

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Daniel Bryson W5940

Martha

fn81NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

10/14/10

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. Folks are free to make non-commercial use this transcript in any manner they may see fit, but please extend the courtesy of acknowledging the transcriber—besides, if it turns out the transcript contains mistakes, the resulting embarrassment will fall on the transcriber. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading fails to catch all misinterpretations. I welcome and encourage folks to call those and any other errors to my attention.]

[fn p. 56]

State of North Carolina Macon County: County Court of Law October Term

On the 12th day of October A D 1832 Personally appeared in open court it being a court of record now sitting Daniel Bryson a resident of said County and State aged 76 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 June 7th 1832.

That he entered the service under General Rutherford Colonel Locke, Captain Gilbert Falls as a volunteer in Rowan County North Carolina about the first of June 1776, and remained a volunteer to the end of the war, was elected a Captain in January 1778, and March first from Rowan to Ramsours Mills and Lincoln County North Carolina and was engaged in a battle with the Tories – the said Captain Daniel Bryson was under Colonel Francis Locke who had about four hundred men and fought against Colonel John Moore who he believes was commissioned by Lord Cornwallis and had about thirteen hundred men – that his Colonel took about one thousand stand of arms from the Tories – was marched again about the first of January to the Cowpens and joined the regular Army under General Morgan Colonel Howard and Colonel Washington who commanded the cavalry who advanced the head of the infantry and retreated when the attack was commenced, that the said Captain Daniel Bryson commanded a rifle company and was placed on the right of the line during the engagement, after the battle he marched with the prisoners and baggage to the Catawba River in North Carolina to Cowan's Ford, where he left the regulars who marched under General Morgan and was placed under the command of General William Davidson whom he saw fall in an engagement at the said Ford, marched thence under General William Polk between the prisoners and General Cornwallis' Army, the Yadkin River in North Carolina and crossed the River at what was then called the trading Ford, and their remained about three weeks, and then joined General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] between the Yadkin River and the Moravian town about fifteen miles from the River and thence proceeded to Guilford Court House, we were engaged with the British under Cornwallis, having been informed in an old field, and was again placed on the right of the regulars the North Carolina and Virginia Militia being on the left – we marched thence about two days and was commanded by General Greene to return and guard the country against the remnant of the Indians and Tories that remained, he here with transmits to the Department, such

documents as he has in his possession, but knows no person in the neighborhood who can testify to that matter.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not enrolled on the pension roll of the Agency of any State except the State of South Carolina [fn p. 39] and that he has not received any pension from there for the last two years – Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

Attest S/ John Hall, Clerk

S/ Daniel Bryson

A black and white photograph of a handwritten signature in cursive script. The signature reads "Daniel Bryson" and is written in dark ink on a light-colored, slightly textured paper.

[Humphrey Posey, a clergyman, and James Whitaker gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[fn p. 60]

State of North Carolina Macon County: October Term 1833 – Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions for said County

Daniel Bryson swears in open Court that he entered the service as a volunteer in June 1776 near Sherrill's Ford Rowan County North Carolina under Captain Gilbert Falls Rutherford General & Francis Locke Colonel that he marched thence to the head of Catawba River thence to the Cherokee Nation – to Cowee old towns thence through the wilderness Southwest sixty miles during which tour Scott & Hicks, Traders were taken prisoners thence by a securities route to Cowee which was our headquarters, having killed & captured during the tour about 15 in number. Thence back to Rowan County in the month of September (day not recollected) having served a three months tour as a private – reentered in March 1777 under Captain John Dickey, Charles McDowell afterwards General – McDowell being Colonel marched from Rowan to the Cherokee Country across the Blue Ridge at the head of Swannanoa Creek to Ivy-Cany & Toe rivers and back to the upper Fort in Burke County North Carolina – which was also a three months tour as a private – reentered under Colonel Davidson in the month of September 1778 as Captain of a volunteer Company in Rowan County and marched to the State of Jersey to Morristown head court house, passed thro' [paper folded word obscured word and illegible] – old Moravian town – Winchester in Virginia [several words obliterated at the bottom of the page] in Jersey to the best of his & remained at headquarters three weeks thence towards Maryland passing through Lancaster & went near Brandywine in Pennsylvania & Hall until the British came up where we were defeated. Martin was Colonel in command of the Regiment at Brandywine & Davidson Lieutenant Colonel. Washington commander in chief Colonel Howard commanded the Maryland line – in a retreat from there towards Lancaster we were pursued a part of the way by the British who returned then to Philadelphia – the Commander in Chief turning into Valley Forge to Winter Quarters, we were directed under Colonel Davidson back to the southern states with all the southern men – after coming back to North Carolina I took the smallpox and was confined three months before I went on duty again, having served five months in that tour (days over not recollected). Thence from Rowan in 178[last digit obliterated] in December as Captain of a company, still under Colonel Davidson – (Colonel Martin having been tried after the battle at Brandywine for cowardice and sentenced to where a wooden sword, & broke of his commission) towards the high Hills of Santee, and after the time we were going towards Charleston the British got between us and Charleston South Carolina & we did not get

