

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of John B. Mitchell R7276

PA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

Department of War/ P.O [Pension Office]/ 28 October 1833

Sir [Jn B Oneal Esq/ Newbury Court House/ So Ca] The claim of Jas [sic] B. Mitchell has agan been examind, and as he has been unable to produce any proof of his service, and as his name does not appear upon the rolls, the presumption is against the justness of his claim; it is therefore suspended and his papers placed upon the files of this Office I am &

Depart't of War/ Pension Office/ Dec'r 8 1835

Sir [Hon Jno K Griffin/ Ho Rep] I have carefully examined the papers of Jno B Mitchell of So. Ca. who claims a pension for services during the war of the revolution, I find that the facts stated by him are such as will entirely exclude him from the provisions of the pension law.

He states that he enlisted at an early period of the war; was made a prisoner at the Battle of Staten Island [22 Aug 1777]; confind for two months on board of a prison ship at NY; was taken out and went [undeciphered word] Savannah with Maj Monterieff [sic: British Maj. James Moncrieff] in the capacity of a waiter, and after having thus remained with the enemy for three or four years, came and join'd the american troops, but such being his condition from wounds rec'd at the battle above mentiond, that he was unable to do and did not do any further service.

Mr. Mitchell claims an allowance for the time during which he was or he says held as a prisoner and waiter. A claim of this kind cannot be recognized, for the moment he entered into the service voluntarily of the enemy, he forfeited all claims upon the government, and became in fact a British subject. The claim is rejected & the papers placed on file in this office

State of South Carolina } To the Honourable the Senate & House of Representatives of South  
Edgefield District } Carolina your humble petitioner would show unto your Honorable Body that he was a soldier in the Revolutionary war. He enlisted in Philadelphia in March 1777 under Captain Stewart, joined the main Army under Washinton [sic: Washington] at Middlebrook N. Jersey in June following, was in several small skirmishes untill the August following, when under Gen'l. [John] Sullivan I was in the engagement at Staten Island and wounded by a cannon ball taking the flesh to the bone on the inside of my right leg below the knee in which condition unable to walk or stand I was taken prisoner by the British conveyed to N. York in a boat and then confined in a vessell for 5 or 6 weeks at anchor in sight of N. York, receiving barbarous treatment & short allowance upon the meanest food, I was then sent to St Johns Florida which place I remained untill April 1778, I was then carried to Savannah and unable to do anything & was under the British at the seige of Count DEstang [sic: Count d'Estaing, siege of Savannah GA, 24 Sep - 19 Oct 1779]. I was compelled to continue with the British in different routes until I reached Cambridge S.C. All the time I was with them I was unable to do any service fater than I was compelled at times to take charge of the Baggage train I was generally riding scarce able to walk any in consequence of the wounds received at Staten Island At Cambridge I had the good fortune to be again taken prisoner by one Col Smith of the American Army who carried me to Gen'l. Green who was at that time at (96 or) Cambridge [sic: Nathanael Greene, probably during the siege of Ninety Six, 22 May - 19 Jun 1781] General Green when he saw my situation being unable to render futher service to the Army gave me an unlimited furlough and an order upon every Commissary store from Cambridge to Philadelphia for provisions on my journey I travelled with a detachment of Greens army from Cambridge to Mecklenburgh [sic: Mecklenburg] N. Carolina. I should have unable to travelled that distance had it not been for the kindness of the detachment who provided me with a horse to ride a greater part of the way. When I arrived at Mecklenburgh I was unable to travel any futher & for a support commenced teaching school which occupation I have followed ever since as long as I was able, living since that time most of

my time in South Carolina, living about 9 years in N. Carolina. Your petitioner would therefore pray your Honorable Body to take into consideration one whose blood freely run in the defence of his Country, who did all in his power towards the achievement of that liberty which it is your happy lot to enjoy – who now is worn down by old age, a care upon his relations and friends, and grant him such Compensation as you in your wisdom think best, that his last days may be spent in happiness, & that he may feel the assurance that his Country has not forgotten how to appreciate the services of the fathers & defenders of the Country and as in duty bound your petitioner will ever pray. Edgefield District South Carolina November 24 1841  
(signed) Jno. B. Mitchell

I certify that the signature on the right side of this paper was written by Jno B Mitchell who was formerly a good Scribe but, now his hand is so unsteady & sight so bad that he can scarcely write at all

(signed) John Huiet

[The petition was followed by a testimonial, stating among other things, that Mitchell was “for forty years a preacher of the gospel of the Methodist denomination.”]

