

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of William Finch S31677

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

Georgia } SS
Oglethorpe County }

On this third day of December eighteen hundred & thirty two personally appeared in open court before the Justices of the Inferior Court of the county & state aforesaid while sitting for ordinary purposes William Finch aged seventy, who being duly sworn deposes & makes the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed on the seventh of June of the present year. That he entered the American service in the war with great Britain for our independence under such officers & performed such duty as is herein after stated.

That he was born in Cumberland County Virginia on the 15th of July 1762 according to the information he has received from his family, he having no record of his age. He lived in Pittsylvania [sic: Pittsylvania] County when he was called into service or rather he volunteered the first tour under one Captain Jos Martin [Joseph Martin]. He recollects the names of three colonels who were along with him during this tour & they are Christie [William Christian] Lewis & Russel. He marched from home to the long Islands of Holston in N. Carolina [at present Kingsport TN] where he rendezvoused until the troops were collected together. He thinks he left home about the first of July the year he does not distinctly recollect [1776] but he believes that he was about 15 or 16 years old at the. He knows that the officers had to obtain his father's consent for him to enlist. From the Long Islands of Holston we marched out to attack the Cherokee nation of Indians on the Tennessee Rivers where we took their stock burnt their homes & got them so subdued that they agreed to treat in the following spring [Treaty of Long Island ratified 20 Jul 1777]. We did not remain here longer than three or four weeks. The army marched back to the Holston where most of the men were discharged, but deponent & others were kept back as a guard on the frontier, & performed guard service during the whole winter until the Spring when he was discharged. His discharge has been lost for many years; for he never supposed it would ever be of any service to him. This tour was of nine months duration, perhaps more, but he is willing to put it down at nine months, that he may state what he knows to be true & no more.

Some three years after he volunteered against the tories under one Colonel Penn [Abram Penn of the Militia of Henry County, formed from Pittsylvania County in 1777], & this was taken as a release from liability to stand a draft for three months; but we were not in service so long a time as three months, by a good deal.

In 1781 he was drafted he thinks about the month of July to perform a tour of three month under one Major [George] Waller, who conducted us to the main army & by some means or other deponent does not know how he & his company was delivered up to the command of other officers who were strangers whose names are now forgotten. During this last tour of three months deponent served at the siege of York from the beginning to the end of the seige [28 Sep - 19 Oct] & here he obtained a discharge which is also lost. He has been a citizen of this county & state between forty & fifty years. He has no documentary evidence by which he can support his claim nor is there any one living that he knows of that can testify in support of the same. He can appeal with confidence to all his neighbors for his character as an honest man & a man of truth. He hereby relinquishes all claims whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State in the Union.

William hisXmark Finch