

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of Richard Erwin: W922

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Tennessee, Franklin County Sc.

On this seventeenth day of November in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and forty personally appeared before Andrew J. Marchbanks, one of the Judges of the Circuit Courts of Law of Tennessee, Nancy Erwin a resident of Franklin County Tennessee, aged about seventy 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 7, 1838, entitled "An act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows:" That she is the widow of Richard Erwin, who was a private in the North Carolina Troops, during the Revolutionary War; that he served two tours of duty of three months each, in the service of the United States, in the North Carolina militia, and one tour of about six weeks; that he was draughted; that he was at the battles of Whitsalls Mills , in Guilford County North Carolina [sic: Wetzel's Mill, 6 Mar 1781]; of Guilford in said state [Guilford Courthouse, 15 Mar 1781]; & of Gates' defeat [Battle of Camden SC where Gen. Horatio Gates was defeated, 16 Aug 1780]; that said Erwin was of Caswell County North Carolina at the time of his said revolutionary services; that he served one tour under the command of Colonel Taylor, one under Colonel Parks, and one under Capt. Groves; that said Erwin removed from North Carolina to Lincoln County Tennessee in October 1826; that he died in Lincoln County Tennessee on the fifth of August A.D. eighteen hundred and thirty one; that she was married in Caswell county North Carolina to said Richard Erwin by Esq Parks in the year 1788 as she thinks and believes, that she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service, but the marriage took place previous to the first of January seventeen [sic] hundred and thirty four - viz, in the year seventeen hundred and eighty eight; that she makes the statements in relation to the said Richard's revolutionary services from the information of others, that she believes said statements to be true. That she is still unmarried, and has not been married since the death of her said husband Richard Erwin; That the family record was unfortunately destroyed by fire many years since.

Nancy herXmark Erwin

[Note added by Will Graves 12/3/08: Leon Harris has already transcribed the application filed by the widow of this veteran. This simply supplements that transcription to add material found in the Unselected Records portion of the file.]

[facts in file: the widow's maiden name was Nancy Love]

[The officer who is identified as "Capt. Groves" in the transcription of the widow's application was probably Captain John Graves of Caswell County, North Carolina. Capt. Graves is known to have been at Gates Defeat or the Battle of Camden on August 15-16, 1780, in command of a company of militia from Caswell County, NC. See [http://battleofcamden.org/verif\\_amer.htm#g](http://battleofcamden.org/verif_amer.htm#g).]

State of Tennessee, Rutherford County

Before me John G. Bostick a justice of the peace in and for the County of Rutherford aforesaid, this day personally appeared William Mitchell<sup>1</sup> Esquire aged about 76 years, who after being first duly sworn deposed and saith that he was well acquainted with Richard Irwin [sic] who was a private in the militia of the Revolutionary War: that he was well acquainted with said Richard Irwin before and after his service in the war: He was a carpenter, and did work for deponent, who had a good opportunity of knowing of his military services -- He resided before he went into service in Caswell County State of North Carolina. Deponent was with him in the service, they were both in Colonel William Moore's Regiment, under General Butler, thinks they were not in the same company. This tour was for three months, Deponent was not with him during any other tour -- but to the certain knowledge of deponent said Richard was out in the service for several Militia tours, thinks three tours in the ordinary militia -- Said Richard in addition to this, served a tour of nine months under General Greene -- as to this last service Deponent gives his best recollection after such a lapse of time -- Deponent lived near said Richard was intimate with him, & knew when he went out into the Service, & when he returned - - But age & loss of memory prevent deponent from speaking particularly of each tour, and of dates. Sometime after the war said Richard married; and then moved to Franklin County, Tennessee as affiant is informed & believes -- at least he lived there when he died, which latter occurrence took place a few years since as affiant is informed.

Affiant once could have stated about the Services of said Richard particularly -- At this time however, he can state positively that he and said Richard Irwin served one tour of three months together -- he knows Irwin served other tours & his best impression is that he served in all three tours of three months each, and one tour of nine months, in what was called the Regulars, or regular Militia -- In the latter named Service, one man was taken out of each 20, and the other 19 paid him his wages -- affiant believes that said Richard was with affiant in the battle of Guilford Court house.

Subscribed & sworn before me this the 14th of July 1842 -- And I certify that said deponent is a person of high responsibility a pensioner of the United States & were near a full credit.

S/ John G. Bostick, JP

S/ William Mitchell

---

<sup>1</sup> [William Mitchell S4221](#)