

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Nathan Briggs R1204

Mary

fn13NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

10/5/10

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State of Tennessee Smith County

On this date to wit the 4th of October 1837 personally appeared Mary Briggs before me Exum Whitley one of the acting Justices of the Peace in and for said County who being first duly sworn according to law doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions made by the act of Congress passed July the 4th 1836. That she is about seventy-six years of age at this time. That she is the widow of Nathan Briggs who was a Private in the Army of the Revolution and served at different tours as well as she can recollect about two years in the militia and volunteers of North Carolina he then enlisted for three years and the light horse troop his Captain's name was Le.D.Kezer [possibly, Lehancius De Keyser]. It was during this tour of service that they were at a Fort on the Altamaha River and the soldiers were constructing some part of the fortification and he and another soldier were unloading a wagon of timber for the Fort and a few fell on his leg and it shattered it that a great part of the bones came out. So soon as he could travel he came home on a furlough and when he thought he was well enough to join the Regiment he got still permission to stay another month during which time this applicant and the said Nathan Briggs were married. They were married by Squire Fray, a Justice of the peace. She further declares that she was married to the said Nathan Briggs on the last day of September 1778 and that her husband the aforesaid Nathan Briggs died on the 19th day of February 1822 and that she has remained a widow ever since that Period as will more fully appear by reference to the proof hereto annexed. She further declares that through old age and bodily infirmity she cannot travel to the Courthouse in order to make this declaration in open court. She further states that her husband's discharge were burnt in their house which was destroyed by fire shortly after his return from the Army. She further states that she has no documentary testimony in support of her claim and that through old age and loss of memory she cannot state the particulars of his services but must rely upon other proof. She further states that her husband joined the Army afterwards and served out until discharged which took place after their marriage and That she is now a resident of the County of Smith aforesaid.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 4th of October 1837.

S/ Exum Whitley, JP

S/ Mary Briggs, X her mark

[fn p. 7: On September 4, 1839 in Smith County Tennessee, Susannah Scrivener, about 95, gave

testimony that she was married on the same day that Polly Briggs and Nathan Briggs were married in 1778; the precise day or month she does not recollect; that her firstborn child was born about the year after her marriage; that Polly and Nathan were married in Salisbury North Carolina.] [fn p. 8: On September 7, 1838 in Smith County Tennessee, Mary Scrivener gave testimony that she was well acquainted with Mary Briggs the widow of Nathan Briggs; that they were married on the last day of September 1778 and Salisbury North Carolina at the house of John Lake little after 12 o'clock; that they rode 16 miles to the County town – Salisbury to get married. "This affiant's husband was then stationed at Salisbury and the Americans that is our men had taken twenty-five Tories. She saw them in jail they were beseeching the ladies to use their endeavors to get them out. Most of them enlisted out of the Jail and joined the Americans afterwards this was in the most troublesome times which makes her recollect it more particularly. Nathan Briggs had been two years in the service previous to that time and he in a short time went out again and received a wound in the leg which always afterwards made him a cripple."]