

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of Joseph Starns (Starnes, Stansis) S7600

Transcribed by Will Graves

State of North Carolina, Burke County: Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions October court 1832

On this 26th day of October 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of Court now in Session Joseph Starns a resident of said County & State aged 76 years who being duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of an act of Congress passed the 7th June 1832.

That he entered the Service of the United States under the following named officers and served as well as he can recollect as herein set forth.

1st He served under Captain ~~Fowler~~ Aaron Lewis in a three months tour on Clinch River against the Cherokee Indians stationed at a Fort on Clinch called Fowler's Station when the time was out came home, all hands only dismissed by officers no discharge required or given – belonged to the Virginia Militia, Washington County, William Campbell Col. of his Regiment.

2nd He served a three months tour under Captain John Jimerson [?] against the Indians at Harrison's Stationed from the same place and out of the same Regiment (the Fort was on the North Fork of Holston River[]). Dismissed as before.

3rd He was out again on a tour of three months (whether they served the whole time he cannot now recollect) Captain he cannot recollect, but it was in Col. Smith's Regiment out to Boonesboro, we got there after the Indians had just attacked the Fort & had a long & severe contest Daniel Boone was the Commander & defeated them. He Joseph Starns drove the pack horses out – came back & was discharged as before – this in the year 1778 he recollects this for the horses were branded with the year for some reason or perhaps, that we might know them &c. but former tours he cannot recollect the dates of.

4th Fourth was served under Captain Neal in Colonel William Campbell's Regiment Term of Service four months or over we went to King's Mountain & was in that battle Furgerson [sic Patrick Ferguson] of the British Army was killed after the battle was over Campbell left him to take care of the wounded for two months Captain Neal did not go with the Battle with them for he had lost his horse & Neal's company was commanded a young man of the name of Shelby not Colonel Shelby – in or about 1780 he was a volunteer in this expedition.

5th Tour of regular duty was to the Cherokee nation went over to the Tennessee Valley & Hiwassee Towns under Colonel Arthur Campbell of the Virginia Militia he was a volunteer in this tour of duty for he started from home (having just returned from a Scouting party in which his father & brother in law were killed) & joined Campbell whatever length of time they might be out to seek satisfaction Burnt the Cherokee towns & beat them well. Got home & were not called on regular duty again only as Scouts.

I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declare my name is not on the pension list Roll of the Agency of any State that I have no documentary evidence of my Services nor can I prove them by any person whose testimony I can Procure except Leonard Hice¹ whose affidavit is hereto annexed marked (A.)

Questions by the Court

1st When and where were you born?

Answer I am told it was on Smith's River in the year 1755. Smith River rises in Virginia & runs into North Carolina I cannot say which side of the line I was born on.

2nd Have you any record of your age & where is it, if any

Answer I have none myself, but I recollect it was set down in my father's Bible and I have seen

1 [Leonard Hise \(Hice\) S8713](#)

it often.

3rd Where were you living in the Revolutionary war & when called into Service, where have you lived since the Revolutionary war & where do you now live

Answer I was living on Holston River in Virginia when called into Service, and Continued to live there, when at home, during the Revolutionary war & until it ended & lived there until about 1784 when I moved to Mecklenburg N. C. & from thence moved to Burke where I now live in 1816 where I have lived ever since.

Question 4th How were you called into Service, were you drafted or did you volunteer or Substitute & if a Substitute, for whom

When I lived in Mecklenburg N.C. I went as a Substitute in the place of a man I do not recollect we went against the Scotch Tories to Cross Creek against the Scotch & from that to a place called Cambleton [?] when I went to Fowler's on Clinch I was drafted & when I went to Harrison Station I was a Substitute but for whom I cannot say for I have forgotten his name when I went to Boonesboro in 1778 in Smith's Regiment I was a volunteer, & when I went under Colonel Campbell to King's Mountain I was a mounted volunteer & when I went to the Cherokee nation under Colonel Arthur Campbell I was also a mounted volunteer. After that often out as a volunteer as a Scout vs Indians & Tories but never again in Regular Service.

Question 5. 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 I was under Colonel Campbell at King's Mountain I think it was in 1780 month of September Colonel Cleveland of N. C. militia commanded the Right wing and Col. Sevier of the N. C. militia from over the mountain now Tennessee commanded the Left Wayne of the Army. Colonel Campbell of Virginia Troops marched up in front we surprised & took their picket guard without a noise then a man named Philip Grier a messmate of mine stood next to me on the left side shot a man who came off from the British Guard into the Woods, this made the enemy's Guard retreat to the Main body – we advanced on them before they could form & gave them a fire and before we could load again the British formed & charged on us and we retreated across a little Hollow & loaded & then advanced on them & kept up such a constant fire for 40 or 50 minutes that they never made us retreat again, but we stood still advancing upon them till the end of the battle, I understood that the principal part of the force of the Enemy were Tories I saw Ferguson of the British Army lying dead was said he had seven bullets shot through him. When we were living on Clinch I was almost always on the Scout when not in regular Service. I was once in a company of four in the year 1779. About 7th over on a water course in Virginia back of the Settlements towards Boonesboro where we were fired on by about 25 or 30 Indians and my father, my uncle Frederick Starns and brother in law – Michael Moyer were shot and I made my escape although they were on me upwards of a mile & kept firing on me but I made my escape in the Cain [sic, cane] and other undergrowth we went back to Boonesboro & he sent him out, along with others to receive some prisoners & take them on to a place called the Town House on Holston River.

Question 6 Did you ever receive a discharge from the service & if so by whom was it given

Answer I never received a written discharge for I lived within 3 miles of Colonel William Campbell & when my services was not longer required he would tell me to go home until called or from the expiration of the year 1778 up to the close of the war I stood as a minute man and served very often whenever the Indians or Tories troubled us I kept a good horse and [illegible word] myself served to protect the frontier & we did so although many lives were lost.

Question 7th State the names of Persons to whom you are known in your Neighborhood, who and who can testify as to your character for veracity; and good behavior or your Services of the revolution.

Answer I have but few of my neighbors here but Abner Payne Esq. who has made certificate

marked (A) has said that he believes it and Leonard Hice who also made affidavit on same paper marked (A) at the foot has sworn that I served with him also John Boone Esquire High Sheriff of the County of Burke.

Sworn to in open Court the 26th of October 1832

S/ Joseph Stansis [sic]

Test: S/ J Evin, Clk