

was filed on April 29, 1856 in Mecklenburg County and describes Evan's participation in the Revolution. Sumter's Brigade began when a British party of exiles from South Carolina fled into North Carolina as the British advanced. They chose Colonel Thomas Sumter (left) to be their leader and he took the field against the victorious British at a time when the inhabitants had generally abandoned the idea of independence. Often working with Francis Marion's men, Sumter's Brigade were woodsmen of the frontier upcountry. Neither North nor South Carolina was in a position to pay, clothe, or feed troops so Sumter's men furnished their own horses and brought along their own muskets and rifles. Often "iron tools of neighboring farms were worked up by blacksmiths into rude weapons ... bullets were made by melting pewter ... furnished by housekeepers." General Sumter was so daring and fearless he earned the nickname "The Gamecock."

Evan Shelby died in North Carolina about 1813. According to legends that have passed down through the John Springs family (another branch of Evan and Susan's descendants), Susan Shelby was left a widow, with a large family of children, who remembered hearing their mother tell of hardships and bitter experiences. She was often annoyed by Indians, Tories and British soldiers and often would go miles with her children to some place of safety, carrying the smaller children on her blind horse, "Old Ball." She never left North Carolina, and spent her last days with her daughter, Harriet.

Evan and Susannah Polk Shelby probably are buried at Poplar Tent Church Cemetery in Mecklenburg County.

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of Evan Shelby R9471

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

North Carolina }

Mecklenburg County }

On this 29th day of April 1856 personally appeared before the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions in and for the County and State aforesaid Dan Alexander a resident of Charlotte aged 75 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 provision made by the Acts of Congress passed June the 7th 1832, July 4th 1836, 7th July 1838, and all subsequent acts applicable to this case. That he is the son in law of Susanna Shelby, and also the Administrator in her estate, that the said Susanna was the widow and relict of Evan Shelby who was a soldier of the Revolutionary War, and served as the traditionary history of the County says throughout the whole or a greater part of said war, that he has heard many of the old soldiers say that Evan Shelby was a true Whig and did much service. That he served under Capt. Wm. Alexander as a light horseman one ten months tour in South Carolina commanded by Col Wm. Polk under Gen'l. Sumpter [sic: Thomas Sumter] that he was in the battle of Cowans Ford [on Catawba River in NC, 1 Feb 1781], the Battle of Guilford [Guilford Courthouse NC, 15 Mar 1781] and divers other battles both in North and South Carolina. He further declares that Susanna Shelby was married to Evan Shelby on the [blank space] 1776, or 1777, from the best information that can now be obtained there being no family record, and no marriage bond on file in the County Court Clerks office where such bonds are kept, But affiant is well satisfied from his own age compared with ages of Evan and Susanna Shelbys eldest children, that the said marriage must have taken place early in the Revolution, their eldest child if living would be several years older that affiant. That Evan Shelby died on or about the [blank] day of April 1825, leaving his widow Susanna Shelby surviving - who continued his widow until the [blank] day of June A.D. 1837, when she also died leaving affiants wife (since dead) and that Thomas Shelby, Harriet Alexander, Isabella Alexander, Sarah Alexander, Mary Alexander and Milton Shelby are the only surviving children of the aforesaid Evan and Susanna Shelby - all of which will more fully appear by reference to the proof accompanying this declaration

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year above written before us

[signed] Dan Alexander Administrator