

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of John Haynes S5460

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 30 Nov 2014.

Bedford County }
State of Virginia } SS

On this 25th day of May in the year 1833 personally appeared before me William Shrewsbury a justice of the peace for the County of Bedford in the State of Virginia John Haynes aged 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 Act of Congress passed June the 7th 1832.

That he entered the services of the United States under the following named Officers & served as herein stated

In the spring or summer of the year 1774 or 1775 he entered the services as a Volunteer from the County of Hanover and State of Virginia the month or the day he is unable to state, By reason of old age and the concequent loss of memory he is unable to state with accuracy the periods of the war when he enlisted on or the day he left the service, but is Confident he served not less that the periods mentioned below. In the above tour he volunteered under Captain John Winston for six months and marched from the County of Hanover as aforesaid through the County of New Kent and through the town of York in Virginia to Hampton in the same state where he was stationed during the tour, when at the expiration of Four months he was discharged, he served here in this enlistment, four months and not less than four months he recollects that Thomas Price was Lieutenant of the Company, Colonel Elisha Meridith or Merida [Elisha Meredith] he thinks had the command of the Regiment to which he belonged but the number of the Regiment he never knew or if he did he has now forgotten it nor does he recollect the names of the other officers. The Company in which he marched and to which he belonged was about the first that marched from Hanover County. during this tour he was engaged in no civil employment of any kind whatever; but the whole time was spent in service according to his enlistment, and at the expiration of Four months he was honourably discharged. whether he received a discharge in writing or not he is unable to state or can he tell by whom it was given if he ever did receive a written discharge it is now lost or mislaid. He will here state as a circumstance in his narative that the Town of Norfolk had been burned a short time before he arrived at Hampton [1 Jan 1776] he was in no engagement of any kind during this tour (he also was taken by Tarlton [sic: Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton; see endnote] or some of his gard, out of his bed from his wife, & was required by him to pilot them to Louisa Court House, which he went about twelve miles, & gave him a parole to return home & to fight against him no more but went some time afterwards he saw Tarltons fingers crossed in a short time after he was discharged from this tour and had returned home he was drafted as a militia man from the same County, but the day of the month or the year he cannot remember for the reasons before stated. he marched from said County under Captain David Richardson (the other officers and Regiment he does not remember) again to Hampton and at the expiration of forty days he was discharged having served not less that forty days if he received a discharge which he does not recollect it is now lost or mislaid. During this tour he was engaged no Civil employment whatever. He then continued to serve when occassionly called out as a militia man till the end of the war (the officers he served under in these tours he dont recollect for reasons above stated) but he cannot state positively the length or period of his services. he served though six & he thinks seven tours of forty days each in actual service when drafted or called on in the surrounding Country and keeping an eye on the movements of the enemy. For the greater Certainty however he served in these difficult engagements not less than six months and in that time was in no Civil employment whatever. This whole of his services will amount to twelve months & not less. If he ever did receive any discharge for this service it is now lost or mislaid.

He was born in the County of Hanover and State of Virginia on the 12 day of March in the year 1753, he resided at the time he entered the service in the County of Hanover and state aforesaid

afterwards moved into the County of Louisa where he lived a short time, when he moved to the County of Bedford where he now resides and has resided for some years. He has no record of his age nor has he any Documentary evidence to establish his services. He knows of no person now living who can testify to his services or by whom he can prove any part of them. He is unable also to procure the testimony of a clergyman as to his belief in his revolutionary services or the general reputation in the neighborhood, because there is no clergyman residing immediately in his vicinity and the fact of his having moved to the County of Bedford since the war where he was then a stranger renders it still more difficult to procure such a certificate from that particular class of individuals. I am known in my present neighborhood to George West, William Jordan, Isaac James and John Dent and many others who can testify as to my character for veracity and the general belief in the neighborhood of my services as a soldier of the Revolution.

He makes the following answers to the several Interrogatories propounded by the War Department

To the first he answers. In the County of Hanover in the State of Virginia in the year 1753

To the second he answers I have not now [a record of age] it is lost or mislaid if I ever had one as I am confident I didn't. that not long since

To the third he answers. In the County of Hanover in the State of Virginia resided afterwards a short time in the County of Louisa now reside in Bedford County and have resided most of my time since in the last mentioned County.

To the fourth he answers I was a volunteer once in a tour of Six months in my other services I was drafted as a militia man and in all my services I acted as a private soldier.

To the fifth he answers The names of such [officers and regiments] as I can recollect are set forth in the body of my Declaration.

To the sixth he answers If I received a discharges at all they are now lost or mislaid.

To the seventh he answers. I am known to George West William Jordan Isaac James and John Dent and others as stated in the body of my declaration

He hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension or an annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State. John hisXmark Haynes

NOTE: The clerk's entry regarding the incident with "Tarlton" appears to have been squeezed between lines as an afterthought. It suggests that late in 1775 or early in 1776 Haynes was captured by the troops of Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton, who forced him to show the way to Louisa Courthouse, then granted him safe passage to return home on promise not to fight again. The account suggests that Haynes observed Tarleton resorting to the childish trick of crossing his fingers to negate the parole, so Haynes felt free to return to military duty. If this incident occurred it could not have been during the first tour, because Tarleton had not yet entered service in America. His raids in Virginia occurred in May though July 1781. He was in Louisa County on 3 June 1781. He is said to have lost the first two fingers of his right hand at the Battle of Guilford Cuntly NC on 15 March 1781.