

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements](#)

Pension application of John Rainey S4035

fn31SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

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State of Tennessee, Bedford County

On this sixteenth day of August, appeared in open Court before Samuel Phillips, John B. Armstrong and John L. Neill, Justices of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions of the County of Bedford in the State of Tennessee aforesaid John Rainey, a resident of said County, aged eighty two years, two months seven days, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath state the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passes 7th June 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named Officers and served as herein stated. He does not know owing to the failing of his memory what time he entered the service but that it was during the time the American Army lay at Stone Oak [sic, Stono], a place between Charleston and Savannah in South Carolina.

That in Laurance [sic, Laurens] County, South Carolina, he was commissioned by one Colonel Thomas [John Thomas] to hold a garrison at the place where Colonel Hight [sic, Jacob Hite] was killed which was in the Cherokee Nation, just over the South Carolina line, and there remained himself with about sixty men he had under his command nine months during which time they kept possession of the garrison, and after the nine months service, he and his company returned home. There was but one little engagement which was about half a mile from the garrison in which engagement there was no white men killed and but one Indian.

This applicant further states that shortly after he returned home from his service in the garrison, he raised a Company of Volunteers, say about twenty, and went in pursuit of the Tories, who were then going through the country and trailed them about fifty miles when he got information that Colonel Clark [Elijah Clarke] and General Pickens [Andrew Pickens] were before him and nearer the Tories than he was. He then on that information, thought proper to return back home, and immediately himself and Colonel Rowebuck [sic, Benjamin Roebuck] & Major Smith turned out and raised more volunteers to keep down the Tories in that part of the country and guard the frontiers, and whilst he was scouting about down below Camden, he was taken prisoner by the British and one Colonel Ferguson [Patrick Ferguson] was the Commander of the British at the time he was taken by them, and whilst on their way with him from Camden to King's Mountain about eighteen miles from Camden, between sunset and daylight down, he made his escape from the British. He then without delay made [his way] back home being about

forty miles distant, to hear, if he could, anything of Roebuck, Smith or General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene]. But his wife could give no account of them (and all in that neighborhood with a very few exception, were Tories). So he had no chance to make further inquiries but he immediately went on to a place in South Carolina then called Ninety Six and now Camden [sic, Cambridge], and stayed there some two or three days, being a Whig neighborhood generally speaking but could not still hear anything of the above mentioned men. He then returned home again and by this time, his wife had got information in what direction Morgan's [Daniel Morgan's] Army was. He then immediately without staying one single night at home, went in pursuit of Morgan's Army to join him which I done where I found Roebuck and Smith and their Companies and my own Company. Morgan's Army then lay about eighty miles from his house, and the morning after I joined them, the battle [Battle of Cowpens] was fought between Morgan and Tarleton [Banastre Tarleton] and in which battle, Tarleton and his Army was defeated and Tarleton himself wounded.

We pursued them on to where Corn Wallis' [sic, Charles Lord Cornwallis'] Army was laying and in the pursuit, together with what we took on the field of battle, we captured Seven hundred of the British and we kept on to Halifax Court House in the State of Virginia and there we lay about six weeks. But before we got to said Court House, General Morgan gave up his command and I understood went home, and General Greene took command of the whole. He further states that they marched from Halifax Court House to Hillsborough, North Carolina, and directly after they got there, they every day nearly had some small engagements and some were killed, and when the army got up to High Rock in North Carolina, General Greene commissioned him to recruit men to join General Pickens at Ramsour's Mills [sic, probably Ramsey's Mills], and he is accordingly recruited some which he thinks [was] about thirty. He was in hearing [distance] of artillery when the Battle of Guilford was fought and the second day after the Battle of Guilford, him and his men were on [the] march to join Genl Pickens, when to his great astonishment, he met his wife and all his children with her, five in number, drove out of their native State by the Tories, and nearly exhausted by fatigue and might add with hunger. In this situation, he gave up his command to one Major Moore and they went on and he conveyed his wife off a distant of about thirty miles and procured a house for them and from thence home to South Carolina and was not in the service afterwards.

