

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of Joel Sturdivant S6150

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia            } SS.  
County of Dinwiddie        }

On this 20th day of August 1832, personally appeared in open court, before the Justices of the County Court of Dinwiddie County, now sitting Joel Sturdivant, a resident of the county and state aforesaid, aged sixty nine 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 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated; towit, that on the first day of July 1779 [sic: 1780] he was called into the militia service of the United States being detailed by a draft of numbers from Dinwiddie County under Capt. George Pegram, Lieut. Peter Eppes [pension application S8424], & Boswell Hutchings Ensign [S5587], that the company was marched to Hillsborough in N. Carolina, where it joined a body of troops of about two thousand men who were commanded by Gen'l. Stephens [sic: Edward Stevens]. that his company was attached to Colo. [Ralph] Faulkner's Reg't. and remained at Hillsborough he thinks about three or four weeks, for the purpose principally of being trained & disciplined previously to the march on Camden [SC] which was intended. That about a week before their departure thence Gen'l. [Horatio] Gates passed on by them going on to overtake his own army considerably ahead on the way to Camden and stopped a day or two and received Gen'l. Stephens troops aforesaid. That his company then marched on under Gen'l. Stephens command to Gates' Head Quarters near Camden where he was prior to the expiration of his three months tour. The action between [Lord Cornwallis and] Lord Rawdon & the American troops [Battle of Camden, 16 Aug 1780] occurred near Camden previously to his discharge, but he was himself acting on a rear guard and consequently did not participate in it.

2. That the next tour of three months service which he performed as aforesaid was under Capt. Baker Pegram of the said county and with him he marched as light infantry to Suffolk, and were subsequently ordered to Portsmouth to attack the British there, but the British having retired from Portsmouth by their ships before the arrival of the company, it was countermanded just before its arrival there, & in a few days discharged by the expiration of their three months service.

3. That the next tour of duty which he performed was as a drafted militia man under Capt Gibbs who marched his company to Cabin Point [in Surry County] & other places on James River - recalls a skirmish against a scouting party of the British at Hood's, that Gibbs was soon after appointed as a Major to command the militia, & Capt Wm. Walker then commanded the company, but he does not recollect any of the subaltern officers. That he was ultimately discharged by the expiration of his three months tour of duty at Smithfield.

4. That soon after by the regular recurrence of his number in the draft sometime in 1781 but he does not recollect the precise date he was called into service under Capt Wm. Lewis of the Militia from Dinwiddie County, & was marched to Petersburg where he was when [Gen. William] Phillips & [Gen. Benedict]Arnold visited that place [Apr 1781] and recollects when compelled to retreat that they retired to Chesterfield Court House. When the British retired below again, the troops with which he was associated returned to being on the the rear and were stationed some time at Wilton. that he performed out his full tour of three months duty, & was discharged at Wilton That he was born & has ever since resided in the County of Dinwiddie that no record of his age exists that he knows of, but that he has no doubt from all the information which he possesses that he was 69 years old the 6th day of last June. that he acted as a Sergeant all the time he was in the Militia service & served when regularly called out & never as a substitute for others. that he never rec'd any written discharge & has no documentary evidence of his services, but that Wm Nunnally & others can prove them.

He the said Joel Sturdivant 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 the agency of any

state whatever.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid  
[Certified by William Nunnally (S5844) and Peter Eppes.]

[signed] Joel Sturdivant