

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of John Grisham S21790

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of South Carolina } SS  
Pickens District }

On this first day of October in the year of our Lord 1832 Personally appeared in open Court, before the Honorable Richard Gantt in the Court of General Sessions & Common Pleas for the District and State aforesaid now sitting John Grisham Esquire a resident of Pickens District in the State aforesaid aged Seventy one 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. In April 1779 in the County of Henry, Virginia He volunteered under Capt. Haman Cright [sic: Haman Critz], does not recollect the subalterns. Went after the Tories in the Hollow (so called) of the Yadkin [The Hollow, now in Patrick County] under Major Hairston and Col. Henry Lines [sic: Henry Lyons] they were three weeks out took several Prisoners & put them in Gaol. Afterwards about one month after he was discharged He volunteered under Capt. Lifas Shelton [Eliphaz Shelton] of the Cavalry Charles Eads Lieut. John Miller Ensign William Poor Orderly Sergeant. They went out at the Flour gap [Flower Gap in present Carroll County VA] and were principally employed in scouting the Country to keep down the Tories in Henry County Virginia and Surry County in North Carolina. He served three months and was discharged near the Flour gap in Henry County Va. Afterwards about February 1780 He volunteered under Capt Cright and went to join Gen'l. Green [sic: Nathanael Greene] he was waiting or Lord Cornwallis to pass to the Northward after being out near two weeks under Col. James Lyon who went home & left his men who all dispersed and returned [shortly before the Battle of Guilford Courthouse NC, 15 Mar 1781] he was out between two & three weeks this time. He afterwards volunteered to Guard the baggage wagons sent by Gen'l. Washington to the South, he was under Maj. John Hampton & Col Wade Hampton who had charge of the Guard they returned into Virginia & remained till after the battle at Guilford [see note below] he was then discharged & went home. afterwards in June 1781 he was drafted for two months and went down into the lower part of Virginia King & Queen Counties [sic: King and Queen County] &c. where the American Army were stationed where he served out his Tour of Two months under Capt. Cright he was in no battle as Washington had not joined them

Afterwards in September 1781 about ten days after his return, He volunteered under Capt. [Swinfield] Hill, Major John Waller of the Virginia Militia, and was marched down to Little York Town where they joined the American Army. He was then put under command of Capt. Own Reubel [sic: Owen Rubell] He was in the Seige until the Surrender of Cornwallis [19 Oct 1781], and after the British army were marched out he was discharged and went home.

His discharges he preserved for a time but believing them of no value, mislaid or let them be destroyed.

He was born in Culpepper [sic: Culpeper] County Virginia and when small his Father moved into Henry County where he was raised & lived till the Close of the War except the time he was in the service. He is no[w] removed at so great a distance that he cannot procure evidence of his services that he knows of. He moved from Henry County Va to South Carolina in 1783 he settled in Pendleton County afterwards made a District, which has since been divided into two Districts, and for the last 34 years he has lived in Pickens District

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 day and year aforesaid.

[signed] John Grisham

The State of South Carolina

Before me Nathan Boon one of the Justices of the Quorum for Pickens District in the State aforesaid personally appeared John Grisham Esqr who has made application for the benefit

of the act of 7<sup>th</sup> June 1832 which application is returned for the purpose of being amended  
Numbered on the back 15,338

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, (being so long since he did the service) but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below — All the Service did by him was done as a private he never held a military commission, had the offer of subaltern commission but never accepted one — in the year

1779 under Capt Cright 21 Days

Under Capt. Lifas Shelton 3 months

1780 Under Maj Hampton & Capt Cright 20 days

1781 Under Capt Cright 2 months

Under Capt Hill & Rubell 1 mo. 19

In all Eight months & one day - mo 8 01 day

There is no living Witness that he knows who can testify of his services — He has sent to enquire for his companions in the war but has got no information of them and does not know of any that he can procure — And further swears, That he was informed by his parents & a record of his age was put into the Family Bible - He was born 14<sup>th</sup> day of March in the year 1761 — That he has his age now in the Bible in his house in Pickens District S.C. —

Sworn to & subscribed Before me this 9<sup>th</sup> May 1833. [signed] John Grisham

NOTES:

According to the pension application of William French (S37943), the service as guard to baggage wagons under Col. Wade Hampton of SC occurred in 1782.

On the pension certificate it is noted that Grisham died 22 June 1835.