

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of John Rains (Raines) S5969

VA

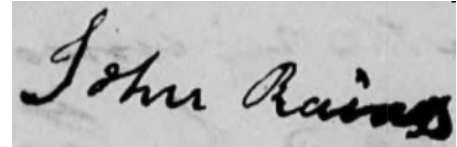
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 21 Jan 2021.

State of Virginia } SS.

Lewis County }

On this seventh day of August A.D. 1832 personally appeared before the Justices of Lewis County court John Rains a resident of the county of Lewis and State of Virginia aged seventy six 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 provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. That he enlisted in the army of the United States in the year 1777 or 1778 with the Virginia line on continental establishment and served (as he now recollects in the 10th Regiment under the following named officers. He enlisted at Culpepper [sic: Culpeper] Courthouse in the year 1777 or 1778 under a certain captain John Gillison [W7530], Lieutenant John Hackley in the regiment commanded by Col John Green [BLWt866-500], he thinks 10 Regt of the Virginia line in continental service. He marched from Culpepper courthouse, He thinks in the year 1777 to Valley Forge near Philadelphia took up winter quarters from thence to Jersey was in the battle at a place called Monmouth [28 Jun 1778]. went from there to a place called White Plains thinks it was in State of New York. had a battle there [sic: 28 Oct 1776] from Thence to a place called Cheacebic[?] district or some such name, from to Jersey State again was kept on duty at places not recollected went into winter quarter again at a place called Middlebrook [11 Dec 1778]. Spent the next summer in Jersey as well as he now recollects. He was soon after marched back to Virginia was at the capture of Cornwallis [Yorktown, 19 Oct 1781]. went as a guard to prisoners at or near Winchester was discharged sometime in the winter following. his discharge he has lost long since. affiant served out the term of his enlistment which he thinks was three years [see endnote] many particulars of his campaign has escaped his memory in more that half a century which has elapsed since

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state. Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

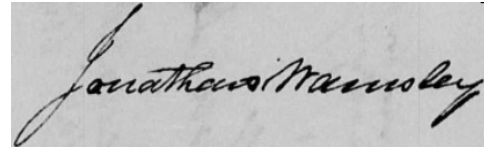


Weston 13th Aug't 1832

Sir. I prepared an affidavitt and submitted to your depart. for the declarant John Rains before I saw your printed regulations. That was done through the Hon L. Maxwell of this place. Through the same channel I have rec'd your communication to him of the 26 Ultimo. Mr. Rains has made a declaration in conformity with your regulations. You will please to forward his certificate to me as soon as practicable

Very respectfully/ Your ob't. Ser't.

Jonathan Wamsley



I do hereby certify that John Talbott is Clerk of County of Lewis, in Va agust 13th 1832

[signed] Lewis Maxwell

I also Certify that Jonathan Wamsly is a resident of the County of Lewis Va and is a practicing attorney
August 13th 1832

[signed] Lewis Maxwell

[The following report is by District Attorney W. G. Singleton, who, with Nathan Goff, investigated many fraudulent pensions from Lewis County, some of which were by Jonathan Wamsley. See my appendix to the pension application of David W. Sleeth S6111 for details. Singleton wrote "Entitled" on the cover of his report.]

John Rains. Pensioner. receives \$80—

Saw this man July 1, 1834. Says he is 78 yrs. old October next. born and raised in Culpepper County Virginia. lived there until within the last twenty years. that the year after the Battle of Brandywine [sic: Brandywine, 11 Sep 1777] & Germantown [4 Oct 1777], he was drafted for an eighteen months tour & marched from Culpepper to Vally forge on the Schoolskill [sic: Schuylkill River]. got there in the winter. Staid until Spring. then marched through New Jersey & then to Monmouth at which place a Battle was fought between the contending armies in which the American army prevailed – after the Battle marched up in New York on the North River to a place called white plains. from thence to Stoney Point [sic: Stony Point] & from thence to Middlebrook where the army went into winter quarters. his tour of service expiring at Middlebrook he was discharged & returned home. on setting our from Culpepper as before stated there were about twenty men along. they were commanded by a Lieut Williams. a Mr. Hackley was the ensign on going from Culpepper to Vally Forge. passed through Lancaster and on joining the army at Vally forge he was attached to Capt. John Gillison's company. Williams & Hackley before mentioned was his subaltern's. was attached to Weedons [Gen. George Weedon] or Waynes [Gen. Anthony Wayne] brigade dont recollect which. John Green was the colonel of his Reg't. (the 10th Vig'a.) during the whole of the term above mentioned. Gen'l. Washington was along. – he served this tour out (18 months) after his return and being at home a few months was drafted again for three months & marched under Capt Fisher to Blackwater & Petersburg where the contending armies had a little Brush there [possibly Battle of Petersburg, 25 Apr 1781] now a good many men along. dont know who commanded them. there was a Major McClure (or some such name) along. he was a frenchman. [More likely Maj. Charles Deklaman R13678] Served this tour out and returned home. Was drafted again for 3 mos. and marched under Capt Gasper Hains (dont recollect the names of his subalterns) to Richmond, Petersburg & Yorktown. Was at the latter place at the surrender of Cornwallis. thinks that he served another 3 mos. tour under a Capt Dickerson before he served the tour last before mentioned, but his memory in reference to it is somewhat indistinct.

