

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Carson S9132

fn50NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

11/7/10

[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.]

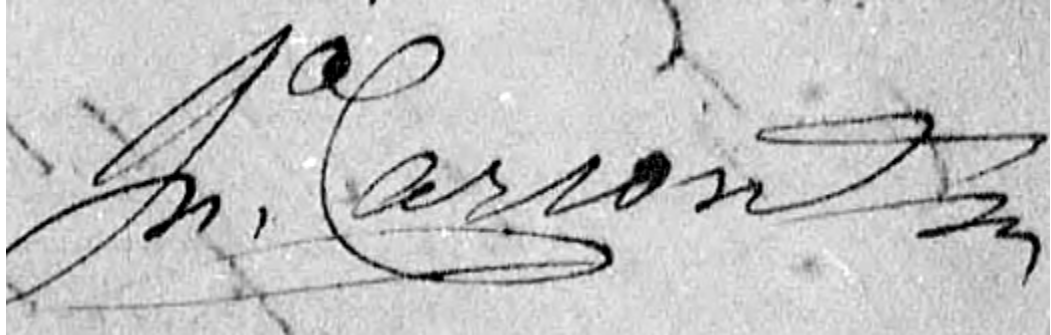
I John Carson of the County of Burke and State of North Carolina was born in the kingdom of Ireland Province of Ulster and County Fermanagh in the year 1752, Sailed for America in 1773, Landed at New Castle Delaware State in September '73 traveled up into the State of Pennsylvania stayed there until May 1775, sailed from Philadelphia for New Bern North Carolina travel from thence up into Burke County North Carolina same year 1775. The first service that offered was in Expedition against the Scotch Tories called the Cross Creek Expedition in which I volunteered in Captain William Moore's Company of foot and was elected Ensign by the Company which had the privilege of electing their under officers. The second was a company of Dragoons commanded by Captain Reuben White in which I volunteered and was elected Ensign of the company Captain White was killed at the battle of the North fork of the Catawba River by the Indians. The third was what was called the Cherokee Expedition commanded by General Rutherford in which I volunteered as a light horsemen in Captain Robert Bartley's Company, the fourth Expedition was against the Cherokees the ensuing year 1777 in which I volunteered as a light horsemen in Captain William Moore's Company. The fifth was also against the Cherokees in which I volunteered as a light horsemen in Captain Joseph McDowell's Company. The sixth was an expedition called the Wilmington Expedition in which I volunteered and was appointed forage master of the Army, the Commander in chief was General Rutherford. Before the troops reached Wilmington the Indians broke in on the frontier and killed Mr. John Davidson son of Colonel George Davidson his wife and child and took off all his Negroes on account of which an Express came to General Rutherford who ordered me back and also ordered to take charge of some prisoners to see them safely guided to Salisbury Jail – from thence I was ordered to [indecipherable word] home and was a guard or ranging company to guard the frontier against the Indians and Tories. The Wilmington Expedition as well as I recollect was in the year 1781. Within the same period I served several short tours was of about a month under Captain Galbreath Falls who fell at the battle of Ramsour [sic, Ramsour's Mill] in Guilford County. I also served a short tour under the command of Colonel Hampton on the frontier of South Carolina to defend against the Tories and Colonel Tarleton. On another call I served a substitute for three months. I also served at different times in the several forts on the frontier. I served in Morrison's Fort, Captain William Moore's Fort, Catheys Fort, Captain Sam Davidson's Fort and Major William Davidson's Fort. In all the horse service I found my own

horse with all accouterments, arms etc. In during the period from March 1776 until the fall of the year 1781 I do state that I served including all my services in the different Expeditions and tours of duty above stated more than two years, Sworn to and Subscribed before me James McDowell Justice of the peace in and for the County of Burke and State of North Carolina – December 10th, 1833

Attest

S/ Jno Carson

S/ J. McDowell, JP

A black and white photograph of a handwritten signature in cursive script. The signature appears to read "John Carson" and is written in dark ink on a light-colored, slightly textured paper. The signature is fluid and somewhat stylized, with a large initial 'J' and a long, sweeping tail.

The said John Carson maketh oath that he never had a pension in his life in any manner or form whatever. Sworn to and subscribed before me the date above.

S/ Jno Carson

As it is required by the War Department to state more specifically the respective Tours of service I performed during the revolutionary war, By way of Amendment to the Declaration made out by me and forwarded to the War Department I hereby state the following as the periods of service I did serve having to those tours mentioned in the Declaration

The 1st Tour was the Cross Creek expedition commanded by Colonel Beckman in which I acted as Ensign in Captain William Moore's company. This was a call for three months to go against the Scotch & Tories.

