

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of James Cox S2441

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 14 Apr 2013.

State of North Carolina

Stokes County

on this twelfth day of March 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of the County Court of pleas and quarter sessions for Stokes County now sitting James Cox a resident of Stokes County in the State of North Carolina aged about seventy 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 7th, 1832 That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated; That he entered the service as a volunteer some time in the summer of 1780 (the precise time he does not remember) under General Morgan, Captain Booker, and Lieutenant Gill (he recollects nothing of any Colonel or Major) that he then resided in Halifax County Virginia, that they marched to Carter's Ferry on James River [sic: present Cartersville], that the enemy was at that time in the neighborhood of that place, that while at Carter's Ferry the enemy [several illegible words] the river upon the opposite side, when our army fired upon them with rifles when the enemy levelled some of their canon at them – that the American Army remained at and about Carter's Ferry for some time, when the enemy left the position which they occupied upon the other side of the river and marched in the direction of Portsmouth, when our army marched to Staunton where they remained a short time and then returned to Carter's Ferry where they remained until he was discharged having been in the service during this expedition three months, that he was discharged in writing but the discharge is lost. That upon being discharged he returned to his home in Halifax Virginia where he remained until sometime in the summer of 1781 (the precise month he does not recollect) when he enlisted in the troops of the Virginia line, and was placed under the command of General [Anthony] Wayne, Colonel Posie [sic: Thomas Posey], Major Fenton [sic: Samuel Finley] and Captain Moss, that he was marched immediately from Halifax Va through North Carolina to Charleston in South Carolina, at which place they joined General [Nathanael] Greene and his army, that after remaining there for about a week, an express arrived, bringing information that the British had possessed themselves of Savannah a Town in the State of Georgia [see endnote], whereupon they were marched forthwith to Savannah leaving General Greene and his army at Charleston, and upon arriving at Savannah found the Town occupied by the enemy that our army pitched its camp about a mile from Town, where after having been for several months our Camp was attacked by a party of Indians [probably at Sharon GA, 24 May 1782], who surrounded the General's quarters; an engagement ensued, in which many of the Indians and some of our men were killed– the Indians were defeated and ran off to Town where they joined the British. after sometime he knows not how long, the General received a letter from the British Commander containing a challenge to meet the British Army with ours, the challenge was accepted, whereupon the two armies met near what was called the swinging bridge between our Camp and the Town and a battle was fought [see endnote] which lasted about three hours, in which our army achieved a victory, many on each side were killed the British retreated to the Town & got within their fort, where they remained until, information was received of Corn Wallis surrender [sic: Cornwallis at Yorktown, 19 Oct 1781] – some days after the receipt of this intelligence the British commander notified our General that on a certain morning he might have possession of the Town – upon the appointed morning [11 Jul 1782] our army marched into Town before all of the British had evacuated it; our General upon discovering that some of them were still there halted his army until they were gone, when our Army was left in the sole possession of the Town– at that time our officers concluded that as our soldiers were in so destitute a situation that they had not the means of getting home, they would not disband them until they were marched to Virginia, they were accordingly

marched by two Captains to Carters Ferry in Va. where he with all the others was discharged, having been in the service six or seven months during this tour, that he at that time rec'd. a written discharge which is lost, that he has no documentary evidence; that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service – he was born in King and Queen County in Virginia in the year 1762 or 1763 as he believes– that he has no record of his age That he was living in Halifax County Virginia when he was called into service, where he resided until about thirty years ago, when he removed to Stokes County N. Carolina where he has resided ever since and now resides – That he went into the service first as a volunteer for three months, and next he enlisted in the State troops and as such served six or seven months. That the names of those officers already mentioned are all that he can recollect– That his first discharge was signed by Genl. Morgan and the others by Genl. [Charles] Scott as he believes, but they are both lost. That he is known to Matthew R. Moore & William H Lyon in his present neighborhood, who can and will testify as to his character for veracity, and their belief of his services 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 army of any State.
Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid James hisXmark Cox

NOTES:

The British had, in fact, occupied Savannah since the end of 1778. I could find no record of a battle between Wayne and the British just before their surrender of Savannah.

A document in the file states that Cox died on 10 Sep 1846.