

Chapter 22 Revolutionary and Civil War Wetheringtons

Soldiers of the revolution, Solomon Wetherington and his brother William Wetherington, Sr. served several enlistments. A transcription of their service records follows: ¹

SOLOMON Witherington. (*Minutes of Craven Co., NC, Superior Court, October Term 1832, pages 132-138.*)

On 25 October 1832 Solomon Witherington of Craven County, aged 71 years, made a declaration on oath in open court before Judge Joseph J. DANIEL to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress of 7 June 1832. He declared: "That when about fourteen years of age, he served as a substitute, for John DISMAL, who was drafted by Capt. Menan PATRICK, at Kinston Lenoir County No. Carolina, but at what precise time, this applicant entered the service, he is unable to state, being now advanced in years, and very young when he enlisted. - That they were ordered to rendezvous, at Kinston, and thence under the command of Genl. Will. BRYAN, Col. Will. CASWELL, Capt. John STRINGER, McILVEAN, Lieut Thomas SHUTE, together with Blaney HARPER Ensign, Isler Kilpatrick first sergeant, James COWARD second sergeant, and Elijah JOHNSON, corporal, they marched through No. Carolina and South Carolina, without the occurrence of any affair, worthy of mention, until they reached a place, called the white house, on the Savannah river, which divides... South Carolina from Georgia, At that place they descried a party of soldiers, of the british, on the opposite side, and thereupon immediately fired upon them, they then marched, to Augusta old field, about a mile below the town of Augusta, and lay there one week, until the british evacuated Augusta, whereupon the americans entered the town. After remaining at Augusta, a very short time, we marched from the town of Augusta, to Brier Creek in Georgia where we engaged with the british. The engagement took place, between one and two o'clock, and resulted in the defeat of the [preceding two words lined out] and dispersion of the American forces, our light horse fared very badly and were nearly all destroyed. This applicant in the general dispersion which ensued, fell in with sixteen of the american forces, and they agreed to make James NOBLES, one of the number, Captain of the sixteen, After wandering about in the woods, for sometime, on their way home, they reached the Savannah river, where it was quite broad, and found in the river an old raft of plank, all of the sixteen immediately got upon it, but they were unable to cary it across the stream, this they therefore abandoned, and perceiving an old canoe on the opposite side of the river, they all agreed to give Dick JOHNSON, One of their number, one hundred dollars, to swim across, and bring over the canoe; after some hesitation, he agreed to make the attempt, and pulled off his clothes, and jumped into the stream, but after swimming twenty or thirty yards, he returned to the same bank whence he started and refused to go. All the surrounding country, being alarmed at the victory of the enemy, and our situation, growing more and more hazardous, this applicant, swam across the river, obtained the canoe, and then the whole party gained the opposite bank. after reaching this side of the river, we travelled upon the banks of the same, until we came to, a house called the two sisters, which was occupied by two women, and where there was a ferry. They informed us that the British had just passed, and gave us some hominy, of which we partook very heartily, We then retraced our steps, down the river, and ultimately reached the white house, where we found our baggage, waggons, &c - of which we took possession, no body being then in charge, and remained there three days, - on the third day, the remnant of our light horse, came up. and on the fourth day, our brigade came up. and we marched down to a small place, called Puryburg, where we continued to remain, until our time was out. - Col: William CASWELL here took command of our regiment and under him we marched to Charleston, thence through Georgetown, and Wilmington N. Carolina, to Kinston in No. Carolina, having served five months, which added, to the time consumed in

