

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Church W3943 <sup>1</sup>

Nancy Church

f85NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 11/16/10 & 11/6/14

[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.]

[p 6]

State of North Carolina, Wilkes County

On the 19<sup>th</sup> day of October in the year of our lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty three, personally appeared before me James Wellborn, a Justice of the peace in and for the County of Wilkes and State aforesaid, John Church, Senior, resident in said County, who being sworn in due form of law (for the purpose of obtaining a pension under an act of congress passed June the 7th 1832) deposeth and saith, that he has no written evidence of his age, but believes that he was born in the County of Rowan, State of North Carolina AD 1760, and is now seventy two or seventy three years of age - that before the commencement of the revolution and ever since he has resided and now does reside in the County of Wilkes aforesaid—That he served two years in the American service under regular orders and one tour as a minute man against the frontier Indians: That in the spring of the year 1778 he volunteered and was called into service for three months under the command of Colonel Benjamin Cleveland, Captain John Cleveland & Lieutenant Gambill as a private, that he marched from his residence across the Blue Ridge in pursuit of a company of Tories --after crossing the said Ridge, the company was divided and Lieutenant Gambill took command of the company to which this affiant belonged and marched towards the Virginia line, and near a place called Coxes's Settlement we captured a Tory by the name of Inghram, who was executed during the rout [sic, route], and captured seven Tories but had no engagements - that he returned home to Wilkes in about five weeks, and was regularly discharged, which discharge this affiant has long since lost. He further states that in the summer of 1778 he was drafted for three months and called into service under the command of Col. Benjamin Cleveland & Capt. Richard Allen, as a private and marched in pursuit of a company of Tories who was embodied on the Catawba River near Criders Fort [also spelled Cryder's Fort] in the County of Burke, he was stationed for some time, frequently engaged on Scouting parties, and at the end of his tour of service he returned home to Wilkes but received ~~no regular~~ discharge which he has lost. He further states that in the month of October 1779 he volunteered, and was called into service for three months under command of Col. Benjamin Cleveland, Capt Reuben Stringer, Lieut. William Brown - that he marched across the Blue Ridge to Cove Creek, then across the Stone Mountain to the Watauga River in pursuit of a Tory Col. by the name of Roberts [John Roberts], we did not capture the said Roberts, and returned home to Wilkes after having served a tour of one month. This affiant received no discharge. He further states that in the month of July or August he served a short tour after the Indians, commanded by Benjamin Greer (Captain) and William Stringer (Lieut.) - that in the month of August or September he volunteered and was called into service for three months under the command of Col. Benj. Cleveland, Capt George Morris [Gwyn Morris], Lieut. John Sparks (he believes) marched to the Calloway Settlement on New River in pursuit of Tories & returned to Wilkes

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<sup>1</sup> BLWt26751-160-55

this was in 1780 - this affiant received no discharge. He further states that in the month of December 1780 he volunteered and was called into service for three months under the command of Capt Andrew Becker (a clergyman) & Lieut John Sparks and marched in pursuit of a company of Tories, who had embodied in Grayson County Virginia, we found the Tories at one Gibson's in Grayson, fired upon them, they dispersed, we captured none. We remained in the settlement for several days then returned home to Wilkes, having served one month. This affiant received no discharge. He further states that in the spring of 1781, he was drafted and called into service for three months under the command of Major Francis Hartgraves, Capt John Cleveland and Lieut. Martin Gambill - we marched from Wilkes crossing the Yadkin [River] at Shallow ford, through the Counties of Chatham and Randolph down to Deep River, in search of a Tory Col by the name of Fanning [David Fanning], that on this affiant's return home at Salem he got his discharge from his Capt for three months which he has long since lost. He further states that in the Summer of 1781 he was drafted and called into service for three months under the command of Col Elijah Isaacs & Capt Samuel Johnson & ~~Lieut. Elijah Isaacs~~, we marched across the Shallow ford, through the Counties of Randolph, Chatham and Cumberland, in pursuit of a Tory Col. by the name of Fanning, we did not find Fanning either Time before mentioned, on our return home I received at Salem a discharge from Capt Johnson which has long since been lost. This affiant states that in the fall of the year 1781 before the capture of Lord Cornwallis, he was drafted and called into service for three months under the command of Col. Benjamin Cleveland and Capt. John Cleveland, marching down the Country from Wilkes towards Fayetteville, or Cross Creek as it was then called, a distance of one hundred and sixty miles. Owing to news being received that the British army had retreated towards the lower end of North Carolina or Norfolk, we were marched back through the South part of North Carolina home to Wilkes where this affiant received a discharge from his Capt. for three months, which discharge has long since been lost. This affiant further states that he knows of but one living witness that can prove any part of his services by that is his brother Amos Church<sup>2</sup> who was with him in several of his tours.

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year above mentioned.

