

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of Benjamin Long S8851

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of North Carolina } Superior Courts of Law
Caswell County } November Term 1833

On this 5th day of November in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty three, personally appeared in open Court, before the Honorable John R Donnell one of the Judges of the Superior Courts of Law and Equity of the State aforesaid, now in Session for the County of Caswell and State aforesaid, Benjamin Long a resident of the said County of Caswell and State aforesaid, aged seventy four years on the 8th day of October last who being first duly sworn according to Law, doth on his oath make the following Declaration, in order to obtain the benefits 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, to wit — Some time in the month of October 1777 [sic: see note below], as well as this Declarant now recollects, and as he believes, he substituted himself in the place of one John Long, who was drafted in a company of Captain William White; - this Declarant was at that time a resident of the said County of Caswell & State aforesaid - The Company was marched or rather rendesvouzed at Hillsborough in Orange County, and were then placed in the Regement under the command of Colo. Thornton Yancey. This Declarant being still in the Company under Capt. White. this Declarant remained in Hillsborough with his company & regement as aforesaid, some few days, perhaps a week or more, when He was marched in said Company & regement to Salisbury in this state where he joined General Rutherfords Bridage [Griffith Rutherford's Brigade], and where he also remained some few days - from thence he was marched with the regement as aforesaid into South Carolina and through that state to Camden, from thence to a place called Purysburg on the Savannah River, where they were stationed for several weeks. At this place (Perrysburg) Colo. James Sanders was placed to the command of the said Regement, and Colo. Thornton Yancey returned home. This Declarant was stationed with the said Regement and Company at this place for six or eight weeks, and from thence were march to a place called the Two Sister Ferry on the Savannah River and were there stationed, watching the enemy & cutting of their supplies &c. and with a view to prevent them from crossing the River. At this place, this Declarant was continued, with his Company and Regement untill some time late in the month of March 1778 as well as he now recollects, when he was discharged and returned home to Caswell County North Carolina. He received his discharge from Colo. Sanders. This Declarant well recollects he got home in corn planting season, his discharge he has long since lost thinking it never would be of any service to him. This Declarant served this Tour of not less than five months, which he knows to be the fact and He thinks near six months. But as some doubts may arise as to the particular time he states that this tour spoken of as above was five months and not less. This Declarant then continued at Home until the month of May 1779 [sic] when he was married, and in fourteen Days after that happy event, he was again he was again drafted in said County of Caswell & State aforesaid in a company commanded by Captain George Samuel of said County, and was compelled to leave his wife, and rendervouzed at Hillsborough, and was there placed in the Regement under Colo. . . . Paisley [John Paisley], and in a few days was marched with his said Company and Regement to a place called Cross Creek, which is now Fayetteville, and there joined General [Richard] Caswell's Bridgade, and continued there some little time and was marched in the direction to South Carolina through Salisbury and on to near Camden at a place called Rugeleys Mills, where this Declarant with his Company & Regement joined the main American army under the command of General Gates and Gen'l. Baron De Kalb. We were here continued for some fifteen or twenty days [see note below], when we had orders to make ready and march, which we did in the direction to Camden, and in the night time [about 2 AM, 16 Aug 1780] we were met by the enemy under Lord Cornwallis, & early next morning an action commenced, which is known as the memorable Battle of Gate's Defeat [or Battle of Camden]. This Declarant would state that the most of the Militia never fired a Gunn, But that his Company under Captain Samuel & Lt. Robert Parks fired Two rounds before they run; this Declarant & his Company had orders, that in the event of a Defeat

(which Gen'l. Gates anticipated) that they were to rendezvous at Hillsborough in this State (North Carolina) and that accordingly, this Declarant in company with a few of his Company which he found on his way, returned on leg home and to Hillsborough, where they were mustered and Discharged, their term of service which was for three months having expired, and this Defendant [sic] was discharged. That this Declarant states, that in this Tour he served his country three months - which together in the Two Tours of duty make a period of service of not less than Eight months, for which he claims a pension.

This Declarant thinks he received his Discharge for the last tour some time in the month of September 1779 as well as he recollects, But from the great lapse of time, and old age & consequent loss of memory, he cannot state precisely —

This Declarant would also further state that this is the third Declaration, which he has made for the same Service, the Two former ones having never reached the War office (though they were sent by mail) as this Declarant understands from a letter written by the Commissioner of Pensions to his friends at this place (Caswell Court House)

And this Declarant would also state that both of his Discharges are lost.

Interrogatories propounded by the Court to the applicant, and his answers - To Wit.

Question 1st Where and in what year were you Born?

Answer. I was born in Orange County, State of North Carolina, on the 8th day of October 1759.

Qus 2 Have you any record of your age, if so where is it?

Ans. I have no record of my age except a memorandum which I took from my fathers family record.

Qus 3 Where were you living when called into service, where have you lived since the Revolutionary War & where do you now live?

Ans. I was living in Caswell County North Carolina when called into service. I have lived here in said County, ever since except a few months while attending to some business in Pittsylvania County Virginia, and I now live here within five miles of this place where I expect to die—

Qus 4th How were you called into service, were you Drafted, did you Volunteer, or were you a Substitute, & if a Substitute, for whom?

Ans. The first Tour of Duty which I served, I substituted myself in place of John Long who was drafted. and the last Tour of Duty which I served, I was drafted.

Qus. 5th State the names of some of the Regular officers who were with the troops where you served such Continental & Militia regements as you can recollect, and the General circumstances of your service?

Ans I was with Gen'l. Rutherford, Gen'l. Caswell, Gen'l. Gates, & the Brave Baron De Kalb Baron De Kalb Commanded the Regulars at Gates' Defeat. I cannot now state the numbers of any of the Regular Regements if ever I knew them. I was with Col Yancy's & Colo. Sanders Regements, & in Colo. Paisleys Regiment, & I knew Colo. Will Moore's Regiment, these last were of the Militia; The General Circumstances of my services I have before endeavoured to detail in this my declaration, as well as I could—

Qus 6th Did you ever receive a Discharge from the Service, if so by whom was it given & what has become of it?

Ans. I rec'd. Two discharges, both of which have been lost. Colo. Sanders give me the first & I think Capt. Samuel gave me the last.

Qus 7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighbourhood, and who can testify as to your character for Veracity and good behaviour, and their belief of your services as a soldier of the Revolution?

Ans. I will refer to the Rev'd. Nicholas Willis and James Rainey Esq'r. the Chairman of our County Court or to any other person who knows me. I will also refer to Elisha Evans [pension application S6830] & Jonathan Starkey [S7612], who were my fellow soldiers & were with me in the Revolutionary War

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 that he knows of.

Sworn and subscribed in open Court this [blank] day of November 1833.

[signed] Benj. Long

He further states that he has no written or documentary evidence of his services nor does he know of any one by whom he could prove his services other than those above referred to except William H Rice [W2437], who would merely know the same that the witnesses now offered establish.

[signed] Benj Long

NOTE: Long's first tour must have occurred between the fall of Savannah GA on 29 Dec 1778 and the Siege of Charleston, spring 1780. The Southern Division of the American Army commanded by Gen. Horatio Gates did not arrive at Rugeley's Mill until 13 Aug 1780.