

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of John Bird S10372

Transcribed by Will Graves 7/3/06

[Punctuation, grammar & spelling corrected as needed for clarity]

State of Alabama, Dale County

Personally appeared before me William Harper Judge of the County Court of Dale County John Bird of the state and county aforesaid and being duly sworn according to Law saith or oath that he is of the age of seventy nine years and does on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions made by the act of Congress passed June the 7<sup>th</sup> 1832: That he was a volunteer in the service of the United States under the command of Capt. John Graves, Lieutenant Colonel Joseph Linklin [sic, Lincoln?] and General Andrew Williamson. I was then living in the state of South Carolina Camden District when I volunteered under the above named Officers[.] I was marched from the above named Dist. to a place called the Dutch Fork between Broad River and Saluda [River] and rendezvoused at a Dutchman's house whose name was Ramsowers [sic, Ramsour?] at the place we joined Gen. Williamson. Then Williamson marched us down the river to a place against Governor Wright's plantation and while we was [were] stationed here the sun was totally eclipsed[.] [F]rom this place we was [were] marched into the state of Georgia to Fort McIntosh near the seashore[.] [T]hen we was [were] marched for Augustine [sic, St. Augustine, Florida] and on our march, probably on the third day, we came [to] Burnt footed brown's [sic, Thomas Brown] encampments where the said Brown commanded the Tories, Indians, Negroes and British[.] [H]ere we had a Battle and our troops gave ground till we were reinforced and then we drove the enemy behind their breastworks. General Clark [sic, Elijah Clarke] was wounded and lost his Negra [sic] and horse[.] [T]he next morning we was [were] sent to take the Breastworks and Brown and his men was [were] gone[.] [T]his place we called Kettle Creek as there was the largest kettle there I ever saw[.] [H]ere Williamson ordered us to turn back[.] [O]n our return we burnt our wagons after we passed Fort McIntosh[.] I served at this time four months.

Secondly, I volunteered under the command of Capt Graves and we rendezvoused near the High Hills of Santee. Here we were commanded by Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter] and Cashaw[?] and Frederick Trimbesal[?][.] [F]rom this place we were marched to a place by the name of Dodgerston, a small Dutch village[.] [H]ere the Northern troops joined us and they gave their horses beef to eat[.] [F]rom this place I was marched within six miles of Charlestown at a place called the Quarter House; from this place I was marched to a place called Puisensburg [sic, Purysburg] near Savannah[.] [W]e then was [were] marched on the way to the mouth of Briar Creek by the order of General Linklonn [sic, Lincoln] to join the Northern troops at the battle at the mouth of Briar Creek. Here General Ash [sic, Ashe] was defeated[.] [O]ur troops were on the other side of the River from them in the time of the battle. After this defeat, we returned home. In this tour I served six months.

Thirdly, I was drafted and went under the command of Capt. Graves. We then were marched to the state of Georgia at the Town of Augusta. After we arrived there we were stationed on a high hill called Perdew's Hill on the east side of Savannah River at the mouth of a creek called Horse Creek. We were commanded by Colonel Linklin.

Within a very short time after we arrived here the siege of Augusta commenced and was retaken by our troops. At this time Burnt footed Brown commanded the Tories at Augusta. Then we returned home. At this time I served one month.

Fourthly, about this time General Gates and his army were marching for Camden on the East side of the Wateree River and General Sumter was marching down on the other side of the said River for Camden and General Sumter sent an express to me to take the name of every good man and take them with me and meet him at the mouth of the Dutchman's Creek by sunrise which I done [did]. But when we arrived at the creek Sumter and his army had left there about midday; that we pursued after him and overtook them at Graves'es [sic] ford on the Wateree River. Here Sumter received information that Gates was defeated and at this place turned his army back. We then was marched up the river above the mouth of Rocky Creek. At this place the British dragoons fell upon Sumter and his army and defeated us. While I was in this Battle, I swam the river on my horse and made my way to the Waxhaw settlements in North South Carolina. Some time after this I returned home to Camden District.

In the next place, I was called out under the command of Linklin on Colonel Goodwin and we were marched for the Eutaw Springs. In the battle at this place I was left to guard the baggage wagons which we turned back some distance for safety.

I then served for short periods under different commanders and had many scrimmages with the Tories two [sic, too] tedious to mention.

I have forgotten to mention in my declaration before this that I was in the Battle of Stono in South Carolina. In this battle, the British gave ground and we took their artillery. Then they were reinforced from their shippers [sic] and retook the artillery from us. The British then took the advantage of the night and went off.

I also was in the Battle at a place called Rocky Mount. At this battle, Capt. Whitaker was killed.

I have served no less than one year and nine months with the exception of the above named services.

The dates of the above named services I do not recollect.

I was born in the year 1754 in the State of North Carolina, Duplin County. My stepfather carried me into the state of South Carolina while I was a Boy [to] Camden District here I lived to the end of the war. After the war I lived in Edgefield District South Carolina from thence to the state of Georgia and what was then called Montgomery County; from thence into the state of Alabama, Dale County where I now live. I have no record of my age at this time. I left it in South Carolina, Camden District in the possession of William Casen. I received a discharge and it was signed by Colonel Finklin. I received this discharge at Purysburg. General Lincoln refused to sign it as he aspired [?] to keep us and send us to a place called the Devil's Elbow. The said discharge I lost since I have been living in Dale County. I no [sic, know] of no living witness whereby I can prove my service in the revolutionary war. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatsoever to a pension or an annuity except the present and he declares that his name in not on the pension roll of any agency in any state.

S/ John Byrd, X his mark

Sworn to and subscribed this the 8<sup>th</sup> day of November 1839 before me.

