

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Elisha Parker S11211 NC
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 9 June 2015.

State of North Carolina }
Gates County } S.S.

On this 20th Nov'r 1832 personally appeared in open court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions now sitting Elisha Parker a resident of Nasemond Cty, [sic: Nansemond County] Va. aged about 80 years who being first duly sworn according to Law, doth make oath to the following declaration to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832

That he entered the service in May 1779 under Capt Arthur Gatlin [sic: Arthur Gatling], Reg't North Carolina Militia commanded by Col John Lamb of Gates County as a private for the term of nine months – he marched from Winton Hertford County, through North Carolina he marched to South Carolina – he was at Charleston So Ca when the British made an attack on that place [aborted siege, 11 - 13 May 1779] led on by General [Augustine] Prevost he believes, the Americans were commanded by General [William] Moultrie. The British were unsuccessful in this attack. Our troops were entrenched in the forts. From this, the applicant was marched to Stono, and was engaged in the battle which took place there [Battle of Stono Ferry, 20 Jun 1779] We were compelled to retreat back to charleston where this applicant served out his term of nine months and was honourably discharged. He then returned to North Carolina.

He again entered the same service as a substitute for Francis Speight in 1780 as a private for two months under Capt Armstrong, Regt No Ca Militia. Col Armstrong of Gates County – he marched to North West in Currituck County – here the troops were commanded by General William Gregory [sic: Isaac Gregory] – after his term of service expired he was discharged – and he returned home

Shortly afterwards he was again a substitute for George Dunn a private in Capt [blank] Regt No Ca troops of Gates County commanded by Col. Wells for the term of three months. He went to North West again under Gen'l Gregory where he staid until his term of service expired

He was again shortly after his return a substitute for Dred Warren a private in Capt Harts company for the term of six weeks – Reg't of No. Ca. Militia – he marched to Suffolk & Portsmouth Va where he staid until his term expired & he was discharged

He has no documentary evidence to support his claim his discharges being all lost or distroyed. He conceives the testimony of David Lewis to be very material to the truth of his claim & he respectfully refers to the statement marked A.

He hereby relinquishes all claim to any pension except the present & declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of any state

Sworne to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid Elisha hisXmark Parker

The Court then propounded the following questions

1st Where & in what year were you born?

Ans'r about 1752 in Nansemond Cty Va near on the No Ca Line.

2^d Have you any record of yr age, & if so where is it

Ans'r I have none

3^d Where were you living when called into the service, where have you lived since the Revolutionary War & where do you now live

Ans'r I was living in Nansemond Cty on the N.C. line where I have lived ever since & where I now live.

4th How were you called into the service, were you drafted, did your volunteer or were you a substitute? if a substitute for whom?

Ans'r For the first tour of nine months I was drafted. The next tour I was a substitute for Francis Speight for whom I served two months. The next tour I was a substitute for Geo Dunn a private

in Capt. Dunns Compy for whom I served three months – and lastly a substitute for Dred Warren a private in Capt Hart’s company for whom I served 6 weeks.

5th State the names of some of the Regular officers who were with the troops where you served – such continental & militia Reg’ts as you can recollect & the general circumstances of your service?

An’r Gen’l Moultrie, Gen’l [Benjamin] Lincoln – North Carolina Militia Reg’ts General William Gregory, &c

6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, if so by whom was it signed & what has become of it?

Ans’r I have received discharges from every tour of duty which I perform – I was illiterate & ignorant of their use & have not preserved them. They were signed by the General in command I believe.

7th State the names of persons in your neighbourhood to [whom] you are known & who will testify to your character for veracity & their belief in your services in the Revolution?

David Voight, Mills Eure Esq’r Exum Jenkins Esq’r Col. Jethro Sumner, Clk of our Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions.

A

David Lewis appeared this 20th Nov’r 1832 in open court and being duly sworn saith that he is well acquainted with Elisha Parker the applicant in this case, & he well recollects that he saw him a private in Capt John Lamb’s Company North Carolina Militia drafted for nine months & that he marched with said troops to the State of South Carolina

State of Virginia } S.S.