S/ J. Wellborn, JP

S/ John Church, Sr., X his mark

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State of North Carolina, Wilkes County

We, Hugh Brown & Thomas Fletcher being a clergyman do swear depose and say that we are acquainted with John Church Senior who lives in our immediate neighborhood, that he has always been reputed to have been a Whig & soldier of the revolutionary war and we believe he was so, and that his veracity is unimpeached. Sworn to and subscribed the 19<sup>th</sup> day of October AD 1833 before me.

S/ Hugh Brown

S/ Thomas Fletcher

S/ J. Wellborn, JP

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State of North Carolina, Wilkes County

This day came before me James Wellborn a justice of the peace in and for the County of Wilkes and State aforesaid, Amos Church, and made oath that he is aged seventy four or thereabouts, he served in the revolutionary war with John Church Senior when he went to Cox's Settlement, the Catawba River & Criders Fort, and to Cove Creek and Watauga River. They then parted but he believes said Church was frequently if not constantly in service to the close of the war.

Sworn & subscribed this 19th day of October 1833.

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State of North Carolina Wilkes County: Superior Court of Law March Term 1834

Be it known that at a Superior Court of Law and Equity begun and held for the County of Wilkes & State aforesaid, on the second Monday of March in the year of our Lord 1834, John Church, Senior, resident in said County, being sworn in open court in due form of law, for the purpose of availing himself of the pension act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832, deposeth and saith that he has no written evidence of his age but believes that he was born in the County of Rowan and State of North Carolina A.D. 1760 and is now Seventy Three or Seventy-four years of age, that before the Commencement of the Revolutionary war and ever since he has resided, and does now reside in the County of Wilkes aforesaid. That he served two years in the American service on the regular orders and one Tour as a minute man against the frontier Indians, that in the spring of the year 1778. He volunteered and was called into service for three months under the command of Col. Benjamin Cleveland, Capt. John Cleveland, and Lieut. Gambill; as a private that he marched from his residence across the Blue Ridge, and pursuit of a company of Tories, after crossing the said Ridge the company was divided, and Lieut. Gambill took command of the company to which this affiant belonged and marched towards the Virginia line, and near a place called Cox's Settlement, we captured a Tory by the name of Ingram, who was executed during the route, and also captured seven Tories but had no engagement. That he returned home to Wilkes in about five weeks, and was regularly discharged, which discharge this affiant has long since lost. He further states that in the summer of 1778 he was drafted for three months and called into service, under the command of Col. Benjamin Cleveland and Capt. Richard Allen as a private and marched in pursuit of a company of Tories who were embodied on the Catawba River near Criders fort in the County of Burke, he was stationed for some time, frequently engaged in scouting parties, and at the end of his term of service he returned home to Wilkes, received a discharge which he has lost. He further states that in the month of October 1779 he volunteered and was called into service for three months under the command of Col. Benjamin Cleveland & Capt. Reuben Stringer, Lieut. William Brown, that he marched across the Blue Ridge to Cove Creek then across the Stone mountain to the Watauga River in pursuit of a Tory Col. by the name of Roberts, we did not capture the said Robert; and returned home to Wilkes after having served a tour of one month; this affiant received no discharge: He further states that in the month of July or August, he served a short Tour against the Indians, commanded by Capt. Benjamin Greer and William Stringer, Lieut.: That in the month of August or September he volunteered and was called into service for 3 months, under the command of Col. Benjamin Cleveland, Capt. Morris, Lieut. John Sparks (he believes) marched to the Callaway settlement on New River, in pursuit of Tories and returned to Wilkes, this was in 1780. This affiant received no discharge: He further states that in the month of December 1780; He volunteered and was called into service for three months, under the command of Capt. Andrew Baker (a clergyman) and Lieut. John L Parker, and marched in pursuit of a company of Tories, who had embodied in Grayson County, Virginia, we found the Tories at one Gibson's in Grayson, fired upon them; they dispersed; we captured 9; we remained in the settlement for several days; then returned home to Wilkes having served one month; this affiant received no discharge: He further states that in the spring of 1781 he was drafted and called into service for 3 months under the command of Major Francis Hargraves, Capt. John Cleveland & Lieut. Martin Gambill – we marched from Wilkes crossing the Yadkin [River] at the Shallow Ford, through the counties of Randolph & Chatham down to deep River in search of a Tory Col. by the name of Fanning, that on this affiant's return home, he got his discharge at Salem, from his Capt. for 3 months which he has long since lost: He further states that in the summer of the year 1781, he was drafted and called into service for 3 months, under the command of Col. Elijah Isaacs & Capt. Samuel Johnson, we marched across the Shallow Ford through the counties of Randolph, Chatham and Cumberland in pursuit of a Tory Col. by the name of Fanning; we

