

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James C. Skaggs R9628

f16SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

6/28/11: rev'd 8/5/20

[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 Tennessee Knox County}

On this 7th day of October 1834 personally appeared in open Court at a Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions now sitting for said County James C Skaggs a citizen of said County, aged 71 years who being first sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision of an act of Congress passed on the 7th of June 1832. That he was born in Lawrence District [Laurens District] South Carolina some time as well as he recollects in the year 1763 where he continued to live up to the time of the Revolutionary war, and during its whole continuance – that at the termination of the war he moved to Spartanburg District South Carolina where he lived 10 or 11 years, when he moved to Jefferson County Tennessee, where he lived one-year when he moved to Knox County Tennessee where he has lived ever since and now lives. He states that sometime in the latter part of the year 1780 as well as he now recollects he entered as a volunteer into the Army of the America in Laurens District South Carolina and was enrolled in a company of horse that after his said enrollment John Roebuck was elected Captain of said company and applicant was elected Lieutenant – that this company was attached to a Regiment of horse under the command of Colonel Benjamin Roebuck – that he has no recollection of the particular time for which they volunteered, nor does he believe there was any specified time, but that they volunteered to do duty when and where and for as long a time as their services might be needed to assist their country – he states as his impression that his Regiment was under the supreme command of General Pickens [Andrew Pickens] and that his first marches were to Augusta, Ninety Six and through the intervening Country, in which service he continued until sometime in the winter after joining a portion of the Continental Army under General Morgan [Daniel Morgan], they encountered the British Army at a place called the Cowpens [January 17, 1781]¹ and defeated them – after the battle applicant with his Regiment, together with Morgan's Corps, took the prisoners and marched with great haste up the Catawba River which they crossed, and marched on through North Carolina and he thinks some distance into Virginia, where they were met by the Virginia troops who took charge of the prisoners – and applicant and his Regiment returned to the Haw River and towards Guilford North Carolina when they marched and counter marched until the battle of Guilford [March 15, 1781]² – after this battle applicant with his Regiment marched with the main Army under General Greene [Nathanael Greene] down upon Deep River and towards a place called Cross Creek [now Fayetteville] – here there was a division of the

¹ https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_cowpens.html

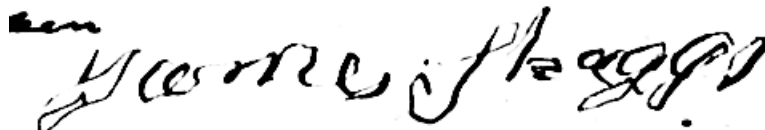
² https://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_guilford_courthouse.html

Army and applicant marched with a portion of the Army back to South Carolina. Sometime in the spring or early part of summer his Regiment under the command of General Sumter [Thomas Sumter] demanded and received the surrender of Orangeburg [May 11, 1781]³ – a short time afterwards his Regiment again under the command of General Pickens made an attack upon Ninety Six [Siege of Ninety Six, May 21-June 19, 1781]⁴ but in consequence of the British receiving a large reinforcement they were unable to take it – after abandoning this enterprise applicant and his Regiment scouted about through the Country where ever their superior officers or the calls of their country required them until in the latter part of the summer they marched again to the main Army under General Greene which they joined shortly after the battle of the Eutaw Springs [September 8, 1781],⁵ and were pretty shortly thereafter ordered with a portion of the Army across the Savannah River to recapture some post in Georgia in which service they were employed until early in the winter when they were discharged and went home. Applicant states that he never left his post during all this service unless when in the immediate neighborhood of his father's, when he made a visit of a few days and immediately returned – and he states that he was in the above service at least one whole year – applicant states that at some time after this campaign so he now believes he went out under his said officers and was in an engagement at Kettle Creek [February 14, 1779]⁶ and also in one at Wasmasaw [sic ?] – He does not now recollect whether these engagements were both in the same campaign or not – he was also in various short excursions the time of which and the places have been forgotten – he feels confident however that the first campaign above mentioned amounted to one whole years service and his other different campaigns to one year more, making in all two years as a Lieutenant, for which he claims a pension – he states he never received a written commission but acted as Lieutenant – he states that from the long time which has elapsed he cannot state with more particularity than he has done, the various circumstances of his service – he states that he has no record of his age but believes from the information of his parents he has stated his age correctly – he states that there is no clergyman residing in his neighborhood – he states that he was with the Continental troops at various places, under Generals Greene & Morgan but he never was particularly attached to any body of regulars he states that the individuals to whom he is known in his neighborhood who can testify as to his veracity and his reputation for having performed military services in the Revolutionary war our Wiatt Warwick, Henry Graves & Solomon Skaggs and others he states that he does not believe he received a written discharge for any of his services – if he ever did he has lost it – he states that he has no documentary evidence whatever of his services nor does he know of any person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his services – he hereby relinquishes every claim 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.

Sworn to & subscribed in open Court this 7th of October 1834.

S/ Geo. W. White, Clerk

S/ James Skaggs

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Skaggs". The signature is written in a cursive style with some flourishes.

³ https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_orangeburch_2.html

⁴ https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_ninety_six.html

⁵ https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_eutaw_springs.html

⁶ <https://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/790214-kettle-creek/>

[Wiatt Warwick and Solomon Skaggs gave the standard supporting affidavit.

Wiatt Warwick
Solomon Skaggs

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[p 9: On August 18, 1852 in Knox County Tennessee, Freeman Skaggs, 35, filed a claim for the arrearages of pension due his father James Skaggs who was a soldier of the revolution from the state of South Carolina; he states that his father died December 12, 1838 leaving the following named children his only heirs at law: Solomon Skaggs, Moses Skaggs, Charles Skaggs, Gideon Skaggs, Melinda Popejoy; Ursula Hill, Martha Graves, Charlotte Rutherford and affiant. He states that his father never received any portion of the pension money due him. He states that his mother the widow of James Skaggs died August 1, 1848.

Freeman Skaggs

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