

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Isaac Rainey S4545

[Sarah Rainey]

f52NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

12/10/09 rev'd 8/23/15

[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 'indcipherable' 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.]

[p 29]

State of Tennessee: SS

Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed 7th of June 1832

On this 12th day of November in the year of our Lord 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Worshipful John L. Neill, Samuel Phillips and John B. Armstrong Esquires Gentlemen justices of the peace in and for the County and state aforesaid; Now sitting -- Isaac Rainey a resident of said County aged Sixty nine years and ten months who after being 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 7th of June 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated, to wit: That he entered the service of the United States as a volunteer in Captain William Douglasses [William Douglas] Company of mounted Gunmen; who was under the command of General Butler [John Butler] and Colonel Moore [William Moore] about the 20th day of January 1781. Shortly after the Battle of the Cowpens [January 17, 1781]; He says he was mustered into service in Granville County and State of North Carolina at General Butler's headquarters he says he was himself a citizen of Caswell County he was marched from said headquarters under the aforesaid officers to an encampment on Haw River occupied by General Greene [Nathanael Greene] in Guilford County in said last mentioned State and was marched from there to Guilford Court house the day previous to the Battle at that place between the Americans and the British; He says he was in that Engagement [March 15, 1781]¹ from its commencement to the end of it, from there he was marched to Troublesome Iron works on Haw River where he says the troops remained for some time; and from there was marched home after serving three months and ten or fifteen days; and dismissed until further orders; and was called in about two or three weeks afterwards when he says he again joined Captain John McMullen and was marched to Caswell old Court house to Colonel William Moore's; and that Colonel Moore had received orders to dismiss his troops; he says he was again dismissed until further orders. He further says in two days afterwards the Tories took possession of Hillsboro [September 12, 1781]; and that he was called upon by Captain McMullen again and was marched to Hillsboro and on in pursuit of said Tories and that the American troops overtook the Tories at Livingston's Swamp [September 23, 1781]² that he was in an engagement at that place with said Tories and British Light horse; and that the latter gave way; and that he was, then placed in a company of volunteer infantry under the command

¹ http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_guilford_courthouse.html

² http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_livingstons_creek.html

of Captain Spill Coleman [sic, Spillsby Coleman]; Captain McMullen having disgraced himself and was dismissed and sent home; He says he was marched to a place called Browns Marsh [sic, Brown Marsh, September 1781]³ where he says he was in another engagement with the British in the night time for more than an hour; and that seven or ten Americans were killed and about sixty head of horses; and thirty-five of the British were said to have been killed at said battle. He says Colonel Moore being a member of the Legislature of North Carolina returned home; and that Captain Coleman's company was attached to or placed under the command of Colonel Owens [probably Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Owen [Griffith Rutherford's] of the Guilford County militia], and was marched to General Rutherford's head quarters, and from there he was marched to Northeast Bridge on Cape Fear River not far from Wilmington; where he says the glorious news that Cornwallis was taken [October 19, 1781] at little York was received; and that in a few days after the British was marched off, that was encamped on the opposite side of the River from the American Army; He said deponent says he was dismissed; That he believes he was in the actual service of the United States as a Soldier of the Revolution for nine months -- And that he has no documentary evidence whatever; and that he knows of no person except what he proves by the affidavit or certificate of William Mitchell Senior⁴ of Rutherford County in the State of Tennessee; whose testimony he can procure who can testify as to his Service; and that he hereby relinquishes all and 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 the United States.

Interrogatories by the Court

1st Where and in what year were you born?

Ans: I was born in Orange County in the State of North Carolina on the 12th day of January 1763 agreeable to my Father's Family records

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

Ans: I never recorded my age that I recollect

3rd How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom?

