

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of John Summers S31999

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

STATE OF GEORGIA, } On this 20th day of Nov personally appeared in open Court, before
Clarke County } Charles Dougherty presiding Judge of the Superior Court of said
County, now sitting, John Summers a resident of the county of Clarke and State aforesaid aged
seventy years, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath, make the following
declaration, on 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. He was born on the 26th of May 1762 in Fairfax County, Virginia. the first service he
engaged in he can not recollect the date of it but the facts connected with it may designate the
time, he was living in Fairfax County about seven miles from Alexandria & news came that the
British were ascending the Potomac [probably Royal Governor, Lord Dunmore, July 1775], & they
did as high as the residence of Col Blount below Alexandria & burnt his Houses, the Militia was
called out on that occasion & deponent was with them & went down to prevent further
depredation, &c he was out on this occasion about two or three weeks. He then moved to N
Carolina Caswell County & there remained the whole of the war. his first service there was a nine
months tour. He volunteered though the detachment was raised by draft under Capt McFarlan
[possibly David McFarland], Lieutenant Parks & the Genl officer was [Richard] Caswell. The
detachment joined Genl Caswell at Hillsboro [sic: Hillsborough]. Marched from thence to Cross
Creek or [now] Fayetteville & reconnoitered the Country from that place to Wilmington in
pursuit of British & Tories till the time of service expired, he was in no engagement but kept the
Tories in check & occasionally took a few prisoners. The time of this service deponent can not
recollect never believing he should have occasion to remember it, it has entirely passed from his
mind. After staying at home a short time, the troubles increasing, the Captain, by the name of
Meshack Turner, of the Militia Company to which I belonged beat up for volunteers to be
organized & remain in service for twelve months & promised that they should be paid the same
as regulars. Forty of the Company volunteered among which number was deponent & they
remained in service the twelve months. They marched to Savannah river just opposite to
Augusta in Georgia, & thence turned down the river & joined Genl [Benjamin] Lincoln's army at a
place called Dorchester, the army maneuvered about until the battle of Stono [Stono Ferry, 20
Jun 1779] in which Deponent was engaged. Genl Lincoln commanded on that occasion.
Deponent was under the command of Col Mayburn [see note below] (he thinks) Genl [John]
Butler was present & commanded the Division to which Deponent belonged. After that battle,
returned to Genl Lincoln's station & was occasionally reinforced & guarded the Country, making
excursions after Tories & British parties who were pillaging the Country. After this service
expired & deponent returned home there was another draft ordered & deponents father was
drafted for nine months. He took his fathers place George Oldham [pension application S21906]
was Captain, John Oldham (W8492) Lieutenant & Stephen Moore Col & joined Genl Caswell at
either Gilford [sic: Guilford] Courthouse, or Salisbury, not exactly recollected which, he
recollects he was in both of those towns & then marched to Charlotte. From thence they
marched to Rougesly's Mills & joined Genl Gates, the army lay there about two weeks [sic: see
note below], & then marched to Camden, or near it where Gates was defeated [Battle of Camden
SC, 16 Aug 1780], deponent was in that engagement & was wounded in the left hand, having his
fore finger, where it joined the hand shattered & nearly shot off. After this battle, Deponent
returned home, having served about six months of the nine months tour, & remained till his
wound got well & then the tories having risen & done considerable mischief, killing Col Mayburn,
the neighborhood rose in arms & deponent volunteered to go against them under our Capt
Runnells & served three months. This service was principally in pursuing & fighting the tories.
They had an engagement with the tories commanded by a Col Piles [see note below] & totally
defeated them killing a good many. The battle was fought at a pair of race paths, but he does not
well remember the County & it was for notoriety called Piles' defeat. Genl Pickens was head
commander & deponent's Col. was one William Moore (he ought to have mentioned that his

other Col, Stephen Moore, was taken prisoner at Gates' Defeat) Then they had another engagement at Whites or Whiteses Mill on the reedy fork of Haw river [Wetzel's Mill, 6 Mar 1781] with the British & Tories united, but their force was so superior to the American troops, the latter being not more than three hundred, they were obliged to retire. That completed deponents service which uniting all the tours of service makes about thirty three months & a half.

He moved from North Carolina to Georgia, Wilkes County & then to Clark, where he now resides, & has been living there about twenty nine years. He rec'd discharges but they are lost or destroyed, has no documentary evidence or knows of no person by whom he can prove his service. He will mention the names of Jeremiah Daniel & the Hon'bl A J Clayton who can testify as to his veracity & their belief of his being a revolutionary soldier.

NOTE:

"Col. Mayburn" was probably Lt. Col. Robert Mebane, usually called "Mayben." Mebane was murdered by a Tory around Oct 1781, according to the pension application of William C. Smith (S3924).

Gen. Horatio Gates arrived at Rugeley's Mill about 12 miles N of Camden SC on 13 Aug 1780. The Battle of Camden occurred about halfway between Rugeley's Mill and Camden.

Col. John Pyle's Loyalists were surprised and massacred by troops under Lt. Col. Henry Lee on 25 Feb 1781 in Alamance County NC. Andrew Pickens, though a General of his own partisans corps, was under Lee, who was a Continental officer.