

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of Amos Balch S2943

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Transcribed by Will Graves

State of Tennessee, Bedford County

On this 11<sup>th</sup> day of August 1832 personally appeared in open Court, before John B. Armstrong, Samuel Phillups and John L. Neill the Court of said County, now sitting, Amos Balch, a resident of the County and State aforesaid aged 74 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 act of Congress passed 7<sup>th</sup> June 1832. That he entered the Service of the United States as a mounted volunteer sometime towards the latter end of the year 1775 under the following named officers, to wit Richard Simmons Captain, Nathanael M. Martin Lieutenant and J. Hunter Ensign and was appointed orderly Sergeant for said Company and served in that capacity during a tour of three months, the said Captain raised his company in Mecklenburg County North Carolina (where this deponent lived at that time) and marched from thence to the neighborhood of the City of Charleston, in the State of South Carolina, where we were put under the Command of Colonel Malmedy, by order of General Lincoln and proceeded to Stono in order to watch the British foraging parties, and prevent as far as practicable their depredations on the planters in that section of Country, soon after our arriving at which station we were Joined by Colonel Washington with his troop of regular Cavalry to whose command we were attached, and served during the remainder of the tour, in which time I was engaged in several Skirmishes with the British, and at the expiration of the three months tour received a discharge I think signed by Captain Simmons at the town of Dorchester, sometime in the year 1780; from which place I returned home to Mecklenburg, and soon after entered as a volunteer in Captain Springs' Company, which being placed under the Command of Col. Ledbetter, proceeded to, and joined the regular Army under the Command of General Gates at Pedee [River], from which point we marched on through the piney woods to Rugeley's Mills, and on the 15<sup>th</sup> of August at night left our camp to surprise the British at Camden, and were met by Lord Cornwallis's Army, where I was engaged in the celebrated battle of Camden, commonly called Gates' defeat, after which defeat and dispersion I was one of those who were collected by the same Captain Springs, and continued in the service under the Command of General Davidson watching the motions of the enemy, near the British lines in order to intercept and cut off their foraging parties – at the expiration of the three months for which I volunteered I received a discharge from my commanding officer, Captain Springs, but at the particular request of General Davidson I remained in camp, in the Waxhaw Settlement a number of days but cannot now recollect how many, until other troops should arrive, -- this deponent also served in three of the expeditions after the Tories, one of which was under the Command of Captain William Houston, a second commanded by Captain Lopp, and a third under the Command of Col. Alexander, neither of which was for any particularly stipulated time, nor can deponent now recollect how much service was rendered in this way, but believes that all the services rendered by him during the revolutionary war amount to nine months, or thereabouts – he discharges aforementioned in this declaration have been long since lost or destroyed, but in what manner or at what precise period of time cannot at this late day be ascertained by the deponent, so that he has no documentary evidence in possession or knows of any that can be procured to substantiate the foregoing particulars, neither does he know of any person or persons at this time whose evidence can be procured, to testify to the facts related in this declaration.

The Court then propounded the following interrogatories --

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

Answer, from the best information this deponent can obtain, he was born in Baltimore County in the State of Maryland, on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of July 1758.

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

Answer, I have none --

3<sup>rd</sup> Where were you living when called into service? Where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Answer, I lived at the time of entering the Service in Mecklenburg County North Carolina, from whence some years after the war I removed west of the mountains, to the waters of Tennessee River from which place I removed to Christian County in the State of Kentucky; and in the year 1807 removed my family to Duck River in the present bounds of Bedford County, State of Tennessee in which County is not present residence.

4<sup>th</sup> How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer, or were you a substitute and if so for whom did you substitute?

Answer, my services were all voluntarily rendered, and here it might be proper to observe that deponent was exempt by law, from performing Military duty in consequence of being blind of one eye.

5<sup>th</sup> State the names of some of the Regular Officers who were with the troops where you served, such Continental and Militia Regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Answer, in my first tour General Lincoln was Commander in Chief of the Southern Army; attached to this service was Colonel Malmedy of the regular Army and Colonel Washington of the Cavalry – as this deponent was with the scouting parties he does not recollect the number, nor commanders of the different regiments of regulars and Militia stationed at Charleston; in my second tour, General Gates had succeeded General Lincoln, and with his Army were General DeKalb, and General Smallwood, of the regular Army, and General Rutherford, Col. Ledbetter, and Major White of the Militia – the number of the different Regiments is not recollected – the general circumstances of services rendered by deponent are as detailed above.

6<sup>th</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 did, one from Captain Simmons, and one from Captain Springs, but as there was no prospect of their being of any benefit to this deponent they were long since lost or destroyed.

7<sup>th</sup> State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood, and who can testify to your character for veracity and good behavior and your services as a Soldier of the Revolution.

Answer, James McCarver, Samuel Thomson, Jonathan Mosley, Newcom Thompson, Thomas Greer, and William Morton, Jacob Greer and William Haslet.

This deponent hereby relinquishes every claim whatsoever to a pension or annuity except the present, and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State. Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Amos Balch

Sworn to in open Court 11<sup>th</sup> of August 1832

S/ James McKissick, Clk.

[William Heaslet and Jacob Greer gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

State of Tennessee, Bedford County

Personally appeared before me the undersigned a justice of the peace for said County Amos Balch, who, being duly sworn deposed and saith, that by reason of old age, and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service, but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below, and in the following grades. In the first tour mentioned in my declaration I served the whole three months as orderly Sergeant, in the second tour of three months I was a foot soldier as also the time I served with General Davidson in the Waxhaw Settlement; which was not less than two weeks the first expedition after the Tories under Captain Houston, was two weeks – the second under Captain Lopp, was two weeks, ranging through the hills of the Uwharrie after the Tories by day and by night – the third under Colonel Alexander, was 10 days after the Tories in the Counties of Lincoln and Burke.

It is here proper to observe that in making out the original declaration, I had from the lapse of memory neglected to state one other tour after the Tories under the command of Colonel Phifer, to prevent their burning the public stores at Salisbury which they had threatened to do, this service lasted 11 days; another tour I served under the Command of Captain Martin Phifer four days, after the Tories in the South part of Rowan County and the Western part of Anson County, one other tour of three days under the command of Captain James Craig to prevent the British from taking Salisbury – I was one of the company of mounted minute men who was ordered out by Brigadier General Matthew Locke, and in that capacity performed the foregoing services after the Tories. The whole of the services rendered by this deponent during the revolutionary war was not less than eight months and a half, and for such service I claim a pension.

S/ Amos Balch

Sworn to & subscribed for me this fourth of April 1833.

S/ Jordon C. Holt, JP

[George Newton, a clergyman, gives the standard supporting affidavit.]