

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

Pension application of Drury Rigsby S20681

fn31NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

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State of Kentucky Lawrence County

On this 11th day of March 1834 personally appeared before me, a Justice of the peace in and for the County of Lawrence Drury Rigsby, resident in the County of Lawrence and State of Kentucky aged eighty-nine 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 common soldier on the 19th day of April 1779 under Captain Hadley in Rowan County North Carolina Colonel Lytle for 6 months, he was drafted for the time aforesaid from Salisbury he marched through Randolph County, and to the Hawfields in the month of May, he was marched down on the Haw [River], and Deep River during that year, in July he got back to Salisbury the Tories had attacked again at the Hawfields and being assisted by the Scotch people the militia under Colonel Lytle, marched and came up with them at the Hawfields and a smart engagement ensued between the Scots, and advanced guards and the Tories were at length beaten by the militia there being no regular officers in the Country or in North Carolina a few of the Tories were killed and some few taken prisoners after this he was marched down to Guilford at Martinsville and returned to Rowan County in September 1779. He there staid until he was ordered out on a scouting party against the Tories on the Adkin River [sic, Yadkin River] his Captain being sick his Lieutenant Stokes took the command of the company. They arrived at the river but the Tories had runaway the night before and had gone into Burke County high up on Catawba River he was then marched back to Salisbury the place of rendezvous. He got back on the 15th day of October 1779. He here remained until the 18th day and he received his discharge from Captain Hadley for six months he was not out of the State during his service. And was in but one battle which was hardly called one in those days.

On the 2nd day of April 1780, he volunteered for one year to go to South Carolina under Captain Bell Lieutenant Drake & Ensign Eaton Colonel Davidson: he immediately set out in that month, for Charleston South Carolina, and he thinks he crossed the River Yadkin and the Catawba also and marched directly into South Carolina after getting down on the Congaree [River] information was received that the British were all around Charleston and that we could not join them before the Regiment got far down into South Carolina many deserted and went home the whole of us received orders from Colonel Davidson to return to North Carolina which was done, and before we got back the British had taken Charleston and the whole Army in Charleston given up to the British the company to which he belonged arrived in Salisbury by the way of Charlotte in North Carolina he staid a few days, and then marched to the Highlands

against the Tories, and was in a battle at Colstons [sic, Colson's] Mills¹ General Davidson was wounded this was in the summer of 1780, he thinks the men from Camden most all came back and he staid Salisbury where many of them came and afterwards went to Charlotte to that place he marched and remained for 2 weeks. He guarded some baggage from Salisbury there he again returned to Salisbury and here Colonel Davidson was promoted & he served under Colonel Malmedy, but he went off to Charlotte he still remained at Salisbury, and militia men were everyday coming in from everywhere to join General Greene [Nathanael Greene] and Davidson - he again marched from Rowan to Charlotte to guard ammunition under the quarter master's orders to the Army, from Charlotte this time he marched to the state of South Carolina, and remained here until the battle of the Cowpens he retreated to North Carolina with the Army for a few days, but was sent forward to prepare the country for defense he marched through Hillsboro and went to Salisbury he was marched back under Colonel Davie, and General Sumner and at the Ford of the Catawba the British and this detachment engaged right in the River and after a long fight and being greatly outnumbered we was forced to retreat, Colonel Davidson was wounded & he thinks was killed on the ground he knows the troops heard so, this was in January 1781 or may have been in February it was cold rainy weather, in this battle there was but a few hundred on our side and General Sumner nor Davie had from this place he retreated to the Army and got up with them and he marched with the Army into Virginia and there he marched back over Dan River and was end until the battle of Guilford in which he states he was in; in this battle many of the militia gave way and many never stopped short of home; he remained in the Army until the British Army retreated down to the seashore and his time having now expired he received his discharge for 12 months service; and he went down to Chatham Court house, and remained in that County, he was discharged on the 2nd of April 1781. He states that he substituted for a man by the name of William Coales, for 9 months, under Colonel Hightower, Captain William Jones [could be Sams], he marched to South Carolina to the Cheraw hills but the Army had gone further down the country, he engaged in the above service in June (the date he has forgot and for he gave Coales the discharge) 1781, from the Cheraw Hills, he marched back to Chatham, and from there to a place called Camberling [? Cumberland?], from there to a place called Hillsboro in North Carolina, and after staying there guarding some prisoners that had been taken he then was marched back to Chatham in North Carolina he remained on duty until his time expired without ever being in a battle and the Tories had generally all left Chatham and the Counties surrounding it he served with no Continental officers this time but was entirely in the militia service at Chatham Colonel Hightower was displaced in the command & Colonel Wade was his Colonel under whose command he remained until the spring following. He was stationed about a mile from the courthouse he got back to Chatham in December 1781, and there remained in the barracks which had some sick and wounded in it: the next spring 1782, he was discharged from the service at Chatham, and it was in March, he was discharged by Colonel Wade; who signed his discharge which he delivered to Coales, being his (Coales' own) in order to exempt him from another Tour; In May near the first 1782 a call was made for men and he was drafted and compelled to go, his former service of 9 months did not exempt him and he was placed under Colonel Thompson for 3 months this was in the County of Chatham he was marched immediately for South Carolina he went by the way of Camden and from Camden he guarded the baggage clear down to George Town he crossed Pedee River about 6 miles from Camden; and kept the Main road down to Georgetown in South Carolina. He arrived at Georgetown which was then in the possession of the Americans and remained there until his time expired and he

