

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Bryan W5914

fn65NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

10/13/10

[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 Edgecombe County

On the 11th day of October 1834, personally appeared before me Henry Austin one of the Justices of the peace in and for said County, John Bryan of the County of Pitt a soldier of the Revolution who being duly sworn according to law doth depose and say, in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress of June 1832 –

That he volunteered in the service of the United States and was placed under command of Captain Lanier [sic, could be intended to refer to either James Lanier or William Lenoir] and attached to Colonel Armstrong's Regiment. He cannot precisely identify the time but it was some time near the last of the winter or the early part of the spring. He served for nine months and during that time was at the battle of Stono. Deponent's memory is bad in consequence of advanced age and great bodily affliction. He proves this service however by Gideon Pettit<sup>1</sup> who was with him. The most of the nine months was performed in South Carolina – a short time was spent in Georgia in pursuit of the enemy. – He was discharged at Stono a few weeks after the battle –

After having returned home he volunteered again and was placed in Captain Hodges' Company – Colonel Seawell's Regiment and served three months in the upper part of North Carolina in pursuit of Tories. He afterwards served a tour of three months as volunteer in a company commanded by Captain John Moye, Colonel Spaight commanding and these three months were employed, as the former were, in pursuit of Tories along the course of the River Neuse in the State of North Carolina – no decisive action occurring during either tour. – Upon his discharge he returned home and volunteered again, deponent is entirely prevented from specifying dates from his loss of memory, and was assigned to Captain Hodges' company and in a Regiment commanded by Colonel Seawell and was marched to Salisbury and through the Yadkin Country in pursuit of Tories and at the expiration of his tour of five months returned home as before – and after remaining a short time he volunteered again for twelve months at Greenville Pitt County NC. He was put into Captain Hodges' company and the company was marched to Bute old Court House – where a point of rendezvous had been appointed. The command of the Regiment to which he was attached was assigned to a French officer (the Baron

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<sup>1</sup> [Gideon Petit S41950](#)

Klaber he thinks or some such name). From the Court House they marched to Halifax and the whole period of 12 months was occupied in performing desultory service in the State mainly in pursuit of Tories. He was discharged at Halifax near the close of the war. –

Deponent states he was born in 1761 as appears by the record of his birth left by his father – in the County of Bertie NC and was removed to Pitt County at a very early age where he has resided ever since – he further states that he makes this statement in the County of Edgecombe in consequence of the great convenience to him and that his bodily infirmities are so great it with great difficulty he can get about.

He hereby relinquishes all claim he may have to any allowance from the government of the United States except under the act of 1832 – nor has his name been placed on any pension roll of any State.

Sworn to & subscribed  
S/ H. Austin, JP

S/ Jno Bryant, X his mark

Interrogatories propounded to John Bryan by Henry P Bryan a Justice of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for the County of Pitt:

1<sup>st</sup> Where and in what year were you born?

Ans. In Bertie County North Carolina on the 26th May 1761

2<sup>nd</sup> Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

Ans. I had a record, but my mother who moved to Georgia about 50 years ago carried it with her.

3<sup>rd</sup> Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

Answer. I was regularly discharged every term of service, I cannot recollect from whom I received the discharges they were lost with other papers many years since.

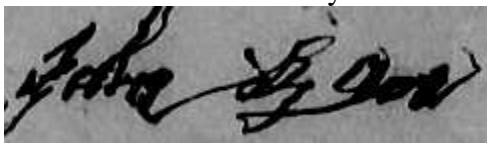
4<sup>th</sup> State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

Answer. Most everyone in the neighborhood but particularly Robertson Jenkins, Turner House, Henry A. Hopkins, John Taylor & Nehemiah Taylor.

Sworn to and subscribed the 24th day of September 1838

S/ Henry P Bryan, JCPQS

S/ John Bryan

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John Bryan", written in a cursive style.

