

*Pension Application Papers of William Falls*

Transcribed by  
Debby McIntyre

State of North Carolina  
Iredell County

November Session 1832

On the 21<sup>st</sup> day of November 1832 personally appeared in the open court before a court of pleas and quarter sessions now sitting William Falls a resident of Iredell County, North Carolina, aged 69 years who being first 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 7<sup>th</sup> 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated: He first served in Cherokee Campaign under General Rutherford, **Col. Locke** in the company commanded by **Captain [Gilbreath] Falls**, his father, and **Lieut. Neill**. Was not old enough to be liable to draft but entered as a volunteer. His father went to Cathey's Fort on the Catawba River, was there six weeks and he returned with the wagons which could go no farther through the mountains – was then a resident of Rowan (now Iredell County) North Carolina in the summer of 1776. His next tour was three months, volunteer under **Capt. Falls** and **Lieutenant Sloan**, the company was stationed at Davidson's Fort on the Catawba River guarding the frontier settlements from Indian invasion which was in the spring of 1777 he thinks. Was next out in what was called Cross Creek Expedition, about Fayetteville against Tories, General Rutherford and Col. Postey (?); he thinks of Guilford, Commanded. Was a volunteer as before under his father **Capt. Falls**, during the fall of 1777 or 1778. Served six weeks and was then sent express with letters to Salisbury.

Was next on a scouting tour of three months through Lincoln and Rowan (now Iredell) on Catawba River, guarding the Fords on said river under **Captain Falls** and **Lieutenant Kerr**, and was in frequent tours of some kind afterwards, a few days at a time, dates not recollected.

Was next out about the time of Ramseur's Battle in June 1780. A week or so previous to it was a scout through Lincoln and when it was perceived that the Tories was embedded he road express to **General**

We certify that we have carefully examined the application of W. A. Hamrick for a pension under the provisions of an act entitled "An act for the relief of certain Confederate Soldiers, Sailors and Widows," ratified March 8, 1907, and the proofs filed in support thereof; that we are satisfied the said W. A. Hamrick is the identical person who enlisted in Company C, 15 Regiment of NC Troops, on or about the \_\_\_\_ day of August, 1863, and who was disabled in a manner and to the extent stated in the foregoing certificates of himself and physician in consequence of a wound received in battle on or about the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 186\_\_, and we certify the following allegations set forth in his application to be true, namely: That he is, and has been for twelve months immediately preceding this Application for Pension, a bona fide resident of North Carolina; that he holds no office under the United States, or under any State or county, from which he is receiving the sum of three hundred dollars as fees or as salary annually; that he is not worth in his own right, or the right of his wife, property at its assessed value for taxation to the amount of five hundred dollars (\$500), nor has he disposed of property of such value by gift or voluntary conveyance since the 11<sup>th</sup> day of March, 1885, and that he is not receiving aid from any other source from the State of North Carolina, and therefore his application is correct and just under the act.

(Seal) **F. L. Hoyle, CSC**

Approved:

**J. K. Wells, Chmm**

**J. W. Goforth**

**W. L. Gold**

County Pension Board

"Approved Fourth Class"

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Interview with **Lawrence Allen**, 605 East Graham Street, Shelby, NC 28150  
23 April 1989

**"Dolphus Hamrick** was a small man, size 4 shoes. He always tried to have his crops in by the 4<sup>th</sup> of July so he could celebrate. He would wear "Ship" pants and a white shirt. He was very high strung, once he hit his thumb with a hammer then threw the hammer as far as he could."

**Rutherford**, between Charlotte and Salisbury, who immediately detached **Capt. Falls** and **Lieutenant Byars** with their company which he joined as volunteer marched to Lincoln by Sherrills Ford on Catawba River to a camp on Mountain Creek went to Ramseur's under **Co. Locke** and **Major Rutherford** – was present in the Battle in which his father **Captain Falls** was killed. He then came home being in service about twenty days.

In the fall of 1780 was well as he recollects he again volunteered for three months – was selected with others to furnish the army with beef cattle under the direction of **James Kerr**, purchasing commissary. After this he was occasionally a guard on Catawba River under no regular command. On Cornwallis' appearance from South Carolina, proclamation was made that all who would furnish themselves with a horse and serve for six weeks might claim a service for three months on feet. He found a company under **Capt. Byars** and **Col. Davidson**, **Cpt. \_\_\_\_\_**, **Col. \_\_\_\_\_** and **Col. Perkins** – after Cornwallis crossed Catawba in February 1781 they followed on after his army to the vicinity of Hillsborough, North Carolina and found **Col. Lee** of the light horse near Harts Mills eight miles from Hillsborough. They captured a company of Tories under a British officer. **Tarleton** came out with 300 men from Hillsborough in pursuit of whom **Col. Lee** marched us and followed for 3 days. They came up with **Piles (?)** a Tory Colonel who was said to have 350 men in his detachment. That **Piles** under the belief that it was **Tarleton's** horse made no preparation to resist and in consequence the greater part of his men (265 it was said) was killed. We maneuvered in the neighborhood a few days during which there was a skirmish with a party of British Alamance. We shortly after joined General Greene and maneuvered with him until our time expired.

A short time before the battle of Guilford in April 1781 at other times frequently engaged in scouting parties but dates can't be recollected in addition to these services he was often called out for short periods of time in the service of his country that he honestly and conscientiously believes that he was at least 18 months in actual service.

He was born in the State of Pennsylvania in Chester County, on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of August 1793 as it is recorded in his Father's Bible, which is in his possession at home. He was but a few weeks old when his Father removed from the State of Pennsylvania to the State of North Carolina, Rowan County (now Iredell) where he has lived ever since. That he has no recollecting of ever having received any written discharge. He refers to **Joseph Sharp** and **George L. Davidson**. He has no documentary evidence

and that he knows of no other person at present whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his services except these attached hereto – He hereby relinquished 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.

Sworn and Subscribed the year and day  
aforesaid

**Wm Falls [Own Hand]**

Note in the list of deeds 1<sup>st</sup> January 1765 – **William and Mary McNeill to Gilbreath Falls** – 560 acres North Side Catawba River, Lamberts Mill Creek

**Joseph Sharpe and George L. Davidson** residing in the County of Iredell, State of North Carolina, do hereby certify that we are well acquainted with **William Falls** who has subscribed and sworn to the above declaration. What we believe him to be 69 years of age that he is respected and believed in the neighborhood where he resides to have been soldier of the revolution and that we concur with that opinion.

**Joseph Sharpe** further states that he saw **William Falls** in the service of the Country at Ramseur's Mill at the time of the Battle when his father fell and saw him afterwards in the service at the Alamance.

**Joseph Sharpe {Own Hand}**

**George L. Davidson** says that he know **William Falls** during and ever since the revolutionary war, that he has always understood and believed such is the universal belief and has been at all times that he was a soldier of the Revolution and was in the battle at Ramseur's Mill when his father was slain and the engagement with the Tories under Pile.

**George L. Davidson [Own Hand]**

**Gilbraith Neill** after being duly sworn according to law deposes and sayeth that during the Revolutionary War and ever since he has lived a close neighbor to **William Falls** who has signed the foregoing Declaration that he was with him in the Cherokee \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ in pursuit of Indians and that he saw him at the battle of Ramseur's Mill on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of June 1780...

ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA  
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY