

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of George Earnhart R3196

Transcribed by Will Graves

State of Tennessee, Madison County

On this 26th day of April 1836 personally appeared in open Court before the Circuit Court of said County of Madison now sitting George Earnhart a resident of and in said County and State aforesaid aged 77 years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following Declaration in order to attain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States in the year 1776 at the age of 17 years – that he was born and raised in Rowan County State of North Carolina and was living there when called into service –He states that the Cherokee Indians had been committing various hostilities upon the white settlements on the Catawba River in Burke County State of North Carolina-- about 40 or 50 miles from where the Declarant then resided. The legislature of North Carolina ordered troops to be raised for the purpose of driving back these Indians and protecting these white settlements. The order was enforced by Josiah Martin¹ Esq. the then Governor of North Carolina and this declarant was drafted in the month of August 1776 and the company to which he belonged was put under the command of Captain George Henry Barrier – this company was attached to the Battalion commanded by Major James Irwin, Martin Fifer acted in capacity of Colonel, Vental Miller was the Lieutenant of the company to which the declarant belonged, the Ensign was John Randalman [sic, Randleman?]- and all were placed under the command of General Rutherford this declarant lived in the said County of Rowan when he was drafted – he was drafted as he has stated in the month of August 1776 – but does not recollect the date of the month. Salisbury was the place of rendezvous. From thence we were marched to a fort on the Catawba River where we remained about one month and from thence we were marched into the Cherokee Nation. Our first engagement with the Indians was at a village called Middle town where we killed of the enemy about 50 or 60 and took 10 or 12 prisoners – among whom were two white men by the name of Scott and Hicks who had intermarried with the Indians. The enemy were beaten back and they finally fled – our loss was four or five killed as well as this declarant recollects – we then set out for the Valley town which is now called Nicka Jack. This declarant will here state that at the time he was drafted he received the appointment of first Sergeant from his Captain George H. Barryer and John Hoover was second Sergeant – and on our march to Valley town we carried the Pickett day [sic] about this declarant does not recollect the distance from Middle town to Valley town but recollects that they were led astray in their march by the pilot and the motives of the pilot for so doing as we afterwards ascertained was that his wife was in Valley town and he wished to divert us from that place. When we reached that Valley Town we found it in the possession of troops from South Carolina who together with the Catawba Indians had had a severe conflict with the Cherokees a day or two previous to our arrival. The Cherokees had fled and left them in possession of the town. This declarant does not know whether these troops from South Carolina were enlisted, drafted or volunteers – nor does he recollect to have heard the names of any of their officers. After the battle these troops had crossed the Tennessee River being the River on which this town stands as well as this declarant recollects and we came up on the side on which the battle had been fought. This declarant saw 14 or 15 of the South Carolina troops and Catawba Indians who had been wounded in the battle – and the fresh graves where they had buried their dead – and one in particular in which he was told there were 43^[?]² of the white men and Catawba Indians buried together. Declarant does not know the number of slain on either side. The Indian forces having been broken and scattered by these two engagements and our term of service being near to an end we were ordered back having remained in Valley town two or three weeks. The South Carolina

1 Josiah Martin was the last royal Governor of the state of North Carolina. He abandoned his office in 1775.

2 It appears someone tried to erase or remove the number and it is very difficult to discern. The number 43 is my best guess at the number originally written in the application.

troops had in the meantime left the place and the Catawba Indians crossed the River and joined us – we returned by way of Middle town where we remained also two or three weeks having left this place we returned by the same route through which we came through the territory now called Buncombe County in North Carolina and after a march of several weeks through a wilderness over and over a rugged and mountainous country, we arrived again at the fort on the Catawba from which we first set out after remaining here a week or more at this fort the name of which declarant does not recollect – we were marched across the Catawba again and returned to Rowan County where this declarant received a regular written discharge from his Captain George H. Barryer after having served a tour of six months and three days. The last three months of this tour declarant served under these circumstances, to wit: when Declarant was drafted in August as above stated there were 91 others drafted with him and among them his father – all drafted for three months service but one half to serve their term and then the other half to take their place. Declarant was one of those who first went out together with one Christopher Waggoner³ who now resides in Humphreys County State of Tennessee. This Declarant and said Waggoner served the term of three months together – and at its expiration they were stationed at Middle town – not having as yet proceeded to Valley town. Here at the said Waggoner and those whose term of service had expired returned home but this declarant remained in the Army and continued to serve the succeeding three months in the stead of and as a substitute for his father.

This declarant has long since lost his discharge not supposing that it would ever be of any service to him and he has no other documentary evidence of his service nor does he know of any person by whom he can prove his said service or any part thereof except the first three months which he can prove by the said Christopher Waggoner.

This declarant states that he recollects that there was a company attached to this Regiment or Brigade of men in which this declarant served the aforesaid tour commanded by Captain ___ [blank in original] Dickson one commanded by Captain Frederick Fisher and a company of Cavalry consisting of 60 men commanded by Captain Partley.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever 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.

S/ George Earnhart, X his mark

Questions propounded by the Court

1st: When and in what year were you born?

Answer – in Rowan County State of North Carolina in the year 1759 June the 9th day.

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

Answer I have it recorded in my father's Bible which is in the possession of a sister of this Declarant as he believes

3rd Where were you living when called into service? Where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live? I was living in Rowan County State of North Carolina where I have remained after the Revolution until about 24 years ago. I removed into Bedford County State of Tennessee near Shelbyville where I lived about seven years and then removed into this County where I have lived ever since and where I now live.

4th 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? I was called into service by orders from the Governor of the State of North Carolina. I was drafted for three months and after having served out my time he remained as a Substitute for my father the other three months of my service.

5th 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. There were no Regular troops with us in this service – for the names of the officers and the companies with whom this declarant served and the general circumstances of his service he refers to the body of

3 [Christopher Waggoner R10995](#)

his declaration.

6th 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 received a written discharge from my Captain George H. Barrier – but have long since lost it not believing it would ever be of service to me.

7th 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. Jonas Clark, Burwell Butter Esq. John Barnett and the Reverend John Yoast – who is the nearest clergyman to the residence of this declarant.