

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of Reuben Riggs S45880
Transcribed by Will Graves

fn12NC
rev'd 1/6/10

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State of Tennessee, Giles County

On this 20th day of August 1832 Personally appeared in open Court, before the justice holding the Court of Pleas & Quarter Session for the County & State of service, at this August term of said Court Reuben Riggs of said County of Giles, resident therein aged eighty five years, who being first duly sworn according to law does on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefits of the Act of Congress passed June 7th, 1832. The said Reuben Riggs saith and declares that he first entered the service under one Col. Cleveland [Benjamin Cleveland] in Surry County, North Carolina, one Saunders being his Captain, the day not recollected but most probably in the month of June in the second year after the declaration of Independence and during that year served a tour of three months and also served a similar tour under the same officers during the year following. These tours were against the Indians committing depredations about the head of the Yadkin River. The declarant then moved into Washington County in North Carolina but now in East Tennessee where in the month of December 1780 he volunteered under Col. Sevier [John Sevier] in an expedition against the Cherokee Indians. They mustered at Stockdon's Mill & proceeded on the expedition until Col. Clark [sic, Elijah Clarke?] & Col. Campbell [William or Arthur Campbell] of Virginia overtook & joined Sevier. He was in Captain Previt's [sic, William Pruett's ?] company until its close, the declarant was present at several skirmishes between the whites & Indians, on Boyd's Creek of French Broad river & at Echota & Hiwassee, Tellico & Chistua—what time that campaign closed he does not now remember, but supposes that some history or other record testimony in the public office of his County will show. He has no documentary evidence, having long since lost his discharge and that he knows of no person now alive who can testify to his services, the last man who could have done so to his knowledge, died during the last year, one Jesse Riggs of Lincoln County, Tennessee.

The said Reuben Riggs duly relinquishes any claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on any pension roll of any State or territory whatsoever. Sworn and subscribed this day and year aforesaid.

S/ Reuben Riggs

S/ German Lester, Clerk

[Stephen Shelton, a clergyman, and Thomas Martin gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

1. Interrogatories propounded by said Court to the said Reuben Riggs.
2. Where & what year were you born?
Answer: In Morris County, New Jersey in 1747 [could be 1749—last digit is unclear]. I have the record of my birth in my Father's Bible—now at home--.
3. Where were you living when called into service? Where have you lived since the revolution?
Where do you now live?
Answer: In Surry County, North Carolina & Washington County as before stated when I entered the service & from Washington I moved to Grainger County in East Tennessee where I

lived until about 1808 when I moved to Giles County, Tennessee where I have resided ever since.

4. How were you called into service?

Answer: In all the above campaigns I volunteered.

5. State the names of some of the Regular Officers?

Answer: I have stated all of the general officers whose names are now recollected

6. He further states that he received discharges from his said Captain Saunders & Pruitt but has no recollection of what has become of them. S/ Reuben Riggs

Sworn and Subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ German Lester, Clerk

[facts in file: veteran died 1837; the file contains no data regarding his family.]