

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Abraham Carter R1739

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 26 July 2012.

State of N. Carolina } On this the 6th day of July 1850, personally appeared before me the
County of Yancey } undersigned an acting Justice in the County and State above named,
Abraham Carter a resident of Big Ivy in the County of Yancey and State of North Carolina, aged
ninety-eight 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 the 7 1832: That he entered
the Service of the United States, as a volunteer (The applicant is not certain whether he was properly a
volunteer, as he entered the service under the following regulation, viz. When General Washington was
preparing for the investment of Yorktown, Va, he sent a request or demand to the county of Buckingham
and from others, to send him, a company from each county to consist of the single or unmarried men; that
if they did not turn out of their own will for this that he (Washington) should have to compel or press a
sufficiency for his use, from this circumstance he (Carter) thought he and his comrades was volunteers)
on or about the first day of August in the year AD one thousand seven hundred and eighty one, in a
company of Virginia State Infantry commanded by one Peter Gearhan or Geeron from the county of
Buckingham, and state as above mentioned; and that the time for which he enered was for 6 months, that
at the time of his entering said service he was a citizen of Buckingham County near Maysville [now called
Buckingham] and state of Virginia. And further that he entered said service as a private, and he was not
promoted to a higher rank while in said service, but served out the entire time of his engagement in the
aforementioned capacity. He also says on his oath that the aforementioned companies were when
assembled placed under the command of Colonel William Anderson, but that each company was
commanded alone by its captain untill their arrival at Yorktown, at which place they first began to receive
orders from said Colonel Anderson. From Maysville the Ch [courthouse] of Buckingham he says the
company to which he belonged began their march toward the site of war (which at that time was at
Yorktown; passing (as well as his memory serves) through Cumberland county, thence into Chesterfield,
crossing James River, and thence into the county of Charles City (and probibly into the lower edge of
Henrico, but is not certain), then into New Kent, and from there to Yorktown, where the aforementioned
Colonel William Anderson took the immediate command of all the late arrived forces. As to the general
or field officers who held command over his Colonel he does not know their names, but says that to the
best of his recollection, that he and his colonel (who acted as a private) was one night under the
immediate command of the Frenchman Layfayette [sic: Lafayette], but says that Washington was the only
head commander of which he had any knowledge. He also says that in this night engagement he received
a wound in the left arm, but was not entirely disabled from doing duty. But on the 19th day of October in
the year 1781 [sic: on the day Cornwallis surrendered] he alledges that he received another wound in the
right thigh which entirely disabled him from duty, and after the battle had finally ceased he says that a
friend carried him to a place in the camps where he obtained Medical aid. He further says that from this
wound he was confined to his bed for about four months after the termination of said Battle of York
Town; and that by assistance of friends he was gotten in at a private house, and there remained until
about the first of February in the year 1782 when he became able to make his way home: That he arrived
back again at his father's residence in Buckingham County on the 15th or 16th of February in said year
1782, or thereabouts And there he then made application for his pay and was payed for seven months
wages in Continental money: also that his Col, William Anderson sent him a discharge, which is now lost
or mislaid and has been for many years. And further more, the declarant deposes on his oath, that he has
been a cripple from and on account of the aforementioned wounds from the time of receiving down to
the present time: and that he is now entirely disabled to getting about his own house. He further declares

that he has never before made any application for a pension on account of his services in the Revolutionary War, and that he has no claim for a pension in this or any other state, neither on that of the United States, therefore he has none to relinquish: but he does not relinquish the present.

Signed Abraham his mark Carter

Sworn to and subscribed before me the said Justice day and year above mentioned.

M Harris Justice

State of N Carolina } I, an acting Justice in the County and State heretofore mentioned, do hereby
County of Yancey } certify that Abraham Carter who has made and duly signed the foregoing
declaration is from bodily infirmity incapable of attending on any of our courts, and has been for many
years (about twenty), I also state that he is a highly respected citizen in this county, and I am firmly of the
opinion that he was a revolutionary soldier, and that he served in the Company and Regiment mentioned
in the declaration. I further certify that I believe him to be ninety eight years of age, and the neighborhood
is generally of opinion that he was a revolutionary soldier: nothing ever being to the contrary that I know
of – In testimony of which I have here unto set my hand and seal on this the 16th day of July 1850

M Harris Justice

State of N Carolina }

County of Yancy }

On this the 10th day of July in the year 1850, personally appeared before me the undersigned an acting Justice in and for the County and State above mentioned, William Ledford Sen who being first duly sworn according to law says on his oath; That he has been well acquainted with Abraham Carter ever since he (Ledford) was a boy, and that he was personally knowing to his entering the service of the United States during the war of the Revolution from the County of Buckingham and State of Virginia. That the said Abraham Carter volunteered for six months in one Captain Gearhand Company, but the name of the Colonel he does not know as they had no Colonel until the should arrive at York Town but says that he was told his name was Anderson; that the said Carter was a stout young man when he entered the service, and that he came home a cripple having received a wound in one of his thighs which has rendered him quit a lame man ever since. He further states that he does not know that the said Abraham Carter did recive this wound in the battle of York Town, but speaks from the authority of Carter himself and many more of the men who were with him, and belonging to the same company. He further states that the aforementioned Carter entered the service in the year 1781 but the month he does not recollect, and that he returned home in the year 1782, being gone as well as he can recollect over six months.

William hisXmark Ledford

NOTES:

On 10 July 1850 Stephen Carter stated that he was 14 when Abraham Carter returned from the service, that he had been personally acquainted with Capt. Gearhand, saw Col. Anderson give Abraham Carter a discharge for seven months service, that Gearhand and Anderson had spoken to him about Abraham Carter's service, and that Abraham Carter "has been all his life from the time he was wounded an invalid, and a great portion of his time not able to set up in a chair."

Carter's claim was rejected because it was filed so late, and there were no direct witnesses to his service, and he actively served for a few days less than the minimum of six months. In addition, there is no record of the officers named.

A letter from Carter's agent, John B. Woodfin, to the Pension Commissioner, dated 3 Feb 1851, states that Carter was then "on the County, having no one to assist him or do for him," and that "[t]here is not a man in Carolina who can gave a better character than can Mr Carter."