

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of William J. Walker S16011

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 13 Dec 2014.

State of Virginia County of Bedford S.S.

On this 23<sup>d</sup> day of September 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the Court of Bedford County now sitting the same being a Court of Record William J. Walker a resident of the said County in the State of Virginia aged 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 the 7<sup>th</sup> 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. In the year 1780 in the early part of June (but the day he cannot now recollect by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory) he entered the service as a substitute for one Robert Moreland and acted as Lieutenant which appointment he received as he entered the service in a company of militia from the County of Dinwiddie in Virginia where this declarant then resided. The company's other officers were George Pegram captain, Peter Eppes 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant himself 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant and Bagwell Hutchens Ensign. The company was attached to the 3<sup>d</sup> Virginia Regiment. Ralph Faulkner [Ralph Falkner] was Colonel, John Nicholas Lieutenant Colonel and Major Henry Conway of Pittsylvania or Henry County Va. was the major of the Regiment. The Company under the command of the Officers and at the time last aforesaid marched from the said County of Dinwiddie to Hillsborough in North Carolina where they remained awhile under the command of General [Edward] Stevens till General [Horatio] Gates came on [13 Jul 1780], when the Troops at Hillsborough were ordered to proceed to Camden [South Carolina], but before going there they remained awhile at Deep River in North Carolina, thence they marched to Masks Ferry on Pedee [sic: Pee Dee] River, where he was detached with others under Major Conway to guard some military stores, so that he did not go on to Camden. At the Ferry he remained with the detachment till after the battle of Camden [16 Aug 1780] and at this place he acted as adjutant for perhaps a month, still holding his commission however as a Lieutenant. From the Ferry he was marched again to Hillsborough, where he remained but a few days and was thence marched to Hogans's Creek [sic: probably Hogans Creek in Rockingham and Caswell counties NC]: about this time the soldiers deserted in such numbers that only two companies could be paraded out of the whole brigade. They were stationed at Hogans's Creek, he supposes in consequence of its being much infested with tories. From that place they were marched to Guilford Courthouse under the command of Major Nathaniel Morris. Here he was discharged on the last day of October in the year 1780 having served a tour of five months duty including the few days that were allowed him to return home with a parcel of troops from the Counties of Chesterfield, Dinwiddie Va. who were place under his command to be conducted home. Some of the men however preferred to be discharged on the spot and they were accordingly discharged by him at the time. The remainder he marched as far as Mecklenburg in Virginia on their way home where they also were discharged by him. The length of his service for this tour is five months and not less than five months. He received no other discharge that he remembers than the order to march the men home after their time had expired and there were discharged. He thinks the orders were written but they are now lost or mislaid. During this tour he was in no engagement, but took frequently parties of tories; he was in no civil engagement during its continuance. He does not recollect that there were any other troops at Hillsborough when he went to that place except Colo. Charles Harrison's Regiment of Artillery which marched from there about the same time with the other troops for Camden. — Sometime before Christmas in the fall of the same year or the early part of the winter, to wit, the year 1780, but the month and day he cannot recollect by reason of old age & the consequent loss of memory, there being a call for militia from his County, Dinwiddie, he went to the Town of Petersburg and raised a company or enrolled the men as fast as they reported themselves which with several other companies was put under the command of some of the officers of the Virginia line. Pratt Hughes was Captain, this deponant was appointed Lieutenant by Colo. Joseph Jones of Petersburg. Ambrose Grissom who had

