

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Amos Rayner S7355

Transcribed by Will Graves

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[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading skills fail to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[p 10]

State of North Carolina, Hertford County

On this the 27th day of August, personally appeared in open court, before the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for Hertford County, now sitting, Amos Rayner a resident of said County and State of North Carolina, aged seventy eight 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: That he was born in the county of Bertie, State of North Carolina, on January 8, 1760. That at the age of nineteen he was drafted in the Militia Service in the early part of March 1779 and that he was then living in said County of Bertie. That the following were the officers commanding the company to which he belonged - viz. - Charles Rhodes, Captain, William Rascoe, Lieutenant, --and William Goodman Ensign---. That the following were the officers commanding the regiment to which he was attached - viz. \_\_ Johnston [Jonas Johnston], Colonel, -- Lawrence Baker, Lieutenant Colonel & \_\_ Dixon,<sup>1</sup> Major. --- that the company to which he belonged left home in March 1779 – and marched on through the counties of Martin, Edgecombe, Lenoir, Duplin, &c --- and passed into South Carolina where about the month of April 1779 — they joined the Southern Army then under the command of Gen. Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln] who was established near the Savannah River ---there under the organization of the army which took place the company to which he belonged was placed under the field officers of the Regiment before mentioned.— all of which was under the command of Gen. Butler [John Butler] who had immediate command of the Militia --- that toward the end of April he crossed over the Savannah River, with the main army under Gen. Lincoln into Georgia – but soon recrossed the same river into South Carolina.—that on the 20<sup>th</sup> June following he, together with his company formed a part of the army which was detached to attack the British post at Stono-- where he was engaged and partook of the dangers of that battle--- He was, in that battle transferred from the infantry, to the artillery, and served at one of the big guns during the engagements---He does not recollect any of the officers of the Continental Line---beside those mentioned except ---Pulaski, the commander of the Polish cavalry who belonged to the main army at the same time—He also was after he joined the main army after the engagement at Stono he became afflicted with an affliction of the eyes supposed to have been caused by the smoke of the cannon. –That his health soon became very bad – So as to unfit him for service, and that he obtained his discharge and started home, but his sickness increasing he was confined on the road

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<sup>1</sup> William Dickson [William Dixon] and Robert Dixon both served as a major in the Duplin militia during the Revolution.

for two months or more and never reached home until the 28<sup>th</sup> September following. He received a discharge about the 7<sup>th</sup> August preceding--- which has been long since lost or mislaid, so that he cannot now procure it---The Discharge was signed in Capt. Lanier who was sent from the main army with the sick who had been discharged to procure provisions for them & otherwise provide for their wants. He further states that he remained at home till about the first of May he does not distinctly recollect the date --in the year 1783—he was again drafted in the Militia Service, -- under the following company officers viz --- William Morris, Captain --William Rascoe (the same who had commanded his company as Lieut. in the first tour) --Lieutenant was soon promoted to Captain on the discharge of Morris -- The Ensign he does not recollect -- that the regiment to which he belonged was commanded by \_\_ Dozier [Peter Dauge] Colonel. The other field officers of the regiment he does not now recollect except General Gregory [Isaac Gregory] who commanded the American forces. That his company marched through the counties of Chowan & Pasquotank in North Carolina & crossed into Virginia and joined the American forces at Kempsville near the British Fort at the Great Bridge --- that he there remained until the middle of August following when upon the abandonment of their position by the British all the American forces there stationed were discharged.—He received a regular discharge signed by Capt. Rascoe, which has long been lost or mislaid. ---This Declarant further states that from that time he continued to live in the county of Bertie until the year 1792 --when he removed into County of Hertford where he lived until the year 1802 -- when he again removed to Bertie, where he continued to reside till 1813 when he resided in Hertford County where he has since continued to reside and where he now resides.—The Declarant further states he knows of no Documentary evidence by which he can prove his service.

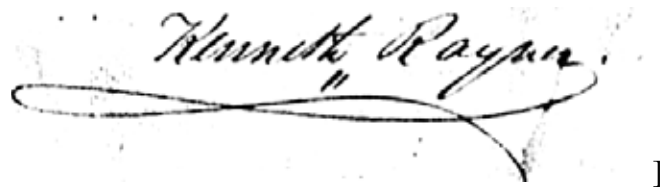
He hereby relinquishes every claim whatsoever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name not on the pension roll or agency of any state.  
Sworn to & subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ A Rayner



[John Nowell, a Baptist Clergyman, and Jess D Askew gave the standard supporting affidavit.]  
Winton, Hertford County - North Carolina October 18, 1838

[p 3: Letter dated October the 18, 1838 sent from Kenneth Rayner to the Commissioner of Pensions from Winton, Hertfordshire County North Carolina in which the author refers to the veteran as “his father.”



