

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Christian Razor R8599

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

[Punctuation partly corrected]

State of South Carolina } SS  
Abbeville District }

On this twentythird day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty five personally appeared in Open Court, before the Hon'ble Edward Frost the presiding Judge of the Court of Common Pleas and General sessions, now sitting for the District and State aforesaid Christian Razor a resident of Abbeville District in the State of South Carolina aforesaid aged Eighty six 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 7, 1832.

That he entered the Service of the United under the following named Officers and served as herein stated.

That he entered the service of the United States in Culpepper [sic: Culpeper] County in the State of Virginia, as a draughted militia private, under a Captain Pollard and a Major [William] Boyce does not recollect who was Colonel, that he was marched from Culpepper County in the year 1781 to a place called Sandy Point thirty miles distant from Richmond, from Sandy Point he was marched to Petersburg where he and the American forces there were defeated by the British [25 Apr 1781]. a Capt Read took the command of the company the applicant was in on the day before the battle of Petersburg by which defeat the American force was dispersed in every direction the applicant with others proceeded to Richmond and there overtook Major Boyce and Gen'l Mulenburg [sic: Peter Muhlenberg] who I believe commanded the expedition. our time of service having expired, we were discharged verbally and I went home to Culpeper, other militia having taken the places of the discharged forces I was with. This tour of duty was performed by the first division of the draughted militia, or rather the applicant will now minutely state that there were five divisions of Militia in Virginia and the applicant belonged to the first division from which, and the second & third divisions, a draught was taken to serve three months the applicant was again called into service with the fourth fifth & first divisions of the Virginia Militia viz. —

That he again entered the service as a draughted militia private from Culpepper County in the State of Virginia in the year 1781 under a Capt James Clark and a Major Thomas Graves, but does not recollect who was Colonel. by some means a Capt. Finch's took the command of the company, and were marched to within twenty five miles of Yorktown, and the militia took a Hessian fort or redoubt, and another redoubt or fort called pigeon Hill. on the next day and night [28 Sep] the American Army cut an entrenchment around the British works at Yorktown extending above and below the River. the applicant actively engaged in strengthening the American lines at Yorktown until the surrender of Cornwallis [19 Oct] this applicant says he was stationed near the park of the American Artillery where the British grounded their guns, drums, fifes, swords & flags in regular lines and marched without them back again into Yorktown. the applicant says the British looked fine and marched well and upon the whole the scene was very impressive. this applicant or the company to which he was attached was detailed with other Militia to conduct a portion of the prisoners taken at Yorktown to within four miles of Winchester here the applicant and the troops or American force he served with verbally discharged without rations or the means of obtaining them. the applicant was eighty miles distant from his home in Culpepper and he as well as others suffered greatly from hunger, no one being willing to sell us food, for the paper money we had received for our services. this tour of duty was performed in the 1<sup>st</sup> Division which was again called upon, when the fourth & fifth Divisions also served alternatively three divisions at a time. This applicant does not know a living witness whose evidence he could obtain to testify to his services Revolutionary War. There is living in the same District within a few miles of this applicant a Mr. James Black [pension application R886] who says he was at the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown and I have no

doubt of the fact that he was there from the repeated conversations I have had with on the subject. he is a very reputable character of Abbeville District and his affidavit is subjoined in support of this application. The applicant in answer to the interrogatories required to be propounded by the Act of Congress 7 June 1832. States

1<sup>st</sup> That he was born in Sussex County New Jersey in the year 1760.

2<sup>d</sup> He has no record of his age, but solely relies upon his recollection.

3<sup>d</sup> I was living in Culpepper County State of Virginia, when I was called into service both tours of duty. I have lived since the Revolutionary War in Abbeville District in the State of South Carolina, where I now live.

4<sup>th</sup> I was called into service by being draughted as a private in the Virginia Militia as I have already stated.

5 In answer to the fifth interrogatory I can state the name of Gen'l. Washington Gen'l. [Benjamin] Lincoln, Gen'l Mullenburg, but does not recollect the names of many others or who may have commanded continental and Militia Regiments where he served, and the general circumstances of his services he has stated already as well as he can recollect them.

6 I never received a written discharge neither did the troops with whom I served. my discharge was verbal in both tours of duty

7 Col Joseph Dickson, William Barinsie Esq, Gen'l. Geo W Hodges, Rev'd. Hugh Dickson, Col Sam'l. Dounald, Cap'n Pinckney Jones, Dr. William Jones, &c &c the entire neighborhood in which I live and reside.

He (the applicant Christian Rasor) 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.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

[signed] Christian Rasor

[The following is identical in wording to the deposition signed by Rasor in support of James Black's pension application.]

State of South Carolina } Ss.  
Abbeville District }

I James Black do solemnly swear on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, that I have been personally acquainted with Christian Rasor the within applicant for a pension for thirty eight years last past, that he is a citizen of credibility and veracity, that he and myself have had frequent conversations relative to our revolutionary services in the War of the Revolution and in the service of the United States, and particularly in relation to the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown. Altho I did not know the applicant at that time, being in different companies and regiments from each other, yet I am confident that he must have been at the Surrender from many little details of facts, which I know positively to be true, for instance the frame works in which the French heated their hot balls, the quantity of facines [sic: fascines], the rough made baskets to be filled with earth in constructing entrenchments, the position of the American forces, the surrender of the British, the march of the prisoners &c all confirm me in the belief that James Black was a Revolutionary Soldier and that he was at the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown in the War of the revolution

Sworn to 29<sup>th</sup> Oct'r 1845

[signed] James Black

Pen off Dec'r. 10 45

Sir The claim of James Black asserted for the first time without assigning any reason for delaying [from passage of the law in 1832 until 1845] while the means of proof were constantly & rapidly diminishing by death has been examined & disallowed The Dep't. has no information of any rifle corps authorized by the laws of Va organized in Rockbridge Co. 1781 and served 7 mo continuously - the militia were classed & served in tours of 3 mo only - The Line & State troops were regulars under enlistment which were first organized in 76 and filled as occasion required by draft or new enlistment - It is perfectly clear that the service he describes is not that of the militia man or enlisted soldier under Va. authority If there was a company of Riflemen in that County it was of course a component part of its militia subject to the service prescribed by law. If it be true that he was out but once then it is true that his tour did not exceed three

months —

In the case of Christian Rasor it is apparent that his first tour was curtailed by the incidents at Petersburg in the spring of 81 and that his other did not exceed 3 mo. [sic: see endnote] The utmost he could have been required to serve in both was 6 mo and if it fell short a single day he is not entitled — Having delayed his application to this late hour he will be required to rebut the presumption raised by that delay with satisfactory evidence that he served at the least 6 months. This may be done by comrades and a certificate of the Clerk of Culpepper shewing that the designated officers were in commission in 1781 for that County  
Thos. L. Speisin Esq'r Abbeville CH. S.C

NOTES:

Contrary to the assertion of the Pension Office, Rasor clearly stated that his first tour of three months had expired at the time he was discharged.

On 9 Feb 1853 Ezekiel Rasor, son and executor of Christian Rasor, assigned power of attorney to obtain any benefits due for his father's service.