

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Blakely (or Bleakly) R917

f22SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 7/30/108/15/14

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading skills fail to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of SC, Laurens District

On the twenty ninth day of March one thousand eight hundred and thirty three personally appeared in open court before His Honor Josiah J. Evans one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas now sitting James Blakely a resident of Laurens District and State aforesaid aged seventy seven years [on the] second of March next 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 served to the best of his recollection five months under the command of Captain John Rogers, Col. James Williams (afterwards killed at King's Mountain) being his superior officer.

He thinks this term of his service was during the year 1774 or 1775. He well remembers that he was engaged in several battles with the Indians, who about this time had committed many outrages and murders on the frontier settlements.

During this expedition the company in which he served penetrated to a considerable distance into the Indian Country.

Some time, perhaps several years, after this expedition against the Indians, he served to the best of his recollection, three or four months under the command of Captain Andrew Berry in numerous scouting parties against the Tories. During this term of service Col. Thomas Brennan [sic, Thomas Brandon] was his superior officer. He does not remember any particular engagement or battle. For a part of the time he was stationed at a fort near the Indian line called Prince's fort for the purpose of checking the incursions of the Indians. This term of service under Captains Berry and Rogers embraced the two principal periods of his service. He is confident he served no least than six months, in fact, more. He does not remember the year distinctly in which he served under Captain Berry which was the last regular period of his service, but thinks it must have been in 1778 or '79 from his recollection that he was about 18 years of age when he first entered the service.

He remembers distinctly that he was under the command of Capt. Berry at the time of the Battle of Kittle [sic, Kettle] Creek in which the Tories were defeated. He was not in that Battle nor can he be certain as to the date of it [February 14, 1779].

At the time he entered the service he was residing near the place where he now lives, his father having removed from the State of Pennsylvania some years previous, and when

applicant was very young. He did not serve in company with any continental regiments or companies.

He knows of no documentary evidence that could be useful in the investigation of his claim, and he knows of no person or at least of any one cannot remember who can testify as to his services except his Brother, Thomas Blakely,¹ who served with him in the aforementioned expedition against the Indians and he certifies to that fact under oath.

He was born in Pennsylvania March 2nd 1756 as his father and Mother have informed him.

He has no record of his age, the family record having been lost or misplaced.

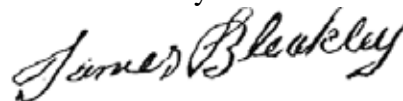
He now lives in Laurens District and State aforesaid and has lived there ever since the revolutionary war.

He considered himself as having entered the service as a volunteer.

In his present neighborhood he is known to James Park, James Harlan, John Ross, Robert Cunningham and others any of whom can certify as to his character for truth, and as to his being reputed and believed a soldier of 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 whatever.

S/ James Bleakley



Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ John Garlington, Clk., L. Dist.

[James Harlan, a clergyman, and Robert Cunningham gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

South Carolina Laurens District:

James Blakely made application for a pension in this Court at March Term 1833, the date of which application will appear from his papers placed on the files of the War Office, submits the following as the best & only amendment which he can supply to said application.

As alleged in his declaration his first term of service consisted of 5 months tour against the Indians under the command of Captain John Rodgers -- Colonel James Williams who fell at King's Mountain was the officer who commanded the company with others, to which applicant was attached -- Major Andrew Pickens was also one of the superior Officers under whom he served. --

In reference to the aforesaid period of his service he cannot now be more specific as to its details then he was in his Original Declaration -- he can only say that the arrangement was, that he, as well, as others, was to serve not less than 3 nor more than 6 months, and he is certain as to 5 months -- He thought then & thinks now that he was called into service by competent authority. He does not know that Captain Rodgers Company could be considered as volunteers or drafted man but certain it is a composed a portion of the State Militia and were ordered into service proper authority -- This 5 months tour as before stated was during the years 1774 or 1775 -- At this time he cannot be positive which year it was: -- Applicant is

¹ Sic, [Thomas Blackley \(or Blakely\) S21650](#). If Thomas Blackley/Blakely offered any testimony on behalf of his brother, it is not contained in this file as posted on Fold3.com.

now about 78 years of age & the lapse of time is so great in the life of man that he could not swear safely to the identical year.

After the expiration of the 5 months tour he was disengaged from the public service for several years, at least, he was employed in nothing further than occasional scouts against the Tories, for this it [indecipherable word]² he cannot claim but for two months service at Prince's Fort on the frontiers he supposes himself to be entitled, for if his first tour be admissible, he concedes this so also, for he served at the Fort alluded to under the command of Captain Andrew Berry & he is certain that Captain Berry was ordered into service by the superior militia authority of the Country -- But at this time he knows of no one living when he can call on to prove this portion of his service nor can he remember the name of the Colonel at this time, he only knows that he was ordered out by Captain Berry -- who, he supposes acted under the instructions of competent authority -- and that he received a discharge from Captain Berry which is now unfortunately lost.

S/ James Bleakley

[Attested March 22, 1834]