been an old regular soldier was the ensign of the Company. The number of the regiment to which the company was attached he does not remember but he remembers that Colo. Joseph Jones had the command of it. Brown was Major. Colonel Gibson had the command of the whole of the troops there at the time. From Petersburg they marched through various places below there of little note, but were frequently stationed at Mackies mill in Surry or Isle of Wight on the lower end of Prince George County in Virginia, and at this place Gen. [Robert] Lawson took command of the troops and they remained here till they were regularly relieved by other militia and were regularly discharged at the expiration of the time and the end of the tour which was one of Three months duration, as he supposes and believes— The tours were then usually three months. he knows they were discharged at the expiration of their time. the tour was called one of three months, and therefore he feels confident in saying that it was one of three months, and not less than three months – He cannot recollect by reason of old age and loss of memory the month or day when he left the service but it was in the early part of the year 1781 when he left it. He in the service this tour when the battle of the Cowpens took place [17 Jan 1781] and recollects having heard of it at the time. He was in no civil employment nor was he in any engagement during the continuance of his service. He received no written discharge. He remembers Captains John Hunter Holt, John Davis, and Charles Ewell of the Virginia line. He remained at home but a short time but how long he cannot tell when he substituted again for one John Thompson and was appointed Lieutenant by Colo. Banister [sic: John Bannister] in a company of militia commanded by Captain William Lewis and the same ensign Bagwell Hutchens mentioned in his first tour, and the Company was again attached to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Va. Regiment under the same Colo. Ralph Faulkner and John Hunter Holt Major. The Company marched to different places in the Counties adjacent but finally were stationed at Suffolk with others under the command of General Muhlenburg [sic: Peter Muhlenberg] and afterwards under the command of Baron Steuben. They remained at Suffolk for some time but on the near approach of the British under Generals [William] Phillips and [Benedict] Arnold the american forces retreated to Petersburg where a slight skirmish ensued [Battle of Blandford Hill, 25 Apr 1781] when the americans again retreated to Chesterfield Courthouse but the British did not pursue farther than Petersburg as before stated. This declarant and the american forces remained at Chesterfield Courthouse a week, then went to the [Midlothian] coal pits in said County where they remained 3 or 4 weeks then crossed James River above Richmond, then marched to Richmond where the British had been a short time before [30 April] and burned a large quantity of Tobacco. At Richmond the troops reviewed by General Lafayette. Here in consequence of losing his clothing he got a furlough and came home, the time he cannot tell but it was a short time before the service would have expired as the Company was discharged before his furlough was out. The tour was one of three months he thinks and he served the whole of it except the short time he was absent on a furlough as before stated, he will therefore state for the greater certainty that he served not less than Two months; he received no other discharge than the furlough as before stated which is now lost or mislaid. During this tour he was in no civil employment. He cannot state by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory the precise day or month when he left or when he entered the service. He did after this no other service tho' occasionally going out in his own County as a volunteer for which there was no compensation or any General regulation it not being connected with the army — By reference to the foregoing detail of his service it will be seen that he served in the whole not less Ten months for which he claims a pension as a Lieutenant in the service of the United States. He has no documentary evidence, and he knows of no person now living whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service. He is known in his present neighbourhood to Samuel Phillips and Joseph Slaughter who can testify as to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution. He was born in the County of Dinwiddie in the State of Virginia in the year 1761 on the 19<sup>th</sup> of May as appears by a copy of a register once in his father's Bible, now in the possession of this declarant. He resided there when he entered the service, removed thence to Bedford in the year 1795. He resides now in the County of Bedford in the State of Virginia and has resided there most of his time since the Revolutionary war.

He makes the following answers to the several Interrogatories prescribed by the war department.

To the 1<sup>st</sup> he answers – In the County of Dinwiddie in the State of Virginia in the year 1761 – 19<sup>th</sup> May.

To the 2<sup>nd</sup> he answers – I have a copy of a register that was once in my fathers Bible it is now in my possession.

To the 3<sup>d</sup> he answers – In the county of Dinwiddie

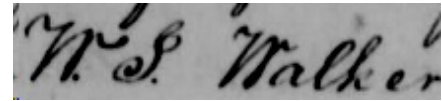
To the 4<sup>th</sup> he answers – I substituted the first time for one Robert Moreland. the 2<sup>nd</sup> I volunteered in consequence of getting the appointment of Lieutenant. The 3<sup>d</sup> I substituted for one John Thompson a private.

To the 5<sup>th</sup> he answers – see the body of the Declaration for an answer

To the Sixth he answers – see the body of the Declaration for an answer– His Commission was lost or mislaid.

To the 7<sup>th</sup> he answers – See body of the Declaration for an answer.

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.

A rectangular image showing a handwritten signature in cursive script. The signature appears to read "W. S. Walker".