The 2nd Tour was in a company of Rangers commanded by Captain Reuben White in which I volunteered & was elected Ensign by the company. Captain White was killed in the battle of North Fork as I have stated in my Declaration. This was a service of three months –

The 3rd Tour of duty was in the Expedition commanded by General Rutherford against the Cherokee Indians in which I volunteered as a light horsemen in Captain Robert Bartley's Company. This was a requisition for three months. We marched into the Cherokee Country, dispersed the Indians, devastated their towns & destroyed their corn fields –

These three tours above stated was in the year 1776 as well as I recollect.

The 4th Tour was an expedition against the Cherokees in the year 1777 under Captain William Moore a short tour of duty raised by voluntary association, of five or six weeks.

The 5th Tour was at also against the Cherokee Indians for five weeks under Captain McDowell which I think was in the year 1778 – in these two latter Expeditions we were mounted men finding out own horses, arms etc.

The 6th Tour of duty was the Expedition to Wilmington North Carolina commanded by General Rutherford in which I acted as forage Master etc. See my the Declaration – This was a requisition for three months. In the year 1781. In this Expedition I was a volunteer horseman and found my own horse. Within the above period (to wit) from March 1776 to the fall of the year 1780 I served several other Tours of duty one under Colonel Hampton on the frontier of South Carolina to guard against the Tories & Colonel Tarleton which in my Declaration I have

stated as a short tour, comprehended a service of three months – Another under Captain Falls – see my Declaration – one month. My services performed in the different Forts, stated in my Declaration taken altogether, was more than a year within the above same period –

To wit	Months	
In Morrison Fort	3	Captain William Morrison
In Catheys Fort	3	Captain William Cathey
In Moore's Fort	3	Captain William Moore
In Sam Davidson's Fort or the Upper Fort	6	Captain Sam Davidson
Major Wm Davidson's Fort	<u>3</u>	Major Davidson
	15 Months	

The Interrogatories to be propounded, I have answered in my Declaration (to wit) my age which is 82 years last March -- have lived in the County of Burke North Carolina since the year 1775 to the present time. How I was called into service etc. when I was active as Ensign I was elected by the Companies, to which I was respectively attached which election was sanctioned by the

<i>An Abstract of the Services as above [indecipherable word]</i>	<i>Months</i>
<i>As Ensign 6 months</i>	6
<i>As forage Master—3 months</i>	3
<i>As Light Horse Man</i>	<u>9 ½</u>
	18 ½
<i>In the Forts</i>	<u>18</u>
	36 ½

commanding officers which was the only Commission I had – Discharges followed after the respective tours of service were performed but – if a written – they are lost.

State of North Carolina Burke County

Personally appeared before me John Logan one of the Acting Justices of the peace for said County John Carson Senior and made an oath that the foregoing Statement exhibiting more definitely the respective tours of service which he performed as a soldier during the revolutionary war, and which is to be appended as an amendment to his Original Declaration made & at and sworn to on the 10th day of December 1833 is Just & true to the best of his knowledge & belief

Sworn to & subscribed this 22nd day of August 1834

S/ John Logan, JP

S/ Jn. Carson, Sr.

[Richard Bird, a clergyman, and John Logan gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[fn p. 21]

I Thomas Lytle ¹ Senior of the County of Burke in the State of North Carolina do hereby state the following has the services rendered by Colonel John Carson as a volunteer Soldier during the Revolutionary War as far as I am acquainted or as far as we served together being now of the age of 82, I have none Colonel Carson shortly after his coming into Burke County and the first Expedition we served together in the war one to Cross Creek organized to go against the Scotch & Tories but just before we got there the Scotch & Tories had surrendered and from thence we returned home. We afterwards served together in foraging and scouting & ranging parties on the frontier to guard the country against the Indians as well as in the forts up and down the Catawba, where we were occasionally stationed – we served together in the Expedition against the

¹ [Thomas Lytle S8873](#)

Cherokee Indians under the command of General Rutherford and after Rutherford's return – there were several company Expeditions carried out against the Cherokee Indians in which Colonel Carson and I served together living on the frontier and exposed to the massacre of the Indians. We were necessarily compelled to be on the watch and constant lookout to save the Country from devastation.

My memory being impaired from age I cannot distinctly recollect dates, or state the years – but after our return from the Cross Creek Expedition the battle of the Fork as it was called was fought near the mouth of North Fork of Catawba River, where Captain Reuben White and a Mr. Shelton was killed – my being sent off to bury several persons who had been killed by the Indians just before the battle prevented my being there, but I arrived at the battle ground soon after the battle was fought. This is known to have taken place in the summer of the year 1776. From that time on till the close of the war (although not under a continued military duty, yet we were compelled at intervals to make those expeditions and scouting parties which I have thus briefly stated

State of North Carolina Burke County – Personally appeared before me the subscribing Justice of the peace for the County & State aforesaid Thomas little Senior and made oath that the foregoing exhibiting a statement of his knowledge of the services of Colonel John Carson as a Soldier in the War of the Revolution is Just & true to the best of his knowledge & belief

