

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension application of Joseph Rankhorn S1712

fn23NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

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State of Tennessee Warren County: SS

On this the [illegible] day of July 1833, personally appeared in open Court before [illegible] Higgenbotham, William McGregger & Samuel Denby Esquires Judges etc. day being the presiding Justices of the Warren County Court now sitting Joseph Rankhorn, a resident of the County of Warren and State of Tennessee aged 73 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 the 7th of June 1832.

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

He entered the service of the United States as well as he now recollects in the month of March 1779 (he arrived that time by the battle of Guilford which took place about 12 months after he came out of the service) he volunteered or enlisted on board of a ship of war called *Caswell* for the term of 12 months the ship was at Edenton North Carolina, at that time. She was commanded by Captain __ Wilson,¹ __ Bush was the Lieutenant he does not recollect either of their given names. James long was the Ensign, __ Holt and __ Gilmore were the Midshipmen, the ship carried thirty-two guns as well as he recollects and the most of them eighteen pounders, there was one hundred eighty men then on board besides the officers. Applicant was enlisted by the Ensign James Long after which the Captain sailed by direction to the Ocracoke Bar or inlet where he was stationed to give security and protection to the Merchantmen going out from and returning to Edenton. They there remained until sometime in the summer when it was ascertained that the *Caswell* was very leaky and that it was necessary to have her replaced as she was then unfit for service. That Captain therefore sailed back to Edenton, and from there to a place called the South Key on the Chowan River, he then left the *Caswell* and took another ship which was then entirely new and indeed was not rigged off when they arrived this ship was called the *Washington*, the guns and other munitions were transferred from the *Caswell* to the *Washington*, they then carried the latter down to Edenton where they remained, at first day intended after taking in some provision etc. to return to the Ocracoke inlet, but whilst they were waiting for the supply of provisions the Captain ascertained that the *Washington* was so indifferently constructed that she was not fit for service: in a short time after this Captain Wilson

¹ May be Captain Willis Wilson *Caswell*.

Coggins:102, ND6:1417, ND7:121, ND8:175, ND9:37, ND10:802, ND11:191, row galley of the VA Navy, 1776-79, Capt Willis Wilson, built at South Quay on the Blackwater for the defense of Ocracoke Inlet. Coggins:106, this galley was to be purchased by the NC Navy, but she sank on station in June 1779.

<http://www.awiatsea.com/Other/Hough%20List%20C-D.html>

left the crew and ship with but little provision and went to his residence in Virginia, previous to his departure he paid applicant a part of his wages, applicant continued on in the service in this situation until march 1780 when his term of service expired. Upon inquiry he was informed that he could not get a discharge until Captain Wilson returned which was constantly expected for this purpose he remained in the service until sometime in June when despairing of Wilson's return he came to the conclusion to demand his discharge of Lieutenant Bush. His wife had come from Virginia where he resided to see him he had gone ashore into Terrell County not far from Edenton and was there staying with her. Applicant and others were sent ashore for the purpose of procuring provisions, and being near the place where Bush was, he went to him, told him the time he entered the service, and for what length of time, which had expired 3 months before and demanded of him a discharge. Bush told him that he was not authorized to discharge him that it could be done by Wilson alone that he knew his term of service had expired. Applicant then asked him to advise him what to do. Bush told him that he had a head, feet & hands, his time had expired and to determine for himself, that he was not authorized to discharge him. Applicant construed this into a tacit discharge, & therefore told Bush he should go home, which he did and which was about 12 or 13 miles from Edenton. This ended his service.

He served in all 15 months. He has no documentary evidence of his service nor does he know of any person living by whom he can prove them or any part of them.

He was born in Terrell now Washington County North Carolina in June 1760.

He has no record of his age nor never had when he married he knew his age from the information of his parents his wife had a record of hers and yet has it when they were married, he was 20 days the oldest by which means he ascertains his own age. When called into the service he lived in Terrell County North Carolina about 12 or 13 miles from Edenton, he remained there during the revolution and for several years afterwards. He then moved to Anson County in the same State where he built for several years, he then moved to this Warren County State of Tennessee where he now and has lived for about 20 years.

He volunteered into the service.

As to regular officers, Continental and militia regiments he cannot state anything more than he has. Whilst at anchor at Edenton there were soldiers in that town who were in what number or by whom commanded applicant is entirely ignorant.

He never did receive a discharge from the service.

He is acquainted with Thomas Clark a clergyman, Jesse Gibbs, John B. Webb, Abner Warmack, Harold Byers & John Fiske as well as diverse others who live in the neighborhood in which he at present resides and he thinks they will testify as to his character for veracity and their belief of his service as a soldier of the revolution.

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 in open Court the day & year aforesaid.

S/ Joseph Rankhorn, X his mark

[Thomas Clark, a clergyman & Harold Byers gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[In February 1844, veteran applied to have his pension payments transferred to Wright County, Missouri saying he had moved there from DeKalb County, Tennessee in October 1843; in March 1847, the veteran applied to be transferred to the pension rolls of the state of Tennessee from the state of Missouri giving as his reasons for moving from Missouri to Tennessee "sickness & dissatisfaction"]