

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Joseph Rogers James S32340

f17NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

6/27/06 rev'd 11/3/13

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading skills fail to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Indiana, Owen County

Owen County Probate Court November term 1836

On this seventeenth day of November in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty six personally appeared in Open court before the Hon. John Dunn, Sole Judge of the Probate Court of said County, now sitting: Joseph Rogers James a resident of the county and State aforesaid aged eighty 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 7, 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named Officers and served as herein stated to wit: That he enrolled himself in a company of volunteer militia commanded by Captain Gills Fauldis and Lieutenant in the Regiment commanded by Colonel McDowell [Charles McDowell]¹ in the county of Burke in the State of North Carolina in the spring of the year 1780 and applicant believes it was in the month of March and between the middle and last of that month. That soon after he so joined his said company the Tories under the command of one Roberts assembled at a place in the County of Lincoln called Raimhower's (sic, Ramsour's) Mills [June 20, 1780], that the company to which this applicant belonged consisting of twenty four or five men under the command aforesaid together with other companies from elsewhere were marched to said Mills, that the Tories made but little resistance to forces of the Whigs but broke up and scattered a few in each direction, that this company to which applicant belonged was marched in pursuit of that portion of the Tories who had dispersed in the direction of Morgantown (sic, Morganton), the county seat of Burke Co, that they continued their pursuit and search for some time till they took seventeen prisoners, who were conveyed to the Colonel of the Regiment for disposal. That in this tour they from the time they left home till they returned was one month and four or five days. That they remained at home but a short time (applicant cannot say how long) when they were again called out on chase after the Tories; that in this way they were called on and served in five or six short expeditions, the longest of which was eight days; that the others were but for a day or two and on some one or two of these occasions they were employed only one day. That on or about the fifteenth day of August said Company under the command of Captain Hardin

¹ Although Charles McDowell was the commanding officer of the Burke County militia at this time, his brother Joseph McDowell, then a Major, was in command of a portion of the Burke County militia at Ramsour's mill. The other forces from Burke County were led by Lieutenant Colonel Hugh Brevard and Lieutenant Colonel Robert Holmes. There were 17 companies of the Burke County militia at the battle of Ramsour's mill.

[probably Captain John Harden] received intelligence from their Colonel to rendezvous at Morgantown; that they were mustered into Morgantown, where they remained three or four days and additional companies were coming in; that from Morgantown aforesaid they marched across the South fork of the Catawba River; that after they had crossed the Catawba, they laid by waiting as applicant thinks for the arrival of more troops and provisions for some days; that they were again marched under the command aforesaid to where they came up to the troops commanded by Shelby [Isaac Shelby] and from thence in company with the army to King's Mountain. That here they had an engagement with the British and Tories under the command of Furgeson [Patrick Ferguson]. That applicant was on the right wing of the army during the battle; that they were compelled to retreat before the British down the Hill; and that on this side of the Hill applicant was wounded in both his legs (in what is called the calf of his leg) by a musquet [musket] ball. That after the battle was over notwithstanding his wound he was able to ride his horse. That they were marched to the plantation of one Felix Walker on Little Broad River near the mouth of King's Creek where one Race Sharp and many others of the Tories who had been taken prisoners were hanged. That Sharp and others who were hung lived prior to that time in the neighborhood of this applicant, but had fled from their said pursuit when on one of their Tory chases aforesaid. From this place they were march[ed] back to Morgantown and from thence to the Moravian towns where the company of this applicant returned home again. That at the Moravian towns he last saw the prisoners aforesaid. That in this tour he was employed with his horse two months. That the company to which this applicant belonged were [was] sometimes employed in Tory scouts while the flesh wounds of applicant were too sore to permit him to attend with them.

That sometime in the month of December 1780 he again joined his said company who were rendezvoused at Morgantown. That it was as early as the fifteenth of December this applicant is satisfied but cannot say certainly the precise day of month. That they were marched under the command of a brother [Joseph McDowell] of their former Colonel [Charles McDowell] as applicant believes, across the South fork of the Catawba River and from thence after some delay the cause of which applicant does not now know to a stream he thinks was called Paccollett [Pacolet River] where they encamped with the army commanded by Genl. Morgan [Daniel Morgan]; from here they were marched to the Cowpens where they had another battle [January 17, 1781] with the British; that at this place he recollects to have seen Colonel Washington [William Washington]. That here again they were compelled to retreat and this applicant was then charged on by a British Dragoon and struck on the head with his sword and left on the ground for dead. That after the battle he was taken to one Saunder's [house]; that his ribs were broken loose from his back as he supposes by the horse of the Dragoon aforesaid. That during the summer of the year applicant's company was several times called out for short scouts. That the next services that applicant performed was in his said company in the month of September 1781. That they were marched from Burke aforesaid; they were marched to the head waters of the Catawba River; thence to Cany River [Cane River?]; thence to French Broad [River]; that they traversed the country in this direction for the purpose of seeing whether some recent murders had been committed by the Indians or Tories; that without making any satisfactory discoveries they again returned home; that in this tour, they were employed between three and four weeks.