[Francis Bryan, a clergyman, and William Whitehurst gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[fn p. 50]

State of North Carolina Pitt County

On this the 24th day of September 1838 personally appeared before me Henry P Bryan one of the Justices of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, John Bryan, a resident of the County of Pitt aged seventy-seven years who being first duly sworn according to law doth, on his oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed 7th of June 1832:

That on or about the 8th day of March 1779 there being a draft, he volunteered under Captain James Lanier and after the remaining about a month in the State they marched to

Fayetteville thence to South Carolina under the command of Colonel Jonas Johnson [sic, Jonas Johnston], commander of the Edgecombe County Regiment, there they joined on Savannah River General Lincoln then proceeded to Stono where a battle was fought a few days after which he was discharged and returned home: after serving five months <sup>including the time of returning & going</sup>. He further states that subsequently, he was substituted in the place of Drury Bullock, but his memory has failed him so much that he cannot recollect the officers (at this time he served 3 months) nor can he recollect the direction of the Army; further than he went on Neuse River after the Tories: = In 1780, about August he volunteered for a 3 months tour under Captain John Hodges, Colonel Benjamin Seawell marched from Pitt County to Salisbury NC and from thence to the Waxhaw settlement in South Carolina and was discharged at the Yadkin River at a place called Island Ford after serving 3 months:

In 1781, he volunteered under Captain James Mayo, who having deserted Captain John Moyer succeeded in the command and marched through the State [of] North Carolina he cannot recollect the Colonel or General in this tour: he recollects that he served 3 months. He states that he can prove by Robert Williams Senior,<sup>2</sup> John Anderson & Gideon had it his services.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any State.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Henry P Bryan, JCPQS

S/ John Bryan

[fn p. On January 27, 1846 in Pitt County, North Carolina, Nancy Bryant [sic], aged 78, filed for a widow's pension under the 1844 act stating that she is the widow of John Bryant [sic], a pensioner at the rate of \$46.67 per annum for his services in the revolution; that she was married to her husband about 60 years ago, the precise dates she cannot recollect; her oldest child born afterwards is nearly 60 years of age according to her recollection; that her husband died in February 1841 the day of the month she does not recollect.]

[facts in the file: the veteran and his wife were married in 1786; her maiden name is not given; she was born in Virginia and moved to Pitt County North Carolina when a small girl; that the veteran and his wife had 4 children in 1796 but the only one named is the oldest child, Dinah, who in 1846 was the wife of Henry more and she states that she was 59 years of age on January 10, 1846; in 1846 Dinah Whitehurst stated that she was the sister of Nancy Bryant the widow and that her 1st child, Reuben Whitehurst was born September 13, 1787 and that Reuben Whitehurst was living in Pitt County North Carolina in 1846;; Dinah Whitehurst stated that her sister Nancy married John Bryant [sic] and that they were married by John Bowers Esquire.]

[fn p. 24]

State of North Carolina County of Pitt

On the 15th day of July in the year 1834, at the house of Major John Anderson,<sup>3</sup> in said County, the undersigned Marshall Dickinson, one of the Justices of the Peace for the County of Pitt aforesaid, proceeded to take the deposition of the said John Anderson, in relation to the service of John Bryant in the revolutionary War, when the said John Anderson, after being sworn on the Holy Evangelists, according to law, deposed and saith That he is acquainted with John

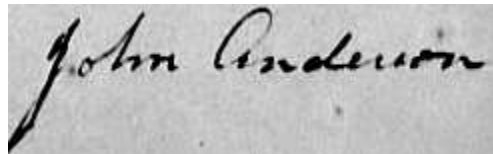
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<sup>2</sup> I assume this is a reference to [Robert Williams S7922](#) but I found no deposition in this file given by Robert Williams.

