

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of John Adair W2895

Catherine

fn75SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 1/26/09

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and 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.]

[This application is not in the standard form in the original and is transcribed exactly as written by the applicant and attested by President Andrew Jackson]

[fn pp. 3-6]

I do hereby certify that in the month of April or May 1780, Charles town having been surrendered to the Enemy, with all the regular Troops under the command of General Lincoln and the Govr. of the State having fled from the State, there being then no legal authority in the State and the British Troops under the command of Tarlton [sic, Banastre Tarleton], Rawdon and other officers, were marching through and taking possession of all parts of the state about three hundred men who had fled from the Enemy of whom I was one did assemble in North Carolina where we had fled, and enter into a solemn obligation to place themselves under the command of Genl. Thomas Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter] and to continue in a body and serve under his command until the war was at an end, or until their services were no longer [sic, longer] necessary, they were to find their own horses and arms, cloathing [sic, clothing] and all necessaries [sic, necessities]—It being absolutely necessary that they should act on horse back they immediately returned into South Carolina and made their first attack on a party of British and Torys [sic, Tories] amounting to between five and six hundred men (commanded by Capt. Hooch [sic, Christian Huck] of the Horse & a Coll. Ferguson who commanded the Torys) at Williamson's plantation [this engagement was known alternatively as the Battle of Williamson's Plantation, the Battle of Brattonsville, and the Battle of Huck's Defeat]—the Enemy were defeated—Hook [sic, Huck] & Ferguson both killed and a Capt. Adamson (who commanded the British Infantry) wounded and taken with between thirty and forty men—our numbers increased daily after this action and two or three weeks after, we were led to an attack on a British Garrison at Rocky Mount but the Genl. finding the works too strong to be taken without cannon (of which he had none) he abandoned the enterprise and eight days after (having a reinforcement of 30 men from North Carolina under a Coll. Ervin) he attacked a strong British force at the hanging Rocks [sic, Hanging Rock]—this I believe was the hardest fought Battle during the war in the South. We continued in service until the end of the war and fought many Battles which it is not necessary to name—soon after the battle of the hanging rock, I was appointed on commission by Genl. Sumpter a Capt. in which rank I served till in the fall I was then appointed a major in which rank I served until the end of the war, except a few months in the fall and winter of eighty, when I was a prisoner with the British and in close confinement until exchanged for a Capt. Cambel [sic, Gamble or Campbell?] of the British Army in a partial exchanging effected by the Genl. when I received from the

commanding officer in Camden a passport to go to Genl. Sumpter's Camp where I immediately served three towers [sic, tours] in succession, in Coll. J. Winn's regt. of militia in the year 1779 & the spring of eighty, and was on the lines in service when Charles town was surrendered to the Enemy—I was in fourteen Battles, the last of which was at the Eutaw Spring under Genl. Green [sic, Nathanael Greene]—I found my own horses, arms & cloathing, and only drew rations when acting under the immediate command of Genl. Greene and with his Troops—for which services & expenses I have not yet been paid—I have not attempted to describe in detail half the services we performed and battles we fought but do assert that we were in continual service from May 1780 until the end of the war and that I myself led one of the advance parties into Charles town [sic, Charleston] when the Enemy evacuated the city—I cannot be particular as to dates, having no record, and having understood that all Genl. Sumpter's papers have been destroyed or lost—and I further certify that the foregoing relation of facts and services are true to the best of my knowledge and recollection.
Given under my hand this 12th day of July 1832.

S/ X John Adair

I have read and carefully examined the above and within narrative made by Genl. John Adair. It accords with my recollection of the history of the times referred to. We were school fellows at the Waxhaw's academy, I a boy, the Genl grown when he left it. When the British advanced and overran the country, this academy was burnt by Major Coffen's corps, under the command of Lord Rodney [sic, Rawdon?]. At this period all were compelled to leave the country that would not take protection under the British. Genl. Adair was one of those who rallied under the Eagle of his country, fronted the battles storm, and at the close of the war ranked a major.

S/ Andrew Jackson¹
July 13th, 1832

General John Adair made oath in due form of law that the above statement is correct to the best of his knowledge and belief.

S/ S. Burch, Justice of the Peace

[fn p. 7, Sarah Miles of Nelson County, Ky, gave testimony that she was intimately acquainted with Genl. John Adair and his wife, Catharine, formerly Catharine Palmer, having been a bridesmaid at their wedding on the 10th September 1784 in York County SC; she also states she knew of his death on May 19, 1840.]

[fn p. 9]

[On August 16, 1841, in Monroe County, Ky., Catherine Adair, 73 as of 17th October next, filed for a widow's pension under the 1838 Act stating that she is the widow of John Adair who served as a Major in the Revolutionary War; that she married him on September 9, 1784 in York County, SC; that he died May 19, 1840.]

[fn p. 14]

¹ Andrew Jackson (1767-1845) was serving as the seventh President of the United States at the time he signed this affidavit on behalf of John Adair.

[On April 27, 1853, in Shelby County, Tennessee, Catharine Adair, 84, a resident of Memphis, filed for her bounty land entitlement under the act of 1850; she states that she is the widow of Brigadier General John Adair who served under Major Genl. Thomas in the War of 1812; she states her husband died in Mercer County, Ky on May 18, 1840.]