nearer than 20 miles, having been out three months returned again to Rowan – where I went home the service from place to place, suppressing both in North Carolina & South Carolina, under the orders of Colonel Davidson then Brigadier General, with my company, rendezvousing from time to time at places appointed in giving reports of our marches, and remained in that situation till the latter part of the year 1782, cannot recollect the month or day but was not employed during that time in any civil pursuit, was in the field during the whole time & not in Garrison.

That the said Bryson [several words obliterated] others paid the County and equipped with uniforms for the regular service Benjamin Allmany, Thomas Brandon, & James Leart – from their private purses, – and has now no documentary evidence nor a living witness to the best of his knowledge to prove the facts in the above declaration. He further swears that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise time or 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. For ___year three months ___ days – I served as a volunteer in the Cherokee nation secondly three months as volunteer in same service both tours as a private thirdly for two years and six months ___days I served as a Captain – and for such service I claim a pension – though I have no living testimony nor documents to establish the facts to the best of my knowledge & belief. Sworn to in open court the day and date above written.

Witness S/ John Latham, Clerk

S/ Daniel Bryson

[fn p. 67]

State of North Carolina Macon County: On this day of April 10th personally appeared before the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions held in the town of Franklin in said County Daniel Bryson a resident of Macon County – and State of North Carolina aged 78 years next June who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832, That he entered the service as a volunteer in the spring of 1776 in Rowan County under General Rutherford and Colonel Locke Captain Gilbreath Falls, marched from Rowan to Catheys Fort at the head of the Catawba thence to Cowee old town crossing Tennessee River and took possession of said town and there headquarters were established by General Rutherford & having destroyed said town three hundred of us were directed to Valley River and took possession of the Valley towns – and having destroyed the towns on said River we proceeded south westward to the Hiwassee River and destroyed the Indian towns on that River – thence proceeded 60 miles by night marches and surprise the camp of the Indians and Tories, place not known – and obtained a great booty such as horses, cattle, skins etc. thence returning to headquarters, and thence to Catheys Fort said tour performed in three months –

In the year 1777 reentered the service under the immediate command of Colonel Charles McDowell in the month of March as spy and guard for the frontiers at Catheys Fort and made several excursions to Swannanoa & Ivy rivers Caney and Toe rivers – remained in the service for three months in said year of 1777, in the fall of the same year reentered in Rowan County under Colonel Davidson and marched towards Salisbury Hillsboro in North Carolina and Winchester in Virginia thence to Washington's headquarters at Valley Forge in Pennsylvania, There the southern regiments were directed to return towards Charleston SC and on this return to work early in the year 1778 I took the small pox and was disabled from service during the spring and summer of that year – length of said tour three months, The services of 1779 I have no recollection of, In the

