

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of John Rawls (Rawls) S39056

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 27 June 2011.

Virginia Sc

On this 9<sup>th</sup> day of Nov'r 1819 before me the subscriber one of the Judges of the General court of the State aforesaid personally appears John Rawls aged [blank] years resident in Shenandoah County in said State who being by me first duly sworn according to Law, doth on his Oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the provision made by the late act of Congress entitled an Act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and navel service of the United states in the revolutionary war: that he the said John Rawls enlisted at Culpeper Courthouse in the state afore'd in the company commanded by Capt Reuben Fields of [blank] Reg't. continental line, that he continued to serve in the said Corps or in the service of the united states for eighteen months when he was discharged at Cumberland Courthouse Virg'a. that he was in the battle of Guilford C'thouse [Guilford Courthouse NC, 15 Mar 1781] & siege of York [28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781] and that he is reduced circumstances & stands in need of the assistance of his Country for support & that he has no other evidence now in his power of his said services except the affidavit enclosed

Culpeper County Virginia

I do hereby Certify that (to the best of my recollection) in the Spring of the year 1779 [sic: 1781] John Rawls a Coloured freeman then a Militia man of the same Company with myself, and as well as I remember, classed with me & others to furnish one man for one year and a half in the Virginia Line on Continental Establishment, was the man who drew for service [see endnote]. that he was absent from the County near Two years and that I verily believe he served the one year and a half in the Continental Army. If I am mistaken as to the time the draft took place, I am not with respect to the other Circumstances: Given under my hand this 20<sup>th</sup> day of October 1819. D Jameson  
[David Jameson, pension application S5607, 26 Oct 1819]

Virginia

Culpeper County towit

This day personally appeared before me David Jameson a Justice of the peace for the County aforesaid Alexander Mcqueen [S5075] and made oath that John Rawls a free man of colour was drafted in the year 1779 from the same class to which this affiant was attach'd to serve for Eighteen months in the War of the Revolution on the continental establishment – that the said John Rawls went from this County to the town of Fredericksburg where he was received by Capt. Reubin Field and was attach'd to a Regiment the number not recollected [4<sup>th</sup>], commanded by Colo. Oliver Towles of Spotsylvania. That the said John Rawles was absent in the service aforesaid as this affiant hath always understood and verily believes for the full term of Eighteen months if not longer – he knows that he did not return to this County again where his wife & children resided until the expiration of that period. This affiant saith further that he does not know in what manner his name was spelt by those who enroll'd him in the muster Rolls, but he believes there was no other person of his name in this County at that time, and he is certain that there was no other person of that name in the class to which he belong'd and is equally certain that no other person of that name march'd from Culpeper at the time aforesaid of that name. He saith further that the said John Rawls is now in his presence and he knows him to be the same person he has before described and has known him for a great many years past including several years before his being drafted – that the said John Rawls mov'd some few years past to the County of Shenandoah to reside, where he resided at the time he made his declaration before Judge Holmes and where he resides at this time – that the said

John Rawles is old and needy and wants assistance.

Given under my hand & seal as one of the Justices of the peace for the County aforesaid and this  
25<sup>th</sup> day of November 1820

D Jameson {Seal}

John Rawls having again applied to me to aid him in getting his pension, I can only say that he was drafted as I before certified and that I am well satisfied he served the Eighteen months for which he was drafted in the Continental army. This conviction arises from my knowledge of his leaving for service, his going off into service and being absent from his common residence in my neighbourhood near Two years and then returning when common report said that he had served faithfully, and I have no doubt but that I heard his services spoken of by some personally acquainted with them, but of this I am not certain; However there is one circumstance I have a strong impression of which is that in a short time after he returned home from continental service he was either drafted as a militia man for six months service or substituted himself to serve in the place of some other person and went with a company commanded by Capt Richard Yancey in which I was Lieutenant to South Carolina and that he served that six months faithfully and much to his credit in Gen'l. Maron's [sic: Francis Marion's] Brigade. But I have no knowledge of what company or Regiment he served in while in the Continental army.

I further certify that the manner of spelling the name generally has been arbitrary some spelling it Rawles and others Ralls, for although there were four Brothers, and a Sister of said John who resided in my neighborhood none of them has education nor do I believe they know how their name was spelled; that my business gave me a general knowledge of the names of the people of Culpeper County & that I am satisfied that there was not then another man residing in the County named John Rawles (or Ralls) I am certain there was not in my neighborhood.

I do certify that John Rawles some years past moved from my neighborhood to the County of Shenandoah and I believe where he has resided ever since – as I am informed & believe and has come to Culpeper at this time to get further evidence of his service. I do further certify that Cap Reuben Field who is said to have received the said John Ralls at Fredericksburg, removed from this to the State of Kentucky and died several years ago as I have understood & believe

D Jameson

Virginia Shenandoah County SS

On this 9 day of January 1821 personally appeared in open court, being a Court of record for the said County John Rolls aged 82 years resident in Shenandoah County in said state who being first duly sworn, according to law, doth on his oath declare that he served in the Revolutionary War as follows, I was drafted at Culpepper County in the year [blank] under Capt. Fields in the 40<sup>th</sup> Regiment commanded by Col. Tolls I served eighteen months I was at the siege of York and was discharged in the year [blank] at Cumberland Court House And I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on he 18th day of March, 1818; and that I have not since that time, by gift, sale or in any manner, disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provision of an act of Congress entitled "An act to provide for certain persons engaged in the Land and naval Service of the United States, in the revolutionary War." passed on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me, any property or securities contracts or debts due to me, nor have I any income other than what is contained in the schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed I have no property real or personal. None of my family live with me as I live with other people.

John hisXmark Rolls

NOTES:

Under a Virginia law enacted in May 1780 each county's militia was divided into classes of 15 soldiers, from each of which one man was subject to be drafted for 18 months in Continental service.

A size roll of noncommissioned officers and privates taken at Albemarle Old Courthouse lists

John Rolls/ age 48/ height 5' 3<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>" / black hair/ black eyes/ black complexion/ planter/ residing in Caroline County/ drafted in Culpeper County 17 Mar 1781 for 18 months. Sized 4 May 1782.