travelling home, made five months, and eighteen days. This applicant never asked for, nor received a discharge, from any person, being at that time very young, fond of the service anxious, to see the world, and ambitious of distinction. About two years after the discharge of this applicant, (when he was sixteen years of age,) at Purrysburg in South Carolina, he was drafted at Kinston No. Ca. as well as this applicant can recollect under the command of Genl. Richard CASWELL, Col. Benjamin AXUM, and Col. Richard CASWELL, he marched to cross creek (now Fayetteville) thence up to Hillsboro, and from the latter place, they took up their line of march, for South Carolina, they crossed the Yadkin river, and near Lynchs creek, were joined by Genl. GATES, Under the general command, of Genl. GATES, they proceeded on to Camden. but before they reached the latter place, they were met by the British, and an engagement took place, which resulted in the complete discomfiture of the Americans. - This applicant was not present in the engagement, but was left, a short distance from the battle ground, on the road, quite sick. the first person he saw, after the defeat was, "tory John COX" as he was afterwards called, he informed this applicant of the complete overthrow of the american army, this man was a very valiant soldier, and much attached to the cause of the whigs, but subsequently, became a rank tory. Col. Benjamin AXUM came up and informed this applicant that all was lost, and he must take the best care of himself, that he could, and this applicant accordingly made his escape, and after a long and tedious journey, finally succeeded, in reaching Kinston No. Carolina. Upon this tour of duty he served three months; This applicant never received a discharge, as the troops were completely dispersed, the remnant of them, never was called together afterwards, and this declarant never applied for a discharge. This applicant was engaged, as a substitute, afterwards for Christopher Taylor, to guard the magazine of arms & amunition, which was kept in Kinston, under Capt. Saml. CASWELL, and Genl. William CASWELL, and served three months, he has no date, by which he can fix upon the time, of his service, and never made any endeavor, to preserve any memorandum, or any thing else, by which his memory, might be aided, and refreshed, upon the matter, as he never expected, to receive any compensation, at a future day, for the same, and could not anticipate, any possible advantage, that might arise from it. This declarant next volunteered, in August, 1782, under Genl. LILLINGTON, and marched with Capt. Matthew MOSELY, and Major Will: SHEPARD, from Kinston to intercept Major CRAIG, who at the head of some British forces, was reported to be on his way, from Wilmington, to Newbern No: Ca: The Americans fell in with him at Hargetts, in Jones County, and after a smart brush, he retreated, & came to New Bridge, over Trent river, where our piquet guards, engaged with his lighthorsemen, they again retreated, and, finally succeeded in reaching Newbern, without any further molestation. This applicant then went to Trenton, where, after serving the ten days out, for which they enlisted, they were releived, and marched back, to Kinston under Major SHEPARD. This applicant never received any formal discharge from this service. This applicant again served as a substitute, for, Nathan Witherington, who was drafted by Capt. Ezeriah Moore, and ordered to rendezvous at Kinston; thence under the command of Capt. Thomas GATLIN, they marched for Wilmington, and whilst on their way, having received the news, that peace was proclaimed, between this and the mother country, they were disbanded and returned home. This declarant has no documentary evidence, by which he can support the facts herin contained, 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/SOLOMON Witherington [Test. :JEDW PAULS

In answer to the interrogatories Witherington stated he was born "In Lenoir County, N. Ca. near Kinston, on the 4th of October A. D. 1761." His age is recorded "in the family bible, which is now in the possession, of my eldest brother, who is now living in Craven County, N. C." He stated "I was living when called into service, near Kinston in Lenoir County, N. Carolina; I served as a substitute three times, viz: for John DISMAL, Christopher Taylor, and Nath. Witherington, was drafted once and volunteered once."

He recollected "Genl. William BRYAN, Col. Will. CASWELL, Genl. Richard CASWELL, Genl. LILLINGTON, Genl. GATES, and Col. Benj. AXUM." As to receiving a discharge, he replied "I never did, for I never applied for one." Persons who could testify to his veracity and soldierly services were "Richard RICHARDSON, Andrew H. RICHARDSON, Caleb WOOTEN, Joseph Witherington, & William Witherington." /s/ SOLOMON Witherington 25 October 1832 [Test.:] EDW. PAULS

"We Richard RICHARDSON, and Caleb WOOTEN, residing in the County, of Craven No. Carolina, hereby certify, that we are well acquainted with, Mr. Solomon Witherington, . . . we beleive him to be seventy one years of age;..." /s/RICHARD RICHARDSON, CALEB WOOTEN [Test. :] EDW. PAULS

"We... have been for a number of years acquainted with, Mr. Solomon Witherington, who is our neighbour, that we believe he is, of the age of seventy one years, and that he has been long reported, and beleived in the neighborhood, to have been a revolutionary soldier, and that we concur in that opinion." /s/ WILL. Witherington, A. H. RICHARDSON, JOSEPH (x) Witherington [Test. :] EDW. PAULS

The Court declares their opinion the applicant was a revolutionary soldier and certifies "that it appears, that there is no clergyman, residing in the neighborhood, of the applicant, but that Richard RICHARDSON, Caleb WOOTEN, A. H. RICHARDSON, Will. Witherington and Joseph Witherington,... are residents in the county of Craven, and are credible persons, and that their statements are entitled to credit." J.J. DANIEL J.S.L.E. [Judge Superior Court of Law and Equity]

[See Chapter 4 Solomon Wetherington]

WILLIAM Witherington. (Minutes of Craven Co., NC, Superior Court, October Term 1832, pages 126-132.)