Jonathan Wamsly wrote his declaration. contracted with him & Johnson F Nealan. agreed to give them the first years pay. they have received \$80. told Wamsly that he was in the service between one & three years.

the forgoing statement made by the undersigned having been read and finding the same taken down as given in I hereto subscribe my name.

Witness Nathan Goff.

John Rains

A copy of the original in my possession W. G Singleton

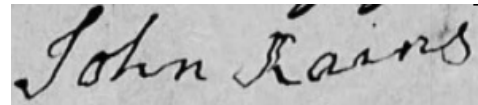
Respectfully Reported W. G Singleton, Special Agent

To James L. Edwards Esq. Com. of Pensions

Virginia }
Lewis County } Towit

Be it remembered that on this 6th day of July 1835 before Weeden Huffman a Justice of the Peace in and for the said County of Lewis personally appeared John Rains of the said County, and being lawfully sworn, upon his oath makes the following explanation in reply to the letter of the Commissioner of Pensions of the 16th March 1835. He states that his services as given into Mr. Singleton are the proper services he rendered during the Revolutionary war, that he only served Eighteen months under his inlistment in 1777 that if his declaration is different from the statement given to Mr. Singleton that was not his fault but the fault of Jonathan Wamsley who wrote it, he give in his services to Jon'n. Wamsley the same as given to Mr. Singleton. He further states that the reason why he did not apply for a pension under the act of 1818 was that he lived remote where information seldom reached, that he supposes it was

several years after the law passed before he knew of it, and then his information was by rumor only, that he talked with several person who he supposed might give him correct information on the subject who were enabled to give him but little satisfaction on the subject, and understanding that the law required applicants to swear that they were unable to support themselves and being able to work and support himself on his farm although in very moderate circumstances, he abandoned the notion of applying for a pension until a short time before the Act of 7 June 1832 when he learned more correctly the provisions of the law of 1818 and had determined to apply under the act of 1818 but when the law of 1832 passed he was advised that his better course would be to apply under that law as it was more simple and that the pension would be the same. He further states that he has no recollection of having received either by himself or an agent his depreciation pay. He further states that while he was in the regular service under capt. John Gillison he knew a man by the name of Rains and thinks his name was John Rains [W4058] he belonged to the same Regiment (10th Virginia Regiment) but not to the same company that this affiant belonged to, he does not recollect the name of the capt. whose company said Rains belonged to. he was only tolerably acquainted with said Rains. he recollects while at the Valley forge of wrestling with said Rains he was a pretty stout fellow and threw affiant that Capt. Gillison was present and remarked that his man was thrown but that he was sorry for it



[The following is from the pension file of John Cutright (W6626).]
 Clarksburg May 14th 1835

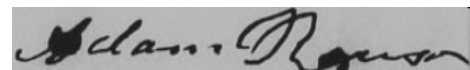
J. L. Edwards }
 Com'r of pensions }

Sir I will call your attention to the case of John Davis [W8654] of this county – his case was reported with the Harrison County reports last winter, and reported intiteld – you have not as yet reported his case. The old man is frequently making inquires of me, what has been done &c &c. I wish you would look into it &c.

Weeden Huffman of Lewis County has requested me to write you on the subject of John Cutright & John Rains, – Mr Singleton & my self examined those two, – and acording to my recollection they were among the few of that County reported entiteld — Mr Huffman says you have enquired of him why the descepancy between their original declarations & the report made by Mr Singleton – The reason why is very obvious – and this – They who drew their original declaration drew up such a history of servises as would entitel the applicant to a pension – intirely disregarding truth facts &c &c — The old men would give a true histry of their servises and would swear as they would think to what they had stated, The agent then would go home & concoct any thing, intirely laying aside what the applicant had told them – They never purs[u]ed the truth, even where the truth would answered the purpos —

I will be glad to here from you on the above – as I shall not get clear of them untill the department has acted deffinately
 Yours &c Nathan Goff

I Adam Raines of the County of Madison and State of Virginia aged Seventy two in September last, do hereby certify that I was a Soldier drafted from the County of Culpeper (Virginia) in the fall of the year 1781 and performed a Tour of two months. I was at the Seige of Yorktown [28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781], I well remember John Rains then of the County of Culpeper – now as I am informed of the County of Lewis (Virginia) He was in Service at the Seige of Yorktown in the same Regiment; certainly and I am encleled[?] to think in the same Company with myself, I have no knowlege to any certainty of his other services – but I am under the impression he was one of those who had to serve a period of Eighteen months – but cant undertake to say he certainly was. Given under my hand this 15th day of March 1836.