Ans: I was a volunteer the whole time I was in Service

4th Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Ans: I was a citizen of Caswell County in the State of North Carolina when I entered the service of the United States, and continued to be until the winter of 1819 when I removed to Maury County in the State of Tennessee; where I lived for about 5 years; and from there I removed to Bedford County in the last mentioned State where I have lived ever since; and where I now live

5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Ans: I recollect Colonel Robert Mayben [sic, Robert Mebane] at Livingston Swamp General Eaton [Pinketham Eaton], Major William Lytle, Colonels Lee [Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee] and Washington [William Washington] at the Battle of Guilford, I do not recollect the names or numbers of any Regiment either Continental or militia; and I believe my declaration contains the most prominent circumstances of my service.

6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what

³ http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_brown_marsh.html

⁴ [William Mitchell S4221](#)

has become of it?

Ans: I never did receive a discharge in writing

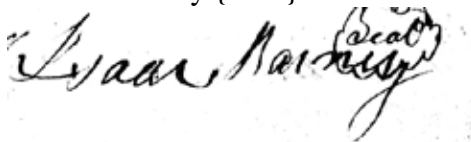
7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

Ans: Joseph Rosson, Esquire Ezekiel Cherry Esquire

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

S/ Jas. McKissick, Clk

S/ Isaac Rainey {Seal}



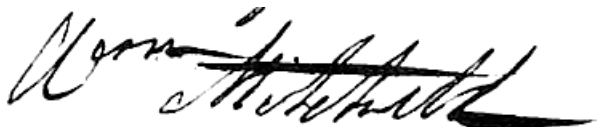
[Joseph Rosson and Ezekiel Cherry gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 38]

State of Tennessee Rutherford County

This day came before me John R. Laughlin an acting Justice of the peace within and for said County, William Mitchell, about Sixty nine years of age, who states that he is well acquainted with Isaac Rainey who entered the service of the United States as a soldier in the revolutionary war in the year 1781, as stated by Isaac Rainey in his declaration for a pension, and that he well recollects that said Rainey did serve as a soldier in the Revolutionary war under the command of Captain William Douglas; but cannot state the period of time which he served. He states that said Rainey served two tours of duty, but for what length of time he cannot now state with any degree of certainty, being under the command of a different officer and being stationed at different places -- said William further states that himself and said Rainey were together in the battle of Guilford and Livingston bridge in the State of North Carolina and that he has always understood and believed that said Isaac Rainey was in the engagement at Brown Marsh and other engagements during the time of his service.

S/ Wm Mitchell



Subscribed and sworn to before me this first day of November 1833. And I do certify that the said William Mitchell is a man of honesty, integrity and is and ought to be believed in any statement he would make on oath.

S/ Geo. A. Sublett, JP

[p 10]

State of Tennessee Bedford County: Circuit Court June Term 1835

The amended Declaration of Isaac Rainey -- in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress of the 7th of June 1832 -- On this 2nd day of June, personally appeared Isaac Rainey Senior a resident in the said County and State aforesaid Seventy-two years of age 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 in the winter of 1780 -- 1781 he cannot

be certain which year, as a volunteer in the County of Caswell State of North Carolina about the 17th year of his age in Captain William Douglass' horse company Rendezvoused at Caswell Court-house North Carolina from there marched to Harrisburg and fell under the command of General Butler from there we marched to the Alamance River where we fell under General Green in Orange County North Carolina here he thinks he has a clear recollection of their time of three months tour being out but was persuaded to stay for a Battle was expected in some short time; he thinks it did take place at Guilford in fifteen or twenty days and he was in the Battle at Guilford and was marched from that Battle ground to Troublesome Iron works where he was discharged or dismissed by Colonel William Moore; he states he received no written discharge, but knows his tour was for three months and that he served fifteen or 20 days over time of 83 months tour.

