

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of John Epps S8423

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 23 August 2023.

State of Virginia Halifax County SS.

On this day of 10th Oct'r 1834 Personally appeared before Robert Nelson a Justice of the Peace for the county & state aforesaid John Epps a resident of the county & state aforesaid aged 71 years the 23rd day of December next who being 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 the 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the united states under the following named officers and served as herein stated

That some time before the battle was fought at the Cowpens [17 Jan 1781] he does not know the date, he Inlisted in the state or continental service for the period of twelve months under the command of Capt. Samuel Garland he believes if he recollects right he was in the 22nd Virginia Regiment [see endnote] and marched from Luningborgh [sic: Lunenburg] County and state aforesaid. Crossing Roanoak [sic: Roanoke] river a Blanding[?] ferry and recrossed the said river at the said Ferry and from thence to Petersburg, and from thence to Williamsburg, and from thence to Hobs hole [sic: Hobbs Hole on Rappahannock River in Essex County VA] and from thence towards the South until he came sick, and was unable to do duty and was sent home, after serving the Period of six months in that tour of duty.

That in the year 1781 he was drafted and entered the militia service in the County of Luningburgh and state aforesaid under the Command of Capt. Elison Ellis Marched to Prince Edward Courthouse was stationed there a while and was transfered to Capt. Wm Ragsdales [William Ragsdale] Company and was under Genl. Lawson [Robert Lawson VAS850] and marched from there to Bottoms Bridges crossing James river at Cartersville and from thence to Old Jamestown and from thence returned to the said Bridge and there was discharged, and served in this tour three months and sixteen days. That he was detained in actual service 16 days, for more troops to relieve that Corps which had served a tour of three months. That he has a record of his age at one of his neighbours houses. That he was living in Luningburgh County & State of Virginia when Called in to service have lived in Halifax County & state afor since the revolutionary war and do now live in the same

That the Officers he recollects was Gen'l. Washington Stuben [sic: Baron von Steuben], & Lafayette That he has no documentary evidence, he believe he received discharges but cannot tell where they are That he was Born in Lunenburg County Virginia

That John Whitlow and Wm. Buntin with whom I am well acquainted in the neighbourhood & who can testify as to my Character for veracity & their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution. that the reason he has not obtained the Certificate of a Clergyman there is none convenient in the neighbourhood

That he knows no person by whom he can substansiate his claim except Richard Pullam [Richard Pulliam S8984] and John Rudder [S6034]

He hereby relinquishes his every Claim whatever to a pension or anuity except the present, and he declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of the agency of any state.

John hisXmark Epps

State of North Carolina } Richard Pulliam Came before me this day and after being duly Sworn on
Person County } the hole avengilass of Almighty Good deposeth and sayeth as follows
that he Served a three months tour with John Epps under the Command of Capt Elison Ellis for a short
time and then under the Command of William Ragsdal. Our field officer was Major Overstreet Given
under my hand this 10th day of Novem 1832 Isham Edwards J.P.

State of Va. Halifax County

This day personally appeared before me John Rudder and made oath That John Epps did enlist into the revolutionary service under Capt. Samuel Garland of the County of Lunenburg of the State aforesaid. For the Term of Twelve months, and that he did march and serve as a private under the said Samuel Garland perhaps at least six months in which time we were at Petersburg Williamsburg and at Burwells Ferry on James River – and the said Rudder further saith, that the aforesaid John Epps was drafted in the year 1781 and marched under Capt. Ellison Ellice also of the County of Lunenburg to proceedward Courthouse, and while Stationed there was transferred to Capt. William Ragsdales Company under the command of Gen'l. Lawson

And I do hereby certify that the testimony of the aforesaid John Rudder is entitled To all Confidence.
Given under my hand this 6th day of May 1833. John L. Jennings J.P.

In addition to the declaration made by John Epps dated 10th Octob'r 1834 make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed June the 7th 1832. That at the time he made his former declaration when the omission was made respecting his appearing in court he was afflicted with a pain in his hip.

That he is at this time unable by old age and bodily infirmity to attend Court –

That as well as he can recollect Maj'r John Glen [John Glenn] commanded him when he enlisted and marched from Lunenburg County

That he cannot recollect other officers at this time, that commanded

That as well as he can recollect he was Commanded by Major [John] Overstreet & Gen'l. Lawson in his militia service.

That he now resides in Person County N.C near his old residence and is not able to get further by means of affliction

John hisXmark Epps

Sworn to & subscribed this 8 day of February 1836 before me Thos Haliburton JP

NOTES:

There was no 22nd Regiment in either the Virginia Continental or State troops. In 1776 Capt. Samuel Garland of Lunenburg County commanded a company in the 2nd Battalion of Minute Men under Maj. John Glenn.

The 1830 federal census of Halifax County lists John Epps as head of a household of "Free Colored Persons."

On 21 May 1844 John Epps applied to have his pension transferred to Guilford County NC, giving the following reason for moving from Virginia: "He was poor person and removed to said State for the purpose of improving his condition and living more easily in old age. In the application he stated that he had served in "the Company commanded by Captain Mackay in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Glenn."