year 1780, was about nine months in the service was in the Battle at Ramsours Mill and pursuing the foraging parties constant in the above battle Colonel Locke was chief in Command – In January of 1781 joined General Morgan when we encamped near the Cowpens South Carolina and was engaged with Tarleton and about twenty-four hours after we reached there, we defeated them and took some cannon and a moving forge – with several prisoners – thence we moved towards the North to the Catawba River with the prisoners and baggage, and were there met by General William Davidson, who took the command whilst General Morgan went on with the prisoners, we were pursued by the British and were compelled to give way at the Catawba where General Davidson was killed at first fire, and though I was near him could not render him any relief but was compelled to leave him on the ground, thence moved towards Guilford Court House where General Greene came up with his Army, where we engaged – thence we returned South, to Salisbury thence to Camden SC towards there we were defeated and dispersed, collected again and went towards 96 and besieged it for the space of six weeks – thence returned to Salisbury in the month of August 1781, and remained but a few weeks, until we again started to South Carolina and were divided in small parties and continued constantly in service – we were then again embodied and moved towards the Eutaw Springs – I was not at that battle as being sent on scouting service towards black River, thence returned in November home to Rowan County NC – Was in the service during 1781 at least nine months, reentered the service in the town of Charlotte in 1782 was in service at least six months during that year in scouting service and against Tory moles [?], we were constantly engaged night and day in this service, Colonel Davy [sic, William Richardson Davie] was the chief commander during that year.

Recapitulation – In 1777 I was three months in the service as a private volunteer

In 1777 I was three months in the service as a private.

In 1777 & 1778 I was three months in the service as a private

In 1780 I was nine months in the service, a Captain & in 1781 I was nine months, as a Captain been commissioned by General Rutherford and in 1782 – I served under the same commission for six months whole term of service two years and nine months

Having already petition for the benefit of the late act I have only to add, that I was informed that my last petition with the Amendments had not reached the war Department – and being recommended by the advice of Mr. Graham to renew my declaration I have done so, and earnestly hope that whilst the few surviving compatriots who surround me are permitted by the munificence of their country to spend the remnant of days in comparative ease, my claims may not be entirely disregarded. I have no other documents to sustain my declaration than those I have before transmitted to the Department nor do I know of any living witnesses of my services, save that God who had not forsaken my country in her greatest need and before whom I solemnly swear to the truth of this my declaration. I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State – Sworn to and subscribed in open court the day and year aforesaid.

S/ John Latham, Clerk

S/ Daniel Bryson

[Daniel Posey, a clergyman and James Whitaker gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

April 10, 1834

[fn p. 11]

State of North Carolina Macon County: On this 18th day of February 1835 Daniel Bryson personally appeared before the Court of pleas and quarter sessions for the County aforesaid & State aforesaid aged seventy-nine years who first being duly sworn according [to law] doth on

his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed June the 7th 1832 he states he volunteered as a militia man in the County of Rowan State of North Carolina in the [year] 1776 under Captain Gilbert Falls & Lieutenant Alexander Davidson and marched immediately against the Cherokee Indians that we marched into the Cherokee Nation & took possession of the old Cowee Towns on the Tennessee River which place is situated about eight miles from Franklin the present seat of justice for Macon County NC and made it our headquarters our commander in chief during this expedition was General Rutherford the other field officers were Colonel Francis Locke & Major Pervines [sic, Purviance?]. We had no general engagement with the Indians but the great many light skirmishes. We were marched back to what is now called the old Fort Burke County NC & there discharged after serving a tour of three months. Shortly after our return we received the news of the Declaration of Independence. The militia of were required to repair to their respective muster grounds for the purpose of taking the oath of allegiance to the US which your applicant complied with. Your applicant then entered into the Service of the US as a volunteer in the character of what was then called minute men to hold themselves in readiness at a moment's warning to march to any point where necessity required.

The next actual service your applicant rendered the US was under the command of June Lieutenant Colonel Davidson and marched from Rowan North Carolina to join General Washington's Army while it was in winter quarters at Valley Forge. We remained with General Washington five or six weeks when all the southern troops were ordered to march again to the South to defend that country against the British and Tories.

Before I went this trip to the North I served a tour of three months as a spy on the Indian frontier under the particular direction of then Colonel Charles McDowell.

The next actual service rendered by your applicant was the transporting of arms & ammunition from Salisbury to Cathey's station, it being then a frontier station of the Cherokee Nation.

The next service rendered by your applicant on or about a six weeks tour under Colonel Francis Locke Major Rutherford & Major D Wilson of Mecklenburg North Carolina during this time we fought the battle of Ramsours Mills with the Tories.