Sworn to & subscribed this sixth day of December 1833

Attest: S/ Thos. Curtis, JP

S/ Thomas Lytle, X his mark

I Jonathan McPeters² of the County of Buncombe & State of North Carolina do hereby state, the following as to the Services rendered by Colonel John Carson of the Pleasant Gardens in the County of Burke & State of North Carolina as a Volunteer Soldier during the Revolutionary war – Being now of the age of 78 I have none Colonel Carson since the year 1776. Shortly after his coming into Burke County – We served together in the Expedition to Cross Creek as it was then called – now Fayetteville in March 1776 organized for the purpose of putting down the Scotch who were then rising to aid the English. Colonel Carson acted in the capacity of Ensign under Captain William Moore – the next tour of service was at the upper Fort on the Catawba where we were stationed for some time as a ranging company under Captain Reuben White who was killed in the Battle of the Fork the 11th July 1776 Colonel Carson acted as Ensign. The next tour of service was under General Rutherford who marched a considerable force to the Cherokee nation in the fall of the year 1776 when Colonel Carson – volunteered as a light horseman under Captain Bartley of Rowan County. After General Rutherford's returned from the Nation we raised a volunteer Company under Captain Moore the same fall or succeeding winter, and went against the Cherokees forming a junction with another Company from Rutherford County under the command of Captain McFadden, I will Company being raised in what is now called Burke County. The next expedition that I recollect of Colonel Carson serving in was one in which my Brother David, was along some time after the Expedition under Captain Moore, the year I do not at this time so well recollect. I recollect that Henry Hiland was out at the same time, I was not myself along but I know of these men going out Colonel Joseph McDowell of the Pleasant Gardens as well as recollected was out at the same time. Just before the close of the war and all Army under the Command of General Rutherford was marched to Wilmington in which Colonel Carson was a volunteer. But before we reached Wilmington and Express came to General Rutherford that the Indians had broke out, and killed John Davidson & his wife upon which

² [Jonathan McPeters S7195](#)

intelligence Colonel Carson was ordered back, – who took charge of some prisoners to see them safely conducted to Salisbury Jail – and then to raise a company of Rangers to watch & to hold the Indians in check. The said Carson living on the frontier was out in a number of ranging & scouting Expeditions to protect the Country against Indian invasion. There was a continued alarm of the Indians and every man was bound to be on the alert – Carson was always ready to assume in a position or contribute any service that he was capable of as the exigencies of the country might require.

...[attested]

S/ John Logan, JP

S/ Jonathan McPeters, X his mark

[fn p. 29]

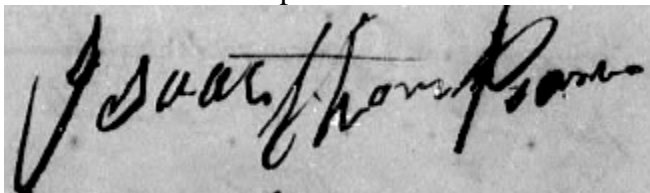
I Isaac Thomson³ of the County of Burke & State of North Carolina do hereby state the following as the services rendered by Colonel John Carson of the Pleasant Gardens in the County & State aforesaid as a volunteer Soldier during the Revolutionary war as far as we served together – being now of the age of 70 6I have none Colonel Carson shortly after his coming to the County of Burke. We served together in the Expedition to Cross Creek (now Fayetteville) in March 1776 the time we marched we volunteered to serve during the Expedition preferring that to being drafted. I was a private in Captain John Hardin's Company – Colonel Carson as well as I recollect was in Captain William Moore's company in what capacity, whether a commissioned officer or private I do not at this time recollect. This Expedition was organized to go against the Scotch. We marched to Cross Creek and the object of the expedition being answered we returned home – After our return from the Cross Creek Expedition I volunteered to serve in the forts of upon the Catawba to guard the Country against the Indians where I was stationed in those different forts from 6 to 9 months – Before being stationed in the Forts, the Indians broke out, killed & scalped several persons Captain Reuben White who had the command of some of the forts marched with his party & met the Indians at the mouth of the North fork of the Catawba River and there fought the battle of the Fork (as it is called) and where he bravely fell fighting. I arrived in time to see the close of the action and to see Captain White killed. During my being stationed in the forts (to wit) Catheys Fort, Davidson's or Upper Fort, and Warfford's Fort [Wofford's Fort] I frequently saw Colonel Carson performing the duties of a soldier but as well as I recollect in the Upper Fort he performed the most service –

The last tour of service I served with Colonel Carson was the Wilmington Expedition under the command of General Rutherford which has well as I recollect was in the year 1781 near the close of the war –

... [attested]

S/ R. C. Bearson, JP

S/ Isaac Thompson

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

[fn p. 40: affidavit dated February 19, 1853 from the North Carolina Comptroller showing payments made to a John Carson for military services during the revolution.]

³ [Isaac Thompson S7724](#)

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$85 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831 and ending March 7, 1846, for three months service as an Ensign and 21 months service as a private in the North Carolina Continental line.]