S/ William Harper, JCCDC

another version  
Transcribed and annotated by Nancy Poquette

**Pension Application of John Bird**, Natl Archives Microseries M804, Roll 243,  
Application # S10372

Dale County, Alabama, October 4<sup>th</sup>, 1832, John Bird, aged 77 years:

“That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated:

“As militia under the command of Captain John Graves in Colonel Robert Gooden’s *[Goodwin’s]* regiment, commanded by General Andrew Williamson in the Florida expedition, the day of the month not recollected, in the month of **June** in the year **1776**, and quit the service at the *[inkblot]* within a few days after General Gates Defeat at \_\_\_? Rather near Camden in the state of South Carolina. Was at the battle at **Nassau Creek**; also at **Stono** and then under command of General Lincoln. Was a volunteer when he entered the service. Marched through Georgia into Florida. Was afterward in General Thomas Sumter’s Defeat in the state of South Carolina near **Rocky Mount**. Was also at a Battle at **Rocky Mount**. Was also in the Battle at **Eutaw Springs** under the command of Thomas Sumter....”

Dale County, Alabama, November 8, 1833, John Bird:

“The he volunteered in the service of the United States under the command of Captain John Graves, Lieutenant Colonel Joseph Kirkland, and General Andrew Williamson. I was then living in the state of South Carolina, Camden District when I volunteered under the above named officers. I was marched from the above named district to a place called the **Dutch Fork** *[in June, 1778, see below]*, between Broad and Saluda, and rendezvoused at a Dutchman’s house, whose name was Ramsower *[Ramsour?]*. At this place we joined General Williamson, then Williamson marched us down the river to a place against Governor Wright’s plantation, and while we was stationed here, the sun was totally eclipsed. *[Per N.C. Continentals, page 151, this was on June 24<sup>th</sup>, 1778.]*”

“From this place we was marched into the state of Georgia to Fort McIntosh near the seashore. Then we was marched for Augustine and on our march, probably on the third day, we come to Burn-footed Brown’s encampment where the said Brown commanded the Tories, Indians, Negroes and British. Here we had a battle and our troops gave ground till we were reinforced, and then we drove the enemy behind their breastworks. General Clark was wounded and lost his negro and horse. The next morning we was sent to take the breastworks and Brown and his men was gone. This place we called Kettle Creek *[per Heitman, February 14, 1779]*, as there was the largest kettle there I ever saw. Here Williamson ordered us to turn back. On our return we burned our wagons and after we passed Fort McIntosh. I served this time four months.”

“Secondly, I volunteered under the command of Captain Graves, and we rendezvoused near the **High Hills of Santee** *[his six month tour began in October 1778]*.

Here we were commanded by Sumter and Kershaw and Frederick ?Kimbesal?. From this place we were marched to a place by the name of Dorchester, a mail? Dutch? Village. Here the northern troops joined us and they gave them horse beef to eat. From this place I was marched within six miles of Clarkestown at a place called the Quarterhouse. From this place I was marched to a place called Purysburg near Savannah. We was then marched on the way to the mouth of Briar Creek by the order of General Lincoln to join the southern troops at the battle at the mouth of **Briar Creek**. Here General Ashe was defeated [*per Heitman, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1779*]. Our troops were on the other side of the river from them in the time of this battle. After the defeat, we returned home. In this tour I served six months.”

“Thirdly, I was drafted and was under the command of Captain Graves. We was then marched to the state of Georgia, at the town of Augusta. After we arrived there, we was stationed in a high hill called **Purdue’s Hill** on the east side of Savannah River at the mouth of a creek called **Horse Creek**. Was commanded by Colonel Kirkland and within a very short time after we arrived here, the siege of Augusta commenced [*per Heitman, April 16 to June 5, 1781*], and was retaken by our troops. At this time, Burned Foot Brown commanded the Tories at Augusta. Then we returned home. At this time I served one month.”

“Fourthly, about this time General Gates and his army was marching for Camden on the east side of the Wateree River and General Sumter was marching down on the other side of the said river for Camden, and General Sumter sent an express to me to take the name of every good man and take them with me and meet him at the mouth of the **Dutchman’s Creek** by sunrise, which I done, but when we arrived at the creek, Sumter and his army had left there about midnight. We pressed after him and overtook him at **Grave’s Ford** on the **Wateree River**. Here Sumter received information that Gates was defeated [*per Heitman, May 10, 1781*] and at this place turned his army back. We then was marched up the river above the mouth of Rocky Creek. At this place the British dragoons fell upon Sumter and his army and defeated us. While I was in this battle, I swam the river on my horse and made my way to the **Waxhaw** settlements in South Carolina. Some time after this, I returned home to Camden District.”

“In the next place I was called out under the command of Kirkland and Colonel Gooden [*Goodwin*] and we was marched for the **Eutaw Springs** [*per Heitman, September 8, 1781*]. In the battle at this place, I was left to guard the baggage wagon, which we turned back some distance for safety.”

“I then served for short periods under different commanders and had many skirmishes with the Tories too tedious to mention. I have forgotten to mention in my declaration before this, that I was in the Battle at Stono [*per Heitman, June 20, 1779*] in South Carolina. In this battle, the British gave ground and we took their artillery. They then were reinforced from their shipping and retook the artillery from us. The British then took the advantage of the night and went off.”

“I also was in the battle at a place called Rocky Mount [*per Heitman, July 30, 1780*]. At this battle, Captain Whitaker was killed. I have served not less than one year and nine months, with the exception of the above named services...I received a discharge and it was signed by Colonel Kirkland. I received this discharge at Purysburg. General Lincoln refused to sign it as he wanted to keep us and send us to a place called the Devil’s Elbow. The guard discharge I lost since I been living in Dale County...”