

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Abram of Read S7364

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. rev'd 6/12/14

In Nansemond County Court 13th May 1833

Virginia County of Nansemond Sc. On this 13th day of May 1833, personally appeared in open Court before Josiah Ridick, Hardy Gross, Edward R. Hunter, & Edwin B Sumner, the Court of Nansemond County now sitting Abram of Read, a free man of colour by birth, a resident of Nansemond County and State of Virginia aged 69 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. He says that he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein Stated. That he entered as a militia drafted man on his own account on the day of [blank] under Captain John Coles, Lieutenant Lemuel Riddick and Ensign Zachariah McClenny, and served he thinks about 6 months at Portsmouth, Smithfield (in Isle of Wight County) and Surry County, and that he was discharged at Babb's old field in Isle of Wight County, at which time one William Boothe came and employed him as a substitute for about 3 months service and that he served out the time under Captain Roberts or Robertson (as he thinks) the same subaltern officers, that he served that tour (for Boothe) out on the north side of James river, he was then discharged, and then came on home (Nansemond County) and when again called on he volunteered his services to got to Portsmouth to dig down some embankments, William Riddick Captain, David Campbell Lieutenant [blank] Ensign, that he served there only about 6 weeks; he was then discharged and came home; that he recollects of seeing General Washington at or near little York [September or October 1781]: that he has no recollection of any of the other regular officers; that he has no documentary evidence having lost his discharge; (that he thinks he can prove this by James Wright and Joseph Ross;) that he was born in the County of Nansemond Virginia, that he has no record of his age; that he has always lived in Nansemond County, Virginia; that he has stated all he knows about the matter further, he cannot recollect. He 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. Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

(Signed) Abram of hisXmark Read

State of Virginia, }
County of Nansemond }

I, Abram of Read, of the aforesaid County and State, being duly sworn according to law, doth, on my oath, make the following amended declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress, passed June 7th 1832.

That I am now nearly Seventy years of age, (my Mother and Mr. David Duke's Mother of this county, have both often told me, that Mr. David Duke and myself were both born the same year, and the record of Mr. David Duke's age says he was born in 1763,) that I entered the service of the United States in the 1779 and served before the close of the Revolution, a period not less than ten months and twelve days, and for which service, I claim a pension. That I performed this service under the following named officers, as a private soldier, and at the periods here stated. That I first entered the service, as before stated, in the year 1779 under the command of Captain John Cole, (Lemuel Riddick was the Lieutenant and Zachariah McClenny was the Ensign) and served a tour of six months – that I served a part of this tour near Portsmouth in Norfolk County Va., a part in Surry County, Va. and a part in the neighbourhood of Smithfield in Isle of Wight County, Va., and at the expiration of this tour of six months was discharged at Babb's old field in the last mentioned County – that before the close of the year 1779, I again entered the service as a substitute, under the command of Captain Roberts, and served a tour of three months on the north side of James River, principally in the neighbourhood of Williamsburg – and in 1781, I again entered the service under the command of Captain William Riddick and went to

Portsmouth, and served a tour of six weeks. – That this service was performed in the field, all except the last tour of six weeks in the town of Portsmouth, Va. and that I was not engaged in any civil pursuit during the performance of this service, except a part of the last six weeks' tour in Portsmouth I assisted in digging down some embankments.

Sworn to and subscribed this 16 day of Octr 1833

Abram hisXmark Read