

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Amos of Read R8628

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 18 June 2014.

Virginia, County of Nansemond Sc

On this 13<sup>th</sup> day of May 1833, personally appeared in open Court before Josiah Riddick, Hardy Cross, Edward R Hunter, Edwin B Sumner, the Court of Nansemond County now sitting Amos of Read a free man of colour by birth, a resident of Nansemond County and State of Virginia, aged 75 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<sup>th</sup> 1832. He says that he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. That he entered as a militia man (drafted) on his own account on the [blank] day of [blank] under Captain Michael King, Lieutenant [blank] Hurdle, and Ensign Theophilus Pugh, and served he thinks about 12 months in the whole, under the said officers in the surrounding country, Southampton, Isle of Wight, Surry and Norfolk Counties &c; and that during this this time he was in only one little Skirmish, which happened at or near a place in Nansemond County called Piss-Pot Swamp; he there served under captain [blank] Godwin for 4 or 5 weeks; he then served under Captain John Coles for a few days during the time of service, that Josiah Riddick, Robert M Riddick (as he thinks) and Colonel John B Wills were the Colonels; that he was at or near Little York, and when their discharge he came home; and when again wanted he volunteered his services to go to portsmouth to dig down some embankments, William Riddick Captain, David Campbell Lieutenant, [blank] Ensign; that he served there only about 6 months, he was then discharged and came home; part of which time he was a substitute for Thomas Allmand, and his old master Moses Riddick; that he recollects of seeing General Washington at or near little York; that he has no recollection of any of the other regular officers; that he has no documentary evidence having lost his discharge; (that he thinks he can prove this by James Wright and Joseph Ross) that he was born in the County of Nansemond, Virginia; that he has no record of his age; that he has always lived in Nansemond County Virginia, that he has stated all he knows about the matter further he cannot recollect. 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. Sworn to & subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

(Signed) Amos of hisXmark Read.

State of Virginia,            }  
County of Nansemond       }

I, Amos of Read, of the aforesaid County and State, being duly sworn according to law, doth, on my oath, make the following amended declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832.

That I entered the service of the United States in the year 1778, as a private in the Militia, and before the close of the Revolutionary War, served a period not less than one year and three months, and for which service I claim a pension – that I performed that service under the following named officers, and according to the best of my recollection, in the Counties and at the periods here stated – That I first entered the service of the United States in the spring of 1778 under the command of Captain Michael King, (Lieutenant Hurdle and Ensign Pugh were his subaltern officers,) and served a tour of twelve months; that I served this tour in the Counties of Nansemond, Norfolk, Isle of Wight, Southampton and Surry, Virginia. That in the latter part of the year 1779, I served a tour of one month under Captain Godwin on Nansemond River – That in the Summer of 1781, I served a tour of two months under Captain Hurdle – a part of this tour I served in Nansemond County and a part on the north side of James River in the neighbourhood of Williamsburg. – And in the latter part of the year 1781, I served a tour of six months under Captain William Riddick at Portsmouth, Virginia – about three months of this tour I was a substitute for Thomas Allmand and Moses Riddick – But I have not calculated this last tour of six

months in my estimate of one year and three months for which I claim a pension, because, during the greater part of this tour I was engaged in digging down embankments in the town of Portsmouth, Virginia. – That Colonel Josiah Riddick and Colonel John Book Wills were the field Officers, now recollected, who commanded during the different terms of my engagement – and that I was not engaged in any civil pursuit during the terms of my service for which I claim a pension. – Sworn to and subscribed, this 16<sup>th</sup> day of October 1833. Amons hisXmark Reade

NOTE:

The file contains a copy of “[An act directing the emancipation of certain slaves who have served as soldiers in this state, and for the emancipation of the slave Aberdeen,](#)” which does not mention Amos of Read by name.

A declaration similar to the one made on 16 Oct 1833 was made on 17 April 1834. The claim was rejected on the grounds that militia tours were never for as long as twelve months.