The service rendered by your applicant was a Campaign against the Tories on Pedee River at a place called the Coulsons ferry [Colson's Ferry] we had a battle where I commander Colonel Davidson was wounded. After this your applicant were immediately ordered to join General Morgan which he did and was in the Battle of the Cowpens with the British under Tarleton –

Your applicant were after the Battle of the Cowpens were engaged under now General Davidson to protect the rear of General Greene's Army during its retreat through North Carolina and while engaged in this service he was in the engagement which took place at the Catawba River while the British troops under Cornwallis were crossing it in this battle General Davidson your applicant's Commander were killed; your applicant immediately then joined General Greene's Army and was in the Battle of Guilford Court House. This was the last battle of note your applicant were in but was kept in almost constant service marched from place to place where danger was expected or circumstances required until the close of the war being a volunteer attached to no particular Regiment or Brigade have never received any written discharge.

Your applicant further states that in the year 1780 he received a commission from General Rutherford appointing a Captain & he served in that capacity the balance of the war. Your applicant has been informed that General Rutherford had no authority to grant commissions of

this your applicant is not able to determine and respectfully refers the subject to the proper authority for a decision his commission he has long since lost. But of one fact your applicant is certain that he was in the actual service of the US as a private & Captain for two years & six months but that always regarded himself subject to the orders of his officers from the year 1776 until close of the War as the term of his enlistment was during the war. He therefore respectfully asked the department that if it should be of opinion that he is not entitled to the pay of a Captain for what time he served in that capacity to give him the humble pay of a private.

Your applicant further states that he has sent a declaration to the Department [which] is now on file and has been rejected as insufficient he therefore respectfully refers the Department [to] that declaration with the accompanying documents –

Your applicant further states he is unable to make any further positive proof of his services by indiffent [sic, independent or in direct or something else?] testimony that [is not] already on the files of your office

Interrogatories

1st Where and in what year were you born?

Answer. I was born in the State of Pennsylvania Lancaster County in the year 1756

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

Answer. I have in my father's family Bible

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

Answer. When I was called into the service I lived in Rowan County State of North Carolina since that time I have lived a part of time in South Carolina & Georgia I now live in the County of Macon State of North Carolina

4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom?

Answer. I was a volunteer during the whole of my Service –

5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Answer. I knew General Greene, General Morgan, General Davidson, Colonel Washington & his Captain Regiment of dragoons & Colonel Howard of the Maryland line of the continentals of the Militia I knew Colonel Charles McDowell, Colonel Cleveland and General Sumter of South Carolina

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 never received a discharge that was written. And I further answer I received a commission as Captain from General Rutherford –

7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution. When Esquire.

He hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension or annuity except the present & he declares

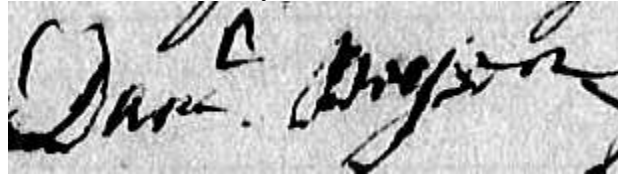
Answer. I am acquainted with Humphrey Posey a clergyman and James W Quinn [?] Esquire

He hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension or annuity except the present & he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency of any State.

Sworn to & subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ John Latham

S/ Daniel Bryson

A black and white photograph of a handwritten signature in cursive script, which appears to read "Dan. Bryson".

[Humphrey Posey, a clergyman, and J W Quinn gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[fn p. 30]

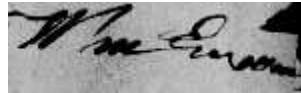
State of North Carolina Macon County: October 7th 1834

On the day above written came William Erwin¹ personally before me John Latham Clerk of the County Court of Macon County And being duly sworn according to law Deposeth and saith That he was in the service during the revolutionary war in the year 1780. And at the battle of Ramsours Mill (with the Tories) And that he saw Daniel Bryson in the Service, as what was called a Minute man. That he knows that Mr. Bryson was there in the American Service. That after the battle was over it was generally reported that Daniel Bryson had engaged in single combat, and killed Captain Warlick a Tory Captain. That he saw Warlick lying dead and Mr. Bryson walking away from him. That after this some months, the foards [fords] on the Catawba River had guards appointed to prevent the Enemy's crossing and that he believes that Daniel Bryson had the command of the Guard at the Cowan's Ford.

