

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of James Brown Rice R8746

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia County of Fauquier to wit:

On this 31st day of January 1833 personally appeared in Open Court before the County Court of Fauquier now sitting James B Rice a resident of the aforesaid County and State aged sixty eight 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 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated he declares that he was born and raised in the County of Culpeper Virginia he entered the service of the United States in the Spring of 1781 he believes the first of May as a private in a Company of Culpeper Militia Commanded by Capt Wm Stanton and of which Reuben Moore [pension application W8466] was Lieutenant, that other Militia Companies were ordered out at the same time the Superior Officers of the whole were James Broadus [sic: James Broaddus] Adjutant, Nathaniel Welch Major and John Thornton Colonel all of Culpeper County that they marched to the lower part of the state that they met the Army of Lafayette above Richmond near Ground Squirrel Bridge – in the County of Hanover as he believes retreating before the British under CornWallis, that they joined Lafayette and retreated with him to the Upper Country. The night after the junction the men were very much frightened by the approach of a part of the British Army, we were then at a place called Scottsville many of the officers and soldiers threw away their knapsacks and arms and dispersed. The main Army stopped at an old mill and remained until late the next day before the men reassembled who had scattered, the retreat was continued through the Counties of Hanover & Spotsylvania across the Rapid Ann [sic: Rapidan River] at Germanna, in to the County of Culpeper. The Army stopped at Big Fork Church for two or three days thence marched to Raccoon Ford [Raccoon Ford], remained there for six or eight days waiting for General [Anthony] Wayne and his Army. We left the Rapid Ann & in a few days Gen'l. Wayne and his Pennsylvanias joined us [8 Jun 1781]. After the junction the American Army marched southward towards Albemarle leaving Charlottesville [sic: Charlottesville] to the right. It made forced marches for several days when it came near the British Army, the British Army turned its course towards the lower Country, & the American Army followed on after them. By this time I had been placed with the infantry composed of Militia Riflemen and others with continental officers to command us. We made a long march one night, and at break of day came up with them at New Kent Court House [about 25 June]. Near New Kent Court House we had a smart battle with them, but the Americans had to give ground. Lafayette continued to hover on their rear for some days until they reached Green Spring near old James Town. Here a severe battle ensued [6 Jul] in which the Americans had to retreat, and were saved by night coming on. The action commenced late in the evening The British were permitted to go on board of their boats without further molestation. After this battle, the infantry to which I belonged were detached from the main Army, sent over James River. Gen'l [Daniel] Morgan was with us a day or so, until Gen'l Wayne arrived and took the command of us. We marched to the South until we crossed the Appomattox at Goodes Bridge; while on the south side of James River we expected to encounter Col. Tarlton [sic: Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton], who was said to be to the south of us I was discharged at Goods by Lieut Sim Bluford [sic: Simeon Buford, pension application S1180], my Capt Stuart having been missing ever since one of the battles mentioned but which one I forget. Capt Stuart was a continental, who was put over us when we were taken from our respective Companies. We ended my first Tour having served at least two weeks longer than the two months for which I was drafted & longer than the rest of Capt. Stanton company who were in the infantry. I do not think he or any of the militia crossed James River, but were discharged on the north side near Mabern Hills [sic: Malvern Hills, 15 mi SE of Richmond]. I returned