That some time after the Surrender of Cornwallis at York time [sic] [October 19, 1781], but how long after this he knows not, he at the county of York in the State of South Carolina engaged in what was called the ten months men, in the company of Captain Nesbit,

[perhaps, Capt. John Nisbett of the SC militia] his colonel was by the name of Hill [perhaps William Hill] and his General was by the name of Sumpter [Thomas Sumter] from York Co. They marched in the direction to York town, crossed the Catawba [River] at Widow Biggers' ferry and went through Salisbury; that in this service applicant continued three months when his wounds from fatigue rendered him unable longer to bear the fatigue—when he was discharged—that his discharge was signed by Hill and Sumpter and that after this time he engaged with a commissary to drive waggon for which he is informed he is not entitled to pay and are therefore not put down.

That during the first tour of service herein named among the few that were killed was the Captain herein first named, when Captain Hardin succeeded to the command of the company aforesaid. That sometimes this applicant was called Joseph Rogers only this being the name of applicant's mother and sometimes Joseph James only by which name he was enrolled he cannot now say certainly.

That he was born near Lynchburg ferry in the County of Campbell in the State of Virginia. That he has no record of his age, it having been burnt. He lived in Burke County in the State of North Carolina when he was called into the service and afterwards he removed to the State of Tennessee in the County of Carter from thence he moved to Clay Co. in the State of Kentucky from thence to the County of Pribble [Preble] in the State of Ohio from thence to Monroe County Indiana from thence to Cole Co. Illinois from thence to Cass Co. Indiana and from thence to White Co. and from thence to Owen Co. Indiana, his present residence. That he was called into service as herein before stated. That the Officers are also herein as fully named as the memory of applicant will permit. That he never received but one discharge and that was burnt in Monroe Co. Indiana by his house being burnt.

That Joseph Skidmore and John Walter Hood with whom I have long been acquainted can testify & the said Skidmore and myself having been well acquainted for more than thirty five years and the said Hood about four years. That said Skidmore can testify as to the effect produced on this applicant by his wounds since his acquaintance that applicant has become very frail both in body and mind by reason of his age and wounds aforesaid or he would not apply for a pension of the Government.

That he cannot from loss of memory state his services more particularly than he has done. That he served during his tours of service as follows, to wit:

The first tour named	1 month and 4 days
Second trip—after Tories	8 days
At King's Mountain trip	2 months
At Cowpens	2 months—15 days
Tory & Indian expedition	23 days
In Nesbit's company	<u>3 months</u> 9 months 20 days

And for which time he claims a pension that he has no documentary evidence of his service and knows of no one by whom he can prove the same living within his area. He hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State in the Union.

Sworn to & subscribed in open court

S/ Joseph Rogers James , X his mark

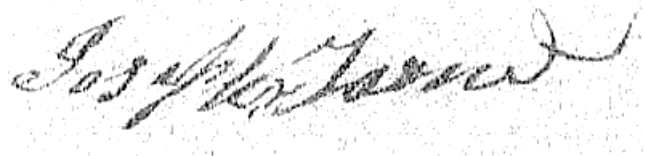
Test: T. C. Johnson, Clerk

[Joseph Skidmore and John Walter Hood, there being no clergyman, gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 11]

Joseph Rogers James being duly sworn, states under oath that the reasons why he has not previously applied for a pension was first that for a great many years after the war of the revolution he was of opinion from information that he was not entitled to a pension, unless he was destitute of property to a certain extent greater than was true as to himself. Second – He thought it illiberal and wanting patriotism in him to apply for a pension when he was able to support himself and family by his own exertions. And lastly that when he began to be unable from his wounds and old age to support as aforesaid, his house was burnt consuming all his papers containing evidence of his service, and that he has been engaged for some time in trying to procure positive evidence of his service and wounds – but not as yet able to find such witnesses as can certainly testify – and further he saith not.

S/ Joseph James

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Joseph James", written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$32.20 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 9 months in 20 days in the North Carolina militia.]

Contributor Fred Weyler adds the following note:

Owen County had revolutionary pensioners John McCullough,² John Snoddy,³ Samuel Newell,⁴ and Andrew Evans⁵ living in the northern part. John R Freeland was clerk and Amery Kinney judge when these Whig Presbyterians, three veterans of Kings Mountain were down to Spencer from Gosport. The Jacksonians were running the county by the time of Joseph James' application. Perhaps one of the three might have recognized Joseph James from 57 years earlier.

² [John McCullough S32404](#)

³ [John Snoddy S17110](#)

⁴ [Samuel Newell R7617](#)

⁵ [Andrew Evans S3341](#)