

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of William Stewart S14580

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Kentucky, Livingston County SS: On this 3rd day of December 1832, personally appeared in open court before Christopher Haynes, David W. Paterson and John Smedley Esqrs justices of the county court for the county aforesaid now sitting William Stewart, a resident of the said County aged sixty nine years, who being first duly sworn, 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 in the month of May or June 1780 in the County of Muhlenburg State of North Carolina he volunteered as a private for a tour of six months under Captain Springhill [sic: Richard Spring, pension application S7585], whose company belonged to Colo. Geo. Alexander's regiment and to General [Griffith] Rutherford's brigade. These troops were ordered to join General [Horatio] Gates then commanding the Southern army, which was done at the cross roads between the cheraw hills and Lynch's cr[reek.] That not long after Rutherford joined Gates the battle of Camden [SC] was fought in which Gen'l. Gates was defeated. This battle was fought in August [16th] 1780 as he distinctly remembers. That by some order of the superior officers he with others on that day were placed with the continental troops [see note below], and after the retreat of some of the militia the continentals under which De Kalb continued to fight for some time, and until DeKalb received a mortal wound which happened near to where this applicant was engaged, who himself was wounded in that engagement. He states that he saw DeKalb after he fell, and well remembers the most of the circumstances of that disaterous day. That he was present in the preceding day when some altercation took place between Gates and DeKalb about the propriety of engaging when Gates reproached the other, and the reply, that the "morrow would prove who was brave." That after the battle, he continued in the service until about Christmas and was then discharged, having served the full time of six months. After this battle, Gates used every exertion to recruit his army, but the general opinion imputed to him some blame as to his conduct in the battle of Camden. That again in September or October 1781 the year following he again volunteered in a troop of horse from the same county under Major Thomas Harris and Captain Charles Alexander, for the time of three months. The object of which was suppressing of one Colo [David] Fanning, a tory on Deep river, who had collected a party of Tories, and was doing much injury. We marched in search of him and had several skirmishes with his party, and by watching his movements prevented his doing any further injury. After serving out this term of three months he was regularly discharged. That while the Brittish lay at Camden, Waxsaw [sic: Waxhaws Settlement, SC] and Charlotte, he performed many short tours of duty, in cases of exigency, under various officers, but he cannot now fix the terms of service, and will not now claim any thing for them, altho many of them were perilous, and of importance. He says positively, that in his first term under Gates he served six months, and in the last under Major Harris he served three months, making in all, for which he claims, nine months. He further states that he has no documentary evidence in his possession which would prove his service, nor does he know of any person now living with whom he served, and by whom he could prove it, except one James Walker, who knew me in the Revolution, and knew of my service - whose evidence I will endeavor to procure, as he lives in my county. 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. And the court propounded to him the following questions to which he answered as follows:

By the court 1. Where and in what year were you born?

Answer. I was born in the county of Mecklenberg, State of North Carolina on the 10th day of January 1763.

By the Court 2. Have you any record of your age, and if so where is it?

Answer. I have my fathers record of my age in a family Bible.

By the Court 3. Where were you living when called into service, where have you lived since the

Revolutionary war, and where do you now live?

Answer. I was living in Mecklenberg County North Carolina when I entered the service, and continued to live there after the War, till 1806 when in april I moved to this county where I now live.

By the Court 4. 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 always a Volunteer.

By the Court 5. State the names 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 knew Dekalb, and several other continental officers in Gates's army but whose names I have forgot. There were several militia regiments in the army besides my own, but I do not now remember who commanded them.

By the court 6. Did you ever receive a discharge, and if so by whom was it given & what has become of it?

Answer. I received a discharge from the six months tour of duty, signed by my captain or Colonel, which was deposited in the Auditors office to procure me an indent or Certificate of a wounded soldier, and as evidence of my claim. No written discharge was given for my other service. I never got my discharge from the Auditor's officer, and I suppose it remains on file there yet.

By the Court 7. State the names of persons by 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 am well known in the county, having long held an office (Justice of the Court) Will name James Wheeler, John Berry, James Cruse[?] Esqr. Joseph Hughes, William Hampton, and Christopher Haynes.
[signed] Wm Stewart

State of Illinois
White County

On this 20th day of March AD one thousand eight hundred and fifty five, personally appeared before me Solomon Jones Clerk of the Circuit Court within and for said County and State William Stewart aged ninety two years a resident of White County Illinois who being duly sworn according to law declares that he is the identical person who was a private in the Company commanded by Captain Richard Spring in the [blank] regiment of volunteers commanded by Colonel Armstrong, and of whom Alexander was Major [see note below] in the Revolutionary war that he volunteered in Mecklenburg County North Carolina on or about the last of May 1780, and that he fought at the battle of Camden in that year, that he volunteered for six months and continued in active service at that time for six months, and was honorably discharged in Mecklenburg County N. C. about the 25th day of December 1780. he further declares that his discharge was sent to the Auditor of N. C. from the government of which state he received pay for his six months services an auditors warrant. He further declares and swears that he is now a pensioner of the United States for his services in the revolutionary war, and that his pension Certificate purports to be recorded in the Pension Office at Washington City in Book E volume 7 and Page 67, By Daniel Boyd Clerk.
He further swears that he makes this Declaration for the purpose of obtaining the bounty land to which he may be entitled under the act approved March 3d 1855 he also declares that he has not received a warrant for bounty land under this or any other act of Congress nor made any other application therefor [signed] Wm Stewart

NOTES:

Virtually the entire North Carolina Continental Line was captured at the surrender of Charleston SC on 12 May 1780. The approximately two dozen regular soldiers who remained were combined with the NC Militia in the company of Captain Edward Yarborough under the command of Col. Hal Dixon. At the Battle of Camden this company fought beside the

Continental troops from Maryland and Delaware. Stewart's deposition suggests that he and some other militiamen were combined with the regular troops in Yarborough's company.

At the Battle of Camden the Mecklenburg County NC Militia was under Col. George Alexander. Col. Martin Armstrong commanded other companies.

Other documents in the file state that Stewart had also been a Sheriff of Livingston County KY, and had moved from Crittenden County KY to Carmi in White County IL.