

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Richard Wyatt Oates R7764

Elizabeth

fn32NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

10/23/10

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. Folks are free to make non-commercial use this transcript in any manner they may see fit, but please extend the courtesy of acknowledging the transcriber—besides, if it turns out the transcript contains mistakes, the resulting embarrassment will fall on the transcriber. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading fails to catch all misinterpretations. I welcome and encourage folks to call those and any other errors to my attention.]

State of Georgia County of Sumter: SS

On this fourth day of November 1844, personally appeared in open Court, before the Inferior Court of said County now sitting for ordinary purposes, Richard, Wyatt, Oates, for the most part known, called & designated by the name of Wyatt Oates, resident in said County & State, aged eighty-two, & more as he has good reason to believe, 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 7th of June 1832.

That, he was a penniless orphan, born in the County of Wayne in the State of North Carolina, as he has good reason to believe, in July 1758, & that his real age was designedly kept a secret from him, by the men into whose hands he fell in childhood, & that this man concealed his age, that he might reap the benefit of a protracted period of servitude, as unjust as it was rigorous. Applicant remembers to this day, that he was willing & thought himself abundantly able to bear arms in the American Army against the British, long before his task-master would admit that he was of competent age to perform military duty; but that according to the man's statements which prevailed at the time, & to which he had to submit in the absence of positive proof to the contrary, applicant was born in the County & State last aforesaid, on the 26th day of July 1762 – That he has not & never had any record of his age, except what he made himself upon the authority of interested strangers. That, he lived in his native County when he volunteered as a militia man in the war of the revolution on the side of liberty against the British oppression – that he continued to live there three or four years after the war – that he removed thence to Hancock County Georgia where he resided thirteen years – thence to Clark County Georgia where he resided thirty-four years – thence to Coweta County Georgia where he resided one year – thence to Harris County Georgia where he resided four years & from Harris he removed in 1835 to Sumter County the place of his present residence.

About the first of January 1781, he volunteered in the militia of North Carolina for a three months tour of service which with one exception he faithfully performed & from which he was regularly discharged by his Captain. He has been fortunate enough to keep his discharge¹ which is here with exhibited to the Court, & which he asked to be taken & considered as part of

¹ I did not see the referenced discharge in this file. It is possible that the veteran only showed his discharge to the court and did not forward it to the War Department.

his declaration. Colonel Reed commanded the Regiment to which he was attached, & Captain Robinson the Company. General Greene was at that time Commander of the Southern Army. Applicant was at the beginning of the battle of Guilford, but he & other militiamen, with astonishing unanimity, thought it advisable to leave before the fight had made much progress, & did so, with an impetuosity as eager, as it was contemptible. After this, our nerves became steady, other counsels prevailed, & though we never had a regular built fight we did nothing to avoid one. From Guilford we scoured the Country about Troublesome Iron works, Haw River, Ramsey Mills & Camden – the three months expired while we were at ^{Little} Lynches Creek where applicant received the discharge above mentioned.

He did not stay at home three days before he volunteered again for another tour of three months. The Country was so full of Tories & their villainies became so daring, that he could not consent to stay at home & tamely listen to the frightful accounts of their ravages which were constantly grating on his ears. He enlisted this time under the command of Captain John Grantham. The name of the first Lieutenant was Jernigan. The operations of this tour were principally confined to North Carolina, & much was done in the neighborhood of Drowning Creek. The chief business of the tour was to pursue, capture and hanging the Tories. On one occasion during the term of this last engagement of Whigs did one captured Tory the honor to shoot instead of hang him. One Nathan Grantham was along at the time this was done, & is applicant had known he was entitled to the benefit of the Act of 1832, a few years ago, he could have procured the testimony of this gentleman in support of his claim for this tour of services, but he now learns, with pain, that he is dead, & applicant does not know of a single living witness by whom any of his revolutionary services can be positively proven: He served out the three months fully & faithfully, but thinks he never got a written discharge. He cannot at this late period of time state the precise date upon which he entered upon or in bed these two tours of duty; but he can safely state that both were fully served out, in the manner mentioned, & he can state further, that after these tours were fully completed & ended, amounting together to a service of six months, under a regular organization he served irregularly in scouting parties against the Tories as long as there disturbances continued, & in fact, up to 1783, when times became quiet. He refers the court to all his neighbors present to testify to their opinion of his character for truth & veracity. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity – except the present, & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state in the Union.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ Rd. W. Oates

A photograph of a handwritten signature in cursive script. The signature appears to read "R. W. Oates" with some additional scribbles or initials to the left.

[John W Fletcher, a clergyman, and Neill McKay gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[There is a note in the file in which the author indicates that the veteran died October 13 [could be 15], 1851, survived by his widow, Elizabeth.]