On 25 October 1832 William Witherington of Craven County, aged 73 years, made a declaration on oath in open court before Judge Joseph J. DANIEL, to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress of 7 June 1832. He declared "That at the instigation of General CASWELL, who was his neighbor, in the forepart of the year, 1776, he volunteered in Capt. Thomas Williams company, and repaired to Kinston, within five miles of which place, he resided, and under General CASWELL, they marched through Duplin, and Sampson Counties, on to Cross Creek, now Fayetteville, and thence to, Moores Creek, where General CASWELL, had an engagement, with the tories, under, McLEOD, McDANIEL and CAMPBELL, the tories were easily routed, as the engagement lasted, only about ten minutes, This applicant was not in the engagement, having been sent, off with others by General CASWELL, on a scouting party, under Leiut. Barwell MOURNING, and was at the time of the engagement, about a mile and a half distant, In this expedition, Captain Jesse COBB of Lenoir County commanded, a company of minute men, after the affair of Moore's Creek they returned, homewards, and after the necessary and usual delays, reached Kinston, and was there discharged, This applicant residing near Genl. CASWELL, never received a formal discharge, - never having applied for it. This applicant served in this town, in the militia, between two and three months. A short time after the discharge of this applicant, he volunteered, under Genl. CASWELL, at Kinston and marched in the company of Capt. Thomas Williams, for the town of Wilmington N. Ca. and was stationed there three months. Col. JARVIS was the Colonel of one of the regiments, Richard CASWELL Jr. was colonel to this applicants regiment, and Burwell MORNING, lieutenant, Jesse COBB of Lenoir, was Captain of one of the companies, whilst stationed at Wilmington, the Independence of the states was declared by Congress, on July 4th 1776, and six weeks after that time, we broke up at Wilmington, and marched home for Kinston, where this applicant was discharged by Genl. CASWELL, he retained his discharge, until some time after peace was declared, but not thinking that it would ever be of any value to him, he did not preserve it, and it is now lost. This applicant served in this tour three months. In February 1777. this applicant again volunteered, under Captain Samuel CASWELL, and was placed

under the general command of Genl. William CASWELL, to guard the magazine of arms, and amunition, in Kinston No. Carolina which was collected there for the use of the troops, there were in all about sixty men, upon this duty, in which we served three months, and this applicant received his discharge, at the end of that time, from Genl. William CASWELL, but has lost the same,... In April 1777. this applicant again served, as a substitute for John CREECH, who was drafted, by Capt. Menan PATRICK, in Kinston. and was in Captain Thomas PASTEUR's company; under Genl. SUMNER, Col. Richard CASWELL, and Captain PASTEUR, they marched from Kinston, up through Johnston and Wake counties, Salisbury and Charlotte, into South Carolina. In Charlotte, and Salisbury, the light horse belonging to this applicant's regiment, and the British light horse, had several engagements, but, they resulted in nothing of a decisive character, In this campaign we never met the enemy, and it was therefore not characterized by, any active operations, and our time of service being about to expire, we began to retrace our steps back through No. Carolina. When we reached the Yadkin River, this applicant was discharged, by Genl. SUMNER, but he has lost the same,... One KNIGHT was adjutant, and JOHNSON Captain, in some of the companies, who were, associated with this applicant, in this campaign. Jesse BRYAN was Lieut. in this applicants company, and Ephraim PRYOR, Ensign. In this campaign this applicant served, in all five months and eleven days. In August 1782. this applicant again volunteered under General LILLINGTON, in Kinston and marched under his command, and that of Capt. Matthew MOSELY, to intercept Major CRAIG, a british officer who was then on his way, from the South to Newbern. They met him at Harget's, in Jones County, and had a, short engagement, the British retreated to New Bridge over Trent River, and our Piquet guards engaged with the light horse belonging to the British, who again retreated, and made good their way to Newbern. The Americans, immediately after their last engagement, came on to Trenton in Jones County, where we remained eight days, and marched thence, under Major William SHEPARD, to Kinston, having agreed to serve only ten days. for the special purpose of, opposing Major CRAIG, in his march to Newbern. This applicant has no documentary evidence, to substantiate the facts, herein set forth." His name is not on the pension roll of any state. /s/WILL. Witherington [Test. :] EDW. PAULS

Richard RICHARDSON and Caleb WOOTEN of Craven County certify their acquaintance with William Witherington. /s/RICHARD RICHARDSON, CALEB WOOTEN [Test. :] EDW. PAULS

