

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Richard Greer S3416

PA SC

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

State of Tennessee } S.S.
White County }

On this 11th day of October A.D. 1832 personally appeared before the Justices of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for said County and State now sitting Richard Greer, a resident of White County Tennessee aged about 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 provision made by 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 after stated.

He volunteered at a small vilage called Carlisle town in Carlisle County in the State of Pennsylvania, under Captain Kilbreath. The company under the command of Kilbreath was marched to Philadelphia. From thence in a boat they ascended the Delaware River to Trenton where they joined General Washington. Here this declarant became acquainted with General Washington and Gen'l. [Israel] Putnam. Gen'l. [Charles] Lee was also there. The troops remained at Trenton about two or three weeks where they were marched to a point oposite the City of New York on New York River where they built a Fort called Fort Independence [see endnote]. They remained at this fort some time, but how long he is unable to say. The British fleet at this time lay about ten miles below the fort. so soon as they had completed this Fort a thirty two pounder was fired at the fleet but the ball striking the water some distance short of the fleet bounded over them. The fleet disapeared and a few days thereafter this declarant being Serjeant and whilst he was engaged in marching and stationing the guard discovered the Brittish some considerable distance up the river, but did not when he first discovered them know who they were. He however called an aide camp immediately whose name he cannot now recollect, who with the aid of his spy glass discovered them to be the Brittish crossing the river, intending to march to and take possession of the draw Bridge on Hackensack River [probably at New Bridge Landing near present North Hackensack NJ]. So soon as this important discovery was made the aide camp rode in great haste back to the Fort, and all the troops who were able were marched immediately to the Draw Bridge, leaving this Declarant and the guard out on their posts. They soon after went to the encampment and finding the troops gone the went in pursuit of them and reached the Bridge about the time the troops had crossed over and commenced taking up the Bridge. The part which had been taken up being replaced they passed over and were then again with the troops. The draw Bridge was then as soon as possible taken up. Soon after this was completed a few of the Brittish Light Horse made their appearance on the oposite side of the river. Our troops remained on the bank of the river all night but learning next morning that the Brittish about Thirty thousand in number were marching to and intended attacking them and they being only about three thousand strong took up the line of march and returned to Trenton. We remained at Trenton at this time something like three weeks, when the Brittish sent us a flag saying at the same time that they were coming and intimating that we had better leave Trenton. The troops then marched across the Delaware River where they joined the balance of the American troops. From this increase of strength we deemed ourselves full strong for the Brittish and determined to stand our ground. The Brittish hessians took possession of Trenton. This Declarant was in the Battle of Trenton fought between the American troops and the Hessians [26 Dec 1776]. The former on the oposite side of the river from Trenton. We took them by surprise and fired several rounds upon them before they could arrange their forces for battle. this was the morning after Christmas but the year this declarant from memory cannot say. The weather was excessively cold. We took about one thousand of the Hessians prisoners and killed and wounded many more. Some of our men were wounded in this engagement but he does not recollect that one was killed. The Hessian prisoners were marched to Philadelphia where they were placed under guard. The Brittish then marched to and took possession of Trenton. This Declarant having served two years, left the troops and among others waggond

for the army conveying provisions &c for something like two years. This declarant after performing the services above moved from Lancaster Pennsylvania to Lawrence [sic: Laurens] County South Carolina where he again volunteered under Captain Yarbrough [Yarborough] for three months. He would here narrate the particulars of this tour of service but should his claim be allowed for his first term of service, it will be all that he can or will ask from his country. He would here state however that during this last term of service, Generals Pickins [sic: Andrew Pickens], Anderson, and Green [sic: Nathanael Greene] were with the troops with whom he served. Peace was made shortly after this term ended. This terminated his services.

Declarant has no documentary evidence in his possession by which the foregoing facts can be established. Nor does he know of any person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service.

Answers to the questions propounded by the War Department.

1st He was born in Philadelphia, State of Pennsylvania. He cannot state the year in which he was born but feels confident that he is in his eightyeth year of possibly upwards of that.

2nd He has no record of his age.

3rd He has already stated where he resided when called into service. Since the Revolutionary War I have lived in Pendleton County South Carolina – Habersham County Georgia. From thence he moved to White County Tennessee where he now lives and has lived ever since.

4th He was called into service as before stated.

5th He never received any written discharge.