home and immediately substituted in the place of Henry Brown in a company of Culpeper Militia commanded by Capt. Cadwallader Slaughter. Other Companies marched at the same time from Culpeper. we were commanded by Major Welsh Col. Elias Edmunds of Fauquier Virginia and Genl Stephens [sic: Edward Stevens] of Culpeper, all three regulars as I beleive. We marched to the lower Country & joined the Army under Lafayette near the Mabern Hills. We were employed the greater part of this tour about Williamsburg and suffered very much for provisions. I was there when the French Army Landed and saw the soldiers pitch their tents in the old field above Williamsburg, and witnessed the meeting of Gen'l Lafayette and the French Officers. It took place early in the morning and Lafayette had been out all night with a reconnoitering party toward York Town about the time my term of two months expired and my Company from Culpeper coming down I was called on to take my own place I did so. I have forgotten who was my Captain & other Officers I did not continue with them but a few days before I was taken sick and sent to the hospital below Williamsburg at the vineyard. as soon as I got well enough to travel one of my friends whose term of service had expired obtained for me a leave of absence until I had recruited my health. I started with them and with their assistance made out to travel. Before I left them the cannonading had commenced at York Town [28 Sep]. Upon reaching home as soon as I got well, I reported myself to the Court of Enquirey or Court Martial then sitting at Culpeper Court House as being ready to return to Camp. The Court seeing I was very young and weakley, and considering the Tour was nearly out excused me for the balance of the time. About the time of my appearing before the Court the news of the surrender of Corn Wallis [19 Oct] reached Culpeper. I think it was afterwards I knew many of the Continental Officers besides those named I remember Majors Boise [sic: William Boyce] & Rucker who commanded the infantry, Col. [William] Campbell, Gen'l. Muhlenburg [sic: Peter Muhlenberg] & Baron Steuben I may be mistaken in saying Boise and Rucker were Continentals, but I believe they were. I do not remember ever to have got a discharge from any Tour. The only person within my knowledged now alive who knows of my actual service now is my sister Mrs Elizabeth Race of Loudoun County, she is older than myself knows of my different Tours of duty and during the first while the Army was at Big Fork Church in Culpeper , she went to see me with some of my neighbours. Shortly after the war, I went to Kentucky remained for two years. I then Returned to Virginia and settled in Fredrick [sic: Frederick] County where I lived for at least thirty years. I then went to Culpeper County and settled about 30 miles from where I was raised. In the mean time my old acquaintances died out, removed or have forgotten my services in the revolution. For the last four years I have lived in this County – when lately I went to my old neighborhood in Culpeper County after a lapse of fifty years, I could find no one who knew of my services & but few with whom I had been acquainted in my youth. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity expect 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

James B. Rice

1st. Where and in what year were you born?

Answer I was born in the County of Culpeper, State of Virginia, on the 29th day of November 1764.

2nd. Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

Answer I have the record of my age and am ready to tender it to the Court. It is in the hand writing of my father on a leaf taken from his family Bible.

3 Where were you living when called into service? where have you lived since the Revolution? and where do you now live? Answer. I was living in the County of Culpeper when I was called into service. Since the Revolutionary war I have lived in the State of Kentucky for two years, and then in the Counties of Fredrick & Culpeper, Virginia; and now live in the County of Fauquier. 4. How were you called into service? was you drafted did you volunteer or were you a substitute? And if a substitute for whom?

Answer. The first time I was drafted, the second time I served as a substitute for my uncle Henry Brown, and the third tour I was also drafted.

5 State the names of some of the regular Officers who were with the troops where you served, such

continental and Militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service?
Answer I have stated the names of such regular officers I now recollect. also of such continental troops.
The militia from the upper part of the state were there in force. I remember the Orange and Fauquier
Militia. I can state many more circumstances than are contained in my declaration though of less
importance. For such as I have stated I refer to the declaration James B Rice

I Reuben More a resident of the County of Culpeper Virginia do Certify that I have known James B. Rice
formerly of Culpeper now of Fauquier County Virginia for many years and though I do not recollect to
have known him in the Revolutionary Army I am fully satisfied from conversations had with that he was
in the service in the spring of 1781 under Capt William Stanton (in which company I was myself a
lieutenant) as it would seem to me that no man could know so much of the minutee of a campaign unless
he was engaged in it. The said tour was for two months and and I think at Malvin hills where the
company was discharged.

Given under my hand this 19th Nov'r 1832

R. Moore

[Rice wrote as follows to Mordecai Barbour, pension application S8043.]

Orlean fauquier Co. Va Sep't. 15 - 1832.