Witherington answered the interrogatories. He was born "In Lenoir County, N. Carolina, about five miles from Kinston, on the 16th day of July A. D. 1759." His age is recorded "in our old family bible, which I have in my possession at home." He stated "When called into service, I lived in the county now called Lenoir, about five miles from Kinston and there I continued to reside, until within the last thirty years, when I removed into the county of Craven where I have ever since lived, and continue to reside Three times I volunteered, and once I was a substitute, for John CREECH, who was drafted, under Captain Menan PATRICK, in April 1777." He recollected "Genl. Richard CASWELL, Genl. William CASWELL, Genl. SUMNER, Genl. LILLINGTON, Captain Saml. CASWELL, Capt. Thomas Williams, & Captain Jesse COBB; I do not recollect, the names, of any of the regiments, and we never were associated, with any of the regiments of the line, except those we met with accidentally, on our marches, We were engaged with the tories, at Moores Creek, as detailed in my first term of service, stationed at Wilmington N. C. three months, and guarded the magazine at Kinston, under Genl. CASWELL three months; In April 1777. I marched through No Carolina into South Carolina, and was subsequently, engaged in the attempt, to intercept Major CRAIG,... I received a discharge from Genl. CASWELL, Genl. Will. CASWELL, and Genl. SUMNER, but I have lost all three of them,..." Persons who can certify as to his character and veracity include Richard RICHARDSON, Andrew H. RICHARDSON, Joseph Witherington, and Solomon Witherington. /s/WILLIAM Witherington [Test. :] EDW. PAULS

"We... have known, Mr. Will. Witherington, for a long number of years, . . . we have been his neighbours, for a long time,..., he has ever since we have been acquainted with him, borne the reputation of having served faithfully in the revolutionary war." /s/A. H. RICHARDSON, JOSEPH (x) Witherington, SOLOMON Witherington [Test. :] EDW. PAULS

The Court declare the applicant was a revolutionary soldier, and there is no clergyman residing in his neighborhood. Richard RICHARDSON, Caleb WOOTEN, Joseph Witherington, Andrew H. RICHARDSON, and Solomon Witherington are residents of Craven. [Test. :] J. J. DANIEL J.S.L.E.

[End Transcription]

A condensed version of these records also exists, including details on a Daniel and Joseph Witherington, in Revolutionary War pension abstracts: ²

Witherington, Daniel, NC Line, S7932, sol was b 4 Feb 1756 in Dobbs Co NC & he lived there when he enl & after the Rev he lived in Duplin Co NC where he was living when he appl 28 Nov 1832

Witherington, Joseph, NC Line, S1938, sol lived in Halifax Co NC when he enl & he Lived thee until 1788 then moved to Martin Co NC & in 1813 he moved to Williamson Co TN where he lived when he appl 5 Sep 1832

Witherington, Solomon, NC Line, S7936, sol was b 4 Oct 1761 at Kingston In Lenolr Co NC & he lived there when he enl & he also srv as a sub for at Nathan Witherington, he appl 25 Oct 1832 in Craven Co NC

Witherington, William, NC Line, S7953, sol was b 16 Jul 1759 about 5 miles from Kingston in Lenolr Co NC & he lived there when he enl & about 1802 he moved to Craven Co NC where he lived when he appl 25 Oct 1832, a Solomon & Joseph Witherlnton were witnesses In 1833 in Craven Co NC, the Rev sol wm. Witherington d 28 Dec 1844 & his wid (not named) d 4 May 1845 leaving only 1 child, towit; Reding Witherington who was living in 1855 & an inquiry was made the son on 1 Jan 1854 from Dresden TN by one John J. Drewry, the Rev sol Wm. Witherington had m 17 Sep 1797 to Susanna Coward In Green Co NC.

The bible records of Sara L. Stewart, a descendant of Solomon Wetherington, contain a copy of a 1921 request for Solomon Wetherington's records. ³

Rev. War Records Section

V. L. M.

S. F. 7936 Dept. of the Interior

Bureau of Pensions

Washington, D. C. July II, 1921

Sara Louise Stewart,
75 Craven St.,
New Berne, N. C.
Madam :-

In reply to your request of _____ received June 27 for a statement of the military history of Soloman Witherington, a soldier of the REVOLUTIONARY WAR, you will find below the desired information as contained in his application for pension on file in this bureau.

Dates of enlistment	length of service	Rank	Officers under whom service was rendered		State
			Captain	Colonel	
At age of 14 yrs.	5 mos. 18 days	Pvt.	John Stringer	Wm. Caswell	N. C.
1777	3 mos			Richard Caswell Benj. Axum	
	3 mos.		Samuel Caswell		
Aug. 1782	10 days		Mathew Mosely Thos. Gatlin	Major Wm. Shepard	

Battles engaged in, Brier Creek White House

Res. of soldier at enlistment, near Kinston in Lenoir County, N. C.

Date of application for pension, Oct. 25, 1832. His claim was allowed.

Residence at date of application, Craven County, N. C.

Age at date of application, born Oct. 4, 1761 near Kinston, N. C.

Respectfully ,

Washington Gardner

Commissioner.

Figure 47 Solomon Wetherington Pension Record, 1921