[p 6: Affidavit dated October 17, 1838 executed in Hertfordshire County North Carolina by Winnifred Doughtie, sister of the veteran, in which she gives testimony as to her recollection of the veteran’s services in the Revolution. She also makes reference to their father, John Rayner, who hired a man by the name of Jacob Thomas to go bring the veteran home when he became ill during the service. She signed her affidavit with her mark.]

[p 8: Affidavit dated October 17, 1838 executed in Hertfordshire County North Carolina by

William P Britton [sic, it appears the affiant signed his name William P. Briton or Britain], son of Benjamin Britton, deceased, in which the affiant states that he repeatedly and often heard his father speak of having been in the service with the veteran and of the veteran having been appointed to look after his father during an illness; that the veteran himself became ill while looking after the affiant's father.



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State of North Carolina, Hertford County

This day came before me John A. Anderson one of the acting Justices of the peace, of the County and State aforesaid – Amos Rayner of the County and state aforesaid, who being first duly sworn according to law, deposeth and saith as follows: -- That he is the same Amos Rayner, who petitioned for a pension under the act of Congress of June 1832 – whose declaration was subscribed and sworn to, in open Court, in the County and State aforesaid, at August term 1838 – and which was forwarded to the Commissioner of Pensions soon afterwards.

The Petitioner hereby wishes to amend said declaration, by correcting a slight mistake as to one of the dates in said declaration, relative to the service performed by him in the revolutionary war, and the tour near the Great Bridge in Virginia.

The Petitioner hereby repeats and confirms all the facts and statements set forth in said declaration, relative to the tour of service performed by him in South Carolina in the year 1779.

As to the service he performed in 1781, in Virginia, the Petitioner deposeth and saith, that, owing to the great length of time which has elapsed, and the failure of memory consequent of old age – he inadvertently confused dates, and stated in his declaration that the service was performed in 1783, when he should have said in 1781 – the Petitioner upon mature reflection, and conversation with James Weston of the County and State aforesaid – who was with said Amos Rayner in said tour of service in Virginia in 1781, and who is now a pensioner for said service by him there rendered, under the aforesaid act of June 1832 – and whose deposition accompanies this amended declaration – hereby amends his first declaration of August 1838, and avers, that it was in the year 1781, instead of 1783, that the said service in Virginia was performed by the petitioner. The Petitioner hereby renews and reaffirms the declaration heretofore made in regard to the service set forth. The deponent hereby testifies again, that the service set forth in his first declaration was performed, but in 1781 – instead of 1783, -- and the testimony of the Petitioner is hereby sustained and proven by the accompanying deposition of James Weston.

The Petitioner respectfully suggests to the Commissioner of Pensions, that, when the service is fully established and proven – a slight mistake as to a date, should not deprive an old soldier of that compensation provided by the laws of the Land – more especially, when the additional testimony of a fellow-soldier in the same service must show, that the mistake as to date, must have proceeded from inadvertence and failure of memory. And the Petitioner further suggests, that a slight mistake as to a date, must be in material, when the service is conclusively proven.

Sworn to and subscribed before me, this the 16<sup>th</sup> day of July 1840.

S/ John A. Anderson, JP

S/ A Rayner

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State of North Carolina, Hertford County

James Weston<sup>2</sup> of the State & County aforesaid having this 4<sup>th</sup> day of May 1840 being first duly sworn before me Silas Parker one of the Justices of the peace for the County & State aforesaid, maketh oath as follows – that he is now 82 years of age that he has long been acquainted with Amos Rayner of the County & state aforesaid who is now an applicant for a pension for services rendered during the war of the revolution he himself to said Weston was a soldier in the revolution, is a pensioner under the act passed in June 1832 – that he performed a tour in the year 1781 when he marched into Virginia & was encamped for some time near Great Bridge near Norfolk Road under General Gregory & Col. Dozier – that the said service is set forth in his declaration applying for a pension –that he recollects that the said Amos Rayner was there also as a soldier to perform his duty as such while the American forces were encamped there the said Amos Rayner is now at a very advanced age & has borne a good & unimpeachable character.

Sworn to & subscribed before me the aforesaid justice of the peace for the County aforesaid the day above written.

S/ James Weston, X his mark

S/ Silas Parker, JP

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$20 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831, for service as a private for 6 months in the North Carolina militia.]

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<sup>2</sup> [James Weston S7858](#)