did not find Fanning either of the times before mentioned – on our return home I received at Salem a discharge from Capt. Johnson, which has long since been lost: This affiant further states that in the fall of the year 1781, before the capture of Lord Cornwallis, He was drafted and called into service for 3 months under the command of Col. Benjamin Cleveland & Capt. John Cleveland marching down the country from Wilkes towards Fayetteville or Cross Creek as it was then called – a distance of 160 miles: Owing to news having arrived that the British Army had retreated towards the lower end of North Carolina or Norfolk, we were marched back through the South part of North Carolina, home to Wilkes, where this affiant received a discharge from his Capt. for 3 months, which discharge he has long since lost. This affiant further states that he knows of but one living witness that can prove any part of his services by; that his brother Amos Church who was with him in several of his Tours.  
Sworn to in open Court this 14<sup>th</sup> day of March 1834

S/ John Church, X his mark

[Hugh Brown and Thomas Fletcher again gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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State of North Carolina Wilkes County: SS

Amos Church Senior swears that he is aged about seventy-five years; that he served in the Revolutionary War, with John Church (Senior) above named when he went to Coxes Settlement, the Catawba River and Criders fort and to Cove Creek and Watauga River; that they parted; but he believes said John Church was frequently if not constantly in service to the close of the War.

Sworn to in open Court the 14<sup>th</sup> day of March 1834

S/ Amos Church, Senior, X his mark

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State of North Carolina Wilkes County: Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions May Term 1834

This 6<sup>th</sup> day of May A.D. 1834 came into open Court John Church (senior) and made oath that the foregoing Declaration made by him as a revolutionary Soldier is true, that he served as a private in the Army of the revolution, always, and being old, and his memory not being very good, the tours mentioned in a subsequent declaration had occurred to him after his original Declaration and are also true.

Sworn to in open Court May 6, 1838

S/ John Church, X his mark

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State of North Carolina, Wilkes County

On this 7th day of August 1841 Nancy Church personally appeared in open court, aged about 68 years, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on her oath make and following declarations in order to obtain the benefits of the provisions made by the act of Congress passed July 7, 1838 entitled “An act granting half pay & pension to certain widows” That she is the widow of John Church who was a soldier in the revolutionary war, who was a pensioner at the time of his death. The said Nancy Church has no means by which she can prove the time her husband, John Church, entered the service and length of service, only on reference to the declaration of her husband John Church, which is on file in the Pension Office at Washington City. She further declares that she was married to the said John Church in June 1790 in the Wilkes County & State North Carolina where she has remained ever since. That her husband aforesaid, John Church, died in the month of January, AD 1838, that she was not married to the said John Church prior to his leaving for the service, but that the marriage took place previous to the first of January, seventeen hundred and ninety four.

Sworn to and subscribed, on the day & year above written before.

Nancy Church, X her mark

Sworn to and subscribed before me on the day and date above mentioned in open court.

S/ Wm. C Emmet, JP and Chairman of the County Court.

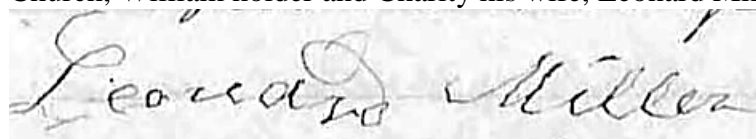
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State of North Carolina, County of Wilkes

On this 15<sup>th</sup> day of March AD 1855 personally appeared before me, a justice of the peace with and for the County and State aforesaid, Nancy Church, who after being duly sworn according to law declares that she is 80 years of age - that she is the widow of John Church, dec'd, late of said County and State, who was a soldier of the war of the Revolution and who was a pensioner of the United States on account of his Revolutionary services, and she states that she is herself now in the same pension allowed to her said husband from the United States. She states that she resides in the County of Wilkes, State of North Carolina, that she is the identical person she represents herself to be, that she has remained a widow ever since the death of her said husband's services in the War of the Revolution, she refers to the papers & books of the Pension Office - in case of his the said John Church application for a pension & that for proof of his death, and of her marriage to him the said John Church she refers to the papers and Books in the case of her own application for a pension. She makes this declaration for the purpose of obtaining the bounty land to which she may be entitled under the act passed March 3rd AD 1855.

S/ Nancy Church, X her mark

[p 17: On November 21, 1866 in Wilkes County North Carolina, Leonard Miller, 64, filed an affidavit in which he states he is the administrator of the estate of Nancy Church; that since January 1, 1861, she lived with her son-in-law William Holder in Wilkes County North Carolina; that Nancy died in Wilkes County North Carolina May 26, 1862 leaving the following children are only heirs at law: Gabriel Church, William holder and Charity his wife, Leonard Miller & Elizabeth his wife and John Church.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Leonard Miller". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid, with a large initial 'L' and 'M'.

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for two-year service as a private in the North Carolina militia. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]