Dr. sir. It appears that congress has granted to all the old soldiers of the Revelation a pention agreeable to
the time they serv'd. I was one and servd under Capt. William Stanton in the Spring of the year '81 - and
you was our Leutenant. Brawdus our adgident and Nat welch our Majer. thorn our Colonal, for a part of
the time, when old alcott came down and took command. Stephens was our general - and now sir in
order to sattisfy you that I was one with you I will Relate some of the circumstanstes that accurd first we
marched on from culpepper towards Richmond untill we met our troops reteating Before the Brittish
army. we met them some where between Richmond and gooland [Goochland?] [illegible] arrel Bridge we
turnd about in Retreat and went on up the country. I Recollect that we met with a great alarm one night at
cots town or skotch town of Dont no the Rite name of the place But I well Recolect the time and place
and Recolect that we stayd that night by and old mill of General nelsons [Thomas Nelson's], and I
Recolect Col's. thorns Expreshons the next morning when the offissers got together he say'd he was much
pleas'd to find that his men had not Run of as the Orrange men had Done there was a great many of them
that Left their guns ther napsacks and hats which I have no Doubt but you will Recolect. we continued our
Reteat on through Spotsylvania and up through Culpepper and on to the Rackkoon ford where we stay for
several Days while we was Laying there there was a man got shot by a horsmans pistol which perhaps
you may Recolect we went on from there a while and was joint by genral wain and then the Brittish
turnd about and we pushd on after them untill we overtook them at the green springs where we had a
battle with them but was forst to give Back - I Dont Recolect that all the troops was in that ingagement
but I know that wains men and the Light infantry was for I with some of the Rest of the company had
Been cald out and had Been sent on to join the infanttree some time before and we ware cept there untill
we ware Discharged, we ware cep some time after you was Discharged we ware sent a cross james River
and went on to the appomattox River and croset it at goods Bridge and was told that we would have to
go on to the South, but we was Discharged at that place it has Been so Long that I Dont Recolect but
verry few of the men that was with us your son John S Barber told me a few Days ago that you were
living and living near that place. I Recolect that capt. william green was 1 he was cald Taylor Billey he
got a commission soon after he went Down there was some of Browns and Longs from the
neighbourhood of Stephensburg [sic: Stevensburg] and my own name is Rice I Spell it James Brown Rice
I was young as well as yourself but I was certainly with you through all, at Difficult and Laborious tour
cald the Runing tour, and now sir if you can from this assertion venture to say that you beleve I was there
please Rite to me as soon as you can and send me on a certificate to that amt, and greatly oblidge an old
soldier who stands in great need, our son sayes he will attend to it for me. perhaps you may Recolect

Hezekiah Brown Near Stephens Burg I am of that fammerley. your attention to this Request will be
greatfully acknowledged – by your friend &c

Ja's. B. Rice

Loudoun County Va. [5 Jan 1833]

This is to Certify that in the year 1781 I lived in the County of Culpepper with my Grandfather James Brown and with my Brother James B Rice and in the Spring of that year he was called into service of the Militia during the Revolutionary War and marched as a soldier under Capt. William Stanton and he had been gone two or three weeks we were informed, by Capt Robert Pollard that the Army would march through lower end of Culpepper on that day which was 4 or 5 miles from where we lived and there was a great many persons went on to meet the Army and see their friends and relations that belonged to the Army at that time and went and relations that belonged to the Army at that time and I went on with them in order to see my Brother. I did see him and he went home with me that Evening and stayed at home 2 or 3 days and then went on again and joined his Company again at the Big Fork Church and I see him no more untill his Tower was out which I think was for two month or more he afterwards substituted himself and went in his Uncle Henry Brown place and served a Tower of two months more under Capt. Cadwllader Slaughter also of Culpepper County and at the Expiration of that Tower his own Division was called for again & was Detained in the service of that Tower upon which he entered and was taken sick at Williamsburgh as I understood when he got home and lay there some time unable for duty this was during the siege of Yorktown he came home during the siege in a bad state of health saying he had a permit to come home and recruit his health and then return to the Army when he got well

Elizabeth herXmark Race

Decklaration –

The within is the original declaration in the hand writing of Mr Rice from which the accompanying document was made out. Mr Rice has just handed it to me at Aldie Rices 16th day of July 1834. C. F. Mercer [The accompanying declaration dated 28 Jan 1835 not transcribed here.]