County of Nansemond }

On this 10th day of February 1834 personally appeared in open Court before Jonah Kendrick, Dempsy Langston, Hugh H. Kelly & Edwin B. [illegible] the court of Nansemond County, now sitting, Elisha Parker, a resident of the aforesaid county & state, 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 provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. That he entered the service of the United States, as a private, in the latter part of the year 1779 under the command of Capt Arthur Gatling and Lieut. Banks, in the County of Gates, North Carolina – and marched to Charleston, South Carolina, under the command of General Linkhorn [sic: Benjamin Lincoln], and was at the battle of “the seige of Charleston” under these officers – was also at the battle of “Stono ferry”, in the month of June following after he entered the service, under the same officers; and that he was discharged in the month of August following at Col. Bull’s in South Carolina after serving a tour of nine months – that he entered the service to perform this tour of nine months as a volunteer, on his own account, and received a written discharge, but he has lost it or it has been destroyed. – That in the year 1780 or 1781, he again entered the service of the United States, as a substitute for Francis Speight, in the County of Gates, North Carolina, under the command of Capt. Armstrong and Gen’l Gregory, and marched to north west landing in the County of Pasquotank, North Carolina, and served a tour of two months under the last named officers at north west landing – that at the expiration of this tour of two months service, he again received a written discharge, but does not know what has become of it – and that he was in no battle during the last term of his service. – That he was not engaged in any civil pursuit during the performance of this service; that he has no documentary evidence and knows of no one, now living, who can testify to his services. – 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. Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid. Elisha hisXmark Parker

Questions propounded to the applicant by the court.

1st Where & in what year were you born? Ans: I was born 1759.

2nd Have you any record of your age, and if so, where is it? Ans I have none.

3rd Where were you living when called into service, where have you lived since the revolutionary war,

and where do you now live? Ans. I lived in Gates County, North Carolina when I entered the service – I now live in Nansemond County, Virginia where I have lived for the last fifty years.

4th How were you called into service; were you drafted, did you volunteer, or were you a substitute: and if a substitute, for whom? Ans: I volunteered to perform the first tour of nine months, and was a substitute for Francis Speight during the last tour of two months.

5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such continental & militia regiments as you can recollect, and the general circumstances of your service.
Ans: I recollect Capt Arthur Gatling and Lt. Banks.

6th Did you ever receive a discharge from service; and if so, by whom was it given, & what has become of it? Ans: I did receive two discharges, as stated in my declaration, but they have been lost or destroyed.

7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighbourhood, & who can testify to your character for veracity, and their belief of your services as a soldier of the revolution. –
Ans: I am very generally known in my neighbourhood; and any of my neighbours who are present at court will testify to my character for veracity, and their belief of my revolutionary services – Here are Dempsy Langston and David Darden.

Nansemond County, State of Virginia

This day personally appeared before me, Ro. H. Webb, a Justice of the peace for said County, James Renolds [S7370], of said County, and says, that he was well acquainted with Elisha Parker, and that he the said Elisha Parker, entered the service of the United States in the latter part of 1779, or the first part of 1780, and marched to Charleston, and that he was at the siege of Charleston [1 Apr - 12 May 1780], at which place, I was taken prisoner, but he made his escape therefrom;

Said Elisha Parker entered the service, as above stated in the County of Gates, North Carolina, under the command of Capt. Arthur Gatling, and Lieut. Banks; and he the said Elisha Parker marched to Charleston under the command of General Lincoln. – I, the said James Renolds certify that the said Elisha Parker, entered the service at that time, for nine months, but do not recollect the precise time when he was discharged. given under my hand & seal this 30th day of April 1834

James hisXmark Renolds

[Documents in the file indicate that a separate file numbered S22211 had been created for Elisha Parker's second application, and when the duplication was realized his pension was suspended because of suspicion of attempted fraud. A handwritten note reads as follows: "Sol made 2 aps. – one in 1832 in NC & the above named ap in Va & two certificates were issued. Both certificates were cancelled & he was dropped from the [pension] rolls but was restored in 1836 on his sworn affidavit that he did not understand & had no intention to defraud."]

Nansemond Co. Va Jun 1st 1835

This is to certify that Elisha Parker hath been a resident of my [undeciphered word] For twenty years or more, and that he hath livd on my land nearley that time and in consequence of his being an honest but poor Old Revolutionary I never have charg'd him any Rent for the Land on which he liv'd. and I further beleave the said Parker is an honest man and that I never have hird anything against His carectr in the smallest degree and that I do not beleave that He had any intentions to defraud goverment out of one cent Given under my hand this day above written [signed] Jethro Sumner

NOTES:

A typed summary of the file was prepared with the following explanation: "This history to be furnished if ever called for. It was written just to have a record of negroes."

The 1820 and 1830 federal censuses for Nansemond County list "Elisha of Parker" as a "Free Colored Person."