

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of William Vaughn: W2708

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia}
Grayson County} Ss.

On this 24th day of September 1832 personally appeared in open Court, before the Justices of the Court of Grayson County, now sitting, William Vaughn a resident of Grayson County, aged 71 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 of the United States, in the year before the battle of Guilford was fought [Battle of Guilford Courthouse, 15 March 1781], as a substitute for William Vaughn, the elder, and marched under a Capt from Hillsboro [sic: Hillsborough] in North Carolina, whose name was Phillip Webber of Goochland County, Virginia, and joined Gen'l. [Edward] Steven's division of militia at, or near the same place. He remained at Hillsboro some time, and then marched on through Guilford & Salisbury to Charlotte in North Carolina, and then marched down to the Pee dee river and took up winter quarters near the Cheraw Hills [in South Carolina]. He remained there until about the 8th day of Feby. of the year the battle of Guilford was fought, and then marched to old trading ford on the Yadkin river [several miles NE of Salisbury], where he & those with him came very nearly in contact with a part of Gen'l. Cornwallis's army, having crossed the river late in the evening [4 Feb 1781], and the enemy arriving there early in the same night. Preparation was immediately made to give battle to the enemy, but they did not cross the river at that time, because they were attacked the same night by [Gen. Daniel] Morgan and his men, who after some severe fighting retreated, or at least the guns ceased firing - on the next day he was, with those with him in a fight of the enemy, and kept up a pretty smart fire during the day across the Yadkin. The most of the firing was done by a party of Catawba Indians who were friendly. From here he was marched by the aforesaid Capt. Webber, back through Guilford County and on to Pittsylvania old Courthouse [in VA] and there discharged, the declarant does not now remember the precise time he was in the Service, but is very certain it was 6 months, and perhaps more. He recollects that Gen'l Green took the Command of the troops while at, or near Cheraw. [sic: Nathanael Greene took command from Horatio Gates on 2 Dec 1780 at Charlotte NC.] He recollects of a Majr Morris & Capt. Threadgill, who were officers in the same division of the army in which the declarant served. He recollects to have seen Gen'l Gates at Hillsboro, in North Carolina. Shortly ~~after~~ before [sic] the battle of Guilford the declarant was called into the militia service under Capt. Jeremiah Pate and marched through Salisbury & Charlotte to Ninety-Six, a place then so called in the State of South Carolina, where he was constantly engaged in fighting the enemy, for fifteen days and nights, with but little interruption. Gen'l Green Commanded the Americans at the time. [Col. Henry] Lee came with his Company and remained with the other army until the whole American force retreated. This was what is called the Siege of 96 [22 May - 19 June 1781]. He was then marched across broad river and taken out of his company for a tour[?] on guard, and went down upon the Wateree [River] near Camden. At this place his Capt. dismissed him, and all who was with him, but gave no written discharges. He had a written discharge for the first tour which is now lost. He served 3 months in the last tour, making his whole service 9 months. — He was born in Hanover County Virginia in the year 1760 and has the record of his age now in his possession. He lived in Bedford County Va. when he entered the United States Service, and has lived where he now does, in Grayson County Va., since the revolution. He was a substitute as aforesaid the first tour, and the second he served in a militia company called regularly into the service.

He has no documentary evidence of his services. he is known to John Fielder and Dennis Fielder contemporary survivors who can testify as to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier in the revolution.

Sworn, to and subscribed, the day & year aforesaid

[signed] W Vaughn

NOTE: On 27 Jan 1851 Elizabeth Vaughn, 73, applied for a pension stating that she married William Vaughn on 8 May 1794, and he died 22 March 1841. Her application includes a family record giving the date of birth of William Vaughn as 18 Nov 1760 and that of his widow, Betsy Fielder, daughter of John Fielder. Her date of birth is illegible, but a typed summary states that it was 17 Feb 1777. The family record also lists names and dates of their children.