Sworn to before me in open Court.

S/ John Latham, Clerk

S/ Wm Erwin

A black and white photograph of a handwritten signature in cursive script, which appears to read "Wm Erwin".

[fn p. 32]

State of North Carolina Macon County: October 8th 1834

On the day above written, came William McLeod, personally before may John Latham – Clerk of the County Court of Macon County and being duly sworn according to law Deposeth and Saith, That in the year 1781, he was at Beatties Ford, on the Catawba River and in the service of the United States, in the Revolutionary war. That he saw Daniel Bryson there in the service as a volunteer or, what was called Minute man. That he knows Mr. Bryson was there and was under General Davidson, when that officer was killed at Cowan's Ford. Deponent further saith that he has every reason to believe that Daniel Bryson was long in the service as his name was often spoken of as an intrepid and useful Soldier. Sworn to

S/ John Latham, Clerk

S/ Wm McLeod

A black and white photograph of a handwritten signature in cursive script, which appears to read "Wm McLeod".

[fn p. 36]

State of North Carolina Rowan County: This is to Certify that the
bearor hereof Daniel Bryson

¹ [William Erwin S6823](#)

heath Been an Inhabitant of
 Said County form his Childhood until
 the present Date and to our knowledge heath always
 Supported the Corrector of a puortual hones Man a good
 Member of Society and a Sincer friend to american Liberty
 and have Sarved two Expeditions ageanst the Cherokees tribe
 thence Enroled himself in the minet Sarvice to the end of
 the Revelution which he ??antly obayed as a brave man
 a prvet Solder and Offeser ???in the ???????
 States and being at this time about to Remove to the
 State of South Carolina we Recommend as above desire
 bed—Certified by us this 6th Day Decem= 1786
 S/ George Davidson, Colo.
 S/ Wm Davidson, Majr.

State of North
 Carolina Rowan
 County

This is to Certify that the
 bearer hereof Daniel Bryson
 heath Been an Inhabitant of
 Said County from his childhood until
 the present Date and to our knowledge heath always
 supported the corrector of a puortual honest Man a good
 Member of Society, and a Sincer friend to american Liberty
 and have Sarved two Expeditions ageanst the Cherokees tribe
 thence Enroled himself in the minet Sarvice to the end of
 the Revelution which he ??antly obayed as a brave man
 a prvet Solder and Offeser ???in the ???????
 States and being at this time about to Remove to the
 State of South Carolina we Recommend as above dis
 bed—Certified by us this 6th Day Decem= 1786
 George Davidson Colo.
 Wm Davidson Majr.

[fn p. 6: on December 12, 1853, in Paulding County Georgia, Martha Bryson, 71, filed for a widow's pension under the 1853 act stating that she is the widow of Daniel Bryson a pensioner at

the rate of \$80 per annum for his service in the revolution; that she married him on May 5, 1807; that he died March 26, 1844; that she was married to him in Pendleton district (now Anderson) South Carolina by Jonathan Gibbs Esquire; that she has no record of her marriage.]

[fn p. 9: on May eight, 1855 in Paulding County Georgia, Martha Bryson, 83, filed for her bounty land entitlement as the widow of Daniel Bryson; in this application she states that her husband died at his home in North Carolina; and that her maiden name was Martha Marrow.]

[fn p. 21: on January 22, 1868, in Paulding County Georgia, Sarah Wishon, 56, took the oath of allegiance to the United States and applied for the reinstatement of the pension due her mother Martha Bryson who was dropped from the pension rolls pursuant to the act of February four, 1862; and her application she states that her mother died September 26, 1863; and that she, Sarah, is the only surviving heir of Martha Bryson.]

[fn p. 65: Elizabeth Skelton, a resident of Anderson district South Carolina testified on December 26, 1853 in Anderson district South Carolina that she was present at the marriage of Daniel Bryson to Martha Morrow, now Martha Bryson and widow of Daniel and that they were married on or about the fifth day of May 1807 by Jonathan Gibbs a justice of the peace in Pendleton district South Carolina.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for two years service as a private in the North Carolina militia. Veteran's widow was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing February 3rd, 1853, for the service of her husband as a private in the revolution.]