

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Richard Drewry R3085 Jemima Drewry VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

State of Tennessee }
Gibson County } SS.

On this 9th day of March A.D. 1843 personally appeared in open County and State, now sitting, Richard Drewry a citizen of the County of Weakly in said state aged eighty years on the 8th of September last 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 and served as herein after stated. He entered the service as a Malitia man soon after he arrived at the age of sixteen in the County of Southampton, Virginia, under Captain — Mitchel [Mitchell] in the year 1778 and served to the best of his remembrance an eight weeks tour. From the great lapse of time and the decay of memory he is unable to state the month or the day of the month on which his service commenced or closed, but he believes his first tour Commenced in '78 and ended in '79. In this tour he belonged to a regiment Commanded by Col. John Book Wells, and Maj. Wells perhaps a brother to the Colonel was second in command. During this tour he was marched down to the County of Nancemond [sic: Nansemond] or Isle of Wight, he cannot recollect which and stationed for some time at a place called Mead's Mill near the town of Suffolk. While at this place they were reinforced by a regiment of riflemen from Western Virginia, commanded by Col. [Alexander] Dick; and he well remembers that while they were there something like a mutiny took place in this regiment. The men asserted that their term of service had expired, and declared their determination to leave and return home at all hazards, but through the influence of the officers it was quelled and they were induced to remain until they were relieved by other troops from the same section of Country from which the came. From Mead's Mill they were marched down below Suffolk to a place called Jerico [sic: Jericho], where they remained for a considerable time during which the weather was exceedingly cold.

His second tour of service he believes was in the Summer of 1779 or 80, but he cannot be certain which, nor in what month it commenced or ended, he can only state positively it was in the summer, and that it must have been during one of the years above named, and continued about six weeks This part of his service was in a company of Malitia commanded by Capt. Arthur Boykin, which was attached to a regiment under the command of Col. Benjamin Blount of Southampton County Virginia. They marched down to Blackwater Bridge, where the road crossed from Southampton Courthouse to Norfolk at which place they were stationed for a considerable length of time and were frequently sent out in small detachments in various directions to annoy and hold in check the British foraging parties.

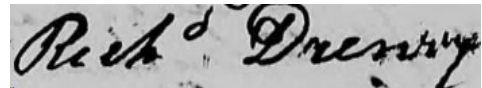
He states that his third tour of duty must have commenced he feels confident in the fall of 1781 near the close of the war. this period of his service was under the command of Capt. Howel Myrack, whose company belonged to a rigement commanded by Col. [James] Lawrence, to the best of his recollection. He is by no means so certain as to the names of the last mentioned officers as he is in regard to those under whom he first served. He cannot possibly remember precisely in what month or on what day of the month this tour commenced or terminated, or how long it continued, but he believes it continued from six to eight weeks they were marched down to Surry Old Court house where they were stationed for some time. From thence they were marched over to Williamsburg, crossing James River at Jamestown called "Old Jamestown." At Williamsburg he saw General Washington and he believes he waw LaFayette also, but of this he is not so positive. He remembers distinctly that there was at that place a fine band of French musicians. The troops remained at Williamsburg but a short time, and from thence were marched to Yorktown. He aided for some time in erecting the works preparatory to the Siege of that place and could relate some striking incidents which occured there if he deemed it necessary, but he did not remain there until the surrender of Lord Cornwallis [19 Oct 1781]. Unfortunately a few days before

that glorious event which it would have afforded him so much pleasure to have witnessed, he had an attack of the ague and fever which rendered him unable to perform his duties and and older brother having learned his situation came down and took his place. Being thus relieved he returned home leaving his brother to share the honors of that memorable triumph. He remembers that among the troops at Yorktown during his stay there was a troop called the "black company" or "black regiment," composed of colored people.

He further states that he has no documentary evidence, and that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his services.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity, except the present and declares that his name is not on the Pension roll of the Agency of any state, District or Teretory in this Union.

He deems it proper to state further that he makes this application before the Court of Gibson and not in the County of Weakly where he resides, because the place of his residence for the last sixteen years was until recently in the County of Gibson, and was cut off and annexed to Weakly and the greater number of his old acquaintances and friends who have known him longest and best and on whom he relies to prove his character for veracity and entegrity, reside in Gibson County.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Rich^d Drewry". The ink is dark and the handwriting is somewhat slanted and fluid.

Answers to the several interrogatories propounded to the applicant by the Court as prescribed by the War Department (viz:)

Answer to Interrogatory No. 1. I was born September 8th 1762.

Answer to No. 2. The record of my age is lost. It was kept in an old prayer-book owned by my mother for many years, but what became of it I do not know.

Answer to No. 3. [When he entered service was living] In Southampton County Virginia. After the close of the war I resided in the counties of Southampton and Sussex[?] in the state of Virginia until the year 1799, when I removed to Tennessee. For sixteen years past I have resided where I now do. It was in the County of Gibson in this state until by a recent act of our Legislature it was cut off from Gibson and attached to the County of Weakly.

Answer to No. 4. The malitia at the time I was called into service were laid off in the County into sections or divisions and were called out as occasion required by turns or in rotation. When I arrived at the age of sixteen years I was enrolled, and drew for the division to which I should belong. If my memory serves me I fell into lot No. 8.

Answer to No. 5. I do not remember that I saw any Regular officers or served with any Continental troops until I was marched to Williamsburg, where I saw General Washington and other officers whose names I cannot state. I remember distinctly that while I was at a place called Mead's mill we were reinforced by a regiment of Mountain riflemen as they were called; whether they were regulars Continental soldiers of militia I cannot state positively, but presume they must have been militia from the circumstance of a mutiny in that corpsse to which I have refered in my declaration.

Answer to No. 6. I received no regular discharge but I received certificates from my several commanding officers, of services which I kept until provision was made that these certificates of service and all such should be received in payment of taxes. I then disposed of them to persons who had taxes to pay. I believe at that time I had none or very little of my own to pay

Answer to No. 7. I am acquainted with Mr. [Adam] Huntsman, Mr. Crockett, Mr. Woodfin, Doctor Hess Mr. Fite and many other persons whom I might name if it were necessary

NOTE:

Richard Drewry's claim was denied because he did not claim to have served the minimum time of six months. On 10 July 1854 John J. Drewry of Dresden TN, grandson of Richard Drewry, enquired whether the latter's widow would be entitled to a pension.

On 10 April 1855 Jemima Drewry, 84, applied for bounty land stating that as Jemima Adams she was married by Rev. James Whitsett in Davidson County TN on 22 April 1819 to Richard Drewry, who died on 12 Sep 1850. The file includes a record of the marriage copied from an original in the handwriting of Richard Drewry, which states that Jemima Adams was in her 48th year of age and the widow of Benjamin Adams. The application was witnessed by John J. Drewry and Thomas E. Moseley.

On 14 Jan 1858 James M. Drewry of Poland Springs in Weakly County enquired if Jemima Drewry ever received a pension.