Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Mitchell ¹ W5379 Transcribed by Will Graves

Eleanor Mitchell f70SC 6/29/09: rev'd 4/25/17

[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.]

[p 5]

State of Georgia County of Franklin

On this 3rd day of September in the year 1832 personally appeared before the Inferior Court now sitting for ordinary purposes for the County and State aforesaid William Mitchell a resident of Captain Newell's district in said County & State aged Seventy-one years who being 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 in Union District South Carolina in the Militia of that State in July 1780 under Captain Daniel Duff & Samuel Otterson, was marched through the Country scouting & skirmishing until Duff was taken prisoner & Otterson had his arm broken, -- served until February 1781 seven months was then dismissed and immediately enrolled himself as a horseman as a volunteer under Captain George Avory [sic, George Avery?]² to serve 15 months. Was kept riding about through the Country until June 1781 when he was marched to the siege of Ninety Six [May 21, June 19, 1781] was there put under the command of Major Ben Jolly [Benjamin Jolly] and General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene], remained there until Greene retreated; -- We then kept scouting until we again joined General Greene on his way to Eutaw Springs. -- He was in the Battle at Eutaw Springs [September 8, 1781], after which he was kept on scouting parties a short time when he went under Captain Avory & Colonel Killgore [Benjamin Kilgore] after the Cherokee Indians, where he was in several skirmishes & burned several towns, returned to Union South Carolina & finished his 15 months Tour in scouting parties after the Tories & was discharged by Captain Avory.

In May or June 1782 he entered at Union Court House as a substitute for Richard Barrett for one month under Captain Otterson & Colonel Fair [William Farr], served one month before Barrett which finished Barrett's time, and immediately he be entered the same company as a substitute for one month for John Ham which finished out Ham's time, after which he again immediately entered as a substitute for two months or James Hagan in Captain Avory's Company & was under the command of Major Ben Jolly. Served out these two months at Bacon's Bridge on Ashley River, & was discharged at Union by our officers who had been discharged by General Greene.

Served altogether 26 months as a private

- 1 Was born April 1, 1761 understood from his mother in Virginia, but does not recollect where at.
- 2 Has in his possession a record of his age.
- When he entered the service he lived in Union District South Carolina, from thence he

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¹ BLWt38520-160-55

² Bobby Moss gives this man's name as George Aubrey

removed to his present residence about 11 years since.

- 4 Has answered above a volunteer 22 months and a substitute for months
- 5 Recollects Greene at Ninety Six & Eutaw & Bacon's Bridge & Kilgore, after the Indians
- Does not recollect to have received any written discharge, was not allowed at the end of a Tour to go home, but immediately had to inner again and was unsafe to go home.
- Is known to Charles D. Jenkins and John L. Reece & Samuel Hymer a preacher of the Gospel; and who can testify as to his character for veracity & to their belief of his having been 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 any Agency of any State, within his knowledge or belief.

Sworn to and subscribed in open court the day and year first above written S/ Thos. King, Clk

S/ William Mitchell, X his mark

[Samuel Hymer, a Clergyman, and Charles D. Jenkins gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 69]

State of Georgia County of Franklin SS

On this Sixth day of May 1833 personally appeared before the Inferior Court for the County & State aforesaid now sitting for ordinary purposes William Mitchell who has heretofore sworn to and subscribed the conjoined Declaration to which this is attached and who being duly sworn according to Law on his oath makes the following addition and amendment to his said Declaration, viz.

By reason of old age and the Consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service, but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following Grades, viz.

In July 1780 he entered the service under Captain Duff & served under him & Captain Otterson seven months as a private Light horseman

In March 1781 he entered under Captain Avory and served fifteen months as a private Horseman.

In 1782 he served six months as a private substitute, two months for Richard Barrett, under Captain Otterson, and two months for James Hogan under Captain Avory & served two months for John Ham under a Captain Otterson & Colonel Fair, for Barrett & Ham he stated in the original only one month each, but now recollects that it was two months each.

Served altogether two years & eight months as a private and for such service he claims a pension, he served with an embodied Corps called into service by competent authority, and that he was either in the field or in Garrison, and for the time during which the service was performed, he was not employed in any civil pursuit.

Knows of no person now living by whom he can prove his service, except his brother Henry who can prove that he was in the Revolutionary Army.

Sworn to & subscribed in open Court the day & year 1st above written S/ Thomas King, C.C.O.

S/ William Mitchell, X his mark

[p 70]

I Henry Mitchell do hereby Certify that my brother William Mitchell who has subscribed & sworn the foregoing was a soldier in the Revolutionary War, and did leave home to serve three tours of duty & I believe did serve the said three tours, recollects one was under Major Ben Jolly, but does not recollect the others.

