the said John Conley in Rowan County North Carolina, in August in the year 1773, that her husband the aforesaid John Conley died on the 16th day of July 1826, and that she has remained a widow ever since that period as will more

fully appear by reference to the proof here to annexed.

Sworn to and subscribed on the day and year first above written before us S/D. Chandler, JP S/Jane Conley, X her mark S/A. Carver, JP

## [fn p. 111]

State of North Carolina McDowell County: On this 28th day of December 1845, personally appeared before me, Joseph Conley one of the acting Magistrates in & for said County, Jane Conley, widow of John Conley deceased, and applicant for a pension, a resident of the County & State aforesaid, who being duly sworn according to law, deposeth and saith, That her husband the aforesaid John Conley entered the Army of the Revolution as a Captain of Militia under General Rutherford in the year 1776, and as such he served a tour of duty under the said General against the Cherokee Indians. That her said husband with his Company of soldiers joined General Rutherford's Army at Catheys or Davidsons Fort, on the Catawba River about the middle of May or the first of June, 1776, while on their way to the Cherokee Nation, and that after joining said Army he with his Company went to the Cherokee Nation and was gone until the middle of September –

His next regular Tour of service was in the spring of 1781. He was called but with a Company together with others, under Colonel McDowell to go to the relief of South Carolina, which was at that time invading by the Enemy. That on this occasion her husband who was Captain joined Companies with Captain Welch, and served the above Tour as Lieutenant under Captain Welch. That the Army left Burke County North Carolina in the month of April & went on to South Carolina and was at the Siege of Ninety Six, and from thence they returned home to North Carolina & was discharged at the expiration of three months –

His third, and last regular Tour of service was in the fall of 1781, he was Captain of the Fort in Burke County North Carolina and served then a tour of three months, which was by the Command of Colonel McDowell. That he was stationed at the Fort sometime in September and remained there until about Christmas –

And this deponent further states, that her said husband rendered other services during the Revolution, that he was frequently out with a Company of a scouting along the lines of the frontiers, But that the foregoing contain all the Regular Tours of duty that her husband performed which she has given in according [sic, court months] to her best recollection. That from old age and loss of memory she cannot give the commencement and termination of such tours of duty. But that she feels justifiable in stating that he served in all that is set forth above a period of not less than nine months and a half for which service he asked for a pension.

She further states that her said husband was regularly commissioned as a Captain at or before the breaking out of the War or commencement of hostilities in North Carolina, and that he held said Commission & served under it for during the Revolution and that soon after the War said Commission was destroyed by fire at the burning of their house in the year 1785.

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

Sofon me to Sand for Souly much

## [fn p. 114]

State of North Carolina Yancey County: On this 9th day of August 1844, personally appeared before me Joseph Pittman one of the acting Magistrates in and for said County of Yancey Jonathan MacPeeters [Jonathan McPeters]<sup>1</sup> a resident of the County and State aforesaid an United States Pensioner who being first duly qualified according to law maketh oath, that he was well acquainted with Captain John Conley of Burke County North Carolina in the days of the Revolution whose widow Jane is now a resident of McDowell County North Carolina and is an applicant for a Pension, due on the account of the Revolutionary services of her husband the aforesaid Captain John Conley deceased, that this deponent did serve a tour of duty with said Captain John Conley under the command of Captain general Rutherford in the year 1776 at the time General Rutherford went out against the Cherokee Indians and at which time the aforesaid Captain John Conley commanded a Company of Cavalry and served the above tour of duty to deponent's own personal knowledge.

This deponent further states on his said oath, that he was also out another tour of duty with said Captain John Conley which was the siege of Ninety [sic, Ninety Six] a post in South Carolina at which time the aforesaid Captain John Conley served as a Lieutenant under Captain Wells, furthermore deponent saith not.

Sworn to and subscribed on the day and year first above written before me.

S/ Joseph Pittman, JP

S/ Jonathan McPeeters, X his mark

## [fn p. 118]

State of North Carolina Burke County: On this 6th day of August 1844, personally appeared before me J. D. Friece one of the acting Magistrates in & for the aforesaid County of Burke, John Gibbs, <sup>2</sup> a resident of said County, an old Revolutionary Soldier and made oath in due form of law, to the following statements. That he has from before the days of the Revolution been well acquainted with Captain John Conley late deceased of Burke County North Carolina, also with his wife Jane, who is applying for a pension, on the account of the Revolutionary Services of her husband the aforesaid Captain John Conley deceased that this declarant did serve a three months Tour of duty in the War of the Revolution under Captain John Conley the aforesaid at the head of the Catawba River in Burke County in the fall of the year 1781. This declarant further states on his oath, that he lived in the immediate neighborhood of said Captain John Conley during the War of the Revolution, and was knowing to the said Captain John Conley being from home, and was said to be at the siege of Ninety Six as Lieutenant under Captain Wells also of his returning home to Burke with his men, all of whom said that they had been to the siege of Ninety Six & that Captain Conley acted as Lieutenant under Captain Wells as aforesaid which was, to deponent's knowledge never disputed, and furthermore deponent well recollects, that among the number of his acquaintance that was out the said tour under Captain Conley was one Hyatt who was wounded in the corner of his eye, and it was said to have been done at the siege of Ninety Six by a ball from the enemy – This deponent further states on his said oath, that said Captain John Conley commanded a Company of Cavalry under Captain general Rutherford that went with said General at the time he went against the Cherokee Indians in the year 1776 that he the deponent was personally known to the fact of his the said Captain John Conley's starting with his Company of men to go to the Nation, of his being gone three or five months from home and of his returning home to his wife & family and said that he had been out to the Indian Nation and so

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Jonathan McPeters S7195

John Gibbs S8556

said others that were along at the same time.

