

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of David Walker R11047

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

The State of Ohio Highland County SS:

On this Third day of March AD 1834 personally came before the subscriber an associate judge of the Court of Common Pleas of said County David Walker a resident of said County aged seventy three 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 under the following named officers & served as herein stated

That he was born on the 17th day of October AD 1760 in the County of Chester & state of Pennsylvania—

That he has in his possession a record of his age—

That he was living when called into service in Salisbury Iredell [sic: Rowan] County North Carolina — Since the said war he has resided in Pennsylvania - Virginia - Maryland & Highland County Ohio where he now lives

That he entered the service of the United States as a volunteer —

That while he was in the service he knew Generals [Nathanael] Greene, [Horatio] Gates, Sumpter [sic: Thomas Sumter], Lee, LaFayette & Washington Colonel [Henry] Lee and other officers of the army. In the month of November [sic] AD 1780 a part of the American army in passing through North Carolina pressed my horse into the service & at the same time I was offered the commission of a first Lieutenant if I would join the army - and I entered the company of militia Light horsemen commanded by Captain Ervin in the same month as a volunteer & some time in the last of the month of November 1780 I received the Commission of a first Lieutenant in said company. I was in the regiment commanded by Colonel _____ White Soon after I joined said company we marched from Salisbury towards South Carolina. We had a skirmish with the British at a place called Rugeley's mills [apparently the Battle of Camden, 16 Aug 1780] after which we marched back to Salisbury — General Gates had the command of the Southern army at that time. We remained near Salisbury North Carolina until the spring of 1781 when we joined General Greene's army at Guilford Court house & were engaged in the battle there [15 Mar 1781]. After the battle we marched to the Iron works on troublesome creek where we remained a short time & then marched to South Carolina. We remained in South & North Carolina for some time marching from place to place until about the month of August of the year 1781 when we marched toward the State of Virginia & in October of the same year joined the American Army before Yorktown where the British General Cornwallis was besieged [28 Sep - 19 Oct] I was in the battle & siege of Yorktown until the British surrendered when I was honourably discharged at said Yorktown by Colonel White & returned home.

I am unable from bodily infirmity to go to Hillsboro to make my declaration when the Courts of record for said county are held.

I received my commission as first Lieutenant as above stated about the 27th or 28th of November 1780 which was signed by William Stewart. I do not recollect what other signatures were attached to it. In the year 1810 I left my Commission & other documents showing my service in the revolutionary war at the War office of the United States in Washington City with the design of getting a pension & have never since heard of them. John Jones, Thomas Eaglin & others are persons residing in my neighborhood who will testify as to my general character & as their belief of my services as a soldier of the Revolution. No clergyman in his neighborhood

This applicant states that he served as a first Lieutenant in the Revolutionary war not less than eleven months That he has no documentary evidence nor does he know of any living witness by whom he could prove his service in said war.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity but the present & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state

[signed] David Walker Sr

NOTE: William Walker, son of David Walker, Sr., deposed that he had frequently seen his father's commission and discharge papers. On 13 Sep 1846 Lydia Walker, 82, applied for a pension stating that she believed her deceased husband, David Walker, served as many as three tours of three months each under "Capt Pulaskey & Col White," that she married him on 15 Oct 1785 in Bedford County VA, and he died 6 Apr 1842. On 23 Apr 1852 she reapplied, giving her age as around 90 and her residence as Dodson Township in Highland County OH, and stating that her late husband had lived in Lancaster County VA at the time of his service and was in "the Virginia troops of Light horse." She further stated that "she was married to the said David Walker sometime in the year 1790 (the family record being lost she cannot recollect the month) and that they had ten children, seven now living, the oldest named James Walker was born in the latter part of the year 1790 or first of 1791 and is now dead, the second Sarah Walker who married Asheley Johnson was born in the year 1795, the third William Walker was born on the 11 day of April 1797 and the balance of her living children are Jesse Walker, David Walker, John Walker, Elias Walker, and Catherine Walker that her husband the aforesaid David Walker died on the 9th day of April 1842." This application was supported by a deposition by sons William Walker, 55, and John Walker, 44, who stated that the family record had been taken by their brother James when he moved to the northeastern part of Ohio, where he died. On 4 Apr 1856 David and Elias Walker assigned power of attorney to pursue their late mother's application for a pension.