

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of William Peters S1580

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Tennessee } SS.

County of McMinn }

On this [blank] day of September personally appeared in open Court, before the Justices of the County Court of said county, William Peters a resident of said county and state, aged about 72 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 June 7, 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated.

He entered the service in the County of Craven in the State of North Carolina, as a volunteer, under Captain David Roach, lieutenant Francis Delamar, ensign James Bexley, which company was attached to the 5th Regiment commanded by Col Benjamin Axum [Benjamin Exum], Richard Caswell, son of Governor Caswell, lieutenant Colonel, the Majors, Griffin and [Agrippa] Nichols, their given names not recollected, James Blackshire [possibly Blackshin], adjutant. This regiment belonged to General [Isaac] Gregory's Brigade. The company assembled at Newbern [sic: New Bern], and marched thro' Dobbs, & Duplin Counties to Cross-creek, now Fayetteville, and crossed Cape Fear river, several days march above Cross-creek; thence up the waters of Cape Fear several days, until the soldiers were billeted out, in the County to thrash wheat; thence the best way they could go, to get provisions, to Rugeley's Mills about 5 miles [sic: 12 mi] from Camden South Carolina, where the troops lay several days, perhaps 3 or 4 before Gates' defeat [Gen. Horatio Gates's defeat at the Battle of Camden, 16 Aug 1780] then [?]ning at Sunset, at the ordinary parade, the men received an order to parade a little after dark [15 Aug], and General Caswell, that is the Governor passed along the lines and ordered all to keep a profound silence; and in this manner the troops were marched about half way to Camden as declarant thought, from the mills where they had been posted, and about midnight, as it appeared from the position of the moon [about 2 AM], the advanced guard fired, and then the troops were halted, and stood to their arms all night. Occasionally some would sit down, but some horse in the van would bring an order to rise up, and thus the night had passed till near day light when the battle commenced. Great part of the militia retreated the first fire. Declarant passed close by the wing of the regulars [MD and DE Continentals], where he halted, and a soldier gave him three cartridges, to enable him to fight, but some maneuver of the regulars separated declarant from them, and he continued to retreat. Declarant saw Captain Meekins [possibly John Macon or Henry Macon] of Halifax trying to rally the militia but in vain, and declarant understood he was killed in repeating his attempts to rally them. In 3 or 4 days, many stragglers, reached Charlotte, agreed to form a company under a captain Alford [probably Julius Alford], but the most of them dispersed before day. At last declarant reached Hillsboro [sic: Hillsborough], where he found General Gregory engaged in giving furloughs. Declarant took one for 20 days, and went home. Then declarants company, and as many of the 5th regiment as could be found, were ordered to rendezvous at Kingston Dobb's County [sic: Kinston now in Lenoir County], and were marched under Axum to the ~~Shallow Ford~~ Sloan's ferry 9 miles below Sallisbury [sic: Salisbury] of the Yadkin, from which place the troops were marched under new officers, to wit, [illegible word] Pugh, Major Armstrong, Col. Parsley [sic: John Peasley], Captain of declarant's company John Raford, Willoughby Williams ensign. Under these officers they were marched up the Yadkin to the Shallow ford, where on hearing some firing they were formed in line of battle, and remained formed, until a small advanced party returned and reported that the firing was between the tories that we were in pursuit of and another body of volunteers [commanded by Maj. Joseph Cloyd] who had met & defeated them 14 Oct 1780]. The tory settlement against which we had marched was broken up by this affair, and we were marched back to Hillsboro where declarant received his discharge for this tour, including the service performed at Camden. A few nights before the discharge of the troops past had followed, from which declarant is enabled to say that he was discharged in the fall after the battle of Camden,

which was the 16th of August 1780. Declarant again volunteered into a horse company, under Captain John Allen, lieutenant Joseph Allen, ensign Shadrack Allen, to march against the Tories, who had embodied shortly after the battle at Guilford [Guilford Courthouse, 15 Mar 1781], chiefly in Craven, some in Dobbs & other Counties. These fellows would go home at night, and in the day time assemble and drink and eat, armed with good British muskets, which they got at Wilmington. The troops under Allen were constantly on the alert, but no action was fought but many prisoners were taken, until Col Craig [Maj. James Henry Craig] left Wilmington with the British forces [18 Nov 1781], and then the Corps was engaged in harassing his foraging parties. These volunteers found their own horses and guns, and were not discharged till some time after Cornwallis' capture [19 Oct 1781]

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 6th day of September 1832

[signed] Wm Peters

So that declarant served two tours of duty one of 3 months, the other of something more than three months. Declarant remained in North Carolina after the Revolution till about 1805, when he removed to Grainger County Tennessee, where he remained till 5 or 6 years ago, when he removed to McMinn County Tennessee where he now lives. Declarant knows of no person by whom he can prove the foregoing facts.

State of Tennessee }
McMinn County }

On this 23 day of August 1833, personally came before me, the undersigned, a justice of the peace in and for the state and county aforesaid, the same John Miller whose name is

subscribed on the opposite & foregoing page, William Peters, the declarant herein, who being duly sworn deposed and saith, that by reason of old age, and consequent loss of memory, he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service; nor as to the periods of the war when he served can he swear more positively than he has done, but according to the best of his recollection, he served not less than the periods mentioned below, and in the following grades; For three months he served as a private; For three months he served as a private, and for such service he claims a pension. He has no documentary evidence by which he can prove his service, and he has stated in his declaration, and again states that a living witness cannot be obtained.

[signed] William Peters