

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Bethuel Riggs S17046

Transcribed by Will Graves

f37NC[sic, NJ]

rev'd 1/6/10 & 6/10/17

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. The word 'illegible' or 'indcipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading skills fail to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

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State of Ohio, Hamilton County

On this twenty fourth day of August A.D. 1832 Personally appeared in open Court before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas now sitting Bethuel Riggs a resident of Anderson Township in the County of Hamilton aforesaid, aged Seventy five 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 as a drafted militia man in the year 1776, at Elizabeth Town Point in the State of New Jersey, where he remained one month. His Captain's name was Condict [?], and his Colonel's Ford: from thence he went to the Red-Stone old Fort in the autumn of the same year, guarding the provisions at that place, near Brownsville [?], for the term of one month. ~~He~~ Thence he went to Wilks [sic, Wilkes] County North Carolina, in the same season, deponent was present at the battle of Ramsour's Mills, where several hundred Tories were taken by the detachment, in which he acted as Lieutenant. Captain Cleveland commanded. From thence, he proceeded on the Catawba River, where Captain Cleveland was wounded, and deponent was chosen to act in his stead, in which capacity he served until Cornwallis, crossed the Yadkin for Little York. After deponent was elected Captain, he proceeded with his Company to the King's Mountain where he arrived at the close of the battle, being in the rear guard. Thence, deponent assisted to guard the prisoners who were captured at that place, to the Moravian Towns – on the way the deponent was a member of the Court Martial, which condemned Ten Tories to death, nine of whom were hung and the detachment was pursued by Tarelton [sic, Banastre Tarleton], who commanded the British light troops, but escaped from a sudden rise of Catawba River. After the arrival of deponent at the Moravian Towns, he assisted to guard the British prisoners for some time, when he returned to Wilkes County, where he remained a short time. When Cornwallis was on his way from Charleston through the Carolinas, the deponent again took the field, and harassed with his company the rear of the British Army, until Cornwallis crossed the Yadkin [River]. He further saith that he was to the best of his recollection in actual service during the Revolutionary War more than two years.

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 & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ Bethuel Riggs

S/ Daniel Gano [?], Clk

[Clayton Webb and John Macgill gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

In answer to the interrogatories propounded to him, he answers & says:

Qu the 1st : That he was born in Madison Township, Morris County New Jersey in the year 1757.

Qu the 2nd : That he has no record of his age.

Qu the 3rd : He was living in Morris County New Jersey—since the Revolution, he has been living in North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Missouri, and is now living in Anderson Township, Hamilton County Ohio.

Qu. the 4th : He was drafted.

Qu. the 5th : Colonel Cleveland [Benjamin Cleveland], Colonel Isaac Shelby – Colonel Campbell [William Campbell] & others.

Qu. the 6th : Deponent was elected Captain & Lieutenant and had a written commission which is now lost.

Qu. the 7th: Clayton Webb & John McGill

S/ Bethuel Riggs

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State of Ohio Hamilton County

Personally appeared in open court before the Judges of the court of common pleas of Hamilton County Ohio now sitting, Bethuel Riggs the applicant for a pension in the petition hereto accompanying, this further declaration, and made oath, that by reason of old age, and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service, but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following grades -- five months service as a drafted militia man and for the term of not less than eighteen months I served as Captain in the militia doing service as I have heretofore testified in my former declaration -- and further the said Bethuel Riggs deposeth and saith that the name of the Captain under which he served was Jared Condict the name of his Colonel he cannot recollect other than his surname the name of his Captain under whom he served in North Carolina as before deposed was Benjamin Cleveland -- and further deponent saith not.

Sworn to and subscribed before me in open Court April 18th 1833

S/ Danl. Gano, Clk

S/ Betel Riggs

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State of Ohio Hamilton County: SS

Before me the undersigned a Justice of the peace in and for the said County personally came Joseph Thompson of lawful age who being duly sworn according to law deposes and saith that he has been acquainted with Bethuel Riggs upwards of 50 years, that they are acquaintance commenced in Wilkes County North Carolina in time of the revolutionary war, that he was Captain of a company [of] militia volunteers under Colonel Benjamin Cleveland, that he was almost continually on duty for upwards of 2 years that he has frequently heard the officers with whom he served speak of Captain Riggs as good Soldier and as a vigilant and indefatigable officer, so was the general report and that he rendered important services in the darkest hours of our revolutionary Struggle has never been disputed or doubted to his knowledge from that time to the present. This deponent further saith that he verily believes that any declaration made by the said Bethuel Riggs under of may be relied upon as truth, this deponent further saith that he has known said Riggs as a preacher in the Baptist Church upwards of 30 years during which time he has been in full fellowship with that the nomination.

S/ Joseph Thompson, X his mark

Sworn to & subscribed before made this 27th day of August 1832

S/ H Debolt, JP

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State of Kentucky Bath County

Being called on by Bethuel Riggs to state what I know in relation to his services in the revolutionary war I do hereby certify that I was at the time of the revolution war living in the State of North Carolina and to the best of my recollection Wilkes County and I have a knowledge of the said Riggs calling at my house in time of the war with his company of men and stayed all night & put out sentinels to guard against the Tories as they were very troublesome in the neighborhood at that time said Riggs was called and known as Captain Riggs. I further state that I had a son Class Tompson [sic] who served under said Riggs as a private in his Company for a long time and went under him and was at the battle of King's Mountain and on several scouting parties against the Tories.

Given under my hand this 21st day of August 1832

Attest: S/ James R. Jones

S/ Jane Thompson, X her mark

[Facts in file: veteran died July 25, 1833. The file contains no information regarding the veteran's family.]