

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of John Royal R9054

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 30 July 2015.

[Punctuation partly corrected.]

The United States of America }  
Territory of Arkansas } SS  
County of Pulaski }

At a Circuit Court begun and held in and for the County of Pulaski at the Court House in the Town of Little Rock on the seventh day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand eight Hundred and thirty four, it being the first monday of said month, – Present the Honorable Benjamin Johnson One of the Judges of the Superior Court in and for the Territory of Arkansas, and assigned by law to hold the Courts in the Second Judicial Circuit of said Territory of which the Circuit Court for the County of Pulaski is one of said Circuit Courts

Whereupon on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of April AD. 1834 (the year last aforesaid) and before this same Judge the following proceedings were had – towit

“This day appeared John Royal, a Citizen of of the County of Pulaski and filed his declaration in the words and figures following for the purpose of securing the benefit of the act of Congress approved the 7<sup>th</sup> day of June Anno domini 1832 granting pensions to the Officers and Soldiers of the revolutionary war... towit

“United States of America } Circuit Court in and for  
Territory of Arkansas } said County –  
County of Pulaski } April Term AD 1834

John Royal a citizen of the County of Pulaski, and Territory aforesaid aged seventy four years appeared this day in Open Court and being solemnly Sworn on the Holy Evangelist on his oath aforesaid makes the following declaration for the purpose of securing for himself the benefit of the act of Congress of the 7<sup>th</sup> of June 1832, entitled an act supplementary to the act for the relief of certain surviving officers of the soldiers of the revolution

He states that he was born in King William County State of Virginia, that he is now from the best of information seventy three years of age, That his parents, whilst he was young moved into Pittsylvania County in the said state, that he afterwards resided in Henry County in said state. from his best recollection, in the year 1781 he joined the service, as a volunteer for a term of six months under Captain William Allcorn and Lieutenant Allcorn, who commanded a company of rangers and were employed against the tories during this time of six months, was employed, was employed with his Company in ranging the County of Henry in Virginia Terry [sic: probably Surry] County in North Carolina. he states that there was at the same time a Company of rangers kept in service, Terry County aforesaid for the same purpose, and that his company and that last company mentioned acted in consort in suppressing the tories. that during this Term of service, he does not remember any action or engagement deserving notice, that he fully served out this term of service and received a written discharge. he states that after Cornwallis had landed at Charleston [spring 1780] and after he had advanced as far as Durham, where he was met by general Green [sic: Nathanael Greene, Feb and Mar 1781], a call was made on the malitia to march and join General Green. he entered the service as a Volunteer under Captain Thomas Henderson for a term of six months and marched with two other companies towards Green’s Army. That the division to which he belonged did not reach the army until the day after the Battle of Guilford [Guilford Courthouse NC, 15 Mar 1781] where they found the army returning and that his company was ordered to return home and hold themselves in readiness for another call. He states that within a few weeks after their return [sic] the malitia were called to York Town in Virginia where Cornwallis had landed his forces [1 Aug 1781], that he marched to York Town under Captain Petite [sic: James Poteet] and Lieutenant Hall they all attached to the command of Major Walker on their march to York. On arriving

at York, his company was attached to Colonel Skippers [sic: Henry Skipwith's] regiment, under the command of General [Robert] Lawson. he was at the Siege of York about six weeks [sic: 28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781]. his company was stationed on the South-east or lower side of the town. after their arrival his company was employed in the ditches and erecting batteries, the ditches were about thirty feet wide, waggons passed each other in them, the bateries were placed at the angles of the ditches. The british fired from their batteries in the Town incessantly on the American troops whilst they were opening the entrenchments and raising the bateries there was no fighting with small arms, after he arrived, on the side where he was stationed, except at the redoubts, which were taken by the French troops. he does not know what accured on the Glocester [sic: Gloucester] side of the Town –

He further states that before Cornwallis surrendered, he enlisted in the regular Army as a common Soldier, under Colonel Skipper, but he was not removed from his company. that he was at the siege when Cornwallis surrendered his company march with the principle body of the Army and formed two lines on the west side of the Town [sic] in a direction from the Town towards his large old field – the brittish troops marched between the lines with muffled drums on the day of the surrender until they reached the field and there stacked their [arms] and marched back into the Town. After the surrender of York he received a written permission from Col. Skipper to return home and to continue in readiness to join him when called on. His Colonel gave him authority to draw his rations out of the public stores On his return home at Richmond and Bedford and he further states that by time and accident he lost all his discharges a furlows which he received from his officers at any time which relate to his service during the revolution.

After he returned home he was never again called on to join the Army – Peace between the United States and Great Britain having been concluded afterward — Applicant states that he has no record of his age, but from the accounts of his Parents, he is now Seventy three years of age, that he resided in Henry County Virginia four or five years after the revolutionary war, and then moved to the State of Kentucky in Lincoln County, that by a subsequent change of the County lines he was thrown into Garet [sic: probably Garrard] County. that he lived in the State of Kentucky about Eighteen years and then moved to Jackson County Tennessee, where he resided about Twenty seven years according to his best recollection, that about four years since he moved to the Territory of arkansas, where he has since resided, and now resides in the County of Pulaski. He states that he has not in his possession, nor does he know of any documentary evidence to prove his services nor does he know now of any person alive who could testify to them. he refers to Lewis Kirkpatric Brian Stacy, James B Keats, John Cook, John H Cooke, John K. Taylor and William Cummins citizens of the County of Pulaski who can testify to his character for veracity and as to their belief of his services as a soldier in the revolution.

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 or Territory.

John hisXmark Royal

County of Pulaski        }  
Territory of Arkansas }        On this eighth day of October, in the year of Christ, one thousand  
undersigned, a justice of the Peace in and for the County and Territory aforesaid, John Royal, who being  
duly sworn, deposeth and saith that his first term of service, in the corps of rangers of which he was a  
private soldier, and which served [undeciphered word] in the State of North Carolina and of Virginia, as  
is set forth in the declaration of the said John Royall, to which this affidavit is an amendment, was for the  
term of six months and that he fully served out this term of service, – That by reason of old age and  
consequent loss of memory, he cannot swear positively as to the precise time which he was in actual  
service on his second tour, under Capt Thomas Henderson as is set forth in said declaration; but  
according to the best of his recollection, he served, and was absent on duty, and in the field, not less than  
two weeks, – That on his third tour he served and was in actual duty in camp and field, for the precise  
time of six weeks, reckoning from the time of rendezvousing at Pittsylvania old Court House; two weeks  
previous to the end of which term of service he enlisted as a private soldier, in the regular service of the

United States, for the remainder of the war, and thereafter held himself in readiness, at all and every time when called upon, to serve & defend his country till the end of the war – and for such service he claims a pension.

John hisXmark Royall

NOTE: Royal's claim was rejected for insufficient proof of service, probably because drafted militia tours were supposedly limited to three months in Virginia. There was no limit on voluntary tours, however, and even drafted tours were sometimes extended.