<sup>3</sup> [John Anderson S6511](#)

Bryant of said County, and has been from his Infancy, having lived for a great part of the time within a few miles of him, that, he the said Bryant served as a private in Captain Hodges Company, and Colonel Sewell's Regiment, North Carolina militia, with him the said Anderson, for nearly three months, and he believes said Bryant served the three months out, that he, himself, left the company a few days, probably not exceeding ten days before the three months were out, and said Bryant returned home when the others returned. As he left said Bryant in service he has no doubt he served the balance of the time. The company marched from Pitt County and served the tour in the upper part of this State. In 1781, the deponent served another tour with the said Bryant in Colonel Richard D Speight's Regiment, NC militia, deponent in the horse, and Bryant a private in the foot, in Captain John Moye's company, Deponent was discharged before the three months were out – and deponent knew of Bryant's serving while he served, and he believes he served the tour out, if he had not, this Deponent thinks he would have known it, as they lived at that time about 2 1/2 miles apart – said Moye's Company was raised in the said County of Pitt. Deponent belonged to it, but was one of a few who found each a horse, and served most of the time own horse. And further deponent saith not.

S/ John Anderson

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Anderson". The ink is dark and the handwriting is somewhat slanted and fluid.

[fn p. 28]

State NC Edgecombe County: this day came before me Jo. P. Pitt one of the justices of peace for said County Thomas Jinkens [sic, Thomas Jenkins<sup>4</sup>] who saith on his oath that he is now about eighty-one years of age and that he served 9 months in the revolutionary war and one tower [tour] with John Bryant of the County of Pitt under Colonel Armstrong marched from Martinsborough (now Greenville) to Kingston [sic, Kinston] NC from there to the High Hills of Santee SC there we were put under General Seawell we were in Gates defeat together we then rendezvoused at Ramsey Mills in NC after the defeat myself, John Bryant & others received our discharge at the Shallow Ford on the Yadkin River near Salisbury NC from our 9 months tower it being then expired. I further believe that the said John Bryant was in the battle at (Stonenoe) N. C. [sic, Stono Ferry, SC] – I saw him on his way there & also on his return back home he then frequently told me that he were there in the Battle on a 3 months tower I know very well he occasionally served as a substitute for people this deponent fursayeth [[sic, further saith] not. Given under my hand & seal on oath before the Subscribing witness 18 February 1834

S/ Thomas Jinkens, B his mark

Witness

S/ Jo. P. Pitt, JP

[fn p. 39]

State of North Carolina Pitt County: Personally appeared before me Warren Wallace one of the Justices of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for the County aforesaid, Gideon Pettit,<sup>5</sup> a

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<sup>4</sup> [Thomas Jenkins S2651](#). Jenkins made no claim to having been at Gates Defeat in his own application.

<sup>5</sup> This witness also gave an deposition dated July 15, 1834 in Pitt County, NC [see Footnote.com p. 40 of Bryan's file]. This deposition is largely unintelligible because of the horrible handwriting and spelling of the scribe but what I think I can safely abstract from the deposition, it appears that Pettit testified that he saw John Bryan in a company

revolutionary Soldier in Pensioner of the United States, who being duly sworn deposes and saith, that he is acquainted with John Bryan of Pitt County and has been for the rise of sixty years past, that about 1779, during the Revolutionary War, that he was marching under the command of Colonel Armstrong, that at a little town on the Cape Fear River above Fayetteville where the Regiment which Colonel Armstrong commanded joined several other regiments he saw the said John Bryan in one of them, that he saw the said John Bryan serving as a Soldier during their march to South Carolina; and down to Stono, where a battle was fought, the Americans commanded by General Lincoln: he cannot state positively the length of Bryan's service, he has thought, it was more than five months but was informed differently since, he however states his opinion that he served fully that period, being absent almost all the war he cannot state any further services of said Bryant.

Sworn to and subscribed before me the 27th day of September 1838  
S/ W. Wallace, JP QS S/ Gideon Pettit, X his mark

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$46.67 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 14 months service as a private in the North Carolina militia.]

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commanded by Captain James Lanier [spelled "Linnear"] in which John 'fogmorton' was either Lieutenant or Ensign in a Regiment commanded by Colonel Armstrong and that they were at the battle of Stono together; he states that he left Bryan at Charleston in South Carolina.]