

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of Thomas Welch S1733

Transcribed and annotated by Nancy Poquette

State of Tennessee, White County, on this 8th day of July, **Thomas Welch** aged 84 years: He entered the Service in the latter part of the Summer of the year 1776 about the 21st of August as well as this declarant now recollects under Captain James Morrison, his lieutenant's name was David Robinson, his Col's name was Charles McDowell. He then resided in Lincoln County North Carolina and was drafted for Six months - He was marched to headquarters at a place called Pleasant Garden at the head of the Catawba River in Burk County North Carolina under the command of Captain Archibald Fleman(or Fleming.) - Here he was placed in the Company commanded by Captain James Morrison. His Major's name was Richard Singleton. The object of this expedition was to go against the Cherokee Indians who had become remarkably troublesome. He remained at Pleasant Garden something like ten days until all the troops had collected there, provisions provided them.

The troops twenty two hundred in number were then marched into the Cherokee Nation, West of the Blue Ridge passing through and destroying their Towns, crops, etc - They were marched as far as the Over Hills towns which we also destroyed by fire - They then marched back to Cowee town where a number of the troops had been left with the Magazine & provisions - The whole of the troops were then marched back to Pleasant Garden - This declarant with others were then stationed at Cathey's fort about one mile from Pleasant Garden until his Six Months expired, when he was dismissed or discharged. Col. Charles McDowell during this tour of service resigned his office as Colonel and was promoted to the office of General.

After this promotion Generals McDowell and Rutherford were with the troops - Declarant after being discharged as already stated, returned home to his family which consisted of a wife and one child in Lincoln County - He remained with his family a short time, when he was again drafted for three months - This declarant then returned to Cathey's Fort and was placed under Captain Joseph McDowell, Cousin of Col. Joseph McDowell - This declarant was here again stationed and served out his three months there and was again discharged. Declarant's lieutenant's name was John Davison - General McDowell was with the troops, He does not recollect to have seen Genl. Rutherford during this tour - After being discharged he again returned home.

He remained at home this time something like five or six weeks when he volunteered for three months under Captain Joseph McDowell again - His lieutenant again was John Davison He was again stationed at Cathey's fort where he continued for three months this time for which he had volunteered - General McDowell was again principal commander of the troops.- Joseph McDowell, his Captain's cousin was his

Colonel - He was again discharged and returned home to see his family - He again in a short time thereafter volunteered for three months and went up to Fort Cathey when he was sent among others by General McDowell out on a scouting party - John Davison above spoken of being well acquainted with the country was sent with them as commander and pilot of the party - They continued on this scouting expedition searching the woods some fifteen twenty and far as thirty miles from the fort occasionally in the mean time returning to the fort for the purpose of imparting their discoveries, and receiving their provisions - He served out his three months and was discharged at the fort and returned home not having been in any battle during either of his engagements nor anything remarkable having occurred.

This terminated the principal part of his service rendered his country. Having served in all Fifteen months - He states that he is unable from his extreme age to give the precise periods of the war when he served but is confident that he entered the service first in August 1776 as stated by him.

Answers to the questions prescribed by the War Department and propounded by the Court.

1st He was born in Lancaster County Pennsylvania in the year 1749-

2nd He has no record of his age - He once had his indentures of apprenticeship in which his age was stated but they are lost -

3rd He resided in Lincoln County North Carolina when called into service each time - He now lives in White County Tennessee-

4th He was drafted twice, and twice volunteered as before stated -

5th He has stated as fully as he can the officers who were with the troops where he served - There were no continental Regiments with the troops there he served - He has already stated the general circumstances of his service -

6th He never received a written discharge from the service -

7th He refers to the following persons in his neighborhood, who can testify as to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution. - (viz) William Hunter - Thomas Bounds Esq. - Joseph Hudgens - Joseph Hunter - Nathan Bartlett - Aaron England -