

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Purnal Truitt R10723 DE NC VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 18 June 2015.

State of Georgia }
Wilkes County }

On this the 5th day of September 1832 personally appeared before the Justices of the Inferior court of the County aforesaid while sitting for Ordinary purposes Purnal Truitt a resident of said County and State aged Seventy five years the twenty sixth day of February last who 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 the 7th day of June 1832. That he enlisted in the Army of the United States in the year one thousand seven hundred & seventy eight on the first day of March in that year with Lieutenant George Purvis in the company commanded by Capt John Pattin [sic: John Patten] being the first Company of the Delaware regiment, which Regiment was commanded by Col David Hall and served under them during his term of service in the regular army. That his regiment joined General William Smallwood at Willmington [sic: Wilmington DE], with the Maryland division and afterwards joined General Washington at the valley forge and then marched with him to the battle of Monmouth [28 Jun 1778] and was detached during that engagement under Lieutenant Caleb Brown as a flanker and was then sent to the State of New York and at the White plains was detached off into a regiment of infantry commanded by Col Richard Parker [of Virginia] in the brigade commanded by General [Charles] Scott and that he was afterwards marched to the South and was at Gate's defeat [defeat of Gen. Horatio Gates at the Battle of Camden SC, 16 Aug 1780].

That at the time he entered the service he lived in Sussex county, State of Delaware, and that nearly the whole of his regiment officers & men having been taken prisoners & the regiment dispersed he went down & joined the malitia in Wilmington in North Carolina 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 any Agency in any State Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid

Purnal hisTmark Truitt

Department of War/ Pension Office/ June 8th 1833

Sir [Messrs. Andrews & Chandler, Washington No. Ca.]: The declaration of Purnal Truit has been exam'd. and is herewith returned, accompanied by a brief pointing out some of the objections to present admission of his claim.

In addition to the objections alluded to there seems to be one of greater magnitude than all the others put together, and without its being satisfactorily explained must prove fatal to his claim. I allude to the minutes upone the "muster rolls of one of the companies of Col. William's Reg't. serving in the Southern army during the revolution, dated Hillsboro' N.C. Sept 1780" from which it appears that a person of the name of "Purnal Truit" belonged to that Reg't. and that he was "missing in action 16 Sept 1780"

It also appears that he, the said Purnal Truitt, had enlisted for three years, and if the applicant be the same, his service could not have expired until March 181. To rebut the conclusion that the applicant deserted, it will require the concurrent testimony of several witnesses, of the first standing as to character and credibility. I am, very respectfully/ yr. Obd't. Serv't./ J. L. Edwards

State of Georgia }
County of Wilkes }

on this seventh day of July eighteen hundred and thirty four (1834) personally appeared in open court before the justices of the Inferior court in & for said county now sitting for Ordinary purposes

Purnell Truitt a resident of said county of Wilkes and State of Georgia aged seventy seven years the twenty sixth day of last February, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following addition declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress, passed June 7th 1832 for the purpose of explaining the manner of his leaving the service, after he had served under his enlistment for during the war upwards of two years, to wit, from the first day of March seventeen hundred and seventy eight until the 16th day of August seventeen hundred & eighty

That at Gates defeat the regiment to which he was attached was nearly all taken prisoners or killed that being in a very destitute situation particularly for the want of clothing he repaired to some of his relations in Ongelo [sic: Onslow] county North Carolina That soon after he had arrived at his relations the enemy took possession of Willmington in North Carolina, when every man that could bear arms in the neighbourhood was ordered out, into service, when this applicant joined the light horse, in a regiment commanded by Col. [Henry] Young, of Hanover county, North Carolina in the company commanded by Stephen Shackelford. that he served in this regiment of horse for three months, when he was discharged, in Ongelo county by Capt Shackelford in writing, which written discharge he left in North Carolina. That while in this regiment of horse his service was performed in the neighbourhood of Willmington in the counties of Ongelo & Hanover. That immediately after his discharge from the Horse, he volunteered in a company made up for the purpose of guarding a little vilage, (Swansborough [Swansboro]) in the neighbourhood of Willmington, in Ongelo county, on the sea coast. That in this last service he was in a company commanded by Capt Hull Jones, which was the only company stationed at Swansborough. that he served in this company for three months and was discharged by Captain Jones in writing which has also been left in North Carolina. That he continued in the two above named counties for the ballance of the war and was ordered out on various short tours.

Applicant says further that after the dispersion of his regiment at Gates defeat he never knew of it again having been collected [see endnote]

Purnell hisTmark Truitt

NOTE: After the Battle of Camden the remnants of the Delaware Regiment became two companies within the Maryland Continental Line. One company was commanded by Capt. Robert Kirkwood (BLWt1102-300) and the other by Peter Jaquett (S46500). A note in the file indicates that Truitt's application was rejected because he "was a deserter."