

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of Reuben Starke S21996

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of South Carolina } On the 23. day of October A.D. 1832  
Abbeville District } Personally appeared in open Court before the honorable Richard Gantt The presiding Judge of the Court of Common pleas now sitting. Reuben Starke, a resident of said State and District. And after being 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.

1. That he the said Reuben Starke is now Seventy two years of age.
2. That he entered the Service of the United States in the year of our Lord 1777 and served the first tour in Col. John Winn's Reg't., in Capt. John Smith's Company, the said Regiment being composed of the Militia of the State of South Carolina, the length of time engaged in this service not remembered, but the deponent got a furlough to return home for a short time, and after returning to encampment, was informed that Col. Winn had joined Gen'l. [Andrew] Williamson's Brigade and gone to Florida.
3. The said deponent then Volunteered his service and joined Col. Eli Kershaw's Reg't. of rangers, and continued in the service untill a number of horses belonging to said Reg't. was stolen by the Tories. And amongst those stolen the deponent's. he then returned home. This term of service not distinctly remembered.
4. The next tour of service was under Gen'l. Thomas Sumter in the year 1780. which was about the time the British took Camden. Was with Gen'l. Sumter at the battle of the hanging Rock [6 Aug 1780], and with him the time of Gen'l Gates' Defeat [defeat of Gen. Horatio Gates at the Battle of Camden, 16 Aug 1780], and afterwards untill his surprise at Fishing Creek [18 Aug], when his army was dispersed.
5. The said deponent went at this time into North Carolina, at which time they were drafting recruits for Col. Taylor's Reg't. in Granville County. The deponent there substituted for three months in the place of James Norris. The command of that army was transfered to Col. Malmeddy [sic: Marquis Francis de Malmedy], a french gentleman. During this expedition the battle of Guilford [Guilford Courthouse NC, 15 Mar 1781] was fought, and after serving out the tour, the deponent returned home for s short time.
6. The deponent after a short interval joined Col. Thomas Taylor at Orangeburg, and acted as an officer, for some time, the term of this service not recollected. He shortly after joined Major Lyles [Lisle] at the four holes [in Orangeburg County], and then joined Gen. Francis Marion's Brigade and was attached to Capt. Douglas Starke's Company, was in the scrimmage at Biggin Church [16 Jul 1781], and the next day in the battle at Combahee bridge [sic: Quinby Bridge and Shubrick's Plantation].
7. The next tour was under Col. [Henry] Hunter the time of the battle of the Utaw Springs [sic: Eutaw Springs, 8 Sep 1781] but was prevented from being in that engagement by the deponents horse being sick.

This deponent saith he has no written documents to prove the above services, nor convenient witnesses and but few of his compatriots alive to whom he could apply for proof of his services. And those who are yet alive live at such distances as to make it very inconvenient to obtain their testimony. Col. Thomas Taylor of Richland District, and Major Willis Whitaker of Fairfield District are the only persons of responsibility now known of to whom the deponent could apply for testimony on his behalf for the above recited services.

After submitting the above, I do hereby relinquish all claims, of every kind and nature, to a pension or annuity for service rendered during th revolutionary struggle except the present.

Hereby solemnly declaring that my name is not on the pension Roll of this State, nor on the pension Roll of the United States.

This deponent saith that at the time of his services he was a citizen of Camden District, now Kershaw District. And that he was born a citizen of the United States.

[signed] Reuben Starke

State of South Carolina }

Abbeville District } SS. Amended declaration of Reuben Starke an applicant for a pension under the act of Congress of 7 June 1832. and in answer to the Objections pointed out by the department in red ink to the admission of his claim.

Personally appeared before me, the undersigned a Justice of the Peace in and for the District and State aforesaid Reuben Starke who being duly sworn, deposeth and saith, 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 viz.

Table Exhibiting the periods of Reuben Starke's Services & the grades &c

No of Services	Length of Service	Under whom Service was Rendered	By what Authority Called into Substitute	Whether Drafted Volunteer or	Grade
1 <sup>st</sup>	two months	Col John Winn	Col John Winn	Drafted	Private
2 <sup>nd</sup>	one month	Col Eli Kershaw	Col Eli Kershaw	Volunteer	Private
3	one month	Gen'l Thos Sumpter	Gen'l Thos Sumpter	Volunteer	Private
4	three months	Col Taylor of N. Carolina & transfer- to command of Col Malmedy	Col Taylor NC	Substitute	Private
5	two months	Col Thos Taylor of S. C.	Col Thos Taylor S Carol	Volunteer	1 <sup>st</sup> Lieutenant
×6	two months	Maj Lyles Maj Lyles	Volunteer	Private	
×7	one month	Gen'l Francis Marion	Gen'l Francis Marion	Volunteer	Private
8	two weeks	Col Hunter	Col Hunter	Volunteer	Private

[in different writing] × not mentioned in original declaration - dis'd

Here the applicant Reuben Starke takes occasion to mention a tour of duty which he omitted to state in his Declaration & that is that he Volunteered his services under Captain Singleton to go in pursuit of some tories in the State of Georgia and in capturing one of them single handed, the applicant took a fleeing tory prisoner who was wounded by the applicant & from whom the applicant received a severe gun shot wound, which kept the applicant confined for nine weeks, the applicant further states that all his military services were performed in the State of South Carolina excepting the service under Capt. Singleton and his fourth service as above stated under Col Taylor & Col Malmedy your applicant further states, That Col Thos Taylor and Major Willis Whitaker are both dead, & that he does not know of a living witness, who could testify to the applicants services, or any part of them. The applicant further states, that he was born in the State of Virginia in Goodgeling [sic: Goochland] county in the year seventeen hundred and sixty, that he has a record of his age in his family bible in his own hand in Abbeville District, that he was drafted in one instance as already stated under Col Winn, that he was a substitute for Mr James Norris in North Carolina in Granville County under Col Taylor and was discharged in a written form from service under Col Taylor by a Major Williams which written discharge has for many years been lost. his other discharges were always verbal, he never rec'd. a written commission, Commissions being then conferred by the approbatory view of a company. The applicant further states for the information of the department, that Dr. A B Arnold, Joseph Groves Esq, Maj John Caldwell and Majr John Power are gentlemen residing in the neighbourhood of the applicant and who can testify as to the applicants character for veracity & their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution  
Sworn to this twenty seventh day of November 1835 [signed] Reuben Starke