S/ Henry Mitchell, X his mark

State of Georgia County of Franklin} SS

Personally appeared before me Solomon the Thompson an acting Justice of the Peace in and for said County James Cobb being sworn according to Law on his oath saith, That he resides in the neighborhood of and is well acquainted with William Mitchell of Captain Willis's ___ District in said County, That he knew said William in Union District South Carolina and lived in the same neighborhood when he said William went into the service of the United States in the Revolutionary War, and that he knew him when he returned home with deponent's father after a continued service of Fifteen months, about the time of the Battles of Eutaw Springs, Fish Dam Ford, the Siege of Ninety Six & Siege of Charleston. Deponent is fully of belief that said William as aforesaid did serve in the Army the whole fifteen months of his absence as aforesaid and he has often heard his, deponent's, father say in his lifetime that he said William did as he knew serve faithfully said term of fifteen months, which was in the knowledge of deponent's father as he served during the same tour and received therefore an Indent or Certificate on his discharge for four hundred eighty-four pounds four shillings, and one penny (as near as deponent recollects) old currency or Continental Money.

Deponent further says that said William, whose declaration for a pension he is informed is now at the War office is a steady respectable & truth-letting man, and that his statement is entitled to credit. Deponent is sixty-four years of age.

Sworn to & subscribed before me this 27th day of December 1833 S/ Solomon D. Thomson, JP S/ James Cobb

[p 10: On November 21, 1843 in Franklin County Georgia, Eleanor Mitchell, 76, applied for a widow's pension under the 1838 act stating that she is the widow of William Mitchell a pensioner at the rate of \$92.50 per annum for his services in the revolution; that her husband died February 22nd 1843 in Franklin County Georgia; that she married him on September 6, 1786; that they were married by Charles Symmes Esquire in Union District South Carolina where they resided for the space of 35 years before moving to Franklin County Georgia; that she has no record of her marriage but the family record included in her application records to the ages of their children; that her husband could not write and that the record was made by a schoolteacher in Union District South Carolina by the name of Ranson Davis; and that she remains his widow. She signed her application with her mark.]

[p 10: On November 21st 1843 in Franklin County Georgia, Henry Mitchell, 80, gave a supporting affidavit which restates exactly the same information as stated by Eleanor Mitchell in her application. He does not indicate his relationship, if any, to the veteran or his widow. He signed his affidavit with his mark.]

[p 11: On November 21st 1843 in Franklin County, William Mitchell, 39, testifies that the leaf from the family Bible submitted by Eleanor Mitchell is the one that he has seen from his earliest recollection. He does not state his relationship to the veteran or the widow.

[p 12: Family record]

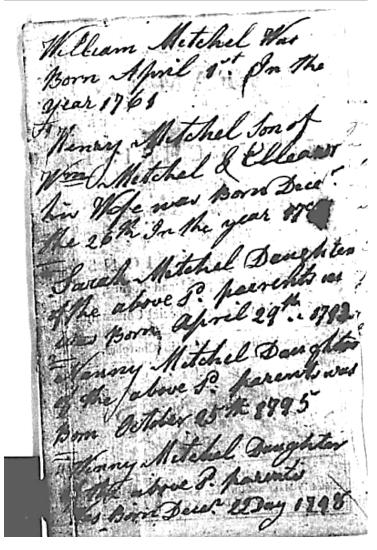
William Mitchel was Born April 1st in the year 1761

Henry Mitchel Son of William Mitchell & Elleanor his wife was born December the 26th in the

year 178_ [last digit obliterated]³

Sarah Mitchel Daughter of the above said parents was Born April 29th, 1793 [last 2 digits are unclear]

Nanny Mitchel Daughter of the above said parents was Born October 25th 1795 Winny Mitchel Daughter of the above said parents was Born December 22 day 1798



[p 16: On January 23, 1856 in Franklin County Georgia, Eleanor Mitchell, 88, now a resident of Hart County, Georgia, applied for her bounty land entitlement in which he states her maiden name was Eleanor Caldwell.]

[p 41: James Cobb a neighbor in Franklin County Georgia gave testimony that he knew William Mitchell while living in Union District South Carolina and recounts what he recalls of conversations by his (Cobb's) father regarding the services of William Mitchell during the revolution. Cobb's deposition is dated December 27, 1833.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$92.50 per annum commencing March 4, 1831, for 2 years service as a private in the South Carolina militia, partly in the infantry & partly in the cavalry. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]

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³ The War Department read the date as December 26, 1788.