This declarant further represents that he has documentary evidence to assist his recollection, he having received no discharge from General Greene or any other person and half a century having now lapsed since the time of his service he presumes many things have escaped his recollection, which might be necessarily stated in his declaration. He is not certain that he recollects all the skirmishes he may have been engaged in. Many of the Officers together with their names with whom he was then familiar, he has entirely forgotten. He is unable to state precisely at this remote period the length of time he was engaged with the service of the United States as a Revolutionary Soldier, according to the best of his recollection, it was upwards of three years how much over that time he cannot say. He hereby relinquishes 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 of any State.

S/ John Rainey, X his mark

Sworn into open Court 16th August 1832.

S/ Jas. McKisick, Clk.

We, Malchesadic Brame, a Clergyman, residing in the County of Bedford and William Hezlett residing in said County, hereby certify that we are well acquainted with John Rainey, who has subscribed and sworn to the above declaration ,that we believe him to be eighty two years of age, that he is reputed and believed in the neighborhood where he resides to have been a Soldier of the Revolution and we concur in that opinion.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid in open Court.

S/ Malch. Brame

S/ Wm Hezlett

Questions propounded by the Court:

Q 1st: Where and in what year were you born?

A. I was born in Caroline County, Virginia on the 20th day of May 1750.

Q 2nd: Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

A. My age is registered in a Family Bible belonging to my father in Virginia and I have not seen it since the close of the war.

Q 3rd: Where were you living when called into service? Where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

A. I was living in South Carolina, Laurens County when I entered the service, after the war was over I lived in the same County and State, and I removed from there to Bedford County, State of Tennessee in the year 1808, where I now live and have lived since the year 1808.

Q 4th: How were you called into service? Were you drafted? Did you volunteer or were you a substitute and if so, a Substitute for whom?

A. In the first place, I was commissioned as a Captain to build the garrison as stated in the declaration, and when I entered the service the second time, I volunteered and I was never a substitute.

Q 5th: State the names of the Regular Officers who were with the troops where you served, such Continental and Militia Regiments, as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

A. Colonel Thomas (his Christian name I do not recollect) was the man that commissioned me to built the garrison, spoken of in this declaration and he was the Colonel of Laurens County. General Morgan, his Christian name I also forgot, I do not know the names of any of the Field Officers under him. I was then under General Greene, his given name I also forgot, and I knew Major Lawson who was under General Greene. The general circumstances in relation to my service are related as correctly as I can now recollect them in my declaration.

Q 6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service and if so, by whom was it given; and what has become of it?

A. I never received a discharge from anyone.

Q 7th : State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief of your services as a Revolutionary Soldier.

A. I have been acquainted with Solomon Campbell, Thomas Dean, and William Hezlett, the latter two are Justices of the County of Bedford and many other persons in Bedford County, having lived in said County. upwards of twenty two years past.

Sworn in open Court 16th August 1832.

S/Jas. McKisick, Clk.

S/ John Rainey, X his mark

[Solomon Campbell¹ gave a supporting affidavit not day, however, on having served with the veteran but based on conversations with the veteran after the war as to their common experiences during the war.]

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An Amendment to the declaration of John Rainey made at August term 1832 of Bedford County Court in order to obtain the benefit of the I Congress passed 7th of June 1832.

State of Tennessee Bedford County

Personally appeared before me the undersigned an acting Justice of the peace, John Rainey who Subscribed and was Qualified to the declaration above alluded to, who after being duly sworn agreeable to law deposeth and saith, that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively to the precise length of his Service and the precise periods of the war when he served, but according to the best of his recollection, he served not less than the periods below, and in the following grades, to wit: That he entered the service of the United States as Captain of a volunteer Company (as stated in the accompanying declaration) about the first of November in the year 1778, and to the best of his recollection he served not less than 9 months as such; and was dismissed shortly after the battle of Stono; and to the best of his recollection his second tour [sic, tour] commenced about the middle of August 1779 as a Captain of a volunteer Company and continued in service as such until after the battle of Guilford in the State of North Carolina, and to the best of his recollection he served not less than one year and seven months in the Service of the United States during the war of the Revolution, making in the whole a tour of not less than 2 years and 4 months for which he claims a pension agreeable to the act of Congress passed 7th of June 1832.

Sworn to and subscribed this 7th day of January 1833.

S/ George Davidson, JP

S/ Jno Rainey, X his mark

¹ [Solomon Campbell S39287](#)