South Carolina }  
Edgefield District }

I Henry T Wright, Judge of the Court of Ordinary for the district and state aforesaid do hereby certify, that I have satisfactory evidence – viz, the statement of Isaac Riley a resident of the district of Edgefield and state of South Carolina, that the record found in a blank leaf of an old key to Pikes Practical Arithmetic, in the following words, is in the hand writing of John B Mitchell Deceased, who was a soldier in the war of the American Revolution, and who received a Pension from the state of South Carolina for his military service in the War aforesaid, which said book is now in the possession of Sarah Riley, the daughter of the identical John B Mitchell aforesaid. The said writing found in said book is as follows, to wit “John B Mitchell was born the 22<sup>d</sup> January 1759 in the City of Bristol in Britain, came into America the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 1772 arrived in the City of Philadelphia. Entered himself a volunteer in the American Army 1776. discharged the 3<sup>d</sup> of June 1781. married 1782. Commenced teaching school 1781 Sep’r in North Carolina in Mecklinburg County – taught 8 years. 1789 removed to Newberry taught until 1816 then removed to Edgefield taught to the present June 25 1819” I am satisfied that the said writing of which the above is a correct transcript, is in the handwriting of the said John B Mitchell from the following facts. The said Isaac Riley is a highly respectable citizen of the district and state aforesaid, aged more than sixty years; that he knew the said John B Mitchell from his early youth and went to school to him for several years, that he knew him intimately from childhood to the time he the said John B. Mitchell died; that he lived in the same neighborhood with him for many years, and had frequent business transactions with him, and often saw him write and was well acquainted with his handwriting; and that he knows the record of which the above is a transcript to be in the handwriting of the identical John B. Mitchell aforesaid; and I further certify that the said Isaac Riley is well known personally to me; that he is a man of unquestionable veracity and integrity, and that his statement is in every way entitled to full faith and credit

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal as Judge of the Court of Ordinary for the said district this Tenth day of Febr’y 1855 Henry T Wright/ Ordinary

Pension Office/ 8<sup>th</sup> march 1855.

Sir [A. Perrin Esqr./ Edgefield C.H./ S.C.], The additional evidence in the case of John B. Mitchell dec’d of South Carolina, has been received.

In my letter of 25<sup>th</sup> Nov’r 1853, Mr. M. Thompson who then acted as agent in the case, was called upon; to return to this Office, the Original application of Mitchell, but he has never done so. It appears that the claim was rejected, because Mitchell, after his imprisonment performed the service of a waiter in the British Army, to an English Officer. His original application should be produced, so as to afford this Office an opportunity of ascertaining what his claims are, and whether they are corroborated by any record in this bureau.

NOTES:

On 7 Oct 1852 and on 7 Feb 1855 Sarah Riley of Edgefield District SC assigned powers of attorney to pursue the claim for a pension as the only heir of John B. Mitchell. On 24 June 1855 Isaac Riley, Sr., 63, stated that he first became acquainted with John B. Mitchell in 1797 when he was a student of Mitchell for about two years in Newberry District SC. His statement was witnessed by John B. Riley.

On 3 Sep 1853 William Riley, about 70, of Edgefield District, stated that he attended school under John B. Mitchell beginning about 1795 and had “seen the written discharge of said John B. Mitchell, and has seen and heard him read letters from those with whom he served, and with whom he was imprisoned, referring to and speaking of their companionship.”

A 10 Oct 1853 letter from the Pension Office reads in part, “The claim of John B. Mitchell, dec’d, for a pension under the act of June 7, 1832, was rejected in 1835; and it cannot now be admitted, for the reason, if for no other that there is no proof, whatever, that he rendered the service alleged.”