Lewis County to wit

Thomas Bland this day personally appeared before the subscriber a justice of the peace in and for said County and made oath as follows to wit. That some seven or eight years ago he heard a conversation between John Gibson then of the County aforesaid but now dead and John Rains who is yet living relative to their revolutionary services from the conversation that passed between the said Rains & Gibson affiant has every reason to believe that they were in the revolutionary service and well acquainted with each other while in the service affiant heard Gibson say that he knew the said Rains at the valley forge while in the service and also heard him speak of Rainses serving at other places but can not now recollect the places spoken of affiant further states that he has been several years acquainted with the said John Gibson and knew him to sustain a high character for veracity & truth. Sworn to before me this 14th day of April 1836
Jacob J. Jackson J.P

The affidavit of Elizabeth Lacy of the County of Albemarle and State of Virginia, taken before me Wm Woods a Justice of the peace for the County aforesaid. This affiant being first sworn, saith, that she recollects that her brother John Raines served two tours of duty in the Revolutionary War – that he was drafted & she thinks served the term of twelve months the first tour. She also recollects that he was in service a second time, which she believes was near the end of the war, but cannot state the length of time he remained in service. This affiant further states that her brother the said John Raines at the time he went into service as a Soldier resided in that part of the County of Culpeper now composing the County of Madison. and further this affiant saith not.
Elizabeth herXmark Lacy
[14 May 1836]

Lorentz' Store, Lewis County Virg'a June 27th 1836

Dear Sir [J. L. Edwards]; At the request of John Raines, I herewith enclose several affidavits by which he endeavours to prove his services as a Soldier in the revolutionary war; he is in hopes that these papers will prove satisfactory and be the means of replacing him on the Pension list again – after examining the papers be so good & communicate the result.
respectfully yr ob't s't/ Jacob Lorentz

Sept 3rd 1836

Mr Jacob Lorentz. Sir you perhaps had better make known to the Secretary of war, that the reason why Squire Woods did not certify to the credibility of Mrs Lacy; was that she had recently come to Albermarle county, and he had never seen her, previous to the day he administered the oath to her in the case of John Raines.
Yours &c William Raines

Lorentz' Store, Lewis County Virg'a Sep'r 5th 1836

D Sir [James L. Edwards] I herewith enclose you, sundry certificates, in conformation of John Raines services as a revolutionary soldier – if deem'd necessary Mr. Raines can establish that he many years since in conversation with his neighbours frequently alluded to his services as a soldier in the revolutionary war.
respectfully your Ob't Ser/ Jacob Lorentz

[From [rejected claims in the Library of Virginia](#). Like the original pension application above, the following application for bounty land is a fraud perpetrated by Jonathan Wamsley, possibly aided by Samuel Z. Jones.]

Lewis County to wit

John Rains of Lewis county aged seventy seven. This day personally appeared before me a Justice of the peace in and for Lewis County and made oath that he enlisted in the army of the revolution in a company commanded John Gillison as captain in the year 1776 or 1777 at Culpepper Courthouse in Virginia to serve three years. That he was marched to Valley forge in Pensylvania thence to Jersey thence to New York. was in a Battle at Monmouth. served the term of his enlistment was discharged by his col.

John Green he belonged to the 10 Regt of Virginia line he has never as yet received his bounty land. he now resides in Lewis County as been inscribed on the pension roll under the law of the United States of 7th June 1832 on the 18th of October last. he belonged to the Virginia line on continental establishment. subscribed and sworn to this 2nd Nov'r 1832

Given under my hand this day above
George Bush



Value received I assign my land bounty to Jonathan Wamsley and authorize the register of the land office to issue the warrant to said Wamsley witness my hand and seal this 24th day of November 1832.
witness/ Samuel Z Jones [S18474]



The Register of the land office will please issue the warrant above alluded to in my name and deliver the same to Thomas Bland Esqr. who will pay the fees. witness my hand and seal this 24th Novr. 1832.



Advised to be rejected for want of evidence
Rejected Dec 8 1834 J. F. [Gov. John Floyd]

NOTE: In his statement to Singleton, Rains claimed to have served either 24 or 27 months total. In his applications for a pension and bounty land Jonathan Wamsley misstated the duration of Rains's service as three years. The misrepresentation would not have affected the amount of the pension, which was a maximum of \$80 per year for a total of two or more years of service in either continental or state service or in the militia. In order to obtain bounty land from Virginia, however, Rains would have to have served in the continental or state line for at least three years or until the end of the war. The certificate to draw the pension was issued to Wamsley, and it is not clear how much of it was given to Rains.