

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of William Fitzgerald S16796 MD
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 4 Aug 2015.

State of North Carolina }
Guilford County }

On this 20th day of November 1832 personally appeared in open Court, before Wm Adams Benj Ross & Wm Parmer the Court now Setting William Fitz Gerald, a resident of Guilford County, aged Seventy one years or thereabout who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of an act of congress passed June the 7th 1832.

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

That he belonged the 2nd Reg't of Maryland State troops, that he lived in the County of Carlile [sic: Carroll?] in the s'd State of Maryland – at about the age of 21 years, to the best of his recollection in the month of August 1778 he became a Substitute for one Resden Bosman, who undertook therefor to provide for his widowed Mother and two children. that he marched to Philadelphia under Col. Smith & Capt. Shepherd, was there armed and cloathed, Returned to Anapolis in the s'd State of Maryland – marched there under Gen'l Giss [sic: Mordeci Gist; see endnote] to North Carolina where he joined Gen'l Green at Rougleys Mills in sd State. thence to the Cheraw Hill in Soth Carolina thence to Guilford, North Carolina by way of Salisbury. was detached with a party to Prince Edward Co Va. for Stores &c when the battle of Guilford was fought. that he rejoined the army at Ninety-Six South Carolina, was wounded at the Siege of that place in an attempt to storm the enemies works under Capt. Huger. marched from there to the high hills of Santee, thence to Camden. was in the action at hobkirk hill also at fort thompson. thence to Bacons bridge & the Eutaw Springs under Col Sumpter as a pilate [pilot?]. was in the action at the Springs under Cols Stuart & Egleston & Capt price. that he marched thence to Chalston was stationed on James Island where he remained until peace was made. that he was then embarked on board the Comadore Nichelson Seventyfour[?] & returned to Anapolis in his native State of Maryland after an absence of about five years. That he was there released on furlough for a few months when he was called in and regularly discharged. That he hath lost his discharge by the burning of a house in which it was deposited & that he hath spent five years of the prime of his life in the Service of the United States without compensation, being now old and infirm he throws himself on the bounty of his government

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to 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 and year aforesaid Wm F hisXmark Gerald

The State of Indiana } [3 Oct 1835]

Wayne County } Ss. I William Fitzgerald of the Coujty of Randolph aged ninety one years in December next do upon oath testify and declare that I entered the service of the United States in the year 1777 shortly after the battle of Brandywine [11 Sep 1777] but the precise date owing to the loss of memory I cannot now state I enlisted under one Capt Richard Andrews a recruiting officer for and until the end of the Revolutionary war, and served in the Second Regiment in the Maryland continental line until the end of the war. I served as follows and under the following named officer, I enlisted at Newtown Chester Maryland and marched from thence to Annapolis under one Capt. Shepherd whose given name I do not recollect; and from thence to Philadelphia under the command of Col. Stewart, and lay there a short time and were then marched to Baltimore and from thence we were detached to the South under Gen. Green, our Capt's. name if I recollect aright was [Thomas Brogden] Hugo. we passed from Baltimore through Alexandria, Petersburg [sic: Petersburg] Va. Hillsborough [sic: Hillsborough] N.C. and joined Gen. Greens main army at Rugeleis Mills South Carolina. I continued with the army of Gen. Green until after the battle of Eutaw Springs. I was in the battle of Guildford at the seige of ninety six

and the battle of Eutaw Springs. at the last named battle I received a severe wound in my left elbow. I was marched after the last named battle to Santee S. Carolina and lay there some time from thence was marched to James Island South Carolina We lay there eight or nine months to the best of my recollection under Command of Col Stewart, from thence we wee shipped to Annapolis Maryland and immediately furloughed home until further orders, this was to the best of my recollection in the year 1782 in the fall of the year. Sometime after the proclamation of peace we were called in by proclamation to Annapolis and were discharged I received a written discharge which has since been destroyed by fire in my brothers house. The time of service including the furlough was near six years. during all which time except the said furlough I followed no civil pursuit at the time of my discharge I received a Certificate of pay for a sum of money I do not now recollect perhaps it was for eighty dollars, which I sold for Eighteen dollars in money which was the only pay I received for my services. I am now receiving a pension from the United States under the act of the 7 June 1832, and am applying for the benefit of the act of the 15 May 1828. when I first received my pension under the act of 7 June 1832 I resided in North Carolina, and afterwards in the fall of the year 1834 I removed to the State of Indiana where I now reside

William hisXmark Fitzgerald

NOTES:

Fitzgerald's first declaration of service is thoroughly confused. The following is a chronology of the events referred to:

1780

- 16 Aug MD troops decimated at Camden SC; Gen. Mordecai Gist returns to MD to recruit
- 2 Dec Gen. Nathanael Greene at Charlotte NC takes command of southern army
- 26 Dec Greene takes part of army to Cheraw Hills SC

1781

- 28 Jan Greene takes army westward to join Gen. Morgan being pursued by Cornwallis
- 5 Feb Greene's army near Salisbury NC 15 Mar Battle of Guilford Courthouse NC
- 22 Feb Siege of Belleville, fortified home of Col. William Thomson
- 4 Apr Greene decides to return to South Carolina, passing near Rugeley's Mill
- 25 Apr Battle of Hobkirk Hill near Camden SC
- 22 May Greene begins Siege of Ninety Six SC; Gen. Isaac Huger commands VA Continentals
- 14 Jun Lt Isaac Duval and Lt Samuel Selden lead "Forlorn Hope": unsuccessful assault on British redoubts at Ninety Six
- 19 Jun Greene abandons Siege of Ninety Six; retires to High Hills of Santee
- 8 Sep Battle of Eutaw Springs SC; Gen. Thomas Sumter not present; Col. Stuart, Col. Egleston and Capt. Price unknown
- 1 Dec Greene and part of army near Bacon's Bridge

1782

- Jan Greene besieges British in Charleston for almost a year; patriot forces on James Is.
- 14 Dec British evacuate Charleston

On 15 May 1835 William Fitzgerald applied to have his pension transferred to Indiana, having moved to Wayne County.

Fitzgerald's second application was rejected because of inconsistencies with the first.

A letter dated 20 Jul 1836 refers to the applicant's deceased brother, Charles Fitzgerald.