I Jas. B. Rice, formerly of Culpeper Now of Fauquier, enterd the servis in the Revelution in the Spring of 1781 as a soldier in the Milisa, I think some time in May under Capt. william stanton as captain Nat welch our Majer James Bradus adjutant Colo. thorn our Colonal we started from Culpepper CH and went on down towards Richmond to meet our Reteating army we met them some distance above Richmond not far from gound squaral Bridge we joind the army there and wheel'd Right about and continued the Reteat up the country, our men got verry much alarmd thinking that Tarlton horse that night at a place cald Scots town and a great many of them Left their guns and napsacks and some of the offesers their swords we stopt at an old mill where we lay until Late next Day before we could get together we then continued our march up through hanover Spotsilvania and crost the Rapperdan River at garramaner and on to the Big fork church where the army stopt for 2 or 3 Days we then went on to the Rackkoon ford where we laid for 6 or 8 days we then march'd from there on towards the south and was join'd by genral wain and his army. we then put on after the Brittish and chased them for several Days and nights before we over took them. we made a long march one night and came up with them I think at New Kent coart house about Day Brake they put off from there and we followerd on after them untill 11 or 12 oclock when we over took them and had a Smart Engagemet with them but we had to give back and Let them go on. we Dog'd them on for several days and came up with them again at the green springs near old jame town where we had another Engagemet with them and was forst to give Back again and Let them go on to their shiping. I now belong'd to the light Inphanttree [“drafted in the light horse”? interlined above] and had Done for some time prowder and had been constant on the run Day and night for several weaks past, we Left our armey some where about mobbing hills and we the infanttree were sent across James River and went on towards the South untill we crost the appomttox River at goods Bridge where he halted and stay several Days and was there Discharged by Lieutenant Sim Bluford of the

infanttree we having Left our captain in the Battle before whos name was Steuart he was a continental officer who was put over us when we ware cald into this servis. So Ended my furst tour which was intended for two months, but we that ware sent out then was Detaind at Least two weaks Longer than Capt. Stanton and the Ballance of the company Did which I think Did not cross james River But was Discharg'd on this side and near mobbing hills. I then Returnd home & immediatly and Substituted myself and went in the place of Mr. Henry Brown under Cadwallider Slaughter allso from Culpepper Mager Nat welch, Colo. Elias Edmonds, of fauquier and genral Stevans of culpepper we joind the arney some where about mobbin hills and servd the greater part of the tower in the country round and about williams Burg where we sufferd verry much for want of provisons. I was there when the french fleet Landed saw them when the first pitcht their tents in the old fiend above williams burg. we then mov'd below williams burg & Lay there for some time and here my tour ended under Capt. Slaughter having served three months this tour and we had got the Brittish shut up in yorktown, when there was a call for nearly all the militia to come Down which Draft took in my Division and when they came Down I was cald on to take my own tour. Slaughters company was there Discharg'd their tour of 2 months being out But myself and a great many substitutes who was there and their Divissions had come Down had to stay and served in their own places and their own tours. after serving a few days about this I was taken sick and was unable to Do Duty as a Soldier and soon after joining my new company the arney mov'd down towards york town & I was sent to the hospittle Below williams burg where I Lay for some time, when some of my friends that was going home came and wanted me to go on with them I told them that I could not go that I was not able to walk and if I was I could not go without leave from my offisers if they would go and obtain Leave of them I would try and go with them some where to get out of that place the Hospital was very filthy & many sick in it they Did go & I had Live to go home and stay untill I got able to Do Duty again and then I was to Return to camp to finnish my tour. I went on home but it was some time before I got well enough to Return, & when I did I went on to the Culpepper court house to a court of inquirey or court marshal and told them my situation and my tour being nearley out and I so young and weakley they acquitted me from the Ballance of that tour and it was but a few Days untill we heard that cornwallis had surrendered and there was no more call for me and if the court thinks proper to allow me for the tour that I was sick I shall have serv'd upwards of six months

NOTE:

The Commissioner of Pensions did not allow Rice's last tour, and he was therefore not considered to have served the minimum of six months required for a pension. Rice then successfully petitioned Congress for a pension.

On 28 Jan 1856 John S. Rice, administrator of the estate of James B. Rice, assigned power of attorney to obtain any benefits for the latter's service. A document in the file lists the following children who survived him: Elizabeth P. Rice, Thomas B. Rice, John S. Rice, William W. Rice, James M. Rice, and Susan D. Payne.