And this deponent further states on his said oath that he knows of his own personal knowledge that the parties aforesaid, to wit, Captain John Conley and wife Jane, the present applicant for a Pension, were they living together as husband and wife, both before, and during the Revolution, that he deponent was married to a sister of the said Captain John Conley in the year 1776 at which time the said parties had a family of one child and had been married for some two or three years. Furthermore this deponent saith not.

Sworn to and subscribed on the day and year first above written before me.

S/ John Gibbs, X his mark

[fn p. 122]

State of North Carolina Burke County: On this 6th day of August 1844 personally appeared before me J. D. Ferris one of the acting Magistrates in & for the said County of Burke, Stephen Ballew, a resident of the County and State aforesaid, and United States Pensioner and made oath in due form of law to the following statements viz. That he deponent was well acquainted with John Conley late deceased of Burke County North Carolina, also with his wife Jane, who is now applying for a Pension on the account of the Revolutionary services of her husband the aforesaid John Conley, that this deponent lived in the days of the Revolution a near neighbor to the parties aforesaid, to wit, John Conley & wife, and knows of his own personal knowledge that said John Conley was engaged in the service of the United States as Captain of militia and was mostly employed as a Captain of scouting parties that were frequently called into service to defend the Frontiers against the Indians. This deponent further states on his said oath that he knows of his own personal knowledge that said Captain John Conley did serve two regular Tours of duty, in addition to the service above mentioned. First that he Conley was out to the siege of Ninety Six a post in South Carolina in the year 1781 and served as Lieutenant under Captain Wells with whom he Captain John Conley had joined the Companies, secondly the said Captain Conley after returning from the siege of Ninety Six in the same year, served a Tour of duty at the head of the Catawba River in Burke County as Captain of a company of men that were stationed at in that part of the County as a defense against the Indians. And this deponent further this stated on his oath that he has a always understood and fully believes that said Captain John Conley did serve another tour of duty in the year 1776 as Captain of a Company of cavalry under General Rutherford at the time General Rutherford went against the Cherokee Indians.

This deponent also states on his oath, that said Captain John Conley was to his own personal knowledge a living with his wife Jane, the aforesaid applicant for a pension as husband & wife, before the war broke out, and were considered as lawfully man and wife by all that knew them, and that they did continued to live together as such up to the death of said Captain Conley, and that he never heard their marriage disputed or questioned by anyone.

Sworn to and subscribed on the day and year first above written before me. S/ Stephen Ballew, X his mark

[fn p. 6: on January 29, 1845 in McDowell County North Carolina, Joseph Connelly, 44, gave testimony that he is the son of Jane Connelly, the widow of John Connelly; that he has in his possession the old family Bible containing the record of the ages of the children of his parents a true copy of which is as follows "Wm Connelly son of John and Jane Connelly was born June 22nd in the year 1774, Mary Connelly was born October 9th in the year of our Lord 1776"]

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Stephen Ballew S16835

[fn p. 10: finding dated November 17, 1852 filed by the clerk of the McDowell County North Carolina court in which it is found that Jane Conley, widow of John Conley a revolutionary war pensioner at the rate of \$120 per annum, died at her residence in McDowell County October 13th, 1851 leaving surviving Allen Conley, Joseph Conley and Susannah Sherrill, who now are the only living children of the said Jane Connelly and are all of lawful age.]

[fn p. 14: other facts of interest drawn from a letter summarizing the contents of this pension file as follows:

"In 1844 one John Gibbs, resident of Burke County, North Carolina, stated that he married a sister of Captain John Conley in 1776. In 1844 one Rebecca Gibbs who was aged 88 years and a resident of Burke County, North Carolina, stated that she married in 1776 and that she was present at the marriage of Captain John Conley and Jane Ballew. She did not say she was the sister of John Conley."

"In 1844 one Stephen Ballew was a resident of Burke County, North Carolina, but it was not stated that he was related to the widow, Jane."

"In 1851 Mrs. Rust and Mrs. Rutherford were referred to as sisters of the widow, Jane Connelly or Conley."

"In 1852 David Ballew testified in Yancey County, North Carolina, but it is not shown that he was related to the widow, Jane Connelly or Conley."]

[Veteran's widow was pensioned at the rate of \$160 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831 and ending October 30, 1851 for the service of her husband as a Lieutenant in the revolution.]