

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of James Riggs R8815 NC  
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 23 Jan 2015.

The State of Alabama } County Court in vacation  
Fayette County } August 5<sup>th</sup> 1834

Personally appeared in vacation before Walter Harkind Judge of the County Court of said county James Riggs a resident of said County aged about 72 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 I entered the service of the United States as a volunteer sometime about the first of December 1779 in Orange County North Carolina under the command of Captain William Horton who was commanded by Col [Thomas] Farmer and Col Thomas and Gen'l [Horatio] Gates and marched from Orange County to Guilford Courthouse thence by Salisbury thence to Rugely's Mill where we had a battle against the British and Tories [Battle of Camden SC about 3 miles south of Rugeley's Mill, 16 Aug 1780] and we were defeated and I was stabled in the side with a bayonet which wound is here shown to the court and after the defeat we all returned home about the first of September 1780. Again I entered the service of the United States as a volunteer in Orange County North Carolina some time about the first of December 1780 under the command of Captain Merriwethers [Meriwether?] who was command by Col William Washington and marched from Orange County to Pacholet [sic: Pacolet River] in South Carolina thence back to the Cowpens in North Carolina [sic: South Carolina] and was in the Battle of the Cowpens [17 Jan 1781] and was wounded by a sword in the left side of my forehead which wound is also shown to the court.

After the Battle we were marched on Savannah River thence to Cross Creek [now Fayetteville] in North Carolina thence to New bern thence to Tarbury [sic: Tarboro] where sometime about the last of November 1781 myself and several others of the same company to which I belonged got leave of absence from Col. Washington to go home to see our relations [sic: see endnote]. And after I arrived home Captain Taylor had orders to raise a volunteer company to guard the jail at Hillsborough where they had a number of British and Tory prisoners. myself with others volunteered under his command some time in the latter part of December 1781 and was stationed at Hillsborough as a guard until the latter part of March 1782 at which time we were relieved by another captains Company and discharged by captain Taylor making in all three of my tours of duty about twenty three months and for such service I claim a pension. I had a regular discharge for my last tour of duty which has been lost The first of the other tours I was defeated and the second I obtained leave of absence. I have no documentary evidence and I know of no person whose testimony I can procure who can testify to my service

There is no clergyman living in my vicinity to certify to my declaration I therefore refer to the annexed certificate of Laurence Brasher and Caswell C Thompson

I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the Pension Roll of the agency in any State Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid –



Interrogatories

- Ans 1 I was born in Orange County N. Carolina about the year 1762  
Ans 2 I have no record of my age  
Ans 3 Each time I entered the service I was living in North Carolina. Since that time I have lived in South Carolina Georgia and now in Alabama

Ans 4 Each time I entered the service as a volunteer

Ans 5 Gen'l. Gates, Col Thomas, Col Farmer, Col. Washington [were regular officers where he served]

Ans 6 I received a discharge for the last tour of duty which was signed by Captain Taylor. The first of the other tours I was defeated and the other I obtained leave of absence from Col Washington

NOTE:

Col. William Washington had been wounded and captured at the Battle of Eutaw Springs SC on 8 Sep 1781 and therefore could not have given Riggs a leave of absence in Nov 1781.

The reason given for rejecting Rigg's claim was that he did not serve the minimum of six months.