

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Benjamin Grigsby S1208

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

Shelby County }
 and }
State of Kentucky }

On this 11th day of March in the year of Christ 1833 personally appeared before the County Court of the aforesaid the County Court of the aforesaid County Benjamin Grigsby a resident Citizen of the aforesaid County aged 84 years, who being duly sworn according to Law doth on his Oath make the following Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions of the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. Said Declarant states that he was born on the 24th day of April 1749 in Prince William County in the state of Virginia, that he has seen his birth register in the Register of Births made by the Parson of the Parish agreeable to the regimes[?] of those early times. He states that in the month of september in the year 1777 he entered the Army of the Revolution as a Drafted Militia Man from the County of Prince William under the command of Captn Valentine Peyton. Jesse Ewell was the Coln of the Regiment to which my company belonged, or was attached. His brother James Ewell was a major in the same Regiment. Genl Charles Scott was one Gen'l of Brigade. Harrison Peyton was our Lieutenant. The particular day of the month I can't now recollect on which I entered the service. We marched from Prince William County into Pensylvania, where we joined the American Troops under the command of Genl Washington above Philadelphia, about ten miles from Germantown. I there saw Coln Seymes [probably Charles Simms] and Coln [William] Crawford who were Regular Officers I served two months and was discharged from Genl Scott's Brigade. I did not receive a written discharge; it was in the month of November ensuing the day of my first entry upon the service aforesaid. Afterwards in the year 1781 in the month of May, the day I can't recollect, I again entered the military service as a drafted malitia man from the County of King George under the command of Captn Michael Wallace Peter Hansborough was our Lieutenant. The principal service performed by us consisted in watching the British along the Potomack [sic: Potomac River] from Boyds Hole down as low as Seder Point [sic: Cedar Point]. This was about the time the British drove the Virginia Assembly from Richmond to Charlottsville [sic: Charlottesville; 22 Apr 1781]. I do not recollect the precise length of time I was actually engaged in this Tour of service, but from the best of my recollection, which is now in consequence of my old age is not good, I verily believe I served four if not five weeks on this Tour. Afterwards about the last of August in the year 1781, I again entered the military service as a drafted malitia man from the County of King George under the command of Captn William Bumbree. This was the name of my Captain as well as my memory serves me. Capn Campbell and Coln Ennis [sic: James Innes] were officers in the same body of Troops. We were marched to Gloucester in the first place, and was stationed between Gloster Court House and York Town. Before my term of service expired, the seige of York occurred. I was present at the surrender of L[or]d Cornwallis [19 Oct 1781]. I do not remember the day of my discharge; it was after the surrender. On this Tour I served two months. I received no written discharge.

By reason of old age, and consequent loss of memory and from the circumstance that I had no interest in preserving in my memory the particular days when I entered the military service, and on which I was discharged from it, I cannot state the precise period of entry upon service and of my discharge from it nor can from the same reasons state more accurately than I have done, the particular periods of the war when I was in service; But from the best of my recollection I served six months as a private soldier in the drafted malitia, during the war of the Revolution, and during the periods of it before stated by me. I have no documentary evidence of the services performed by me in the Revolutionary War; nor do I know of any living witness by whom I can prove them. I came out to Kentucky in the year 1808[?], where I have lived ever since. I refer to the Reverend Wm Ford, James Ford, Reuben Redding and John Maddox, who will state what they know as to my character for truth, what they believe as to my age, and how far I am

reputed and believed in the neighborhood to have been a soldier of the Revolution. I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a Pension or annuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the Pension Roll of the agency of any state. Sworn to and subscribed in open Court the day and year aforesaid
Benjamin hisXmark Grigsby

[The above claim was rejected because the applicant did not serve at least six months.]

State of Kentucky }
County of Shelby } Ss.