¹ July 21, 1780. <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/colson.htm>

received a discharge from the service. He returned home with some of the man that went out with him, in the time of this service he did not ever fire a single gun. He saw British prisoners at Camden and some at Georgetown. There was many Continental officers, but he served with but few. The weather was very warm & it was very unhealthy in Georgetown, he received his discharge from his Captain in August 1782. He moved from Chatham to Wilkes County in the year 1810, and from Wilkes County North Carolina to Lawrence County Kentucky in the year 1830. His memory is not now very good but he thinks that he has given the dates of his service correctly. He has no documentary evidence in his favor, he took no care of his discharges after the revolution was over, the only thing discharges for service was kept was to exempt from serving more tours then the law authorized; he does not know what has become of his discharges for he is not certain that he ever saw either of them for 40 years: He has no documentary evidence in his possession but he can prove the most of his services by some who served with him, except the Tour he went to Georgetown he knows of none living that knows positively of his services there but only circumstances, he knows many militia officers and many Continental wants also, he knew Colonel Morgan, Colonel Howard, Colonel Williams, Colonel Davie, he knew General Rutherford, who the British took, he knew Colonel Allen, Colonel Ben Williams, Colonel Wilson, Major Sampson, Captain Stinson, General Caswell, Colonel Davidson, General Sumner, Colonel Malmedy, General Pickens and his own officers he cannot state how they were placed sometimes a militia Captain would be a Continental officer the next day and a soldier Newberry little about other officers than his own.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and he 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.

S/ Drury Rigsby

[Elias Kesse [?], a clergyman and Wesley Sparks gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

1st Where and in what year were you born?

Ans: I was born in Fauquier County on the Rappahannock River Virginia on the 15th day of January 1745.

2nd Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

Ans: I once had but I lost it

3rd Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Ans: In Rowan County North Carolina and also in Chatham County North Carolina, I moved from Chatham to Wilkes County North Carolina and from that County, to this (Lawrence Kentucky) where I now reside

4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom?

Ans: I was drafted for 6 months, I volunteered again for one year, I substituted for 9 months, in place of William Coales, and was again drafted for 3 months.

5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Ans: I knew General Greene, General Gates, Colonel Davis, General Caswell, Colonel Pickens, Colonel Washington, Colonel Davidson, Colonel Howard and many more officers. I was first drafted for 6 months and I was in the battle with the Tories at the Hawfields I then

afterwards volunteered for 12 months, I then substituted for 9 months, and lastly was drafted for 3 months, he served out all his tours, he was in the battle of Guilford and I was at the Barty ford [sic, Beatties Ford] and General Davidson was killed, he retreated with the Army under General Greene; over into Virginia, he served entirely in the militia during the whole time he did serve. He then moved after the revolution over to Wilkes County North Carolina and then moved to this County (Lawrence Kentucky) his discharges he does not know what has become of them; he also states that he was in Camden in South Carolina, and also in Georgetown.

6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

Ans: I received a discharge in each time 3 for myself and one for another man who I had substituted for which I gave to him, and what has become of my own 3 discharges I cannot say for I have not seen them for 40 years that I know of as I deem them of no value after the revolution and not worth keeping.

7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

Ans: William Lyon, John Holbrook, William Walters, Dab. Sparks, James Boggs, John Hale, John Chapin, Matthias Kelly, Wesley Sparks, Peter Scoggs, Reverend James Wheeler, Elias Kesee, Archibald Rice.