6th He has already stated the officers who were with the troops where he served as well as his memory will permit. He has also stated the general circumstances of his service with the exception of a skirmish which he had with a Picket guard of the Hessians, during his first term of service. This took place in a few miles of York River some considerable distance above Fort Independence. The Hessians composing the Picket guard had placed themselves behind a large rock something like fifty or sixty feet in length. So securely were they situated that it was impossible for our troops from their position to do any thing with them. A plan was devised, that part of our men should march round to the end of the rock fire upon and rout them from their place of safety, affording thereby an opportunity for the balance to shoot at them. This plan succeeded they were routed and pursued. This declarant killed one of the number whilst he was retreating and in the act of climbing a fence. They ran to a house not far from the rock, where our men in firing at them killed the woman & her son who resided in the house. The Hessians made their escape to the fort except those who were killed. We took possession of what arms, ammunition &c they had left at the house, & destroyed it by fire. One of our men whose name I do not recollect was shot and died in a few hours after.

7th He would state the names of the following persons to whom he is known in his present neighborhood and who can testify as to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a revolutionary soldier (viz) David Snodgrass Esq'r. Alexander Glenn, Caleb Mason, James Snodgrass – Archibald Conner. There is no minister sufficiently acquainted with him to make the certificate required.

He hereby relinquishes his every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any state.

Richard hisXmark Greer

State of Tennessee } May Term 1834
White County Circuit Court }

On this twenty first day of May 1834 before the Honorable Abraham Caruthers circuit judge in and for the third judicial circuit in the State of Tennessee now presiding the same being a court of record, personally appeared Richard Greer, who after being first duly sworn according to the laws of the land makes oath that he is the identical same Richard Greer who made his declaration before the worshipful court of pleas and quarter sessions for the County of Overton at the October Session of said Court in 1832 to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress of the United States passed 7th of June 1832 And here submits the following as a part and amendment of his original declaration. He state that by

reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service, but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following grades

He volunteered under Captain Kilbreath at Carlisle in Pennsylvania for a tour of six months and marched as stated in his original declaration

Instead of returning home when his tour of service was expire he again volunteered under the same Captain for six months more and served out that tour. He again volunteered for a term of six months, Believes that his Captain had been taken prisoner, and he was placed under a strange captain and served out another tour of six months, cannot state his name. This much he can say with great confidence, and believes that he volunteered for another tour of six months and served it out

From the time he left home until he returned was two years. He got home about the same time of year he set out, and can say he believes from his best recollection that he served two years as a soldier of the revolution He got a discharge when he returned home from a Colo in Jerseys. Cannot state his name. He lost it in a very short time on his way to the South

As to further particulars of his tour of Three months in South Carolina

In the time of this tour he states he was at Bacons Bridge [near historic Dorchester; Gen. Greene's headquarters 22 Mar - 7 Jul 1782] stationed there thinks for two months, towit July and August. He was discharged at Bacons bridge and returned from the army He took sick with fever and ague and was unable for service until after war ended – did not receive a written discharge

This applicant cannot recollect more of names and dates which he deems material than stated. He must beg a reference to be had to the circumstances of his service for the dates

This applicant knows he served his country faithfully, and it is equally true that he is too much worn down with old age and infirmity to be as clear, minute and satisfactory in his detail as might be desirable He has been unable to state the periods of the war when he served, for the reasons above

This applicant must submit his claims to the department with the foregoing amendment to his original declaration He has thus long delayed from his being advised that the proof of two witness of service would be required. This he knew was wholly out of his power but has since learned that perhaps this would not be required and has therefore again resolved to submit his claims to his country

He prays the foregoing may be taken as a part of his original declaration

Sworn to & subscribed in open Court this 21st May 1834

Richard hisXmark Greer

NOTES:

There were two forts named Independence in the state of New York, but neither of them fits the description given by Greer. One Fort Independence was constructed in August 1776 near present Peekskill on the Hudson River about 70 mi N of New York City. The other Fort Independence was constructed in 1776 at Kings Bridge near Harlem River in the Bronx. From the position relative to New York City and Hackensack River, it appears that Greer was referring to Fort Constitution on the Hudson River, later named Fort Lee, which was constructed in July 1776. The Americans were forced to abandon Fort Lee on 20 Nov 1776.

On an application for a new pension certificate dated 10 Aug 1840 in Bledsoe County TN Greer gave the name of his first Colonel as Lewis Duval.