

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of Richard Ransom R8598

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Tennessee } To wit
Rutherford County }

On this fifteenth day of November 1838, personally appeared before the Circuit Court held for the State of Tennessee at the Court house in Murfreesboro, for the County of Rutherford, in open Court, Kiziah Ransom a Resident of the County aforesaid, aged about seventy five years, who being first duly sworn according to Law, doth, on her oath, make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed July 7th 1838, entitled, "An act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows." That she is the widow of Richard Ransom deceased, who was a captain, Lieutenant, and private in the war of the Revolution: that every time he went out as a volunteer. The first tour for three months, he served as a private. This declarant has forgotten where he rendered services during this tour. He marched from Franklin County, N. Carolina under what officers she does not remember. she remembers well that there was a large number of troops together composed of volunteers from Franklin, Warren, Nash and Halifax counties. She also remembers that these troops marched to South Carolina, and that they were discharged, perhaps at Charleston. She is not certain, but she thinks it was during this his first tour that he was at the seige of Charleston; at all events he was in this service, and at the taking of Charleston by the British [12 May 1780]. His second tour was for three months; he was the Lieutenant [see note below] and John Meekins she believes was his Captain. She remembers of none of the officers besides except [Gen. Horatio] Gates & [Baron] De Kalb whose name she often heard of as his commanders. In this campaign he marched from Franklin County to South Carolina where he was in the battle of Camden [16 Aug 1780]. He was taken prisoner in this battle, and kept a prisoner somewhere in that state, for about three months when he made his escape from the British guard and returned home to Franklin County. She remembers well of hearing her husband, and others who escaped with him, telling that for sixteen days after they made their escape from the British, their road home led through the abode of Tories, during which time they travelled by night & hid themselves during the day. It was during the latter part of August when they came home, for they had nothing to eat during the journey but roasten ears. Sometime after his return from his second tour he raised a company himself and marched them out to South Carolina. She does not know of his being in any battle this tour, though she believes there were some few of the company killed. She has forgotten the names of his Liutenant & ensign, & the other officers, though they were once familiar to her memory. His company was discharged at the end of three months somewhere in South Carolina, but she has forgotten where. She has no discharges or papers by which she can prover her husband's services. He was careless about his papers.

She further declares that she was married to the said Richard Ransom by John Webb a justice of the peace of Franklin County, about the tenth of October in the year of our Lord seventeen hundred and eighty four, that her husband the aforesaid Richard Ransom died on the twenty second day of July in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and twenty seven, that she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service, but the marriage took place previous to the first of January seventeen hundred and ninety four, viz at the time stated.

Kiziah herXmark Ransom

Lemuel & Henry Ransom make the following affidavit. To wit. that they have often heard their father speak of his services in the Army of the Revolution. They have heard him often tell of being taken at Gates defeat near Camden and was confined in Charleston three or four months and that he had nothing but Raw corn for seven days and nights to live on also heard him speak of the taking of Charleston. John Meekin was Captain at Camden often spoke of that defeat. because he was made prisoner and that their is one of the solder still living who served under him while he was Captain. They most respectfully ask the Hon Commissioner to cause their afsd claims to be allowed
[signed 9 Apr 1852] Henry Ransom Lemuel Ransom

State of Tennessee

Rutherford County. This day personally appeared before me John E. Dromgoole an acting Justice of the peace for said County Nath'l Winston aged about Eighty Six years who being first duly sworn to speak the truth testifies and says that he was personally acquainted with Richard Ransom in early life, he (Ransom) then lived in Franklin County No Carolina. I was acquainted with him from that time till the period of his death. I was a volunteer in the war of the revolution and served three months under said Richard Ransom. Tillman Patterson was our Lieutenant, Drewry Allen was ensign. I was at the siege of Charleston S.C. during this tour. The regiment to which we belonged was commanded by a Col Lowry. After getting to Charleston we were commanded by Genl [Benjamin] Lincoln. I am at present, and have been for many years, drawing a pension for my said services under Richard Ransom aforesaid, and Given under my hand this 9 Apl 1852 Nathaniel hisXmark Winston

NOTES:

The pension application of William Jones (S8765) also says that Ransom was a Lieutenant at the Battle of Camden, but in the company commanded by Capt. Harrison Macon. However, the application of the above Nathaniel Winston (S6406), as well as that of Richard Christmas (S16342), indicates that Ransom was a Captain.

On 17 Nov 1838 Polly Davis, about 70, deposed that Richard Ransom was elected to the North Carolina legislature shortly before he married Kiziah Portiss. On the same day that they made their affidavit, Henry Ransom, about 50, and Lemuel Ransom, about 53, applied for a pension, stating that Richard Ransom was 67 when he died, and their mother was 79 when she died. Other documents indicate that Kiziah Ransom died 11 Mar 1841 and that their children were as follows: Robert, about 67, the first born, who married Mary Harris on 14 July 1828; Athelston Ransom; Lemuel Ransom; Henry Ransom; Alfred Ransom; Polly Ransom; Sarah, 48, the youngest, who married on 30 Oct 1831; John Ransom, who died before 1852; Benjamin Ransom who died before 1852.