Some short time after his return home he volunteered again in a horse company commanded by Captain John McMullen rendezvoused at Hillsboro Orange County North Carolina started from there for Wilmington North Carolina. On our way at a place called Livingston's Bridge we were in a Battle Colonel William Moore commanded the Regiment General Butler was commander in chief, he thinks, after that he had another battle at a place called the Brown Marsh he thinks from there they made several routes to different points at length they were marched to Wilmington where they lay until the news came that Lord Cornwallis was taken at little York. Still under General Butler General Rutherford was also there but he does not know which was the Chief Commander. Soon after this news he was discharged but received no written discharge it was about the 17th of November; he states he was then about 200 miles from home and had served that tour of five months and fifteen or twenty days in both Tours nine months and a few days more. He states that he had an associate by the name of William Mitchel and believes he is still living in the County of Rutherford Tennessee and in a former application for a pension he pursued his testimony and forwarded his testimony with his declaration to the War Department relative to his Service in the Revolutionary war and he supposes it is on file in the office with his former declaration but his age and infirmity of body now renders it impracticable to procure the testimony of said Mitchell again. And he knows of no other testimony that he can procure, therefore he submits himself under the regulations of the war department to be examination of his age and character etc.

He hereby relinquishes every [claim] whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present and he declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of any Agency in any State.

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

S/ Danl. McKissick

S/ Isaac Rainey

[John L. Neil and Richard Warner gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

Interrogatories

1st Where and in what year were you born?

Applicant's Answer -- I was born in Orange County North Carolina and afterwards it became Caswell by a Division of Counties and in the year 1763 -- old style -- on the 1st January

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

Ans: I have none but I have often seen it in my Father's family Bible, that book was sold and I know not who bought it

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

Ans: I lived in Caswell County North Carolina when called into service and lived there

until about 15 years past I came to this County in Tennessee where I now live

4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom?

Ans: I volunteered both tours in the horse as stated in my declaration

5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Ans: General Greene Colonel Lee & Colonel Washington General Butler General Rutherford Colonel Moore commanded the Regiment I was then the general circumstances of my Service I have named in my declaration

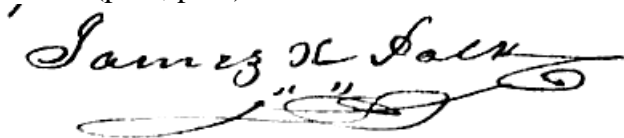
6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

Ans: I never received a written discharge; I served 2 tours and was simply dismissed by my officers

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 in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

Ans: Hugh McClellan, JF Ferguson, Colonel Aaron Boyed, Colonel James K. Polk, our representative, Joseph Rosson, Esqr. , Jas. Patterson, Esqr., John T. Neil, & Richard Warner.

[p 15: original attestation by James K. Polk [11th President of the US, 1845-1849) as the judge and clerk who took this application. There are several other letters in this file signed by James K. Polk (p 24; p 26).

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "James K. Polk". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background. Below the name, there are several decorative flourishes and a small mark that appears to be a period or a small flourish.

·]

[p 37]

State of Tennessee Bedford County: This Day Isaac Rainey Esquire Personally appeared before me Joseph Rosson an acting Justice of the Peace in and for the County aforesaid and made oath in due form of law, that he volunteered in the Militia of North Carolina in the horse as set forth in his Declaration and that he served three months and one half, and that he again entered the service in said Militia of North Carolina and served five months and one half, Part of the time in the Horse and part of the time in the foot and that the reason he served so long was that the Tories in North Carolina was so troublesome that we could not stay at home in any safety and therefore continued in the service of the Army.

Sworn to and subscribed before made this 30th day of January in the year of our Lord 1836.

Test: S/ Joseph Rosson, JP

S/ Isaac Rainey

[p 8: On September 24, 1837 in Marshall County Tennessee, Sarah Rainey filed a statement that she is the widow of Isaac Rainey, late of Bedford County Tennessee and that said Isaac Rainey departed this life June 17, 1836. She signed her affidavit with her mark.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$20 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 6 months in the North Carolina militia. The pension was actually paid to the veteran's widow up to June 17, 1836 when the veteran died.]