

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of Jesse Ray S7345

fn16NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

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State of North Carolina, Ash [sic, Ashe] County

On the 20th day of May 1833, personally appeared before the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, of the County of Ashe, Jesse Ray, a resident of Ashe County, aged Seventy three 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 of the act of Congress, June 7, 1832.

He entered the service of United States under the following named officers, and served as stated herein. I was living in Wilkes County North Carolina the year before the Gates' defeat [Horatio Gates at the Battle of Camden], I think the year 1779. I volunteered in the Light Horse under Capt. Moses Guess, called out by Colonel Cleveland [Benjamin Cleveland]. I volunteered for six months, but was discharged at the end of five months. In this tour I was actually engaged in scouring the country after Tories. Capt. Guess discharged him at the end of five months by disbanding them, but there was no written discharge.

My second tour was in the year 1780 about the last of June. I volunteered under Capt. Abraham Demoss to go to Ramsour's Mill, Col. Cleveland, commanded. We got to Ramsour's Mill the day after the battle. I saw at Ramsour's Mill, Genl Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford], on his way with troops to join General Gates. General Joseph McDowell was there also. This tour lasted two months. From Ramsour's Mill, Col. Cleveland marched us in pursuit of Col. Bryant [sic, Bryan], a Tory, whom we followed to near Anson County. We were marched back & discharged, but not in writing.

The third tour was one month, to the best of my recollection. I volunteered under the same Capt. Demoss, and marched under Colonels Cleveland & Gordon to the Virginia line in pursuit of two Tory Captains, Caldwell & Brown. We took a Tory Officer who was hung by sentence of a Court Martial.

The fourth tour, I think was three months, I volunteered with the same Capt. Demoss in the Horse, but was furloughed to attend my brother, who was sick. When he got better I went to join my Company and met them on the Morgantown road, with prisoners taken at King's Mountain. I joined them and we were marched to the Moravian Towns. Col.'s Campbell [William Campbell], Cleveland, Winston [Joseph Winston], Shelby [Isaac Shelby] and Sevier [John Sevier] were at the Moravian Towns part of the time I was stationed there and at the end of three months actual service, I was discharged and went home, but had no written discharge.

The fifth tour was I think in the winter of the same year. I volunteered with the same Capt. Demoss to scour the country of Tories, under the command of Col. Cleveland and was actually engaged one month. I had no written discharge.

The Sixth tour was in the year 1781 before the battle of Guilford. I volunteered under Capt. Demoss & for six weeks. We were watching Lord Cornwallis' light foraging parties toward the Shallow Ford, & in that neighborhood. We were discharged, but not in writing.

I was drafted after the battle of Guilford for the purpose of joining Gen. Greene, under Capt. Alexander Gordon. In the middle of July we were called out on this tour and we were marched to Salisbury [and] Charlotte & joined Gen. Green at Camden. Col.

Malmady [sic, Malmedy] had then the command of the Regiment in place of Col. Locke, who started with them. We were foot troops and I acted as Orderly Sergeant. At the time of the battle of Eutaw Springs, I was twenty five miles from Camden with some sick men. We joined the Company & marched with the prisoners to near Salisbury, where we encamped until late in November when Col. Locke, who had rejoined them, gave me a written discharge. This discharge is lost. In this tour I was enrolled six months and in actual service four months. I was engaged in other short tours during the war but do not recollect the times as from age I am losing my memory.

I never had but one written discharge and that was the last tour. I have no record of my age, but I have seen a record of my father's Bible which states me to be born in 1760. I was born in Amherst County Virginia but moved to North Carolina when twelve years old. I have lived in this county fifty five years, it was first Wilkes County and this part struck off is called Ashe.

I refer to Rev. Drury Center [sic], the Rev. Joseph Plummer and any other respectable citizen of Ashe County for my character. I have no means of proving any but the last tour of service except by my own oath.

I hereby relinquish any claim to a pension or annuity whatever except the present and declare that my name is not on the Pension Roll of the agency of any state.

S/ Jesse Ray

Sworn to & subscribed the 20th May, 1833.

S/ T. Calloway, Clerk of Ashe County Court

by S/ R. Gentry, Deputy Clerk

[Drury Senter, a clergyman, and Joseph Plummer gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

I Francis Johnson [sic] do swear that I was at Camden under General Greene & in the same Regiment with Jesse Ray under Colonel Malmedy. I know that Jesse Ray he was a soldier at that time.

Sworn to and open Court

S/ Francis Johnston¹

¹ [Francis Johnston \(Johnson\) S13585](#)