

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Charles Simpkins R9588

Barbara Simpkins

NJ

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

State of Virginia } SS

County of Monongalia } On this 25 day of March in the year 1833, personally appeared in open court, before the County court of Monongalia county, now sitting, Charles Simpkins a resident of said county aged seventy five 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 7th June 1832. That he entered the service of the United States, in Cumberland county New Jersey he believes in the summer of 1777 under Capt. Ephraim Loomis on a tour of duty, that his company was marched to Mount Holly in New Jersey where there was a good many militia assembled – that he cannot recollect the name of the commanding officer at Mount Holly – that he believes Major [Ezekiel] Foster of New Jersey was there. that he cannot now recollect the names of other militia officers who were there except Capt. Beasley, whose name he recollects from the circumstance of Beasley taking North Markpole a refugee captain – that he was discharged by a general discharge at Mount Holly and returned home after an absence of six weeks – that he supposes this was called a monthly tour of duty, but he was then so young and experienced as not to enquire and know about such matters.

That he beleives it was in the fall of the same year 1777 he went out in the same service on another tour of duty under Capt. Beasley from Cumberland county New Jersey and marched to Philadelphia, where we were quartered in the state house for about a week; that we then marched out (under Col. Hillman a militia officer of New Jersey, the troops amounting to about 400, and called the picket guard) about four miles from that city, that we were without provisions for one day and two nights, and he ate nothing during that time but one yellow cucumber – that here we saw some of the enemy light horse and shot at them – that Col. Hillman then marched us after the enemy and we saw them pursue and take Col. David Potter of Bridgetown [Bridgeton] N.J. a prisoner [25 Sep 1777] – that we then were marched back through Philadelphia over the Delaware to New Jersey and encamped on the river side next day we saw the Roebuck a British vessel coming up the Delaware and we could see the enemy taking possession of Philadelphia [26 Sep 1777] – that at the end of a month, he was discharged at Cooper's farm opposite Philadelphia by a general discharge.

That during the year 1778 [sic] he performed in the same service three tours of duty, of one month each, under Capt. [Elijah] Davis and Daniels. that in one of these tours, he was stationed in the Red bank or Mercers fort, which he assisted to build; that Col. Green [sic: Christopher Greene] came there before the fort was finished and upon taking possession we marched out, we having remained longer than our time to keep possession – that Green had tops of trees and an orchard cut down to entrench the fort – that the enemy called on Green to surrender, which he refused to do, and at least three hundred of the enemy killed. [22 Oct 1777] that they were buried in the trenches – that he saw the ground stained with blood.

That he supposes it was in the year 1779 he was stationed at Billings fort [sic: Fort Billingsport at present Paulsboro NJ], on the Deleware below Fort Mercer, that we hearing that the enemy was approaching removed our ordinance and magazine – that Capt Daniels was his captain – that after we marched out we had a skirmish with the enemy. two of our men were wounded and nine taken prisoners we killed two of the enemy on Timber creek bridge – we had one hundred militia in the fort commanded by Gen'l. [Silas] Newcomb – that the enemy chased us about five miles. the Gen'l's. horse was wounded in the rump and he saw the blood run down the horse's tail, that he was discharged at the end of a month.

That during the same year, he performed two other tours of duty, of a month each, at Woodberry [Woodbury] in New Jersey under Capt. Davis. that several companies were stationed there. that we used the Quaker meeting house as a barracks.

That within the same year he performed one other tour of duty of a month under Capt. Samuel

Wescoat [probably Samuel Westcott or Samuel Westcoat] at Hattenfeild [sic: Haddonfield] New Jersey where other troops were stationed; that Col [Josiah] Hillman commanded, that he recollects at that place of Hillman who was sometimes intemperate falling down and breaking his sword.

That he performed other duties of a shorter period on alarm expeditions when the enemy would be near of one and sometimes two weeks.

That in the foregoing narrative he may have mistaken dates and the times he was at the different stations – that his memory is defective – that he has for three years past been entirely blind and unable to move about without a guide.

