

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Michael Pilgrim S31909

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 8 July 2015.

Georgia                    }     In the Superior Court of said County now sitting  
Lumpkin County        }     August term 1836

Personally appeared in open Court Michael Pilgrim a resident of said County & State aged 83 years, who 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 7<sup>th</sup> 1832.

That he entered the service of the U States when 16 years of age [see endnote]. he lived in Henry County Virginia [formed from Pittsylvania County in 1777]. he was drafted to go against the Shawnee indians. his captain was George Harrison [sic: probably George Hairston]. the Col who commanded was by the name of Campbell. he rendezvoused at Henry Court House, but on his way to that place he was thrown from his horse & injured so as to prevent his going in the expedition in person but he employed a substitute who served the term, but the name of the substitute he does not recollect. He afterwards enlisted under the command of Major John Mair as a scout & came into North Carolina where he acted in that capacity for the term of 12 months. he was in two fights with the tories one in the hollows of the Yadkin where we took 3 prisoners one of whom was a British man – the other was on the Big Yadkin down on a little creek where we took 10 tories prisoners. The next service he was drafted to go to Winchester in the dead of winter to guard a number of prisoners under the command of Capt Tarrence [possibly James Torrance]. he served three months in that service. He next volunteered to oppose Cornwallis under the command of Capt L Shelton [sic: Eliphaz Shelton]. there was also Col. [James] Lyon, who was not the head Colonel in the expedition but the principal Colonel [Abram Penn] did not go. Genl [Nathanael] Greene with his command was a little in advance of us. we marched down Dan river in Virginia in order to prevent Cornwallis from crossing [Feb 1781]. we remained in this service about two months. Declarant had regular discharges for all the above services but they have been lost or destroyed. he has no documentary evidence to prove his services. he once proved his services in Habersham Superior Court by two witnesses who are not now within his power to procure again, but his papers were never returned to him. He relinquishes all claim 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.

Michael hisXmark Pilgrim

NOTE: If Pilgrim's ages are correctly stated, then his first enlistment was in 1769. A note in the file states that Pilgrim's application was suspended for reasons explained in a letter dated 18 Jan 1837. In addition, militia tours were never for as long as 12 months. On 20 Jan 1837 Pilgrim was issued a certificate for a pension of \$20 per month for six months service.