On this 19th day of August 1833 personally appeared before H. Bohannon a Justice of the peace in and for the County of Shelby in the state of Kentucky and one of the Justices of the Shelby County Court Benjamin Grigsby a resident of the said County of Shelby aged 84 years, who is unable by reason of bodily infirmity to attend the proper Court to make his declaration, and 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, that is to say, being a resident of the county of Prince William in the State of Virginia he did in the month of August in the year 1777 as well as he now remembers enter the service of the United States as a drafted militia man and private soldier upon a tour of three months in the company of Capt Valentine Peyton and [was] attached to the Regiment commanded by Col. Jesse Ewell. he states that he rendezvoused with his Company at a place called the red house [now Haymarket] in Prince William County Va. and there joined his regiment – that he was marched from thence to Pennsylvania and joined the Army of Gen'l. Washington not many miles from Philadelphia. That when he joined the Army he was attached to the Brigade of Gen'l. Scott who was also from the state of Va. – he states that he continued with the army till the expiration of his tour of duty and was discharged and returned home.

He further states and declares that afterward in the month of Jan'y 1781 as well as he now remembers being then a resident of King George County Va. he again entered the service of the United States as a drafted militia man and private soldier upon a tour of three months in the Company of Capt. Wallace in the regiment of Col. Skinker. that they rendezvoused at Boyds Hole on the Potomac River and were kept statio[page torn] along said river during the whole of his said tour for the purpose of protecting the country from the depredations of the British who were having command of the water courses which were at the time much infested with their vessels, frequently sent parties ashore to annoy the inhabitants and forage upon them. He states that at the termination of his said tour having served out the same he was discharged and returned home.

He further states and declares that afterwards in the latter part of the month of Sepr 1781 as well as he remembers he again entered the service of the United States as a drafted militia man and private soldier upon a tour of one month in the company of Capt. William Bumbray and was attached to the regiment of Col. Campbell. that he rendezvoused at Leeds Town [Leedstown] Va with his company & regiment and was marched from thence and joined the army of Gen'l. Washington, and was attach to Gen'l Weedons [George Weedon's] Brigade as well as he recollects. He states that he continued with the Army till the expiration of his tour of duty which he fully served. That he was present at and assisted in the seige of York and Capture of Cornwallis and a short time after his capture he was discharged and returned home.

He states that from his advanced age the great length of time and his consequent loss of memory he cannot state his services with that minuteness and precission which he would like to do but that from his present best recollection he served as above stated and set forth – that he did not serve less than seven months as a private soldier during the revolution.

He states that he has no documentary evidence and that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service or any part of it.

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 any state.

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid. Benjamin hisXmark Grigsby
Interrogatories put to the above named applicant by the said H. Bohannan Justice of the Peace as
aforesaid

1st Where and in what year were your Born?

Answer. I was born in Prince William County Va. in the year 1749 according to my information.

2^d Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

Answer. I have none. my knowledge of my age is derived from my recollection of my fathers family
record.

3^d where were you living when called into service; where have you lived since the revolutionary war,
and where do you now live.

Answer. When called into the service upon my first tour I was living in Prince William County Va. and
when I was called upon by two last tours I lived in King George County Va. I continued to reside in
Virginia after the revolutionary war till about 26 years ago when I moved to Bourbon County Kentucky
and have since lived in Clarke [sic: Clark] & Montgomery Counties Ky and now live in Shelby county
Ky.

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

Answer. I was drafted upon all my tours.

5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served; such
continental and militia Regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Answer. I recollect Gen'ls. [Nathanael] Greene, [Anthony] Wayne & Washington. I recollect Gen'l.
Weeden who was a militia officer [sic] I think and also Col. Innis & Col. Crawford besides my own
officers. My memory has so failed me that I cannot now recollect the names of any others.

Upon my first tour I was marched to Pennsylvania & joined the army of Gen'l. Washington some
miles from Philadelphia & continued with it during my tour. Upon my second tour my services were
performed along the Potomac River in protecting the country from the depredations of the British. Upon
my third tour I joined the army of Gen'l. Washington and was present and assisted in the seige of York
and capture of Cornwallis.

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

Answer. I never received any discharge

7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighbourhood and who can
testify as to your character for veracity and their belief of your services as a soldier of the revolution

Answer. I will name Wm W. Ford & Henry Baskett as persons who live in my neighbourhood and to
whom I am known

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid

Benjamin hisXmark Grigsby