That sometime in the month of June 1780 he was enlisted in Cumberland county New Jersey by a drummer named Joel Garrison, who was authorised as he said to recruit, and he had the permission to join any company he chose upon getting to camp – that soon after he with others was sent to Philadelphia by Lieut. Housman, that in a day or two we were put on board a vessel, and sent up to Trenton from thence to Princeton, and from thence to Morristown, where we found a number of regular & militia troops. from thence we went to Top-pond [sic: Tappan in the town of Orangetown in Rockland County NY] the head-quarters of Gen'l. Washington – there he was at liberty to join any company he chose. he found his brother and brother in law, in Capt Abel Waymans [Abel Weyman's] company to which he was attached. this company belonged to the 2^d or 3^d New Jersey reg't. Col [Israel] Shreve, Lieut. Col. Dehart [William DeHart], Major Cummings feild officers – from thence we marched to West Point after Arnold turned traitor – that he was present at the execution of Major Andre [at Tappan, 2 Oct 1780], and never saw Gen'l. Washington after – that late in the fall we left West point, and marched to Pumpton [sic: Pompton Plains NJ] and built huts for winter quarters, where we remained untill he was discharged, on new years day of 1781. that his discharge he beleives was burnt in his brothers house about the year 1785 – that he beleives and he now feels confident that he served altogether not less than fifteen months – that he does not know of any person by whom he can prove his services.

That he was born on the first of April 1758 in Cumberland county New Jersey, that he does not know what has become of the record of his age, if his father kept any, that he removed from Cumberland county into the county of Monongalia aforesaid, forty five years ago and has continued to live therein ever since.

That he has been for many years personally acquainted with Rev'd. Joseph A Shackelford, Richard Harrison, Simeon Everly, Thomas Larrell, Dudley Evans, John Evans Jr. John Davis, David M Hoge and many other respectable citizens of said county, who he beleives can testify as to his character for veracity, and the general beleif that he was a soldier of the Revolution.

He hereby relinquishes evry claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except 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 & year aforesaid Charles hisXmark Simpkins

[On 21 June 1833 Simpkins was issued a certificate for a pension of \$30 per year for nine months service. The following report is by US District Attorney Washington G. Singleton who investigated hundreds of pension applications from present West Virginia. For details see my appendix to the pension application of David W. Sleeth S6111. Singleton wrote on this report "Entitled."

Charles Simpkins \$30

on the 8th of November 1834 this man gave the following statement of his services.

in the 1776 or 1777 he went from Cumberlan County New Jersey as a substitute for his Father to Mount Holly under Capt Ephraim Lummus. he was in service this time six weeks.

in the same year he served another tour of six weeks at Hatten Field under Capt Beesley, and in that same year he served a nother of six weeks at Woodbury under Capt Elijah Davis

in the next succeeding year he served a nother tour of six weeks at Billings Fort under Capt. E Davis

he serve a tour of six weeks at Fort Mercer, but dont recollect in what year

he done four other tours of duty of six weeks each, at the two forts above mentioned.

In the begining of the year 1780 he enlisted in the township of Deerfield Cumberlan cty. Marched under Lieut Houseman to Philadelphia. at that place he went aboard of a vessel and sailed up to Trenton and from thence he marched to Morristown and from there to Head quarters at Top pan where Genl Washingtons army lay. he was there attached to the 2nd Jersey Regt. Capt Waggoner was his Captain – a small part of the army was removed from Top pan to a place called orrange town at which Major Andre was executed, he was present at that event. from there he marched to west point & was there discharged & thus ended my services Mr Ray wrote my Declaration.

a copy

W. G Singleton/ December 1 1834

NOTE: On 27 June 1850 and 23 Sep 1850 Mary Simpkins, 56, only child of Charles and Barbara Simpkins, applied unsuccessfully for a pension stating that her parents were married on 2 Jan 1782, that Charles Simpkins died on 7 June 1843, and Mary Simpkins died on 27 Feb 1850.