

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Joseph Terry S7701

VA Sea Service

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 24 July 2014.

State of Virginia and }
County of Patrick } Sct.

On this 11th day of October 1832 personally appeared before the Justices of the County Court of Patrick Joseph Terry a resident of the County of Patrick and state of Virginia, aged seventy one years the 27th of July last, 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 1775 the October after he was fourteen years of age with Capt. John Mosby who was attached to the 2nd. Regiment Commanded by Col. Alberd [sic: Samuel Elbert]. he was a resident at the time of enlistment of the County of Buckingham and State of Virginia, and in December following he with other recruits march'd to Cumberland old Courthouse. Jacob Winfree was 1st. Lieutenant, John Clark 2nd. and Robert Mosby ensign to the said Company. About three weeks after that the Company marched from Cumberland Old Courthouse through the State of North Carolina & South Carolina to the Town of Savannah within the State of Georgia, and was there attached to the 2nd. Regiment above stated under the Command of Col. Elberd and to the Brigade of General [Robert] Howe where we remained in and about 12 months when the 2nd Regiment was ordered by the commanding general to march to Florida in order to dislodge the British from St. Augustine which they then held possession of. That they pursued their march till they arrived within sight of St. Johns river, where they were met by an express informing them that the provision ships which had been sent on to meet the Regiment were all captured by the enemy. They then retreated back to Savannah and suffered very seriously for provisions having to pass through wilderness Country where rations could not be procured. They however got back. Some two or three months after their return there was a call for Volunteers from the Regulars to go upon sea after the British ships, that he with about 30 more turned out and went on board of a Galley called the Washington commanded by Capt. John Wingate, that after cruising some time they captured three British vessels. One ship, one sloop and one snow [see endnote], and returned into port with the prizes. Some time after that the exact day he does not now recollect but thinks it was about two years & better after his enlistment in the month of December a battle took place between Gen'l Howe's Brigade and the enemy [sic: Battle of Savannah, 29 Dec 1778], in which the Americans were defeated and he among the rest was taken prisoner, and put on board the prison ships where he remained until the last day of August following when he was induced to enlist in the British service in order to save his life being almost worn out by the privation incident to his situation. After enlisting he was sent on shore, where he availed himself of the first opportunity that offered and deserted their service, and resided in the State of Georgia and performed Militia duty till the end of the war. His being taken prisoner is the cause that his no discharge or other documentary evidence of his services as before the war ended nearly all the officers with whom he served were dead or so dispersed that he has yet to see either of them. He however has procured the testimony of Thomas Terry [of Lynchburg VA] as to his enlistment marked A and also of Charles Rakes marked B, which he wishes to accompany his declaration. He is certain that the time he served in the United States Army & the time of his imprisonment exceeded the time of his enlistment.

He was born in the County of Chesterfield State of Virginia and when an infant as he is informed his father moved to the County of Buckingham where he enlisted. According to the Register of his parents he was born on the 27th day of July 1761 he removed from the County of Buckingham to the County of Franklin in the year 1819 and from there to the County of Patrick in the year 1821 where he now lives ~ He hereby relinquishes any claim whatsoever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any state ~

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid Joseph hisXmark Terry

Patrick County Ss.

this day Charles Rakes of lawfull age personally appeared before me Jesse Corn a Justice of the peace for said County and sayeth that he was a near neighbour to Joseph Terry, in the County of Buckingham durring the Revolunitary War, and that he understood from said Terry and others, that he the said Terry had enlisted in the U States Service, and that said Terry applied to this affiant to relieve him from his Inlistment by substitute, this affiant being unable or unwilling to furnish a substitute, Loaned his Sadalle to said Terry and others to Enable them to join head quarters, and is fully of the opinion he served out his time, this affiant further sayeth he is yet a neighbour to the said Terry and that he has always so far as he knows supported and honest and reputable Character further this affiant sayeth not, Sown to before me this 14th day of May at the house of Lewis Turner, in said County in the year of our Lord 1829
[signed] Jesse Corn

NOTE:

The capture of three British ships is described in the following letter from Col. Elbert to Gen. Howe:
“Dear General, Frederica, April 19, 1778

I have the happiness to inform you that about 10 o'clock this forenoon, the Brigantine Hinchinbrooke, the Sloop Rebecca, and a prize brig, all struck the British Tyrant's colors and surrendered to the American arms. Having received intelligence that the above vessels were at this place, I put about three hundred men, by detachment from the troops under my command at Fort Howe, on board the three gallies—the Washington, Capt. Hardy; the Lee, Capt Braddock; and the Bulloch, Capt. Hatcher; and a detachment of artillery with a field piece, under Capt. Young, I put on board a boat. With this little army, we embarked at Darien, and last evening effected a landing at a bluff about a mile below the town; leaving Col. White on board the Lee, Capt. Melvin on board the Washington, and Lieut. Petty on board the Bulloch, each with a sufficient party of troops.

Immediately on Landing, I dispatched Lieut. Col. Ray and Major Roberts, with about 100 men, who marched directly up to the town, and made prisoners three marines and two sailors belonging to the Hinchinbrooke. It being late, the gallies did not engage until this morning.

You must imagine what my feelings were, to see our three little men of war going to the attack of these three vessels, who have spread terror on our coast, and who were drawn up in order of battle; but the weight of our metal soon damped the courage of these heroes, who soon took to their boats; and, as many as could, abandoned the vessels with everything on board, of which we immediately took possession.

What is extraordinary, we have not one man hurt. Capt. Ellis [of the Hinchinbrooke] is drowned, and Capt. Mowbry [of the Rebecca] made his escape. As soon as I see Col. White, who has not yet come to us with his prizes, I shall consult with him, the other three officers, and the commanding officers of the galleys, on the expediency of attacking the Galatea now lying off Jekyll. I send you this by Brigade Major Habersham, who will inform you of the other particulars. I am. &c.
Samuel Elbert, Col. Commandant”