S/ Drury Rigsby

State of Kentucky Lawrence County

Drury Rigsby here amends his original declaration he states That he entered for a 6 months tour under Captain Hadley in Rowan County North Carolina, from the place where he started the County seat Salisbury. He was marched to the Hawfields Colonel Lytle was his Colonel as he stated a little conflict ensued at the last mentioned place, he was during this tour at Martinsburg he was out as a scout on the Yadkin River. He states as in his original declaration as to this tour he however served chiefly in North Carolina -- he served precisely 6 months during this engagement. -- He entered the service of the United States and served the following tours as a volunteer, in the first he entered the 2nd April 1780, in Rowan County North Carolina under Captain Bell, Lieutenant Drake, Ensign Eaton Colonel Davidson he marched from the above place towards South Carolina to assist General Linkhorn [in human Lincoln], after several days incessant days marching except one day at the Congaree River where the march of the Army was prevented from proceeding by the rain, we arrived within the vicinity of Charlestown at this time the city was completely invested by the British had our Colonel directed a broken retreat to North Carolina he got back in June to Salisbury -- from this place he marched to Charlotte and from Charlotte he marched to the highland in the said State against a body of Tories at Colson's Mills in which Colonel Davidson was wounded he having served out a tour of 3 months, he again entered the service for a 2nd tour during this year he still remained under his former Captain Hadley but a different Colonel Malmedy he marched he thinks first to guard some military stores from Rowan County to Charlotte he was stationed at Salisbury in North Carolina for some time before he started with the military stores from Charlotte he marched to South Carolina he states he was at the battle of Cowpens where General Morgan commanded but Captain Hadley was not there but Drake was his Lieutenant he was under one Wilson -- he retreated with Morgan's Army & up with the prisoners till Greene came up and he was sent on a dispatch for troops ahead of the Main Army -- he having served out his 6 months. -- he in the

winter of 1781 I again entered as a volunteer under Colonel Davie and General Sumter [sic, Thomas Sumter] the first service he rendered was under his officers who attempted to keep the British from crossing at Beatties Ford on the Catawba River a severe engagement ensued and the Americans lost a great many men and General Davidson he thinks was amongst the slain he then rejoined the Main Army and remained up with them until the battle of Guilford. He was in that battle in which the Americans were defeated. From this place he shortly after this left the Army, having served a 2nd tour of 6 months he received his discharge and went to Chatham court house in the same State -- at this place in that year 1781 he substituted for William Coales for 3 months he is certain it was at least 3 months under Colonel Hightower Captain Jones, he marched to the Cheraw Hills, from here he believes he marched back to Chatham Courthouse and from there to Camberling from Camberling to Hillsboro and there guarded some prisoners. He was then no engagement during this term of his service. As last aforesaid the Army having gone to the South under General Greene he served with no Continental officers during his service aforesaid that he now recollects 3 months having entered. He again served a 3 months tour under Colonel Hightower at Chatham court house in North Carolina during this 2nd tour he was commanded by a Captain Henry T. Blythe he thinks was his name but a soldier in a 6 months service was sometimes serve under 2 or 3 different captains. Also he states that during this last 3 months service he was in no battle or any skirmish that he now can recollect of and the only thing he remembers worthwhile to state is that Colonel Hightower was displaced and one Colonel Wade took the command instead of him -- he had served out his term of service, this according to his remembrance which he was in the latter part of the fall or winter of 1782 perhaps it was in the winter of 1782 after January he served another tour under Colonel Wade and the other Captain the only service he performed he was stationed about a mile from Chatham Court house in State of North Carolina and nothing occurred worthy to be noticed of. The only person that he can now call to mind all the above tours were performed without his losing one single day in the several years specified.

In May a draft came and he endeavored to get all of from going because he had served 9 months making 3 tours of 3 months, he was forced to go to. His Colonel was by the name of Colonel Thompson. This was the last engagement he served during the revolution. He was marched by the way of Camden and from Camden he guarded the baggage wagon to Georgetown in South Carolina. He crossed several war courses amongst them was Pedee River. When he arrived at Georgetown that place was then [in] the possession of the Americans, and there was a considerable amount of military stores deposited at that place. He received his discharge, at the last mentioned place, he states he was in no battles during this last 3 months tour the fighting was chiefly all done. He has lost all of his discharges except the one he gave to Coales as it of right belonged to him. His tours are set forth as he now recollects them. He served in 1779 one tour of 6 months, in 1782 of 6 months each -- in 1781 3 tours of 3 months each, and in 1782 one tour of 3 months.

Sworn to the 13th day of September 1834

S/ Nath'l Dawson, JP

S/ Drury Rigsby, X his mark